

## DRC Nile DISCOURSE FORUM STATEMENT ON NELSAP HYDROELECTRICITY INTERCONNECTION PROJECT AND THE COOPERATION

**DRC Nile Discourse Forum** is a National Network of civil society organization (CSOs) with a vision to realize a sustainably managed Nile Basin resource.

On 21<sup>st</sup> September at Reference Hotel, BENI D.R.Congo, a National Forum was organized by the DRC NDF. Among the 72 meeting attendees were the civil society representatives, the local government, the local communities, the media, the universities, the international NGOs.

**The forum observed** that DRC's position on the Nile cooperation is critically important because the government has not signed the cooperative framework agreement (CFA) yet. This way, the DRC has not a clear position since the last meeting held in Kinshasa on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2009.

**Recognizing** most of the participants were just hearing about the NELSAP hydroelectricity interconnection project in this meeting and this matter was well heard by them.

**Recognizing** that water in the Congolese Nile Basin area is not well managed in order to improve the life of the basin population. The potential of pollution is high in some area but it is untreated. Water resources availability is not rationally used in development project like agriculture production and others like the production of the electricity.

**Recognizing** that gender policy is not applied in the DRC Nile basin area yet.

### **The National forum recommends the following regarding the CFA and NELSAP hydroelectricity interconnection**

#### **Cooperative framework agreement**

- **Ratification and validation of cooperative framework agreement (CFA) by the DRC government ready signed by the other countries.**
- **To plan the payment of required contributions in orders to start some projects so that to have the same advantage as the other NBI members.**
- **To inform and to restitute the key contents in regular way to the involved parties by including the civil society organizations not only in Kinshasa but mostly on the level of the Eastern DRC provinces.**

#### **Hydroelectricity interconnection project**

- **To inform DRC population about the benefit of hydroelectricity interconnection, this way can help Congolese to support for the success of this project.**
- **The NELSAP is to do its best to share fairly the benefits of interconnection.**
- **To monitor the electrical project implementation of victim areas and their relocation (fields and plots).**
- **Supplying the villages covered by the HT (high tension) lines by the domestic power would stimulate more the involvement of the concerned populations to their auto development**
- **To be involved in the sensitization and the environment education.**
- **An urgent project for powering the DRC Nile Basin area, since, this area more hydro-electric potentialities.**