



**Contacts:** P.O Box 192, Entebbe - Uganda

**Tel**+256 417 705 000/+256 417 705 120

**Email:** [nbisec@nilebasin.org](mailto:nbisec@nilebasin.org)

**Website:** [www.nilebasin.org](http://www.nilebasin.org)

## **PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

27<sup>th</sup> November, 2019

### **Kenya to host Nile Basin Water Affairs Ministers meetings and launch of the Nile Basin Regional Hydro-Met Project**

**NAIROBI, Kenya** – Kenya will host this year’s annual Nile Council of Ministers meetings, comprising Ministers in charge of Water Affairs in the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) Member States, on November 29, 2019.

Top on the agenda is the launch of Nile Basin Regional Hydro-Met Project, aimed at establishing the first Regional Hydro-Met System for the Nile Basin. The latter will enable NBI Member States to share reliable data for better monitoring of the shared Nile Basin water resources as well as informed planning and evidence-based decision making.

“This project is expected to deliver a number of benefits, which are trans-boundary in nature and contributing to socio-economic development in all the Member States. These include more optimal water utilisation for food, water and energy security, improved adaptation to climate change as well as improved cooperative drought and flood management”, said Hon. Simon Chelugui, Kenya’s Cabinet Secretary – Ministry of Water and irrigation. He was speaking during a press briefing held in Nairobi.

The first phase of the project worth USD 5.5 million is funded by the European Union and German government through GIZ and will be implemented over a three-year period from July 2018 to July 2021.

Ministers from Burundi, DR Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda will also consider approval of the work plan and budget for the NBI Secretariat and the Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Programme Coordination Unit (NELSAP-CU) for the financial year 2019/2020.

There will also be an expected change in the political leadership of NBI, with Burundi handing over the position of chairman of the Nile Council of Ministers to Kenya. Accordingly, Burundi's Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock, Hon. Dr. Déo-Guide Rurema will be succeeded by Kenya's Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Hon. Simon Chelugui who will hold the position for the next one year. This is in keeping with the NBI tradition of rotating the position of chairperson among the Member States, for a one year term of office.

The Nile Council of Ministers is the highest political and decision making body of the Nile Basin Initiative.

#### **Note to the Editor**

The Nile Basin Regional Hydro-Met System will include 79 hydrological monitoring stations, 322 meteorological monitoring stations as well as upgraded water quality laboratories. The System will be built on existing national monitoring networks with new stations installed where required.

Design of the system was approved by the Nile-COM in 2015 and was carried out with funding from the Nile Basin Trust Fund administered by the World Bank.

Find out more about the project:

[https://www.nilebasin.org/images/docs/Hydromet\\_Success\\_Story.pdf](https://www.nilebasin.org/images/docs/Hydromet_Success_Story.pdf)

**ENDS**

#### **About Nile Basin Initiative**

The Nile Basin Initiative is a regional intergovernmental partnership of ten Nile Basin countries, namely; Burundi, DR Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan,

The Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda. It was established on February 22, 1999 by Ministers in charge of Water Affairs in the Nile Basin countries. NBI is the only basin-wide institution mandated to facilitate the cooperative development and management of the shared Nile Basin water resources on behalf of the 10-Member States, for win-win benefits and to promote regional peace and security.

The setup of NBI is comprised of the headquarters – NBI Secretariat (Nile-SEC) based in Entebbe, Uganda and two Subsidiary Action Programmes Offices leveraging unique sub-basin potentials and mitigating unique sub-basin risks. These are the Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office (ENTRO) based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia for the Eastern Nile sub-basin and the Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program Coordination Unit (NELSAP-CU) based in Kigali, Rwanda for the Nile Equatorial Lakes sub-basin.

NBI's programmes and projects are guided by its 10-Year Strategy (2017 – 2027), which outlines six goals namely water security, energy security, food security, environmental sustainability, climate change adaptation, and strengthening trans-boundary water governance.