



Weekly Nile Basin Media Radar

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ECDPM: Is the Nile Basin Initiative a 'regional sailboat' in choppy geopolitical waters?

With development practitioners increasingly invoking the importance of “Thinking and Working Politically” in development processes, Rachel Klein has a very appropriate line: “Plan for sailboats, not trains”. In other words: forget linear thinking when trying to approach development issues. Adaptability, flexibility and iterative approaches are the watchwords. Applying this at a regional level implies an even trickier form of sailing: how do you promote a “sailboat” approach among multiple countries on cross-cutting agendas, given that much of what ultimately takes place depends on the political economy dynamics within countries? Regional cooperation is essentially about flotillas of sailboats of different sizes and capabilities, all subject to very localised currents and winds, where it isn't always 100% clear that all are heading for the same destination.

<http://bit.ly/2mO1FME>

Nile Basin Countries using diplomacy to calm tensions over Ethiopian Dam

Five Nile Basin countries have moved to build bridges following an imminent falling out over the use of the Nile waters. The issue surfaced last October when former director general of external security of Uganda David Pulkol wrote in a report that Egypt had allegedly teamed up with Juba and Kampala to stop the construction of Ethiopia's \$4.7 billion Grand Renaissance Dam by any means. [...] Sudan supports the construction of the Ethiopian dam since it will benefit from the flood control and from the produced clean energy imported at lower rates. The dam has a capacity of producing 6,000 Megawatts.

<http://bit.ly/2ms8H8L>

Nile: Region engages in a flurry of diplomacy

Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn met President Yoweri Museveni in Uganda last Thursday for bilateral talks that were dominated by the issues of the Nile waters and insecurity in East Africa. According to the Ethiopian ambassador to Kenya Dina Mufti Sid, PM Hailemariam visit was reciprocal, in which the leaders were to sign several bilateral agreements and also discuss a way forward for regional stability.

<http://bit.ly/2nctUSj>

Nile River dam obstructing Ethiopia- Egypt relations

Falling as a gentle rain in the mountains of Gojjam, the lifeblood of nations begins. Trickling down the slopes, the runoff forms creeks, and the creeks feed waterways such as the Lesser Abay River. These rivers run across the plains and waterfalls of Ethiopia to fill the country's largest body of water, Lake Tana. And from this lake flows the Blue Nile, the primary source of the mighty Nile River. Those formative raindrops travel more than 5,000 miles until they reach the Mediterranean Sea. But along the way, they now face a new obstacle, one that affects those who live along the Nile, and those who live far from it.

<http://bit.ly/2ms8H8L>

GERD will interconnect countries along the Basin

(Opinion) [...] Projects like the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam should be built along shared resources so as to benefit the people in the area. There should be cooperation for mutual development along the Nile Basin. It is crucial for all countries both at upstream and downstream countries to



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comprehend the importance of the dam for all people in the region. And [they] should cooperate for its competition.

<http://bit.ly/2mKjfRV>

Egypt and Sudan concerned over modifications in Ethiopia's Dam

Within the coming few days, Egypt and Sudan are expected to officially demand details on construction modifications on the Ethiopian Renaissance Dam of which Ethiopia did not previously inform the two countries. Senior governmental sources [...] said Ethiopia modified the construction standards of the dam to increase the rate of generated electricity up from the declared rates.

<http://bit.ly/2lR8F7Q>

President Museveni roots for dialogue among River Nile Basin countries

President Yoweri Museveni has called for dialogue among the countries that straddle the River Nile Basin in order to have a common consensus on how best the countries can equitably utilize the Nile river water resource for the good of the entire Nile basin population. He, therefore, proposed a Summit of Heads of State of the Nile Basin countries that should aim at discussing fully and resolving all matters relating to the River Nile and pave way for full ratification of the Nile Basin treaties by all countries. Mr. Museveni was speaking at a joint press conference with the Ethiopian

Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn held at State House, Entebbe.
<http://bit.ly/2mQHvml>

President Museveni hails Uganda, Ethiopia bilateral relations

President Yoweri Museveni and the 1st Lady Hon. Janet Museveni who is also Minister of Education and Sports, last evening hosted the visiting Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn, his wife Roman Tesfaye Abney and their delegation to a State Dinner at State House, Entebbe. In his remarks during the dinner, President Museveni hailed the existing bilateral relationship between Uganda and Ethiopia and described them as excellent. He said that the visit of the Ethiopian Prime Minister to Uganda was simply to rekindle the long cherished brotherhood between the two countries.
<http://bit.ly/2mw2roa>

The solidarity regardless of differences!

[...] One of the major objectives of the construction of GERD is to back the efforts to be food self-reliant. It is a public secret that despite the ample natural resources that Ethiopia is endowed with; many of its population are not able to feed themselves. Estimates of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization for 2014-2016 indicated that there were about 780 million hungry people in developing countries. It also indicated that 66 million primary school students attend classes being hungry. Ethiopia is one these countries.
<http://bit.ly/2mgr00x>



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