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Nairobi talks lead consensus to implement peace accord: ENDF Chief

BY HAILE DEMEKE

ADDIS ABABA- The Nairobi talks that were held between senior commanders of the Ethiopian government and TPLF forces led to a consensus on the implementation of the South African peace agreement, the Ethiopian National Defense Forces (ENDF) Chief of Staff said.

Upon the return of the government's delegation on Sunday, the Chief of Staff Field Marshal Berhanu Jula stated that, the in-depth discussion the two parties held in Nairobi on the implementation of the peace talks led them to sign the truce.

According to him, the Pretoria agreement shows the desire to return to the legal and constitutional system. The gaps have been closed and a consensus has been reached on the implementation of the accord in Nairobi. "The last four years were difficult times for

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Ethiopia opens banking sector with limited foreign firms

BY BETELEHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA- The National Bank of Ethiopia (NBE) disclosed that the entry of foreign banks will be limited to a certain number for the time being.

NBE Financial Institutions Supervision Deputy Governor Solomon Desta noted that the capital brought by foreign banks will alleviate the shortage of foreign currency in

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Ethiopia expresses condolences for Turkiye

ADDIS ABABA- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) has expressed deep sadness for the loss of lives, injuries and destruction of property by the suspected act of terror at Istanbul's Istiklal avenue, Turkiye on last Sunday.

The Ministry further extended heartfelt condolences to families of those who lost their lives and wished a speedy recovery to those injured in the tragic horrific incident.

"We stand in solidarity with the government and people of Turkiye," the statement the MoFA issued yesterday stated.

News

Japan vows to expedite technology transfer in Amhara State

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA- Japan has shown keen interest to collaboratively work with Ethiopia in various sectors especially focusing on producing a qualified workforce well equipped with science and technology, so stated Japanese Ambassador to Ethiopia.

Holding discussions with Amhara State Chief Yilkal Kefale (PhD) at Bahir Dar City yesterday Japanese Ambassador to Ethiopia Ito Takako stated that the government of Japan has been working in cooperation with Bahir Dar University to produce qualified workforces who have been trained in science and technology over the past seven years.

According to local media, Bahir Dar University in collaboration with Japanese universities has contributed a lot to the effort exerted to transfer technology in the education sector.

The State's Chief, discussed a range of ideas on working together on various areas with Ambassador Ito Takako besides appreciating the support of the people and



government of Japan for the development of Ethiopia. Ambassador Ito Takako also stated that the government of Japan continues working on agriculture, provision

of clean drinking water and natural resources conservation in the Amhara State. The Ambassador is expected to visit the effectiveness and the level of Kaizen

implementation in the state, activities performed in the health sector and results of the projects run by the support of her government.

Peace accord vital to improve diplomatic relations: Expert

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA - The Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA) between the federal government and TPLF is a critical step to improve Ethiopia's diplomatic ties, Diplomacy and International Relations Expert said.

Approached by Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Ethiopian Civil Service University School of Diplomacy and International Relations Head Endale Niguse said that, the cessation of hostilities agreement between the government and TPLF would force some foreign elements to reassess their diplomatic relationship with Ethiopia.



Endale Niguse

Some forces would be enticed to review their diplomatic relations with Ethiopia as the latter has effectively repulsed all the diplomatic pressures from various directions.

CoHA has also a paramount importance in bolstering the country's diplomatic activities, he added.

As to him, the agreement plays significant

roles in eliminating the possibilities of foreign elements' interferences or diplomatic pressures

"As the conflict that gave them chances to interfere in Ethiopia's internal affairs has ended peacefully, the UN Security Council and European Union will no longer convene for irrelevant meetings on Ethiopia."

Turkish hospital aspires to serve Ethiopia

BY TEWODROS KASSA

ADDIS ABABA-The Turkiye-based Acibadem Hospital expressed desire to provide modern medical treatment to Ethiopians in Turkiye in collaboration with relevant stakeholders here.

The above was disclosed on Saturday when the hospital held an experience sharing program that was organized by the Getwell Medical Travel and the close collaboration of various Turkish and Ethiopian health professionals.

Acibadem Hospital Addis Ababa Medical Point Case Manager Surafel Zewde (MD) told *The Ethiopian Herald* that more than 50 Ethiopian patients travel annually to Turkiye to access better medical services. "We are aspiring to render quality medical service for all Ethiopians.

