



NILE BASIN INITIATIVE
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PRESS RELEASE

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Nile Basin Initiative organises webinars to build consensus on Nile Cooperation

ENTEBBE, Uganda – The Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) in collaboration with the Government of Ethiopia is organising a string of webinars for the 6th Nile Basin Development Forum (NBDF) under the theme ‘Rethinking Regional Investments in the Nile Basin’.

The Nile Basin Development Forum is a science-policy dialogue organised by the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) with its Member States. It has been held since 2006 and brings together stakeholders from across the Basin and around the world to build consensus on the Nile cooperation agenda and the way forward for the sustainable development and management of the Nile Basin.

Explaining the theme, NBI Secretariat Executive Director, Prof. Seifeldin Hamad Abdalla said, “The theme of the 6th NBDF: “Rethinking investments in the Nile Basin is very timely taking into account that the Nile riparians, building on the work of NBI over the past more than two decades, are moving towards a new approach to regional/basin planning and investment agenda.”

Prof. Abdalla added that the goal of the NBDF is to enhance transformative processes and projects that will contribute to NBI’s shared vision: to promote socio-economic benefits for the people and countries of the Nile Basin.

Calling on citizens of the Nile to participate in the event, the Host Nile Council of Ministers, H.E Dr. Eng. Seleshi Bekele, Minister of Water, Irrigation and Energy for the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia said, “I encourage all friends of the Nile to take part in the 6th NBDF webinar series, which Ethiopia is privileged to host. The webinars will last for nearly two months from March 9 – April 29, 2021. The webinars cover all critical six sub themes of the NBI strategy; water security, energy security, food security, environmental sustainability, climate change adaptation, and transboundary water governance.”

For the success of the above event, the Nile Basin Initiative secretariat is organising webinars scheduled to take place from March 9 – April 29, 2021. To attend the event, participants can register and join the conversation via <https://www.eventleaf.com/nbdf>

The webinars are organised under various themes including Water Resources Management; Water-Energy-Food Nexus; Environment and Wetlands; Water and Climate and Transboundary Water Governance.

The Forum will bring together multi-stakeholders from within and out of the Nile Basin including government officials in Nile Basin countries, Members of Parliament, water resource managers, environmentalists, economists, development partners, academia and researchers, to deliberate on opportunities and challenges of Nile cooperation. Other stakeholders are river basin organisations, regional, continental and international organisations, civil society, private sector as well as media practitioners.

The Nile Basin Development Forum will be held virtually due to the global COVID-19 pandemic and is being organised with support from the European Union, the German Federation Government through GIZ, World Bank and Cooperation in International Waters in Africa (CIWA).

On the sidelines of the Nile Basin Development Forum will be the Nile Media Awards in recognition of journalists that have published outstanding articles that tackle issues concerning the Nile Basin.

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[NOTE TO EDITOR](#)

Traversing about 6,695 kilometers, the Nile is one of world's longest rivers, feeding millions and giving birth to entire civilizations. The river is a major source of water for the Nile Basin countries.

Water, energy and food are inextricably linked and are essential for human well-being, poverty reduction and sustainable development.

The close interrelationships amongst these resources therefore call for our balancing of the act of exploitation to ensure sustainability for our future generations, for we are, but only stewards of these resources.

Projections in the Nile Basin region indicate that demand for energy, food and freshwater, will increase significantly over the next decades under the pressure of population growth and mobility, economic development, regional trade, urbanization and climate change among others. Agriculture in the Nile Basin consumes more water than any other sector. At the same time, water is needed for energy generation and transmission, particularly for hydro power, which is the preferred source of energy for various reasons; key among them the low production cost, which makes power affordable to the urban and rural poor. On the other hand, energy is needed to produce, transport, treat and distribute water; the more energy we need, the more water we use, and vice versa.

The **Nile Basin Initiative** is currently implementing a 10-year Strategy, whose six goals focussing on water, food and energy security, environmental sustainability, climate change adaptation and transboundary water governance, are meant to support Member States in addressing the above common challenges.