

# **Transboundary water cooperation: key challenges and lessons in stakeholders' involvement**

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Nile Basin Discourse

Transboundary Water Cooperation workshop

Copenhagen, March 1-2, 2007

# Why transboundary water cooperation?

- interdependence
- poverty prevalence as common to all
- sharing for mutual benefit
- environment/ecosystems know no boundary

# Wish versus reality

- transboundary water cooperation as wish and possibility
- the reality of state-society relationships
  - lack of
    - o accountability of state to society
    - o social contract: least in a form of mutual recognition

# structural challenges

- poverty vis a vis civil society building  
[TWC as something not abstract  
disconnected from development]
- structural factors perpetrating poverty and  
inhibiting TWC
  - o unfreedom
  - o environmental/ecosystem degradation
  - o marginalization of women

# structural challenges contd.

- unchecked population growth
- deteriorating rural economy
- lack of rearing the future generation
- marginalization of indigenous communities

# social change versus achievable reforms

- a dichotomy?
- finding a balance
- making reforms achievable and contribute to social change
  
- stakeholders involvement in this process
- donors?

# Lessons learned from NBD's experience

- transboundary water cooperation must be a public agenda
- outstanding problems
  - o the parochialism of states [civil society as receiver of the benefit/brunt of the consequences]
  - o stifled civil society [the state of space for civil society in the region]

# lessons contd.

- stakeholders' involvement: the role of donors
  - o political commitment v/s civil society exclusion
- the case of the Nile River Basin Cooperative Framework
- the need for public discussion/debate at national and regional levels
- NBD to generate discussion on the issue regionally and nationally through the NDFs
  - o NBD worked on the issue of transboundary water cooperation (consultation workshops)
  - o [all riparian countries, 41 w/shops, 2238 participants]
  - o [media to be involved]
  - o other dev. issues requiring transboundary cooperation