Currently, the number of Ethiopians choosing to travel to Turkiye and access medical treatments is increasing from time to time, he said.

As to him, quality medical treatments and price affordability are the major priorities of patients when seeking to travel abroad.

After opening its branch office in Addis Ababa in 2020, Acibadem Hospital has



been providing various experience sharing and training opportunities to numerous Ethiopian medical professionals in home and abroad.

Moreover, the hospital will offer various short-term and long-term training to Ethiopian health professionals with a view to elevating the two countries' relations in the medical industry.

On her part, Acibadem Hospital Northeast Africa and South Asia Region Supervisor said that the hospital provides treatment services for those patients whose cases are beyond Ethiopian physicians.

Accordingly, all medical treatment services are available in Acibadem excluding heart and lung transplant.

News

Truce showcases Ethiopia's belief in African solutions

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA –The peace agreement between the federal government and the TPLF shows Ethiopia's commitment and African ability to bring solutions, the former Chief Administrator of the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and People's State said.

If the sense of relief created by the end of the war in the hearts of the people is also created in the politicians and activists, it is possible to enjoy the peace properly, the former Chief Administrator Abate Kisho told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA).

Noting the agreement has shown the determination and steadfastness of Ethiopians, Abate further stated that, the truce is also a great success so that the sound of bullets will not be heard and lasting peace will come. "Africa can solve its own problems with its own children, and it will make other African countries believe in the continent."

"Other countries should respect this way of



Photo: Eyob Tejferi

Abate Kisho

the continent," the former state chief noted, adding that the role played by Ethiopia in making Africans gather around the table in

case of problems is great. "This is a great pride for both Ethiopia and Africa and the peace accord have also shown that it is

possible to find a solution for future conflicts in Africa through Ethiopia."

Remember Adwa laid the foundation for the black people to be free and independent, he said this peace agreement has made fellow African brothers and sisters believe that Africa wants to bring solutions by Africans, and on the one hand, it is a great honor for the continent.

The first victim of war is the society itself, so the relief heard from the society after the agreement should exist in the minds of a few politicians and activists, but it is the kind of feeling that wants to make one's life easier by burning the heart of everyone.

"Only some politicians are the one who beat the drum for war while the public are committed to the peace agreement and they have no desire but to stop the war once and for all. Therefore, even if the feeling created by the cessation of war in the hearts of the people is also created in the environment of the politicians and activists, it is possible to enjoy the peace properly," the ex-politician remarked.

Ministry hails aviation college's job creation role

BY TAMERU REGASA

ADDIS ABABA- Labor and Skill said the privately-owned National Aviation College has been playing a commendable role in nurturing skilled labor force in the highly-competitive aviation industry.

The college graduated 277 students in various levels of program here on Saturday. Speaking on the occasion, Labor and Skill State Minister Assegid Getachew said the college has made commendable efforts in producing skilled labor force in the aviation business. The college has also been discharging responsibility to help Ethiopia to provide jobs for the youth, which is one of the major priorities of the government.

The state minister further noted that the government has been paying due attention to attract private investments in employment generation and providing the necessary supports.

Abera Lemi (Capitan) Holder and CEO of National Investment Group told *The Ethiopian Herald* that the college has been



hugely engaged to render quality education with a view to providing competitive and skilled labor force in the aviation industry. "As a manifestation for our success, we have obtained different national and international awards from International Air Transport Association (IATA) and International

Commercial Management (ICM)."

Abera further indicated that, the college has been working with different international organizations to provide education in the aviation sector. "Almost all of our previous students have been employed by various public and private companies."

It was learned that the National Investment Group comprising of ten sister companies (business units) which operate across various sectors such as Aviation and Tourism, Technologies, Higher Education, Agro-Solutions, logistics and transportation, and General Trading.

Ethiopia opens banking sector...

Ethiopia and create a favorable environment for further investment. Notwithstanding this, the process of opening up the banking sector to foreign investors will begin with limited foreign banks only.

The deputy governor pointed out that the government will not accept and grant licenses to all foreign banks that come to participate in the banking sector. Foreign banks that come to Ethiopia should fulfill four conditions and those who can get a license are requested to establish a subsidiary bank and branch in Ethiopia and buy up to 40 percent of shares from local banks.

