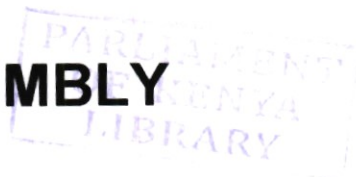




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KENYA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY



NINTH PARLIAMENT- FOURTH SESSION (2005)

REPORT OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE PARLIAMENTARY FORUM FOR THE NILE BASIN STATES

HOTEL INTERCONTINENTAL
CAIRO, EGYPT
JANUARY 8-9, 2005

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS
NAIROBI

Accession: 10014287

Call No: 328.06/KNA

APRIL, 2005



PREFACE

Mr. Speaker Sir,

1. The first Parliamentary Forum of Nile Basin Countries was held in Cairo, Egypt on January 8 – 9, 2005. The ten riparian countries namely the Arab Republic of Egypt, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Sudan, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Burundi, Eritrea and the Democratic Republic of Congo were all represented in the Forum.

2. The Kenya delegation comprised of:-
 - (i) The Hon. David Musila, MP-Deputy Speaker and Leader of delegation;
 - (ii) The Hon. Andrew N. Ligale, MP, Assistant Minister; and
 - (iii) Mrs. Lucy Wanjohi – Secretary to the delegation

A full list of the participants is attached as **APPENDIX 1**

3. The meeting was a follow-up to the Geneva declaration where constructive proposals on the establishment of the Parliamentary Forum were made and supported by the Speakers of the Nile Basin States. The initiative was by the President of the of the Egyptian People's

Assembly and the Speaker of the National Assembly of the Sudan.

4. The delegation is grateful to the Speaker for allowing it to undertake the visit and the People's Assembly, Arab Republic of Egypt for facilitating travel and accommodation and providing logistical and technical support in liaison with the office of the Clerk.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

5. It is now my pleasant duty, on behalf of the delegation, to present and commend this report to the House.

Hon. David Musila, M.B.S., M.P
Leader of the Delegation.

April 2005

BACKGROUND

6 The establishment of the forum was guided by many factors including:-

- i. The desire to emphasize the role of Parliaments of Nile basin countries in strengthening efforts to adopt a common vision for the achievement of economic, social and cultural development in these countries
- ii. The need for cooperation among countries stretching out along this great river.
- iii. The need to give impetus to cooperation among Nile Basin countries particularly in domains such as the exploitation of water resources and sound environmental management in the Nile Basin.
- iv. The need to take into account the principle of equitable and reasonable utilization of the Nile Basin water resources
- v. The need to add the initiative to existing African initiatives and mechanisms in place designed to achieve economic, cultural and social development of the people.
- vi. The recognition of the importance of the Nile Basin water resources that is the foundation of life and progress for the peoples of Nile Basin countries.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY DR.AHMED Fathi Sorour
PRESIDENT - EGYPTIAN PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY

7. The President emphasized that the proposal to establish a parliamentary forum was destined at cementing relations binding the Nile Basin countries and peoples, based on democracy as the optimal approach and development as the irreversible end, with the Nile Valley forming the epicenter of its peoples' ambitions and aspirations for a better and more blooming future through partnership built around transparency and equivalence that account for the content and spirit of democracy and help with the realization of sustainable development.

8. The forum was meant to be a mechanism fully independent from the mother governments founded on the principles of equality between the respective governments and non interference in the internal affairs of the Nile basin countries.

9. The President expressed optimism that in line with the adoption of democracy and development as the sole avenue for prosperous future, the Nile peoples and government should do all that is in their power to cement relations binding their countries and peoples based on democracy as the optimal approach and development as the irreversible goal with the Nile

Valley forming the epicenter of its peoples ambitions and aspirations.

10. Considering that a lot needed to be done for the sake of promoting inter-cooperation that ensures the dreams of the Nile Valley peoples were realized, Parliamentarians were faced with the double responsibility since they speak in the peoples names and act as their representatives therefore they should become the direct expression of their impulse, hopes and ambitions hence the idea of a parliamentary forum of Nile Basin Countries to work hand in hand on the prowl of solidifying aspects of cooperation in various domains to the best interest of the Nile People.
11. The Parliamentary forum was expected to be the ideal location for discussing issues of common concern for Nile Basin Countries and considerable support for the Nile Basin initiative for the eventual implementation of its purposes.
12. The Forum was expected to be a free rostrum for Nile Basin peoples to reflect their pains, hopes and legitimate ambitions for a flourishing future where hardships of the present are surmountable and catch up with high-speed progress foreseeable.

