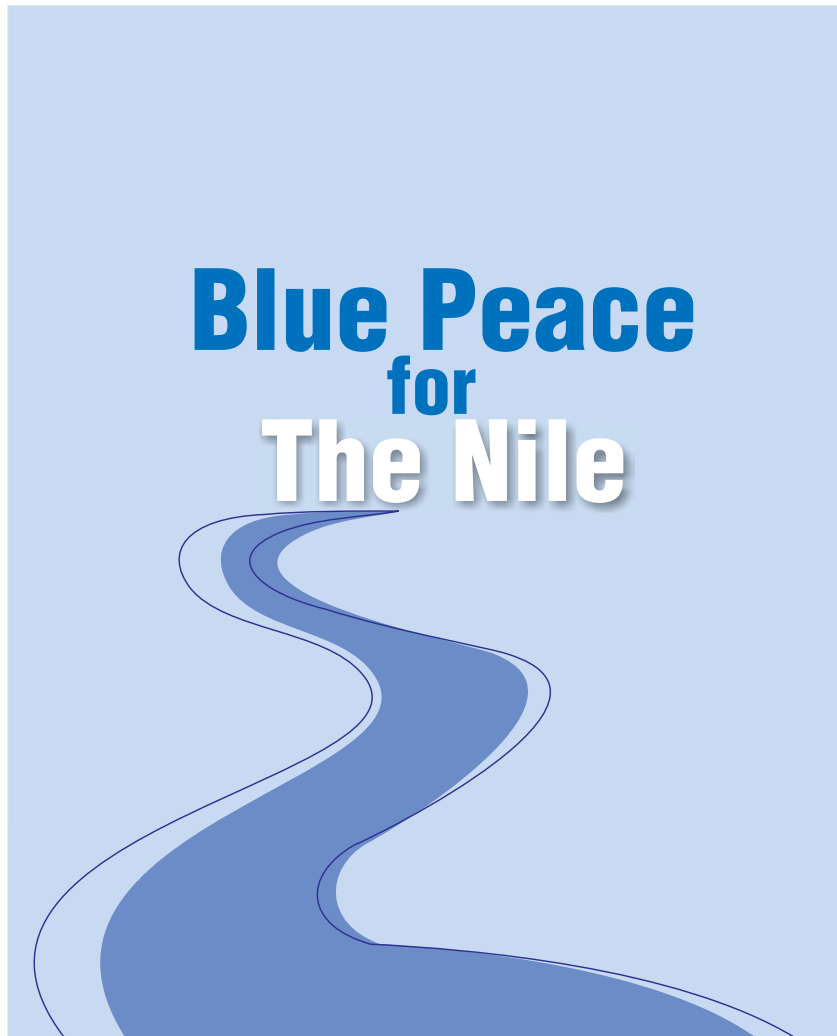


INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP



February 23-24, 2012  
Zurich, Switzerland



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

**Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC**

**Directorate of Political Affairs DP**

# "BLUE PEACE for the NILE"

ZURICH MARRIOTT HOTEL, ZURICH, SWITZERLAND

23-24 FEBRUARY 2012

CO-HOSTED BY

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT GROUP

AND

SWISS AGENCY FOR DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION

In cooperation with

POLITICAL DIRECTORATE of FDFA

FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF SWITZERLAND



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
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## Workshop Report

An international workshop on future of the Nile was co-hosted by Strategic Foresight Group and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) in cooperation with Political Directorate of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs at Zurich Marriott Hotel, Zurich, Switzerland, on 23-24 February 2012.

The workshop was opened by Dr Martin Dahinden, Director General of SDC, and HE Charity Ngilu, Chairman of Nile Council of Ministers and Minister of Water and Irrigation of Kenya. It was attended by 34 participants from Burundi, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda, besides representatives of the Government of Switzerland and Strategic Foresight Group. The participants from Nile basin countries mainly included senior officials of the Ministries of Water, Irrigation, Electricity and Foreign Affairs; Members of Parliament; former Ministers and senior government officials; media persons and experts. The list of participants is attached at the end of this report.