In terms of services, especially for agriculture, home and other infrastructure construction, as well as for rural areas,

the entry of banks that dream of providing different services will be significant.

"If foreign banks that meet the four conditions come in to invest, they will contribute greatly to Ethiopia's financial sector."

As to Solomon, there will be risks just as foreign banks come with good fortune. To reduce the risks, until the experience in the sector is developed, the government will limit the number of foreign actors entering the country after executing the necessary monitoring.

It was to be recalled that the Council of Ministers made the opening of the banking sector to foreign investors in its regular meeting held on September 3, 2022.

Nairobi talks lead consensus...

Ethiopia and there are security problems in parts of the country due to the presence of forces that sneered when the change came.

To reverse the challenge, the ENDF has been working tirelessly to control the destructive activities of some interest groups and Ethiopia was forced to go to war and peace remained far away in the northern part of the country.

"The war was difficult and cost the country a lot and now that we have learned from the blood and destruction, the peace talks held are a good opportunity to solve problems."

After this, the country has no shoulders to carry the war. Now the leadership in Tigray seems to understand this. Thus, the agreement made in Pretoria was a very good agreement. Both sides have reached an agreement to allow everyone to return to law and constitutional order and solve problems through dialogue and to restore the damage, the Chief of Staff remarked.

It is to be recalled that the discussion that was being held in Nairobi between senior commanders of the federal government and TPLF forces was successfully concluded on Saturday.

Opinion

Is diversity a bane or boon for Ethiopia?

BY MENGESHA AMARE

Many are heard of saying that countries with a homogenous society have a better peace and stability than those with heterogeneous composition. Even these people cite Ethiopia as a cursed soil to host a range of conflicts, disagreements and clashes, though they are sporadic, due to the presence of numerous nations and nationalities.

This notion is quite unacceptable, one may argue with my idea of course, as diversity is beauty. If a certain thing, for instance, is painted with the same color all in all, and some other is painted with a mosaic of colors, automatically the latter can catch sight of everyone, as being painted with the same color is boring and get on lookers bored.

Ethiopia is unequivocally branded under the second category as it is rich in a mosaic of citizens with a variety of culture, tradition, styles, language, religious sections and the like. Hence, diversity is a boon, not bane for Ethiopia, so we all have to accept diversity in terms of many scenarios and make a new Ethiopia avoiding minor discrepancies unknowingly or calculatingly crafted to weaken the country.

With a view to consolidating this decisive notion, this writer approached sociologists along this line. Meaza Challa is Sociology graduate and working as a social worker. She said, "Accepting cultural diversity is considered as one of the pre-requisites of maintaining peace and ensuring peaceful coexistence of communities living in multi-ethnic/religious societies like ours. Culture in this process not only refers to the mere existence of a group but also indicates the exercises and practices of multiple languages, beliefs, habits, festivities, cultural rituals and many other components that make a condition for people of each group to live with others harmoniously."

As to Meaza, there are many issues and concerns which need attention to address disagreements, chaos and dishonesty in culturally diversified societies, and maintain a path of harmony and cohesion where multiculturalism prevails and is well respected.

In a peaceful society, such diversities are mutually respected, and any problem once exposed is addressed with the principles which adhere that no one is superior or inferior to others regardless of gender, religion, ethnicity, and culture. Everyone is part of a culturally, ethnically, and religiously diverse society. In principle, Ethiopia is a country that respects diversity, both in the religious and cultural aspects.

Therefore, Meaza said, "We focus on school textbooks to explore such values that have been presented to and taught students of today for building a shared, peaceful society that leads them to esteem the values of respecting others. However, they have placed and focused on cultural diversity from different perspectives and enlighten



Unity in diversity is our strength

students with various norms, values and socio-emotional skills required for maintaining harmony and social cohesion in a multi-ethnic and multi-religious society."

As to her, cultural diversity includes language, race, sex, ethnic background, country or region of origin, dress, values, religion and associated practices, social and everyday responsibilities, sexuality, disability, notions of family responsibilities, political views and so on.

The term cultural diversity is synonymous of 'ethnic pluralism', but its core meaning is connected to 'equity and justice. 'As cultural diversity is not just a reality of coexistence of diverse knowledge, beliefs, arts, morals, laws, customs, religions, languages, abilities and disabilities, genders, ethnicities, races, nationalities, sexual orientations, etc., of human beings, it is also extended to the way people react to this reality and the way people choose to live together with this reality'.

