



## **NBD Network Statement**

NILE DAY February 22<sup>nd</sup> 2019

Theme: Putting Water at the Heart of Regional Transformation

Kigali - Rwanda

Delivered by:

Ms. Verdiane Nyiramana

Vice Chairperson: NBD Executive Board

On Behalf of:

Prof. Muawia Shaddad

Chairperson: NBD Executive Board

- **Honourable NILE COM Chair;**
- **Honourable Members of the Nile Council of Ministers;**
- **Honourable Ministers of the Republic of Rwanda;**
- **Nile-TAC Chair and members;**
- **Members of the Diplomatic Corps present;**
- **Representatives of Development Partners;**
- **NBI Executive Director, and the NBI Staff;**
- **NBD Network Members; and Rwanda - NDF Members;**
- **All Stakeholders;**
- **Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen;**

**Dear citizens of the Nile,**

**Greetings and Happy Nile Day 2019, and NBI at 20 years**

On behalf of the Nile Basin Discourse and on my own behalf, allow me to express my deep pleasure on being part of the celebrations of the regional Nile Day of February 22<sup>nd</sup> 2019, and the NBI at 20 years. I say thank you to NBI and to the Republic of Rwanda for hosting this historical day here in Kigali- Rwanda.



NBD considers this commemoration of the NBI at 20 years as the opportunity to all stakeholders, Governments and communities as a point of reflection on the achievements from the Nile, to the Nile and beyond the Nile. Considering the past 20 years, today and in the future, let us look at the trans-boundary waters of river Nile, a shared River, requiring our collective action that we all have to put at the heart of regional transformation.

**Distinguished guests,** 2019 has been declared as the year of the Nile Basin, with an appropriate theme: “Putting Water at the Heart of Regional Transformation”. The theme is pivotal to everyone present and beyond, to be aware of water, think about joining efforts of the state and non-state actors, to collectively and regionally transform in development and cooperation as we share in the opportunities the Nile River provides.

The theme fits quite well with NBD Network’s strategic directions, on Nurturing Nile cooperation through outreach platforms on capacity building; awareness creation, consultations and communication towards empowerment of both upstream and downstream, at national and trans-national levels with focus on multi-sector and multi-level inclusivity.

**Citizens of the Nile,** the NBD Network is pleased to celebrate this Nile day 2019 and the NBI at 20 years, which are both indications of possible achievements related to potentials of shared benefits and cooperation. Allow me to look back at NBD’s presence in NBI’s 20 years. Since 2003, the NBD Network has been implementing the complementary Understandings agreed upon with the NBI, by which stakeholder participation and empowerment has been increased towards cooperation and development.

NBD’s focus has been integration and inclusion for trans-boundary collaboration on the waters of the River Nile. The main objective was to enhance the agendas of NBI, the Governments and other development partners towards achievement of the MDGs



and currently the transformative Agenda of the SDGs in development and cooperation.

I am pleased to say that NBD and NBI have been and will continue to be collaborative and strategic partners in managing the shared Nile Basin water resources for the betterment of lives and livelihoods.

**Ladies and gentlemen,** Allow me to look beyond 2019. NBD’s implementation of its mandate in collaboration with NBI, has been through developed Strategies on empowerment and participation of stakeholders, with appreciated support from development partners namely DFID, WB, CIDA, CIWA, Coca Cola Foundation, to mention a few.

Currently, with the on-going support from the Cooperation on International Waters of Africa (CIWA), and guided by World Bank, a strategy has been developed; this strategy fits quite well with the theme of this Nile Day 2019 of “Putting Water at the Heart of Regional Transformation”. The current NBD Strategy 2018 – 2022 titled: “Aquawareness and Empowerment”, entails six strategic directions that guide NBD Network in its mandate, and makes the Network a strategic and collaborating partner of the NBI as it implements its 10 year Strategy and the Governments of the Nile Riparian States. For the future therefore, allow me to highlight two cornerstones in aquawareness and empowerment:

- As we share the potential benefits, let us share the responsibility of sustaining the Nile water resources.
- Let us discourse to further cooperation and to optimize the sharing of resources of the Nile.

**Ladies and gentlemen,** Allow me as I conclude my speech, to reiterate that the NBD Network is ready and will continue to work closely with NBI Centres, Governments of the Nile Basin and other development partners to foster cooperation, and support initiatives that lead to enhanced optimal and collective sharing of the resources of the Nile.



As we celebrate this historic day reflecting on the shared Nile resources, as civil society, we assure you that our focus is in fostering and advocating for two emerging issues touching on grassroots communities, thus:

- that Governments make effort in providing the enabling environment by discoursing on how to further inclusivity, for trans-boundary development benefits to reach communities; and
- that development agendas be implemented, with optimal benefits that reach communities.

**Thank you all**

“One-Nile One-Family”

Ms Verdiane NYIRAMANA

Vice Chair: NBD Executive Board

On Behalf of:

Prof. Muawia Shaddad

Chair: NBD Executive Board

February 22<sup>nd</sup> 2019

Kigali – Republic of Rwanda



## **NBD Secretariat**

- Dr. Hellen Nabwala Natu - *Regional Manager*
- Herbert Wairugala - *Regional Finance and Administration Officer*
- Ayenew Tessera Fenta - *Regional Monitoring and Evaluation Officer*
- Jennifer Kurubeija - *Regional Program Administrator*
- Fidele Niyigaba - *Regional Communications and Media Officer*
- Mathias Nyanzi - *Regional ICT and Social Media Officer*

### **NBD Membership**

- Burundi National Discourse Forum
- D.R. Congo National Discourse Forum
- Egypt National Discourse Forum
- Eritrea National Discourse Forum
- Ethiopia National Discourse Forum
- Kenya National Discourse Forum
- Rwanda National Discourse Forum
- South Sudan National Discourse Forum
- Sudan National Discourse Forum
- Tanzania National Discourse Forum
- Uganda National Discourse Forum

### **Implementing Partners**

- Nile Basin Initiative (NBI)
- Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office
- Nile Equatorial Lakes Coordination Unit
- Inter Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD)
- Global Water Partnership – Eastern Africa
- Women for Water Partnership – (WFWP)
- Climate is Water Group (#CIW)
- The Butterfly Effect Group (BE)

### **Funding Partners**

- Cooperation on International Waters Africa/World Bank (CIWA / WB)
- IHE Delft Institute for Water Education / Coca Cola Foundation