The address by the President is appended as **APPENDIX 2.**

PLENARY SESSION

STATEMENTS BY LEADERS OF DELEGATIONS

13. In their address to the meeting, most of the delegates underscored the importance of sharing the Nile waters equitably and proper management of the waters in regard to its utilization and fostering of agricultural development . It was generally agreed that the forum was important in enhancing discussion and enabling useful exchanges between countries that have an equal interest in enhancing peace and a shared vision to achieve sustainable, socio-economic development through equitable utilization of and benefit from the common Nile basin water resources.

14. From the onset, it was agreed that the forum would commence as a consultative forum to enable members of the riparian states to meet and share ideas .This would eventually be improved /developed to an assembly. With the rise of population, the demand for resources of the Nile basin had risen hence the need for a Forum where matters of common good can be discussed and agreed upon.

EXPERT MEETING

15. Constituted after the official opening of the meeting, the mandate of the drafting Committee was to examine the statute

of the parliamentary forum on Nile Basin Countries hitherto distributed to all participants and make appropriate amendments/proposals to the Speakers of the delegation. Dr. Mahmoud Abu-Zeid, Minister for Water Resources and irrigation, Egypt was elected Chairman while Dr. Petros Olango Head of the Egyptian delegation and Mr. Bahati Lukwebo, a Member of the Congo delegation were elected rapporteurs. The other members of the team included Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Congo and Burundi.

16. Several meetings were held wherein extensive amendment to the proposals were made and adopted at the plenary. A preamble detailing the objectives of the forum and stipulating membership was developed and adopted.
A copy of the amended statute is attached as **APPENDIX 3.**

CONCLUSION

17. At the closing ceremony held on January 9th 2005, the Forum made the following resolutions:-

- i. The Meeting adopted the Forum Statute as amended by the experts meeting and adopted by the plenary.

- ii. Cairo was selected as the seat for the forum secretariat. Egypt would bear the costs of the secretariat
- iii. The next session would be in January 2006 in a country to be determined after consultations
- iv. The President of the people's Assembly who was also the Chairman of the first session was requested to inform the Speakers of the Parliaments of the Nile Basin Countries of the decisions of the first session and take necessary action in accordance with the provisions of the statute.

A copy of the declaration is attached as **APPENDIX 4.**

LIST OF APPENDICES

1. List of Participants
2. Address by the President of the Egyptian People's Assembly
3. Statute of the Parliamentary forum of Nile Basin Countries
4. Final Declaration

The First Meeting of the Nile Basin Countries'

APPENDIX 1

Parliamentary Forum

(Cairo: 8-9 January 2005)

List of Participants

No	The Country	Head of the Delegation	Members of the Delegation
1.	Burundi	- H.E. Mr. Jean Minani (The Speaker of the National Assembly).	- Mr. Rogatien Ndorielmpa (MP). - Mr. Leanidas Havyarimana (MP).
2.	Democratic Republic of the Congo	- Mr. Adolphe Onusumba (The Deputy Speaker).	- Mr. Bahati Lukewebo (MP).
3.	Egypt	- Dr. Ahmed Fathi Serour (The Speaker of the People's Assembly).	- Mr. Kamal El Shazly (Minister of the People's Assembly Affairs). - Dr. Mahmoud Abu Zeid (Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation). - Dr. Mostafa El Feki (Chairman of the Committee of Foreign Affairs of the People's Assembly). - Mr. Sami Mahran (The Secretary General of the People's Assembly).
4.	Eritrea	- Mr. Mousa Hussien (The Deputy Speaker).	- Mr. Abdalah Mohamed (MP).
5.	Ethiopia	- Dr. Petros Olango (The Deputy Speaker)	- Mr. Hilekiross Gesese (Chairman of the Committee of Foreign Affairs and Defense). - Mr. Bairaou Kirose (Chairman of the Committee of Water Resources).
6.	Kenya	- Mr. David Musila (The Deputy Speaker)	- Mr. Andrew Ligale (MP). - Mr. Gideon Ndambuki (MP).
7.	Rwanda	- Mr. Prosper Higiro (The Deputy Speaker of the Senate)	- Mr. Bernadette Kanzayire (MP).
8.	Sudan	- Mr. Abdalla Alhardelo (The Deputy Speaker).	- Mr. Fathy Khalil Mohamed (MP). - Dr. Yakob Aboushora (MP).
9.	Tanzania	- Mr. Juma Akukweti (The Deputy Speaker).	- Mr. Basil Mtei (MP). - Mr. Daniel Nsanzugwanko (MP).
10.	Uganda	- Mrs. Rebecca Kadaga (The Deputy Speaker).	- Mr. Fred Badda (MP). - Mr. Amon Kabareebe (MP).

