



The Nile, Lake Victoria and the Milingo Island: The Implication of the Use of Regional Commons on Sovereignty and Integration

The African Human Security Initiative Secretariat at the Institute for Security Studies and the Hanns Seidel Foundation hosted the third Human Security Dialogue Forum on the 17th of November, 2009 at the Hilton Hotel, Addis Ababa. The seminar was attended by 43 participants drawn from Ethiopian civil society and academics, diplomats and representatives from the international organizations. Dr Wolf Krug opened the seminar and emphasized the need to resort to dialogue as a way of resolving conflict in the region.

Dr. Wafula Okumu and Dr. Debay Tadesse of the ISS made presentations on the potential for conflict that is caused by the lack of a comprehensive framework on sharing the Nile and Lake Victoria water resources in different parts of the continent.

Key issues:

- a. There was consensus that conflict is likely to emanate from both the management of water resources in Africa and this is exacerbated by the dwindling water resources
- b. Combinatorial causation is responsible for the 'tragedy of the lake commons' in Africa. This includes syndicates including security agents and middlemen who control the trade in water resources
- c. Disputes over water issues are rooted in colonial boundary demarcations
- d. The media hasn't played a big role in heightening awareness of the water problems on the continent and
- e. The World Bank is partly to blame for pushing for projects that will enable it to generate profits from the money it lends for dam constructions

See www.africareview.org for the presentations.