It carries a message of establishing a mental set up of all people irrespective of their cultures and identities that equally is not merely a moral obligation, instead is a practical issue that has to be reflected in the decision-making process, she opined. In this complex process, all people irrespective of their identities and differences pursue to live together and maintain a cooperative relationship by avoiding any non-cooperative, hostile affairs which they may have.

As the possibility of disrespect, conflict and disharmony in a multicultural society is not unlikely, peaceful coexistence implies the ability of humankind to accept diversity by rejecting their cultural, religious, and other prejudices, opposing interests and to live in harmony.

School textbooks are one of the critical instruments of preparing young generations for the future with the values of respect, tolerance, mutual understanding, cooperation, unity, prosperity, partnership and humanity. They also constitute essences to realize how the young children could be

prepared with the values of maintaining and ensuring peace, accepting cultural diversity, and respecting the ethos of peaceful coexistence of multi-ethnic and multi-religious communities living in a society.

As to her, culture-based education, value-oriented education, psychosocial capacity and skill development, and peace education could help students inculcate a subtle culture of respecting diversity and promoting social cohesion in multi-ethnic/religious societies.

She further stated that maintaining social cohesion and harmony in a multi-ethnic and religious society requires embracing diversity and pluralism. School textbooks, to a considerable extent, contribute to preparing young generations in terms of accepting cultural and other diversities. Without respecting diversified cultural norms and values, students of today may not be adequately prepared for a shared future that embraces diversity. In elementary or secondary level textbooks, there should be plenty of contents related to respecting diversity, which immensely can contribute to enlighten students about cultural diversity and pluralism.

She also noted that Ethiopia should establish or strengthen commissions, agencies and institutes to study and recommend appropriate policies and actions for peaceful coexistence and sustainable development. It is a high priority for Ethiopia to embark upon institutional reforms to secure a consensual and productive state thereby enhancing peaceful coexistence of the country's diverse ethnic and religious groups, encouraging and promoting spirit of working for common good. According to her, the most critical determinant of poverty and deprivation in Africa has been the absence of institutional arrangements that enhance creation of wealth and also allow ethnic and other groups to live together peacefully. Ironically, sustainable development is a condition for peaceful co-existence as hungry and angry people cannot coexist with the rich and the contented. Sustainable development broadens the base of contented citizens through effective economic, social

and political participation.

Meaza said, "To ensure sustainable development and so peaceful co-existence, the governance must be truly democratized. One of the priorities of promoting the concept of peaceful and social coexistence in the current stage is the role played by all Ethiopians across the globe."

The most prominent requirement for achieving peaceful coexistence and consolidating the pillars of civil peace is the necessity of urging the political system in Ethiopia to work with all possibilities to arrange its internal house in justice and without discrimination and bias and at a speed that is commensurate with the magnitude of the ordeals faced by Ethiopians.

This is done by taking clear measures to identify all concerned parties in society without exception, regardless of their size, and to involve them in a real reconciliation process that guarantees real, not fictitious, coexistence.

This requires a political agreement between all the political forces in the country, especially those participating in the political process, which have been playing the role of encouraging rapprochement, and strengthening the building of the peaceful administration of societal pluralism, which preserves the diverse groups within Ethiopians to live in peace on the land of the homeland. It preserves the expression of its diversity in an atmosphere of mutual respect, and the achievement of social justice through the participation of all in building wealth, expanding the base of ownership and obtaining a fair share of public services, Meaza said.

In a nut shell, since diversity is a characteristic that has not affected Ethiopia over the past millennia, it is important to focus on ways to ensure the success of coexistence among Ethiopians and to focus effectively on the role of peace-loving citizens through their participation in supporting the activities of achieving community stability, the return of normal life by giving an important and effective role in promoting active participation in returning displaced and displaced fellow citizens and providing them with fair compensation, and ensuring protection for them and in cooperation with international and civil society organizations.

Besides, loyalty to motherland does not conflict with loyalty to other secondary affiliations, but the priority must be given to the former as prioritizing the national interest over interests of ethnicities, sects, tribes and factions taking advantage of the incidence that they clash must come to the fore forefront. In so doing, diversity is proved to be a boon for the country and its people, not a bane indeed!

