



Trans-boundary Stakeholders' Consultation Dialogue on Baro-Akobo-Sobat (BAS) Multi-Purpose Water Resources Development and Management Project

20th December 2018, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA DECLARATION

We the Participants from the Baro-Akobo-Sobat sub-basin, namely, Ethiopia and South Sudan, drawn from government offices and civil society organizations/communities from the two countries, and Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office (ENTRO);

Having been invited by the Nile Basin Discourse (NBD) and participated in the Trans-boundary Stakeholders' Consultation Dialogue on the BAS Multi-Purpose Water Resources Development and Management Project in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on the 20th December 2018;

Being aware of the challenges faced by the two sub-basin countries that include but, by no means, not limited to: poverty; low socio-economic index, food insecurity & displacements; land & environmental degradation; energy poverty; climate change (floods and droughts); threatened ecosystems & biodiversity; and both inadequate and uneven access to water;

Underlining the Baro-Akobo-Sobat sub-basin's regional water and land resources potentials and the role the BAS Multipurpose Water Resources Development and Management Project can play in regional peace, stability and security;

Appreciating ENTRO's efforts not only for the initial identification of the BAS Multipurpose Water Resources Development (MWRD) Project as one of the seven (7) projects identified in the Integrated Development of Eastern Nile (IDEN), as basic Sub Regional Cooperation program of the 4 riparian states namely Egypt, Ethiopia, South Sudan and Sudan, but also for mobilizing resources and launching the BAS MWRD Study aimed at designing Integrated Water Resources Development and Management Plan, Preparation of Short-term water resources development project, and Identification of Medium and Long-term water resources investment projects;

Acknowledging with appreciation the funding support worth 2.5 Million Euros extended to ENTRO from the African Water Facility & NEPAD-IPPF to accomplish this BAS study;

Taking note of the delay in implementing the projects identified by the BAS feasibility study mainly due to serious resources (financial) limitations);

Recognizing that there are positive steps which have been and are still being undertaken by the governments of the two countries and ENTRO to implement the projects identified by the BAS feasibility study;

On account of the above, we call upon:

1. Governments of Ethiopia and South Sudan to:

- commit sufficient resources to implement the projects identified by the BAS feasibility study so as to address the dire needs of local communities in the sub-basin;
- harmonize policies and strategies both at the transboundary and national levels to ensure integrated water resources development and management in the sub-basin with multi-sector inclusivity;
- involve relevant local government authorities and other local stakeholders in the BAS Project Cycle Management (PCM)

2. ENTRO to:

- continue facilitating constructive dialogue for regional cooperation in the Eastern Nile Basin along with its resources mobilization efforts so that the projects identified under the BAS feasibility study will be implemented as intended;
- continue identifying potential projects in the sub-basin that have regional implications far reaching Egypt, Ethiopia, South Sudan and Sudan;

3. The Nile Basin Discourse (NBD) to:

- Engage ENTRO and the governments of the two countries in the discussions on the implementation of the projects identified under the BAS feasibility study;
- Monitor project implementation as per the plan, including resettlement plans, progress towards achieving expected outputs and outcomes, and impacts-both positive and negative on local communities and environment;
- Build capacities and create awareness of projects' beneficiaries and stakeholders so that they could and would make meaningful participation and informed decisions on the implementation of the projects.

4. The international development community, bilateral and multilateral financing institutions and friends of the Nile to:

- Continue extending technical, financial, moral and other types of appropriate support to the collective efforts in building multi-tiered institutional and technical capacities for the implementation of the identified short, medium and long-term investment projects in the sub-basin that will significantly make improved livelihoods, economic growth, and environmental sustainability for the sub-basin countries and their peoples.

Agreed on 20th December 2018 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia