

The way forward

The Second Track II Water Diplomacy Workshop

KHARTOUM STATEMENT ON EASTERN NILE COOPERATION

We, participants of Citizens' Diplomacy workshop, held in Khartoum, Sudan, from 30-31 December 2014, drawn from governments, NBI staff/experts, civil society, academia, media, women, youth, research and diplomatic communities of Ethiopia, South Sudan, and Sudan;

Having deliberated on Citizens' (Track II) diplomacy, and appreciating the progress the sisterly Eastern Nile countries of Egypt, Ethiopia, South Sudan and Sudan have made thus far in fostering technical and institutionalized cooperation to manage the common Nile water resources to benefit their peoples and to sustain the integrity of the river system;

Having been familiarized with and inspired by our enhanced awareness of the potential roles citizens' can play in promoting transboundary cooperation;

Noting the remaining challenges to arrive at lasting arrangements in the region;

Noting the absence of representatives from Egypt and Egyptian citizens;

We commit ourselves to:

1. Encourage and support our countries' efforts in search for a common ground and win-win outcomes;
2. Provide platforms that build enabling environment for trust and confidence promotion as individual Eastern Nile citizens and members of professional communities;
3. Cultivate a culture of mutuality, concern for, and appreciation of, each others' needs and interests;
4. Emphasize our duty, as citizens of Eastern Nile, to work toward sustaining our life line - the common Nile water resources - in the midst of the threat of Climate Change and development pressures;
5. Promote dialogue and collaboration among Eastern Nile professionals, Mass media, civil society, scientific and diplomatic communities in a bid to generate a range of creative, breakthrough feasible options that satisfy the needs of all our countries;
6. Urge and encourage Egypt to come on board and join hands with other sub-basin countries for sustainable solution in the region;

Finally, we urge all the governments of the Eastern Nile Countries to encourage and support Citizens' diplomacy to take roots at all levels across the sub-basin.

31st December 2014, Khartoum, Sudan