### Opening Address

In his Opening Address, Dr Martin Dahinden, recalled the contribution of Switzerland to the water issue the world over for over 30 years. He said that investments in the water sector attracted returns of 3-5 times. He introduced the main purpose of the workshop.

*“We believe that water is becoming more and more a new common challenge, which is “forcing” people and governments to better collaboration, finding innovative solutions to water scarcity. For that reason, we think that The Blue Peace Initiative can make a path for the evolution of a regional community of thinking (including all the spheres of the society) in the water sector and create a new frame to respond to the regional water scarcity. We (SDCs and SFG) are fully convinced that the key of the Nile Basin water management depends on you; this event is not a negotiation, we expect to be able to catalyse emerging solutions or parts of the solutions.”*

Dr Martin Dahinden’s message also echoed in the statements of Ambassador Claude Altermatt, head of Sub-Saharan Africa and Francophone Division in the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and Mr Christoph Graf, Deputy Head of Global Cooperation Division in SDC.



## Keynote Address

In her Keynote Address, HE Charity Ngilu, explained that the Nile was key to the life of 300 million people in the basin countries, flowing for almost 6700 Km and draining 3 million square kilometres, almost a tenth of the African continent.

She identified the following main challenges for the Nile Basin countries:

- Floods
- Drought
- Climate change
- Receding lake levels
- Degradation of resources.

Minister Ngilu explained the history of political relations between riparian countries beginning with the 1929 agreement on allocation of the Nile waters, opposition to this agreement by countries gaining independence from the British rule, negotiations for a new agreement under the auspices of the Nile Basin Initiative, conclusion of the Cooperative Framework Agreement, signing of CFA by 6 countries, difficulties in finalising Article 14 (b) of the CFA, and the need to include all basin countries within CFA.

She particularly asked the participants to note the following provisions of the CFA.

- **Article 4:** Upon entering into force, CFA guarantees rights of all riparian countries to use resources within their territories
- **Article 5:** No state can cause harm to other states.

Finally, she called for the establishment of the Nile Basin Commission as soon as possible, as the Nile Basin Initiative was a transitional arrangement.

## Natural Challenges

The workshop identified a number of challenges that the riparian countries will experience over the next few decades due to natural factors.

- Demographic pressures: The population will double from 300 million to 600 million in about 30 years at the current rate of population growth.
- Food security: The basin is a net importer of food; a fact closely linked to low irrigation levels in some of the countries.
- Power deficit: Electricity consumption is very low, and significant parts of rural areas have power deficit.

While the factors mentioned above are expected to increase pressure on demand for water resources, constraints on supply are expected to grow.

- Evaporation and evapo-transpiration on a large scale;
- Climate change: Glaciers are receding as observed by current size of glaciers as compared to 50 years ago; precipitation is erratic; drought is frequent;
- Technical, economic and conveyance losses;
- Quality of water: Pollution in lakes, unsustainable fishing practices, waste management;
- Erosion of land resources;
- Deterioration of equatorial lakes.

## Political Challenges

With a growing gap between demand and supply, riparian countries foresee an increasing need for water resources to increase irrigation, generate electricity, fight drought, meet food security challenge and to prepare for growing urbanisation of the population.





Under the circumstances the lower riparian countries want to protect their existing shares. The upper riparian countries want to be able to use water resources within their territories without being constrained by old agreements. This has created disagreement on Article 14(b) of the CFA about how to treat the issue of harm to riparian countries. The upper riparian countries have completed the CFA with a provision that prevents member parties from causing significant harm to other states. They are in the process of ratifying it with a view to enter it into force. The lower riparian countries would like to sign the CFA if it can guarantee that it would not cause adverse harm to existing shares and rights.



The participants in the Zurich workshop pointed out that the CFA was about principles. It would be necessary to establish Nile Basin Commission which can translate the principles into operational norms. The countries that have signed the CFA would like to establish the Commission as early as possible. The countries that have yet to sign the CFA question the jurisdiction of the Commission on non-signatories of the agreement.



The differences of views pose a significant challenge not only to institutional arrangements but also to utilization of water resources in the Nile Basin in the future.

## Reasons for Hope

Despite difficult natural and political challenges, the Zurich workshop provided reasons for hope.

