

The Nile River Basin - In Search of a New Water Regime

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This paper aims to provide comprehensive analysis of the past, current and future water governance regime in the Nile Basin. The main goal of the paper is to provide an updated analysis on the institutional setup and progress of the ongoing cooperation process in the Nile Basin, namely by understanding the different attempts at establishing a river basin organisation responsible for the management and utilisation of the Nile water resources. The Nile is a complex river basin shared by ten riparian states (Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo and Eritrea.. The main goal of the paper is to consider *what worked, what did not work and what are the emerging institutional options at play in the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI)*, the transboundary hydropolitical cooperation setting in place since 1999.

Firstly, the paper considers previous attempts at cooperation in the Nile Basin and its limited successes. It aims at understating why previous efforts at cooperation have not worked, and how is the NBI different from previous cooperative efforts. The second part analyses the ongoing two-track approach to transboundary cooperation that has been adopted in the Nile Basin since the 1990s. This part provides critical, in-depth analysis of the two tracks of the cooperative process: the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) and the negotiations for a Cooperative Framework Agreement (CFA), an institutional and legal framework being negotiated multilaterally since 1997. The progress and achievements in terms of implementation of the two cooperative tracks will be analysed. Finally, the paper looks forward and it identifies and analyses the emerging scenarios for transboundary water cooperation in the Nile Basin (full-cooperation, partial-cooperation and unilateral developments), as well as the likelihood of each of the scenarios at the light of current hydropolitical developments.