



MINISTÈRE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT
ET DÉVELOPPEMENT DURABLE

Le Vice-Premier Ministre

**SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY MADAME DEPUTY PRIME
MINISTER, MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE
CONGO**

NELCOM CHAIR

*AT THE 25th MEETING OF NILE EQUATORIAL LAKES COUNTRIES MINISTERS
(NELCOM) .*

DAR ES SALAAM / TANZANIA AUGUST 19, 2022

- Honorable Guest of Honour;
- Honorable Members of NELCOM and Dear Colleagues;
- Honorable Members;
- Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Ambassadors and Heads of Diplomatic Missions;
- Distinguished Members of NELTAC;
- Ladies and Gentlemen, Representatives of Development Partners;
- Mr. Executive Director of NBI;
- Mr. NELSAP Regional Coordinator
- Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, all protocol observed.

It is an honor and an immense satisfaction for me to meet you again, a year later, for the transfer of power to the head of our organization.

First of all, I would like to express my gratitude and that of the Congolese people to the brotherly people of Tanzania for the hospitality we have received.

My gratitude also goes to the Council of Ministers of the Nile Basin countries for having entrusted to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), through me, the management of the Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program (NELSAP- CU), from June 2021 to date.

As I take on the leadership of both the Council of Ministers (NELCOM) and the Technical Advisory Committee (NELTAC), I assure you that it has been a great honor for my country to serve this great institution.

- **Honorable;**
- **Excellencies;**
- **Distinguished guests;**
- **Ladies and gentlemen.**

During my tenure, a number of activities were carried out successfully but also others could not be carried out due to constraints beyond my good will.

Among the achievements, I have the honor to cite the following:

1. Rusumo Falls Regional Hydroelectric Project (80 MW)

During his mandate, the DRC, as President of the Council of Ministers and President of the Technical Advisory Committee, supported NELSAP-CU in particular by giving a new wind to the Regional hydroelectric project of Rusumo falls as it entered the

critical finishing phase of the work. Its construction has therefore increased from 75% in June 2021 to 93% in June 2022. The Project Manager being the most senior position, during his tenure, DRC assisted NELSAP-CU to perfectly manage the vacuum left by the former Project Manager who had resigned in December 2021.

It should therefore be remembered that the Rusumo Project is a complex project involving three countries (Rwanda, Burundi and Tanzania) and involves a substantial financial investment of over USD 340 million from the World Bank.

2. Other Electricity projects:

Under the leadership of the DRC, NELSAP-CU has launched a few projects including:

- 2.1. **Uganda - South Power Interconnection Sudan** : This project includes the interconnection of the electricity grids of **Uganda** and the **South Sudan** via a 400 kV transmission line from Nimule (Uganda) to Juba (South Sudan) over a distance of 170 kilometres;
- 2.2. **Uganda - DRC Power Interconnector** : In February 2022, NELSAP-CU signed contracts with the two companies who are currently carrying out the update of the feasibility study, detailed design, preparation of tender documents tenders, the environmental and social impact assessment studies as well as the resettlement action plan for the DR Congo - Ugandan electricity interconnection which goes from Nkenda in Uganda to Beni, Bunia and Butembo in the east of the DR congo. It is therefore a 220 kV line over a distance of 396 kilometres.

3. Institutional support for better budgetary and physical performance in the post -Covid era .

When the DRC took over the leadership of NELCOM, the Covid-19 pandemic was at its peak and this required dynamism and creativity in working methods. At that time, NELSAP's budget and physical performance for the previous year was around 60%. Thanks to our Experts (TAC), we have helped the institution to design various adaptation strategies and we are happy to inform you that we have achieved 81.3% budget performance. This is good but this performance could still be improved.

4. NELSAP-CU Operational Efficiency

During my year, the mandate of the management team, including that of the Regional Coordinator, had expired or was about to expire. While considering competence, professionalism and country balance, we have supported NELSAP-CU throughout this transition and all key positions have been filled to date.

For information, we now have:

- A Regional Coordinator from Kenya;
- A Principal Economist, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer both from Uganda;
- An Electrical Engineer from South Sudan;
- A Finance and Administration Officer from Rwanda;
- A water program officer from Tanzania.

These few achievements were possible thanks to the collaboration of all and the availability of the entire NELSAP-CU team.

On the financial level, I would like to thank all the member countries who have paid their contributions and especially some of us who have anticipated their payment (Ethiopia, Kenya).

My country's contribution arrears clearance file, already very advanced according to the commitments I made to you, has been slowed down following the country's new restrictions in the face of terrorism imposed on us in the NIL part of the country. .

- **Honorable;**
- **Excellencies;**
- **Distinguished guests;**
- **Ladies and gentlemen.**

I would like to take the opportunity of this forum to denounce the fact that certain member countries of the Nile Basin Initiative have been responsible for several years for the delay in the involvement of the DRC, in an effective and efficient manner, within our organization.

I would like here to condemn in the strongest possible terms the acts of terrorism in the part of the Nile, in the east of the DRC.

Rwanda is now indexed in the United Nations report as being the arm of terrorism in the DRC for several decades.

As you know, the DRC has been a victim of its hospitality since 1994 when the United Nations had imposed on it a humanitarian corridor in favor of Rwandan citizens known and identified after the human stupidity of the genocide perpetrated in their own country . Since then, the Congolese population living in the part of the Nile continues to pay the costs. Peace being a major

element for prosperity and multilateral and bilateral cooperation, this situation does not allow my country to contribute effectively to the development projects of the Nile Basin Initiative.

As recently as this Wednesday, August 17, 2022, Rwanda has just bombed the construction site of the Rwanguba hydroelectric power plant in the territory of Rutsuru , located in the Nile basin, in the province of North Kivu. These acts of barbarism and sabotage of a public utility work intended to supply electricity to the inhabitants of my country are proof that this country, a member of our organization, no longer has a single consideration for human life and for the development of NBI.

I remind you that this structure, the result of cooperation between the DRC and the European Union, should eventually allow the production of nearly 42MW of electricity for the population of North Kivu located in the Nile Basin.

Meanwhile, the DRC notes a curious indifference from the other countries of the Nile Basin Initiative and recommends that Tanzania and Kenya, which have experienced the horrors of terrorism in the past, fully play their roles as Presidents NILCOM and NELCOM so that the Nile, which unites us, is a space of peace and not of war.

I would like to draw the attention of this august assembly that in the face of global warming, thanks to its environmental potential within the Congo Basin, the DRC is positioning itself as a SOLUTION Country and aspires to evolve in a peaceful environment in order to fully play its role for the survival of all mankind.

This is how my country takes and will always take a peaceful approach to good neighborly relations.

Thus, the peaceful behavior of my country should not be seen as a weakness, but rather as a sign of wisdom.

- **Honorable;**
- **Excellencies;**
- **Distinguished guests;**
- **Ladies and gentlemen.**

The 25th meeting of ^{NELCOM} that we are holding today in DAR ES SALAM sees the DRC ceding the position of NELCOM CHAIR to a Brother country to continue to oversee our sub-regional organization which has done many good things and will continue to do so. even more for the happiness of our respective populations.

My country, the Democratic Republic of Congo, once again renews its commitment to the Nile Basin Initiative and its confidence in all member countries.

While waiting for the Sharm el-Sheikh meeting, from November 7 to 18, 2022, I invite you to actively participate in the preparatory work for the 27th ^{Conference} of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change from November 5 to 7 September 2022, for the scientific meeting in Yangambi , and from October 3 to 5, 2022, for the ministerial meeting in Kinshasa.

Long live the Nile Basin Initiative.

Thank you.