

Concept note for Panel Discussion

***On the occasion of the Regional Nile Day 2019 and 20th
Anniversary of the Nile Basin Initiative***



Background: on the occasion of the Regional Nile Day celebration and the 20th anniversary of NBI, the NBI is organizing a panel discussion involving members of the Nile-COM, the current and in-coming Executive Director of the Nile-SEC. Being conducted on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of NBI, the panel is intended to reflect on the cooperation journey of the past 20 years and explore the way forward for the Nile cooperation. It shall focus on strategic issues of the Nile cooperation and engage the ministers of water affairs, the highest decision making body of NBI, deliberate on the future of their joint institution.

Objective of the panel

The Panel will bring together the earliest **external** (Development Partner) influential stakeholders, who supported, facilitated and have left their mark on the emergence and evolution of the NBI; **earliest office holders** of the NBI who had to take the first tentative steps of an emerging institution and **current** Ministers responsible for guiding and sustaining the institution.

The purpose is to enhance the Panel discussion by enabling: (a) proper appreciation of the baseline from which NBI started (for example, in terms of inter-riparian confidence, trust and political will; in terms of asymmetries among countries regarding water resources related science, technical, planning, management-institutional competencies and infrastructure investment) (b) assessing NBI's achievements and challenges it has overcome; (c) reflect, going forward, on the next steps – hopes and possibilities along with remaining tasks and likely challenges



Participants: the panel members are expected to be members of the Nile-COM present, outgoing and in-coming NBI Secretariat Executive Directors.

Format: the panel shall be organized as an open forum for all participants of the Nile Day 2019/NBI 20th anniversary celebrations to attend. The panel session is planned to have the following steps:

- Session 0 (45 mins): Reflections from early periods of NBI: short addresses/stories by former governance members, heads of NBI centers and friends of the Nile followed by (up to three feedbacks from audience)
Break (10 min): video on history of NBI will be shown.
- Session 1 (30 mins): First round of discussions based on guide questions. In this step, the moderator poses specific questions to selected panel members (up to 2 per question).
- Session 2 (10 mins): The moderator opens the floor for comments/reflections and up to 3 questions from the audience.

- Session 3 (20 mins): Panel members reflect and respond to comments/reflections and questions from the audience
- Session 4 (5 mins): Moderator together with a rapporteur summarize the key messages from the panel discussion.

Draft Program

Time	Agenda	
15:00 – 15:10	Video on the Nile Basin Initiative - Journalistic perspective	
Pre-Panel Session: Reflections of NBI Co-founders of the NBI		
15:10 – 15:55	<div> <div>Hamad</div> <div>Langire</div> <div>ya</div> <div>ay</div> </div>	 
Panel Discussion		
16:00 – 16:30	First round of discussions based on guide questions	
16:30 – 17:00	Discussion based on questions and reflections from the audience (up to 3 questions; possibly two rounds)	
17:00 – 17:10	Moderator together with a rapporteur summarize the key messages from the panel discussion	
17:10	Closing (remarks by host Nile-COM member)	