**CLOSING REMARKS**

Lake Victoria Basin Commission Donors Conference

Entebbe, Uganda

June 18, 2013

**Mohamed Hassan, Coordinator, Infrastructure Consortium for Africa**

On behalf of the Secretariat of the Infrastructure Consortium for Africa at our office in Tunis and my colleagues, Sonja and Susan here today, I would like to thank The Lake Victoria Basin Commission for their commitment to preserving and protecting this precious resource that has served as a beautiful backdrop for our meeting. Thank you very much for your hard work in hosting a successful conference.

As I mentioned in my opening remarks yesterday, The ICA is a membership organization, and I am particularly pleased to see that so many of our member representatives were here – and that **they all expressed a firm interest** in the Lake Victoria Basin Commission projects. This makes me very proud.

 We also had active engagement from representatives from the private sector. As we all know, public-private partnerships are invaluable in creating a sustainable economic infrastructure, so I want to thank our colleagues from the private sector.

We at the ICA are happy to have helped you begin this journey – and we strongly encourage you to **keep up the momentum**. To the Lake Victoria Basin Commission, we encourage you to be pro-active in following up on all the discussions, expressions of interest and commitments from your donor friends here today. We suggest you set up a coordination team with the specific responsibility of following up on this conference. Set up specific follow-up activities and follow-up actions – and again, **keep the momentum going.**

Some of you have flown here from very far away: Luxembourg, Switzerland, New York, Washington, D.C. … just to name a few places … we are all here because of the need to mobilize resources. It looks like we have been successful in that endeavor. But one of the most valuable outcomes of a conference such as this one is that we have the opportunity to form relationships and professional friendships. These relationships are invaluable – and like this beautiful lake, these relationships have tremendous potential. I encourage all of you to follow up with each other the following days, weeks and months- and to keep the discussions alive – to keep coming up with ideas that will safeguard the Lake Victoria Basin.

Congratulations to all of you for such a successful conference.

Thank you

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