Arab Republic of Egypt



**People's Assembly
THE PRESIDENT**

Address

Of Dr. Ahmed Fathi Sorour

President of the Egyptian People's Assembly

**To the First Meeting of the Nile Basin
Countries' Speakers of Parliaments**

(Cairo 8,9 January 2005)

***Honorable Speakers and Members of Parliament in Nile Basin
Countries;
Ladies and Gentlemen***

I have the pleasure to welcome you in Cairo, hoping you will enjoy a favorable stay in your second homeland, Egypt, among your brethren along the Nile banks; this eternal Nile, being the vein that, having historically brought together our peoples and consistently strengthened their ties and bonds, prompts us today to contemplate the long-standing implications and dimensions of such links and to immediately take action towards the formulation of the present of Nile Valley sons and forthcoming generations.

Allow me at the outset of my address to confirm to you that here in Egypt, as we pay homage to our Pharaohic ancestors who had given birth to the most ancient and colossal of all human civilizations, we are perfectly aware that those great pharaohs had been in the first place the offspring of the Nile and its great Valley. Their navigation across the Nile southward had resembled their deep root-oriented quest and the desire to communicate with brothers, natives of the Nile Valley, out of their faith that had it not been for the unending flow of the Nile waters, the mammoth civilization they erected on the Nile banks would not have held out, carrying the source of life and elements of growth for Egypt and its population.

Dear Colleagues;

We are meeting today to signal action en route to the foundation of the Nile Basin Countries' Parliamentary Forum. Our African Continent had decisively opted for the adoption of democracy and development as the sole avenue for prosperous future that befits its status and attunes to its peoples' credible sacrifices and marathon struggle. If we, as Nile Basin peoples and governments, had substantially contributed to the institution and reinforcement of this African orientation towards democracy and development, we have to begin with ourselves and to do all that is in our power to further cement relations binding our countries and peoples, based on democracy as our optimal approach and development as our irreversible end, with the Nile Valley forming the epicenter of its peoples' ambitions and aspirations for a better and more blooming future through partnership built around transparency and equivalence that account for the content and spirit of democracy and help with the realization of yearned-for overall and sustainable development.

It could thus be admitted that the Nile Basin Initiative launched since 1999 with its yield concretized in the form of shared vision and programmers' subsidiary action projects, some of which were already operational, had been replica of this trend. However we

should not stop at this crucial and serious initiative or to consider it the terminal of our thriving. Our Nile Valley peoples are more than ever looking forward, with much hope and growing confidence in our action-oriented capacity, to our working real hard for their welfare and progress by surmounting obstacles and settling problems of their daily life and persistent toil for a better tomorrow.

Given the fact that our countries still have a lot to be done for the sake of promoting inter-cooperation that ensures the dreams of Nile Valley peoples coming true, we as parliamentarians, are faced with double responsibility, since we speak in their name and act as their representatives to expectedly become the direct expression of their impulse, hopes and ambitions. Hence emerged the initiative of establishing the parliamentary forum as a get-together of parliaments of Nile Basin countries to work hand in hand on the prowl of solidifying aspects of cooperation in various domains to the best interest of Nile Basin peoples, and to jointly pursue coherent and unified visions and policies politically, economically, socially, and culturally with a view to consolidating understanding and synergy among Nile Basin members and attend to the fulfillment of their interests in terms of development, progress, and poverty eradication. We hope to see this forum the ideal location for discussing issues of common concern for Nile Basin countries

and a considerable parliamentary support for the Nile Basin initiative for the eventual implementation of its purposes.

We need to regard this parliamentary forum as a free rostrum for Nile Basin peoples, to reflect their pains, hopes and legitimate ambitions for a flourishing future where hardships of the present are surmountable, and catch up with high-speed progress foreseeable.

If the forum, which we are to kick off its establishment in the course of our meeting today, was meant to be a mechanism that is fully independent from our governments, founded on the principles of equality between our parliaments and non-interference in the internal affairs of Nile Basin countries to ultimately be turned into a momentum in support of cooperation and integration in the Nile Basin region which we all take pride in belonging to, looking upon it as a one of our paramount political, economic and cultural concerns and preoccupations, hopefully, even surely, it will certainly contribute to highlighting the Nile Valley as a regional gathering with characteristic specificities and combined components of rapprochement, cooperation and integration in all fields.

Accordingly the forum has to be instated in the forefront of regional gatherings within the framework of the African Union we are grouped under its pan umbrella.