Editor's Note: The views entertained in this article do not necessarily reflect the stance of The Ethiopian Herald

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Editorial

Say no to extending sufferings of the blameless!

As war or conflict would without a shadow of doubt bring about misery and untold sufferings of many, it would equally provide some with green pasture to milk benefits. This fact is now being witnessed in Ethiopia following the conflict broke out in the northern part of the country.

After a two year aggressive war between the federal government and TPLF, the two parties agreed last week to halt hostility and provide their respective people with a sigh of relief forever.

Cognizant of the fact that the peace deal is a promising step to get sources of conflict dried and help all citizens breathe clean air, the government of Ethiopia is doing all it can to meet its commitments and oath under a peace agreement keeping the agreed terms one by one.

Besides, following the recurrent call for peace and reconciliation made by the federal government, the armed opposition TPLF has also expressed willingness to stop fighting and signed peace deal in Pretoria, South Africa.

True, the peace accord which the two sides recently signed has aimed at bringing lasting peace to the destructive war broke out in the country two years ago.

The peace deal, an agreement which has opened up new avenues for the country, for its reconstruction and return back to peace, serenity as well as soothe and reconcile citizens of the same nation, has to be well materialized and implemented in an effective manner for the benefit of citizens of the state in particular and those of the nation in general.

The other party to the peace deal too should equally make itself

committed to the full and effective implementation of the peace deal knowing that willingness of only one party is tantamount to clapping with one hand devoid of any sound.

Unequivocally, the intention of the accord has been to rebuild and develop the country for each party to feel proud of belonging to.

Cognizant of the fact that no one can benefit out of conflict and war, Ethiopia is always stretching its hands for peace and mutual understanding. The government is also working to ensure that AU-led peace accord would be implemented as per the agreed terms and all the requirements that need to be fulfilled for smooth flow of humanitarian aid are well run, and air flights are allowed and aids are prettily fostered. TPLF itself has been willing to perform the peace deal as per the agreed terms, too.

However, some quarters are trying to disrupt the peace process and working to foil the effort merely with a view to quenching their hidden interest at the expense of the wellbeing of peace-loving innocent citizens. In so doing, they would like to elongate the sufferings of the poor at home even to the extent that they have lain themselves on boulevards on a scorching sun.

The international community has to seriously denounce such a devilish spirit and take appropriate actions against those who would like to add fuel to fire to the conflict and unknowingly or calculatingly contribute to the sufferings of citizens at home.

In sum, the international community must condemn the wrong acts of conflict entrepreneurs and actors who are trying to fatten personal gain at the expense of innocent lives.

Opinion

Silencing the guns through silencing wicked mindset

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

Both war and peace originate in the minds of leaders and implemented through generals and negotiators for peace. Even if the guns are silenced, those who are threatened by peace in Ethiopia will still remain in war mindset and can keep on dreaming for war unless their mind is peaceful.

Every Ethiopian involved in war would need to end the subjective war in the mind, reinstall war mongering and install peaceful mentality and mindset. It takes only few armed persons to start a war but restoring peace has never been done without sacrifice of every kind. That is why peace and cessation of hostilities on the ground must be supplemented and complimented by peace of mind in every Ethiopian.

In Ethiopia making peace is not advocated only because of the dividends it can bring for the country and its people. It is also because peace is a basic human attribute that should be cherished by all Ethiopians. We are Ethiopians but first humans. Animals are presumably governed by the Darwinian theory of the survival of the fittest while for human beings including Ethiopians, survival must be attained through collective effort and not by evolutionary method of eliminating each other.

Ethiopia, particularly the northern part of the country has been an arena of war for half a

century. This has always been compounded with human and manmade calamities that gripped the entire country. In the last two years of war in northern Ethiopia, COVID-19, swarms of locust, drought and food shortage, escalated contraband trade, illicit financial transactions, and theft on the coffers of the Federal Government, money laundering and fake banknotes printing all amalgamated into a triple jeopardy on the people and government posed another war front alongside the actual one.

Even then, amidst all these tribulations in which hundreds of lives and property was lost, Ethiopia managed to cruise through internal bliss and foreign untold pressures of all kinds on the country. All was not bleak and dark for the country. Ethiopia maintained a fair level of economic growth, managed to plant 25 billion trees and sharing hundreds and thousands of them with the neighboring countries, proudly filled GERD for the third time producing 375 MW of hydropower, shared power with neighboring countries, produced bumper harvest of wheat ready for export, commissioned three breath taking ecotourism complexes, saw improved level of exports and more.