- The participants emphasised again and again that their respective countries would not like to cause harm or suffering to other riparian countries and were interested in an inclusive and collaborative resolution of outstanding political issues.
- The participants shared interest in using opportunities for economic growth and development in the entire basin.
- The participants expressed interest in engaging senior political leaders and parliamentarians more critically than it has been possible in the past to be able to address difficult issues.
- The participants pointed out that a tripartite committee was established to examine the proposed Renaissance Dam in Ethiopia by the concerned countries.
- The participants welcomed joint projects and investment opportunities from one another despite their different perspectives on outstanding political issues.

There is thus tremendous goodwill in the Nile basin, which can be harnessed for developing a collaborative approach to the inclusion of all riparian countries in the CFA and the future development of the all countries in the region.

Some participants presented ideas for moving ahead.

1. Long term development plan: The Nile Basin countries should prepare national development plans for the next 30 years, taking into account demographic change and developmental needs, which should be harmonised into a regional development plan. Such a plan can provide an idea for water needs of all riparian countries and help facilitate discussion on practical uses and future demand and supply patterns of water resources in the region. (SFG suggests a Scenario Building approach since a definitive plan may not be realistic for all the countries.)
2. National water strategy for all riparian countries: All countries need to prepare national water strategies, which can be considered while developing a regional water strategy. If all countries undertake to prepare or update their national water strategies, it can lead to a realistic discussion on linkages between competing national needs and collaborative means to address the differences.
3. Data availability: There is a lack of clarity about available data on various aspects of basin management and particularly current data on flows of the Nile and its tributaries. The Nile Basin Initiative has undertaken a number of studies but information on their findings is not easily available. It will be useful to undertake a 'study of studies' to assess data availability and identify gaps for collection and analysis of relevant information.
4. Agro value chain: It is important to increase agricultural efficiency, since agriculture is the main consumer of water resources, study cropping patterns and find ways to create a value chain based on comparative advantage and relative water efficiency. It is also important to find food supplies for food importing countries from within the region.
5. Economic integration: An efficient value chain in agriculture will depend on free trade within the basin. Fostering of trade and investments is necessary to build confidence, to promote social and economic development, and enhance efficiency in the use of water resources.
6. Regional climate change model: Since global climate change models are not reliable, it is important to develop regional climate change models. A participant informed that the Arab Water Council has already commissioned construction of a regional model. It will be useful to see the outcome of this effort and its replication to cover parts of the basin that may not have been covered. It is also necessary to develop a common climate change policy for the entire basin.
7. New technologies: The basin needs to adapt, develop and disseminate new technologies for treatment of waste, treatment of waste water, desalination, the mitigation of conveyance losses, increase in efficiency of water use in irrigation and other sectors.





8. Conservation of water and land resources: It is necessary to introduce collaborative measures to conserve water resources, including studies to mitigate problems of evaporation and sedimentation.
9. Confidence building and capacity building: It would be helpful to hold confidence building and capacity building exercise for policy makers and parliamentarians from the riparian countries.
10. Political and legal innovation: It is necessary to draw from international conflict resolution experience to introduce political and legal innovation to resolve outstanding issues in completion of the Cooperative Framework Agreement.

## Future Plans

Strategic Foresight Group is encouraged by positive sentiment in the Zurich workshop, emotional sincerity in exploring collaborative and sustainable solutions to the future of the Nile, and interest in political and legal innovation as well as practical projects that can promote cooperation and confidence between riparian countries. At the same time, SFG is sensitive to water security concerns of all countries, and competing demands on the future use of water resources. SFG will hold further consultations with the leaders of riparian countries within the framework of concerns and aspirations articulated in the Zurich workshop, create more opportunities for







interaction between policy makers and parliamentarians from riparian countries, and continue with its research process to examine threats and opportunities to the future of the basin. These efforts are expected to culminate into a public report to be published at the beginning of 2013.