It is commonly perceived that parliamentary gatherings, forums or assemblies had constituted a pushing factor for the enhancement of regional groupings and unions. Suffice us here to underpin the role/roles European parliamentarians assumed through parliamentary gatherings established in perspective of European regional organizations and groupings; a case in point were the Parliamentary (Consultative) Assembly within the context of the Council of Europe, the Parliamentary Assembly for West European Union, the Parliamentary Assembly for North Atlantic Alliance and the Parliamentary Assembly for European Conference on Security and Cooperation. On the African plane, the African Parliamentary Union, the Arab Parliamentary Union and the Islamic Parliamentary Union had been founded.

A most recent example of special implication is the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly with its specific statute placing it as a parliamentary institution with a consultative power in connection with the Barcelona process, as it clearly adds to increased transparency and renders Euro-Mediterranean partnership closer to the people's interests and expectations.

In brief, such parliamentary groupings and organizations had largely contributed to deepening affiliation to regional gatherings and bolstering cooperation and integration among countries and peoples. Some of these groupings were credited for paving the way

on the ground for the establishment of regional parliaments as is the case with the European Parliament. We in this region are placing high value on the upcoming Arab Summit to be held in Algeria in spring. We have the hope of adopting a resolution in favor of establishing an Arab parliament which the Arab Parliamentary Union had substantially shared in promoting the significance of its foundation as an African landmark in the process of reforming the current Arab system.

Fortunately, our meeting is taking place on the eve of signing the final overall peace agreement in brotherly Sudan, which puts an end to the most protracted internal armed conflict ever witnessed in the African Continent that lasted more than 21 years. Now that Sudan's stability and security are believed to be a factor for the acceleration of development in this brotherly Nile Basin country, we aspire to a new momentum coming into being for the development movement in the Nile Basin in general, as much as we hope all sisterly countries could live up to strengthening security and stability within their borders in a way that leads up to the embrace of our efforts at the Nile Basin Countries' Parliamentary Forum and other initiatives aimed to consolidate cooperation and integration among Nile Basin countries and peoples.

As we start today with the establishment of the parliamentary forum, the simplest form of parliamentary gatherings, we are all the more assured this legal framework of our parliamentary gathering will develop in the nearest time possible to take the shape of a Nile Basin parliament on the ground. Meanwhile, the Forum's Statute, the drafting of which has been commissioned to a panel of experts, should be directed to make this transformation real in the near future in the manner that elevates our parliamentary offices to the level of our Nile Basin peoples' ambitions. We hope the Nile Basin parliamentary gathering will be the engine for cooperation and integration among our countries and peoples to help achieve development and progress as well as eradicate poverty and underdevelopment, for the Nile Basin to proceed as an optimal pattern of cooperation among its sisterly countries in all domains and at all levels for the sake of present and future generations.

**Statute
of the Parliamentary Forum of Nile Basin Countries
PREAMBLE**

The Parliaments of Nile Basin Countries;

- Guided by the desire expressed by the representatives of parliaments of Nile Basin countries: the Arab Republic of Egypt, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda,
- Considering the importance of the Nile Basin water resources that is the foundation of life and progress for the peoples of Nile Basin countries;
- In recognition of the fact that the Nile Basin represents a geographic unit that offers the formidable basis for cooperation among countries stretching out along this great River,
- Recognizing that the Parliamentary Forum of Nile Basin Countries is a critical factor that gives impetus to cooperation among Nile Basin countries, particularly in domains such as the exploitation of water resources and sound environmental management in the Nile Basin,
- Desiring to emphasize the role of parliaments of Nile Basin countries in strengthening their efforts to adopt a common vision for the achievement of economic, social and cultural development in these countries,
- Given the fact that the Initiative establishing the Parliamentary Forum of Nile Basin Countries constitutes a conscious mechanism to be added to African initiatives and mechanisms in place designed to achieve economic, social and cultural development of our peoples,
- Taking into account the principle of equitable and reasonable utilization of the Nile Basin water resources,

It is hereby resolved:

Article 1:

The Parliamentary Forum of Nile Basin Countries (hereinafter referred to as the Forum) is hereby established to perform its tasks and carry out its functions in accordance with this Statute and in compliance with its provisions.

Article 2:

The Forum aims at achieving the following objectives:

- a) Strengthening ties of cooperation and integration in various fields among Nile Basin countries.
- b) Underpinning the reinforcement of the role of parliaments in implementing overall and sustainable development plans in Nile Basin countries through the adoption of unified or coordinated visions and policies in economic, political, social and cultural domains, thus consolidating cooperation and understanding among Nile Basin countries, and realizing interests and aspirations of their peoples for progress, development, and eradication of poverty and under-development.
- c) To support the Nile Basin Initiative.
- d) Debating themes and issues of common interest among Nile Basin Countries.
- e) Promoting the principle of equitable and reasonable utilization of the water resources of the Nile Basin.

