

Children of the Nile – A Shared Present & Future

Program & Media Engagements

A prestigious gathering celebrating the Nile's cultural and intellectual heritage through artistic expression, academic discourse, and sustainable innovation.

Friday, 5 September 2025 – Media Advisory (In-Person Press Conference)

Event: Press Conference on the “Children of the Nile – A Shared Present & Future” Summit

Time: 9:30 a.m. (EAT)

Venue: Elily International Hotel, Addis Ababa (New Building, 8th Floor, Conference Room C)

Confirmed speakers:

- Ambassador Nebiyu Tedla, Director General of Public Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Artist Desalegn Hailu, Founder of the Children of the Nile Initiative
- Prof. Mammo Muchie, Tshwane University of Technology, South Africa
- As. Prof. Dr. Mitslul Kifleyesus-Matschie, Organizer & Chair of the Digital Guardians Group
- Dr. Gezahegn Kebede, Ethiopian Civil Society Organizations Council

Context:

The press conference will introduce the initiative and highlight its Pan-African significance, bringing together artists, researchers, youth, scientists, and policymakers from all Nile Basin countries.

Saturday, 6 September 2025 – Day 1 (Online Summit)

09:00 – 09:20 | Opening Session

Reimagining the Nile – A Shared Present & Future

- **Dr. Gezahegn Kebede**, Ethiopian Civil Society Organizations Council – Welcome & Presidential message
- **Artist Desalegn Hailu**, Initiator of Children of the Nile – Vision and purpose
- **Prof. Dr. Afework Kassu**, Head AHRI, Former State Minister of Science and Technology – “Science, Innovation, and Youth Leadership for a Shared Nile Future”

09:20 – 09:50 | Keynote Statements

- **Prof. Mammo Muchie** (Ethiopia/South Africa) – “Ubuntu and the Children of the Nile: Shared Humanity for Shared Futures”

10:00 – 10:40 | Voices Across the Nile

Short thematic statements from working group representatives and diaspora engagement in cultural exchange.

- **Deepti Kataria** (Egypt/India) – Africa Study Centre – “Fostering Unity Through Cultural Dialogue and Education”
- **Mohamed Ibrahim** (Sudan) – MoTech Sudan – Mobile Solutions for Youth Employment
- **Dr. Jennifer Batamuliza** (Rwanda) – Data Sovereignty & STEM Education
- **Mike Chavala** (Tanzania) – Youtube & Founder Swahili Nation One Africa Foundation
- **Max Koffi** (Kongo) – Pan-African visionary promoting Unity, Fair Trade, and Ubuntu Economy

10:40 – 11:30 | Synthesis, Closing & Transition

- Moderated Reflection: “*One River, Many Voices*” – Asst. Prof. Dr. Mitslal Kifleyesus-Matschie
- Short dialogue on: “*What does it mean to be a Child of the Nile today?*” – Asst. Prof. Dr. Mitslal Kifleyesus-Matschie
- Summary & Call to Action – Dr. Gezahegn Kebede
- Transition to Working Groups – Dr. Gezahegn Kebede

11:30 – 16:00 | Working Group Sessions

Format: Parallel thematic workshops, each led by a leading institution or expert.

Purpose: Translate plenary discussions into actionable collaboration areas, identify opportunities and challenges, and draft long-term action points.

Deliverables: Draft agenda, proposed cross-country collaborations, summary of opportunities and challenges.

Working Groups & Chairs:

1. **Universities & Research** – Chair: Dr. Jemal Abafita, Co-Chair: Prof. Mammo Muchie
2. **Civil Society Organizations** – Chair: Dr. Gezahegn Kebede, Co-Chair: Endashaw Mogessie, Deepti Kataria
3. **Art, Culture & Sport** – Chair: Artist Desalegn Hailu Mazengiyya, Co-Chair: Haile Gebrselassie
4. **Youth & Technology** – Chair: Felix Matschie, Co-Chair: Samuel Bahiru
5. **Digital Guardians of the Nile: AI, Ethics & Cybersecurity** – Chair: Dr. Mitslal Kifleyesus-Matschie, Co-Chair: Dr. Jennifer Batamuliza, Mr. Eugene Rwagasore
6. **Enterprises of the Nile: Private Sector & Entrepreneurship** – Panelists: Mika Chavala, Ms. Irvine Floreale, Ms. Mary Constantino, Ms. Denise Umubyeyi; Working Group: Ms. Elizabeth Anon, Ms. Ange Muco Muyubira

16:00 – 16:30 | Wrap-Up & Reflections – (Chairs of the Working Group)

- Short reports from all groups
- Shared discussion on future collaborations

Sunday, 7 September 2025 – Day 2 (Online Summit)

09:00 – 09:20 | Short Plenary

- Guidance for finalization – Asst. Prof. Dr. Mitslal Kifleyesus-Matschie & Dr. Gezahegn Kebede

09:30 – 11:30 | Working Groups Finalization

- Consolidation of outputs & joint recommendations

11:30 – 12:00 | Finalization of the Documents

12:00-12:30 | Closing Session – Dr. Gezahegn Kebede & Artist Desalegn Hailu

12:30 – 13:30 | Online Press & Media Briefing

- Media joins Plenary for official outcomes
- Presentation of the *Children of the Nile Declaration 2025*