



## **ANNOUNCEMENT:**

### **Regional Multi-stakeholder Dialogue on Risk and Vulnerability to proposed developments in the Nile Basin Region: Civil Society response and Role**

#### **Introduction**

The Nile Basin Discourse (NBD) is a network of civil society organizations established to facilitate civil society involvement in the planning and implementation of developments in the Nile Basin region.

The NBD functions through the Regional Discourse Desk in Entebbe and National Discourse Forums operating in the ten riparian states of the Nile Basin<sup>1</sup>. It engages the NBI<sup>2</sup> on the prepared development projects so as to improve the livelihoods of the peoples of the Nile basin region in a consultative and cooperative way.

The NBD has continued to identify gaps in the Nile basin developments and to ensure that civil society is enabled to join the development debates for the advancement of the livelihoods of the peoples of the Nile. To achieve this it has developed and adopted a vision and mission below;

#### **Vision**

“A Nile Basin free from conflict in which there is sustainable social and economic development for all peoples, leading to poverty reduction, environmental protection and economic growth.”

#### **Mission**

“To support and mobilize civil society across the basin such that it can bring pro-active and critical influence to bear on the projects, programmes and policies of the Nile Basin Initiative, and other related development processes.”

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<sup>1</sup> These include; Burundi, DR Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan Tanzania and Uganda.

<sup>2</sup> NBI (Nile Basin Initiative is an intergovernmental institution established to promote regional cooperation and economic growth in the Nile Basin Region).



### **Rationale for the regional Multi-stakeholder dialogue**

The NBD operations over the past 2 years have made several revelations on how best to engage the NBI developments. These have been generated through consultative forums, studies and trainings as recommendations from the diverse groups that were involved. At the regional forum the NBI will seek for the endorsement of these recommendations as well as source for additional recommendations on how to engage development for benefit sharing.

The above withstanding, the NBI has greatly transcended as an institution. A number of NBI programmes are ending and others are undertaking a strategic change of approach. NBD being a regional network requires a regional forum to discuss these changes.

Also, the NBD DFID funded project is coming to a close end of June. The forum will present an opportunity for the NBD to display its achievements and key outcomes of the project as well as interest other partners to support its programmes.

The poverty reduction debate has been ongoing for over 2 decades now but solutions remain unresolved. There is a need to discuss the causes of poverty and food insecurity in relation to a combination of fundamental factors that generate poverty. It is argued that poverty is not just material deprivation, but deprivation at various levels. The causes of such deprivation stem from a combination of economic, political and social factors. Currently the basin is faced with the risk of food insecurity, climate change impacts, conflict and social economic losses arising from the development processes.

These issues are equally connected with the nature of governance, macroeconomic policies and other policies at the macro level such as on environment, population and Human rights. It is therefore important that these issues be discussed with an approach that takes all these factors into consideration.

### **The objectives of regional forum include:**

1. To review progress of NBD engagement of NBI over the two years and determine strategies for further engagement and collaborative agendas.
2. To draw together, a diverse group of experts and civil society representatives from the region to discuss issues affecting development on the basin region so as to establish strong linkages of CS work to NBI process in the Nile basin
3. Define roles of CS in addressing risk and vulnerability of communities to developments
4. To initiate and endorse the search for solutions to problems of food insecurity, climate change risk factors as well as security and development dilemmas.
5. Develop an outline of the State of Basin Report

### **The key topics to be discussed include:**

1. Agriculture and food insecurity
  - Increasing food prices in the region
  - Population movement and demographics
  - Climate change and mitigation of risk factors



## 2. Conflict and governance

- Security and development dilemmas
- Low level conflicts and stakeholder participation
- International relations in conflict areas

## 3. Benefit Sharing and Trade

- Practical frameworks for benefit sharing
- CSO as a benefit sharing driver
- Mitigating risk factors in benefit sharing

## 4. State of Basin Report Outline

- Development of an outline of the SoB report

### **Key outcomes**

- Synergized approach of NBD engagement of the NBI
- Relevancy of NBD more defined and developed
- Collaborative agenda on risk and vulnerability determined and moved forward
- Initiative to develop guidelines and practical frameworks for benefit sharing
- Awareness of NBD and NBI work increased.

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