Article 3:

The Parliamentary Forum of Nile Basin Countries shall be based on the following principles:

- a) The Forum shall be a free platform for the peoples of Nile Basin Countries.
- b) The Forum shall be based on the principle of equality among member parliaments.

Article 4:

The membership of the Parliamentary Forum of Nile Basin Countries shall be formed of the Speakers of Parliament of Nile Basin Countries and four members from each Parliament.

Article 5:

The Forum shall hold an ordinary session at the start of every Gregorian year in the venue agreed by member parliaments at the end of the previous ordinary session. An extraordinary session may, upon the request of a two-third majority, be held in the venue and on the date agreed. The invitation, with the agenda attached thereto, shall be extended at least one month before the date fixed for the session.

Article 6:

The Forum Bureau shall be composed of speakers of parliament of Nile Basin countries. The speaker of parliament of the host country shall be the chairperson until the convocation of the next ordinary session. Two vice-chairs and chairmen of committees formed by the Forum shall be elected from among speakers of member parliaments or members of their delegations.

Article 7:

The Forum shall take its decisions and recommendations by consensus. In case consensus has not been reached, the matter shall be referred to the Forum's next session.

Article 8:

The forum may, at the outset of every ordinary session, set up committees pursuant to issues at stake at the Forum. Committee Membership shall be open to all member parliaments, provided that each parliament shall not be represented by more than two members.

The Forum may form ad hoc work committees to address particular issues or themes. These committees may include a panel of experts. The ad hoc committee concerned shall be holding, pending finalization of its report or study to be submitted to the Forum.

Article 9:

At the end of every ordinary session, the Forum Chairperson shall issue a statement on the outcome to the Parliaments of the Nile Basin countries. The Speakers of Parliament shall transmit statements and declarations to their respective governments for consideration.

Article 10:

The official languages of the Forum shall be Arabic, English and French. The translation of the Forum's documents and working papers shall be provided in these languages.

Article 11:

- 1- The Forum shall have a permanent secretariat, headquartered in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt.
- 2- The Egyptian People's Assembly shall bear the expenses of the Secretariat with the exception of payments of staff delegated from other parliaments which will be in charge of paying the salaries, allowances, and transport costs.

Article 12:

The Forum shall develop and adopt its Rules of Procedure. It may introduce amendments it finds appropriate, provided that such amendments shall only be effective as of the following Session.

Article 13:

This Statute has been adopted by consensus by members of the Forum at the First Meeting of the Forum held in Cairo on January 8 & 9, 2005. It may be amended upon a proposition made by the simple majority of Forum members, provided that such amendment is adopted by consensus.

**First Meeting of
The Parliamentary Forum of Nile Basin Countries
(Cairo 8 – 9 January, 2005)**

Final Declaration

We, Speakers and heads of delegations of parliaments of Nile Basin Countries, at the end of the first meeting of the Parliamentary Forum of Nile Basin Countries,

- Reaffirming keenness on working for the fulfillment of the hopes and aspirations of the peoples of the Nile Basin countries,
- Expressing our satisfaction with the constructive and positive discussions on the draft statute of the Forum,
- Hoping that the Forum's move towards realizing its objectives would be a step towards promoting efforts aimed at activating cooperation initiatives among Nile Basin Countries in various aspects so as to achieve comprehensive and sustainable development of the Nile Basin for the good of present and future generations,
- Realizing the significant role that should be assumed by parliamentarians of Nile Basin Countries with a view to promoting democracy and consolidating human rights principles and culture,

DECLARE:

First: Adoption of the Forum Statute,

Second: Selecting Cairo a seat for the Forum's Permanent secretariat,

Third: The next session of the Forum shall be convened during January, 2006. The venue of the session will be agreed upon through further consultation.

Fourth: Requesting President of the Egyptian People's Assembly and Chairman of the first session of the Forum to inform Speakers of Parliaments of Nile Basin Countries of the conclusions of this session.

Fifth: Heads of delegation agreed on assigning the general secretariat to prepare a draft rules of procedure for the Forum which will be sent to all member parliaments for consideration. A special meeting will be held on the day before the second session to adopt this rules of procedure.

Sixth: Thanking the Egyptian People's Assembly and the Arab Republic of Egypt for hosting this successful session.

Cairo 9 January. 2005

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