Had it not been for the two years war, more could have been accomplished. The rehabilitation program is already in full swing with open corridors for relief transporting to northern Ethiopia. The Agreement on Permanent Cessation of

Hostilities between FDRE and TPLF signed days back and the resultant Declaration of Senior Commanders Meeting on the Implementation of the Ethiopia Permanent Cession of Hostilities Agreement signed between senior army commanders of FDRE and TPLF has ushered a renewed hope for Ethiopia and peace and stability on the Horn of Africa.

As the author has mentioned earlier, there is a lot of wound to be mended through forgiveness, mutual respect, understanding and stopping bad mouth politics, hate speech through social media.

Some seem to infer that peace and reconciliation is a sign of weakness or even betrayal, calling for ethnic based revenge. This will only take the country back to square one and would result in pushing knife into an open wound. It is therefore expedient to exploit the current agreement for lasting peace as a window of opportunity to turn anger into love, revenge and vengeance into total reconciliation.

Some self-styled politicians (if at all they are!) try to tell us that the struggle is between the federalists and the unionists while others say it is between members of ethnic groups in the country; others talk about religious and denominational differences. If it is for difference, we can discern of hundreds of differences. But the differences need to be accommodated and respected and not trumpeted to give way for those who try

to enjoy the warmth when our only house, Ethiopia is on fire and flurry.

The relief and rehabilitation program underway in northern Ethiopia should also be geared towards rehabilitating the glorious history of unity and peace that citizens in Tigray, Amhara and Afar have enjoyed for thousands of years. The people of Ethiopia need each other and when we talk about Ethiopia and the unity of the country we are talking about its united people.

The unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country have been put to test at the Battle of Adwa and over the last two years in northern Ethiopia. Ethiopians in the rear have proved their solidarity with the ENDF in so many ways: walking right up to the battle front to feed the ENDF fighters, shouldering their burdens by trekking on difficult terranes and helping to carry their battle kits.

Strong and developed Ethiopia is a guarantee for peace and stability in the Horn of Africa and restoring peace and stability in the country is a major precondition for her qualification for such a role.

Ethiopians need a swift change of mindset

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Editor's Note: The views entertained in this article do not necessarily reflect the stance of The Ethiopian Herald

Business & Economy

Addressing the financial, investment challenges

BY ABEBE WOLDEGIORGIS

The Ethiopian financial sector is facing various challenges but three of them are the major ones. As it is known, since the down fall of the imperial regime, the sector was closed to the local and foreign private investors. There was no competition among banks and unable to draw experience from foreign financial sectors. As a result, the sector remained at its infancy level Yared Hilemeskel, a financial consultant with rich experience in the field said.

As to him, the sector was illiberal and until recently, even Ethiopian Diaspora was not allowed to operate in the sector. But since few years ago, when they were given green light from the government to operate here, they began to purchase shares in local banks with hard currency.

Secondly, foreign banks were not allowed here to operate but months ago the Council of Ministers allowed foreign banks to come here and to purchase share from local banks. In addition, they can open branches of their own banks.

The third challenge is that the lagging behind of digitalization. As to Yared, however, in the future there is a possibility even mandatory that countries might abandon utilizing paper money due to the expansion of crypto currency.

This currency has been introduced in many countries since 2008 and currently, the circulated amount of crypto currency rose to 3 trillion Dollar all over the world. Governments did not think that cryptocurrency is expanding in such unprecedented manner and did not assume that it might compete with the central banks which have the authority to control paper money. Nowadays, in the foreign world, the company known as “trust bit coin”, similar to the central bank has the mandate on formulating the monetary policy and engaged in exchanging goods and services through bit coin. Because of these, countries such as China are forced to establish «Central Bank Digital Currencies» (CBDC) to safeguard the role of paper money in the market from crypto-currency.

