



NILE BASIN INITIATIVE

Eastern Nile Subsidiary Action Program

Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Eastern Nile Council of Ministers (ENCOM) Concludes 28th Meeting

Debrezeit, Ethiopia

The Eastern Nile Council of Ministers (ENCOM), the highest governing body of the Eastern Nile Subsidiary Action Program (ENSAP) of the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) has concluded its Meeting today, February 12, 2015 in Debrezeit, Ethiopia. The ENCOM Meeting was preceded by a two-day 29th Meeting of the Eastern Nile Subsidiary Action Program Team (ENSAPT), a technical advisory body to ENCOM. The ENSAPT comprises three senior technical experts and officials from each of the member countries. The ENCOM Meeting was attended by Ethiopia, Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan. Egypt did not participate, continuing on its decision to freeze participation in NBI activities following the signing of the CFA by six upstream member countries of the NBI in 2010.

In his opening remarks H E Ambassador Mutaz, outgoing ENCOM chair, stated that the benefits of basin cooperation are there for all to see, for example the Ethiopia-Sudan transmission interconnection projects that connected the power grids of the two countries for the first time; the Eastern Nile watershed management project that is rehabilitating both livelihoods and ecosystems. This notwithstanding Eastern Nile cooperation is facing challenges and work remains to bring back Egypt to the cooperation platform.

HE Alemayehu Tegen, incoming ENCOM chair, reiterated the need for genuine cooperation, the need to bring back Egypt to EN Cooperation and thanked HE Mutaz for his efforts during his tenure to raise the level of Eastern Nile cooperation. He emphasized that cooperation is the only avenue that brings forth benefits for all and

ENTRO is our common platform toward whose financial sustainability and growing visibility countries need to work. Engineer Isaac Liabwel, representing RSS ENCOM Member HE Jemma Nunu Kumba, explained HE Minister's regret at not attending. Eng. Isaac emphasized his country's continued commitment to EN cooperation the current difficulties it is facing notwithstanding.

The Ministers examined the report submitted by 29th ENSAPT and approved it. The countries committed to make a onetime contribution of USD 454,000 to ENTRO over and above their growing annual country contributions.

NOTE TO MEDIA

The Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) is a transitional, 10-Member intergovernmental partnership institution guided by a **Shared Vision objective**: *'To achieve sustainable socio-economic development through equitable utilization of, and benefit from, the common Nile Basin Water resources'*. NBI Member States are: Burundi, DR Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, The Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda. Eritrea participates as an observer. Launched on 22nd February, 1999 NBI provides the only all- inclusive regional platform for multi stakeholder dialogue, for sharing information, joint planning and management of water and related resources in the Nile Basin.

NBI is governed by a Council of 10 Ministers in charge of Water Affairs in the NBI Member States (Nile-COM), which is the highest decision and policy-making body. The Nile-COM is supported by a Technical Advisory Committee (Nile-TAC), comprised of 20 senior government officials from the partner states.

Professional day to day management of NBI is from three centers – a basin-wide Secretariat, the Nile Basin Initiative Secretariat (Nile-SEC) located in Entebbe, Uganda responsible for overall corporate direction. The Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office (ENTRO) based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia executes the Eastern Nile Subsidiary Action Program (ENSAP) - comprising Egypt, Ethiopia, South Sudan and Sudan. The Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program Coordination Unit (NELSAP-CU) based in Kigali, Rwanda executes the Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program (NELSAP)- comprising Burundi, DR Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. In each Member State there is an NBI office, the Focal Point, which coordinates and links trans-boundary NBI, and national plans and activities. At national level, the Ministries in Charge of Water Affairs are the NBI focal point in each Member State.

NBI core functions:

Basin Cooperation -To facilitate, support and nurture cooperation amongst the Nile Basin countries so as to promote timely and efficient joint actions required for securing benefit from the common Nile Basin water resources

Water Resource Management - To assess, manage and safeguard the water resource base that supports the peoples of the Nile Basin through applying the principles of knowledge-based integrated water resources management to water development planning and assessment

Water Resource Development - To identify, prepare and facilitate investment in Regional/trans-boundary water development projects and programs whilst avoiding negative impacts on the health of the Nile Basin's resources through applying the principles of integrated water resources management