



“One Nile – One Family”

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## BUILDING NILE COOPERATION THROUGH ENHANCED PARTNERSHIP

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### Introduction

NBD recognizes the need to develop water resources of the basin in a sustainable and equitable manner so as to ensure prosperity, security, peace, efficient management and optimal use of resources to eradicate poverty and promote economic integration in the Nile Basin. NBD's convening power presents a vital platform for stakeholder dialogue, participation, involvement and action. NBI-NBD partnership is in recognition of the commitment of Heads of African States to promote cooperation and integration between the African states in all fields and to allow for effective engagement of civil society and public participation in water development programmes.

NBI and NBD, in the recent past have successfully held a number of forums. The recent NBI-NBD-GWP REGIONAL Multi-Stakeholder Forum focusing on the theme: Cooperation On Shared Waters held on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of January 2011, brought to fore the fact that implementation of the NBI-NBD MOU has proven a challenge to both parties and simple regular actions need to be agreed upon by both parties to strengthen the partnership. In addition, the Nile Technical Advisory Committee (Nile-TAC) met on the 29<sup>th</sup> of April 2011 and agreed that there is need for a concept paper on how the NBI-NBD partnership can be strengthened especially at the national level, so as to build Nile Cooperation.

### NBD Progress to Date

Over the past 12 months, NBD has registered remarkable progress through the following:

- 19 National Multi stakeholder forums have been conducted by NDFs operating in the 10 countries involving 1194 participants
- A regional Multi-stakeholder forum and two (2) Sub – regional forums for the NEL and EN sub-regions have been successfully held
- Awareness on Nile cooperation benefits and costs through members has reached 4,122 people across the basin during Nile day celebrations at the national and regional level.
- Several publications, Re-designing and launch of the NBD website with updated information.

NBD would like to thank the NBI governance and staff for the support accorded to NBD to enable NBD to achieve the above targets. NBD is currently undertaking assessments on the NB/I Gender Policy and Strategy, Lessos Interconnection Project, the Regional Rusumo power project, the Ethiopia- Sudan Interconnection project and the EN Watershed management project. The draft reports will be shared with NBI for input during the upcoming national and sub-regional forums scheduled for Oct –November 2011.

### Strengthening the Partnership

NBD takes cognizance of the fact that NBD and NBI are long-term partners and NBD is an observer in proceedings of NBI decision making centers with. This privilege can be strengthened through:

- i. Sharing of approved annual work plans, quarterly review progress reports and calendar of events.
- ii. Incorporating NBD as an active participant in NBI working Groups. NBD is a member of the Gender Working Group and would like to be incorporated in the Social and Environmental Safeguard Policy Working Group and the State of the Basin Working Group.
- iii. Formalizing NBD representation in the NELSAP and ENTRO TAC and COM meetings.
- iv. Formalizing NBD representation through its NDFs in respective countries in the Project Technical Committees and Project Steering Committees of SAPs Projects.
- v. According NBD a permanent slot to make a presentation during Nile TAC meeting.
- vi. Planning jointly for the NBI and NBD meetings and ensure that the other party is well represented and their stock of knowledge is disseminated.
- vii. Holding quarterly review meetings to assess progress and plan for the next quarter.