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*This report is a reflection of Strategic Foresight Group on the proceedings of the workshop on Blue Peace for the Nile held at Zurich on February 23-24, 2012. It does not represent views of the Government of Switzerland, nor does it indicate consensus of the participants.*

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

### GUEST OF HONOUR

- HE Charity Ngilu, Chairperson of Nile Council of Ministers, Minister of Water and Irrigation of Kenya

### BURUNDI

- Joseph Butore, Member of Parliament, former Dean of High Agricultural Institute
- Remy Barampama, Member of Parliament
- Jean Bosco Muhungu, Member of Parliament (Senate)

### EGYPT

- Mahmoud Abu-Zeid, President of Arab Water Council, former Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation
- Amal Salama, Deputy Assistant Minister for Nile Water Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Engineer Ahmed Medhat Ismail, Director of Cabinet of the Egyptian Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation
- Mohamed Sameh Amr, Legal Counsellor to the Egyptian Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation and Professor of International Law at Cairo University
- Mohamed Abdel Latif Mohamed, Head of Nile Waters Department, Permanent Joint Technical Commission of Egypt-Sudan
- Mounir Labib, Advisor in Egyptian Environment Affairs Agency
- Dalia Abdel Salam, Environment Editor, Al Ahram Hedbo
- May elShafie, Journalist on Climate Change Issues

### ETHIOPIA

- Sadik Adem, Member of Parliament, Deputy Chairman of Standing Committee on Law, Justice and Administration
- Minelik Alemu Getahun, Ambassador to the United Nations at Geneva and other International Organisations
- Getachew Reda, Director General, Public Diplomacy and Communication in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Reta Alemu, Director, International Legal Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Imeru Tamrat, former Head of Trans-boundary Water Resources at the Ministry of Water and Energy
- Gete Zeleke, Director, Water and Land Resource Centre

## KENYA

- John Rao Nyaoro, Director General, Ministry of Water and Irrigation
- Ochieng Adala, Executive Director, Africa Peace Forum, former Ambassador to the United Nations
- Philip Nyinguro, former Assistant Secretary in Office of the President of Kenya, former Chairman of the Department of Political Science in University of Nairobi
- Dorcas Wandia Musyoki, Office of Minister for Water and Irrigation, Government of Kenya

## RWANDA

- Canisius Kanangire, Executive Secretary, Lake Victoria Basin Commission
- Aimable Twahirwa, Editor, Rwanda News Agency

## SUDAN

- Abdalla Ahmed Fargalla, former Minister of Agriculture, Animal Wealth and Natural Resources, Director General of UNESCO Chair in Water Resources
- Mohamed Ali, Sudan's Permanent Mission to the United Nations and International Organisations in Geneva

## SOUTH SUDAN

- Samuel Taban Youziel, Director General, Power Planning and Supply, Ministry of Electricity and Dams

## TANZANIA

- Eric Mugurusi, former Director of Environment in Vice President's Office
- Dickson Rutagemwa, former Principal Chemist of the Ministry of Water Resources
- B.H Lunogelo, Executive Director, Economic Social Research Foundation
- Revocatus Makaranga, Secretary of Nile Media Network, Tanzania Chapter

## UGANDA

- Kwizera Eddie, Chairman of Parliamentary Climate Change Forum
- Anifa Kawooya, Member of Parliament, Member of Natural Resources Committee, Member of Parliamentary Climate Change Forum
- David Ebong, former Member of Parliament, Chair-CPA Parliamentarians Task-force on Climate Change for Africa

## GOVERNMENT OF SWITZERLAND

- Martin Dahinden, Director General, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
- Christoph Graf, Deputy Head of the Global Cooperation, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
- François Münger, Head, Water Initiatives, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
- Claude Altermatt, Head of Sub-Saharan Africa and Francophonie Division, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
- Frank Schürch, Deputy of the Special Envoy for the Sudan and the Horn of Africa, Human Security Division, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
- Mario Carera, Deputy of the Special Envoy for the Middle East, Human Security Division, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
- Johan Gély, Programme Manager, Water Initiatives, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
- Christoph Bösch, Programme Manager, Water Initiatives, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
- Andreas Steiner, Assistant, Water Initiatives, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

## Strategic Foresight Group

- Sundeep Waslekar, President
- Ilmas Futehally, Vice-President and Executive Director
- Ambika Vishwanath, Project Coordinator for the Middle East Water Initiative and Research Analyst