

	<p style="text-align: center;">NILE BASIN INITIATIVE</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>To achieve sustainable socio-economic development through the equitable utilization of and benefit from Nile Basin water resources</i></p> <p>Contacts: P.O Box 192, Entebbe- Uganda; Tel+256 (414) 321 424/+256 (414)321 329</p> <p>Email: nbisec@nilebasin.org Website: www.nilebasin.org</p>
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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Nile Basin water Ministers address strategic issues to advance the Nile cooperation

ENTEBBE, Uganda - The 24th Annual meeting of the Nile Council of Ministers (Nile-COM) has ended today 14th July, 2016 in Entebbe, Uganda. The Nile Council of Ministers addressed strategic issues to advance Nile cooperation as well as operational business of NBI.

Among other things, the Ministers discussed the financial sustainability of the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) and agreed that country contributions will be made in a timely manner to support the operations of NBI. Countries with outstanding arrears committed themselves to clearing them within the shortest time possible.

The Nile-COM also deliberated on the issue of non-participation of Egypt in NBI activities since 2010, following the signing of the Cooperative Framework Agreement by some NBI Member States. "In this regard, very fruitful discussions were held regarding Egypt's resumption of its participation in NBI activities. It was agreed that further discussions will be held to concretize on the discussions", said

Hon. Sam Cheptoris, the chairman of the Nile Council of Ministers and Uganda's Minister of Water and Environment.

The work plan of the NBI Secretariat for the financial year 2016/17 was approved with a budget of USD 4 million (Four Million United States Dollars).

The Nile Council of Ministers appointed Dr. Canisius Kanangire from Rwanda as the 8th Executive Director at the NBI Secretariat for a two-year term. He replaces Dr. John Rao Nyaoro from Kenya, whose tenure ends on 31st August, 2016.

Also announced were the host countries for the 5th biennial Nile Basin Development Forum and the 2017 Regional Nile Day. The events will be held next year in Rwanda and Tanzania, respectively.

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ABOUT THE NILE BASIN INITIATIVE

The NBI is a regional intergovernmental partnership launched by the Nile Basin countries on 22nd February, 1999 to manage and develop the shared Nile Basin water resources in a cooperative manner, share substantial socio-economic benefits and promote regional peace and security. NBI Member States are 10 namely Burundi, DR Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda. Eritrea participates as an observer.

The partnership is 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'*.

The setup of NBI is informed by the principle of subsidiarity, hence the three NBI Centres: **A Regional Secretariat** (Nile-SEC) based in Entebbe, Uganda is the executive arm responsible for the overall corporate direction. Two subsidiary Action Programs namely the **Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office** (ENTRO) based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and the **Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program Coordination Unit** (NELSAP-CU) based in Kigali, Rwanda are responsible for preparing trans-boundary investment projects in three areas namely Energy, Agriculture and River Basin Management.