



NILE-SEC  
**NILE BASIN INITIATIVE**  
INITIATIVE DU BASSIN DU NIL

**Relationship between the Convention and Transboundary Basin  
Governance Arrangements: The Nile Basin Cooperative  
Framework Agreement, Nile Basin Initiative and activities**  
**By Tom Waako – 15th Feb, 2022**

# What is the Cooperative Framework Agreement (CFA) and what is its purpose?

- Outlines principles, rights, and obligations for cooperative management and development of the Nile Basin Water resources
- Intended to establish a framework to “promote integrated management, sustainable development, and harmonious utilization of the water resources of the basin, as well as their conservation and protection for the benefit of present and future generations”
- Treaty leading to establishment of the Nile River Basin Commission to facilitate implementation

# Content of the CFA

- Scope of the treaty and use of terms in Articles 1 & 2
- Divided into 6 parts
  - (i) General principles:
    - ❑ Cooperation; Sustainable development; Subsidiarity; Equitable and reasonable utilization; the obligation not to cause significant harm; The right of the Nile Basin States to use water within their territories; Protection and conservation; information concerning planned measures; Community of interest; Exchange of data and information; EIAs and Audits; Peaceful resolution of disputes; Water is a finite and vulnerable resource; Water has social and economic value; and Water Security
  - (ii) Rights and obligations;
    - ❑ exchange data and information, to notify planned measures and to observe the subsidiarity principle in development and protection of the Nile
  - (iii) Institutional structure and role of the Nile River Basin Commission
    - ❑ the Conference of Heads of State and Government, the Council of Ministers, the Technical Advisory Committee, Sectoral Advisory Committees, and the Secretariat
  - (iv) Subsidiary institutions;
    - ❑ Possibility of establishing subsidiary institutions
  - (v) Miscellaneous provision;
    - ❑ Dispute resolution, bilateral instruments
  - (vi) Final clauses;
    - ❑ Procedures for amendments, ratification, entry into force of CFA

# What is the UN water Convention?

- The UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (the Water Convention) **promotes cooperation on transboundary surface and ground waters and strengthens their protection and sustainable management.**
- Adopted in Helsinki in 1992 and entered into force in 1996.
- The Water Convention requires Parties to prevent, control and reduce transboundary impact, use transboundary waters in a reasonable and equitable way and ensure their sustainable management.
- supports implementation of target 6.5, which requests all countries to implement integrated water resources management, including through transboundary cooperation, as appropriate.

# Relationship between UN Water convention and the CFA

- UN Convention adopted in 1992 and came into force in 1996; was a reference of the CFA
- Both are premised on the three fundamental principles of international water law:
  - i. Right to equitable utilization
  - ii. Obligation not to cause significant harm
  - iii. Duty to co-operate

# What is Nile Basin Initiative?

- The Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) is an intergovernmental partnership of 10 Nile Basin countries:



- Established on February 22, 1999, by Ministers in charge of Water Affairs in the Nile Basin countries.
- The only basin-wide institution mandated to facilitate the cooperative development and management of the shared Nile resources on behalf of the 10 Member States



## Shared Vision Objective

(Agreed upon by all Nile Basin countries in 1999)

**‘To achieve sustainable socio-economic development through the equitable utilisation of, and benefit from, the common Nile Basin water resources’.**

# NBI's Core Functions

This function is undertaken to provide a common platform for countries to engage, consult and deliberate with each other and other Nile stakeholders on a regular basis. It aims to build broad political and civic support for transboundary water cooperation in the basin.

## **FACILITATING BASIN COOPERATION**

## **WATER RESOURCES PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT**

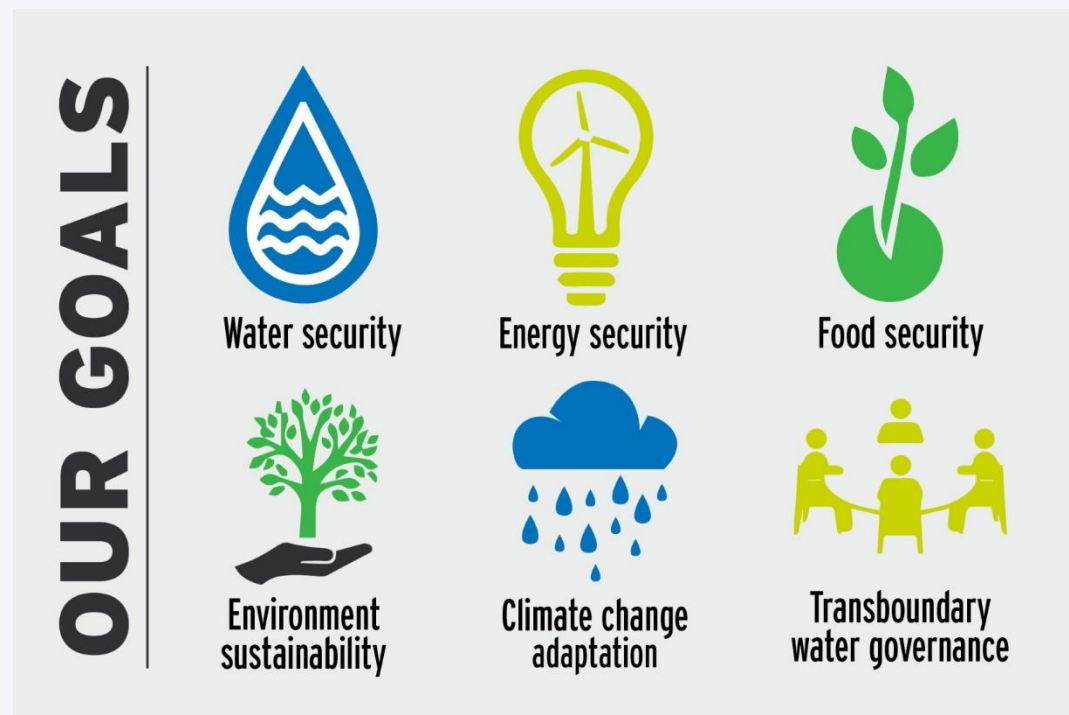
This function provides critical services in building basin wide technical competencies and capabilities and supporting science/knowledge based decision making to monitoring, protecting and sustaining the Nile water resources.

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## **WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT**



## NBI 10 Year Strategy 2017-2027



Aligned to global SDGs; AU Agenda 2063; 2008 Sharm el-Sheikh Commitments for Accelerating the Achievement of Water and Sanitation Goals in Africa and Africa Water Vision 2025



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