

Dear Ambassadors
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Egyptian Government and the National Council for Youth please allow me to welcome you all in the Opening Session of « The Nile Basin Countries Youth Forum » organized by the National Council for Youth with the sound collaboration of the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Forum reflects how been Egypt is to foster friendship and cooperation in all fields with sister Nile basin States as a basic orientation in Egypt's foreign policy.

Likewise, Egypt pays the utmost importance to cooperation with the Nile Basin States in the field of youth as they represent a high rate of our Continent's population on one hand and because youth will determine the promising future of our Continent on the other.

This Forum is held for the first time in the end of the International Year for youth ratified by the United Nations under the motto « Dialogue and Mutual Understanding ». In this context the UN will hold a session on the 25th & 26th of this July where we all aspire to more international attention to youth in Africa specially those in Nile Basin States.

There is no doubt that fostering relations among youth of Nile Basin States will facilitate cooperation in all youth

related fields such as Education , higher education , scientific research , culture, health, etc.

The program of the Forum includes two lectures, one of them on the historical ties between the countries of the Nile Basin , and the other on the legal system of international rivers. Also, the program includes visits to the African Society in Cairo, which was the castle for African liberation movements, and visits to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, ministry of International Cooperation, the Institute for Research and African Studies, the Center of Political and Strategic Studies at Al-Ahram Newspaper, the Smart Village, in addition to the visits of the most important touristic landmark in Cairo.

the National Council for Youth in the Arab Republic of Egypt is looking forward to strengthen further dialogue and friendship bonds among young people in Nile Basin countries through the following:

- Organizing this Forum periodically in the Arab republic of Egypt or in one of the countries of the Nile Basin, to be an annual tradition to provide the opportunity for dialogue and sharing experience among young girls boys from the basin countries.
- The expansion of youth exchange agreements between the countries of the Nile Basin. As we are proud to have agreements with each of Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo , Sudan and Kenya, as well as we are looking forward to bilateral agreements with all member States.

- Provide the Egyptian experience in founding and managing of youth facilities to the Nile Basin Countries .

Ladies & Gentlemen :

the National Council for Youth presents its sincere thanks and great appreciation to those who contributed in hold this Forum specially the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of International Cooperation, African Society , Egypt State Information Service , Egypt Tourism Authority, the Ministries of youth in the Nile Basin Countries and the Embassies of the Basin Countries in Cairo. And thanks for the participating young delegates who were keen to take part in this Forum and finally , we hope to achieve the goal of organizing this Forum through the efforts of the participating youth.

Dr.Mohamed Safei El Din Kharboush