If one utilizes crypto currency, he uses the currency not through banking but through his lap top and if he has 500 million US Dollar in crypto-currency, the money will be deposited in the computer. But in the past the money would be deposited in the bank. Normally, banks lend money to customers with interests and gain profit and in turn they provide interest fee to the depositors. Alike this, when the money is put in the computer, depositing the money in the bank will be irrelevant. Therefore, when the government allows foreign banks, such money transaction might be introduced. Therefore, to cop up with such challenges, local banks must prepare themselves to the inevitable competition.

Currently, Safari-com joined the Ethiopian telecom market with other company known as EMPESA engaged in money transaction



business and it is better to think that the introduction of crypto-currency will be apparent that does not use the National Bank channel. Virtualization also enables customers to conduct payment from everywhere and in such a situation, the government can't collect tax and banks also will never obtain profit.

As to Yared, a local bank which has 10 billion Birr of paid capital is equal to 200 million Dollar in the current exchange rate. As compared to big banks which possessed hundreds of billions of dollars, the amount is very small.

Such big gap between local banks and foreign banks in terms of deposited money paves the way to easily swallow the local banks. Therefore, in order to compete with them, local banks must recapitalize their asset. In addition, beginning the capital market as soon as possible is essential. The absence of stock market inhibited banks not to enhance their capital amount. It is also chained by the trade law.

If stock market begins, the bank with 200 million Birr deposit can increase the amount. Buildings built by banks can be supplied as capital in the market. Virtualization and digitalization integrate the local banks with the foreign market in banking business and can compete with foreign banks. Utilizing mobile banking also enable them to cop up fintech. When the Kenyan based Safari come began to operate here, for instance, the Ethio-telecom immediately introduced Tele-birr. Since it is common in other parts of the world, banks also must adopt the Tele-birr system.

The National Bank of Ethiopia must consider that the practice of crypto currency is inevitable and prepare itself to that practice.

Likewise, it has to imagine that how digital currencies are deposited in banks. Even though it is complicated to some extent, professionals can make it easy.

The Kenyan based financial transaction

company, EMPESA is established in 2007 and the Ethiopian M- Birr also introduced 2 years later in 2009.

The Kenyan law encourages creativity in the financial innovation. Business beginners may pose tolerable social crises and though there is no specific law to them, the agency helps them to stimulate their business. In other countries when new business model is introduced, it will not be waited until it involves in its full operation. They are protected until they develop their own capital and get organized. Later on, following their full involvement in business, the law that is related with their operation will be introduced. In Ethiopia when M-birr was introduced in 2009, it was not recognized because of the absence of law in that regard but later after many appeals, the law was introduced in 2015.

There was seven years gap between the introduction law of EPPESA and M- birr. Even the objective of the introduction of the law was only to support banks' activities not to function by their own. The new technology brings benefit to the late comer. The earlier innovator invests its energy and resource to change the previous law and to create awareness regarding its services. But the late comer involves in to the business without spending its energy and resource because the earlier made the level playing field conducive. The digital finance system is different from the traditional banking system. When traditional bank grows, it opens its branches in other parts of the country. But the technology based crypto currency can grow from small up to big and becomes complicated in short time. It depends on its approach and new ideas.

As to Yared, political reform has been undergoing in Ethiopia for the last four years. Political prisoners were freed and exiled politicians were allowed to come and compete in election here. These are big achievements. But in the economic front, the reform brought very little change. Basic challenges witnessed in the economic sector are still continued. The property rights and

the land owning systems is not touched.

During the consecutive three years of power assumption of EPRDF in 1991, various measures had been taken and new laws were introduced to liberalize the economy from command to market led. In this regard, the privatization law, the permission of Ethiopians to establish banks can be mentioned. Had it not been for the new law introduced, the commercial bank of Ethiopia would have possessed a monopoly power till now. But there is no law introduced which can bring a paradigm shift in the economic sphere.

In fact, the stock market law is introduced but not implemented yet. In Ethiopia, the property law is an important issue. As a result of lack of clear definition regarding land ownership system in relation to investment, 68 million hectares of land is not cultivated in Ethiopia. Only 16 million hectares of land is plowed. If the cultivated land is grown up from 16 million hectares to 20 million, there would be a dramatic shift in the economic front.

The 13 million hectares of land which was cultivated during the imperial era is only increased by 3 million hectare today. But the number of population has grown to 115 million. Thus, Laws that can bring remarkable change must be introduced. In fact, the government tried to improve various laws but unable to solve the basic economic questions.

As to Yared, the land owning system introduced by the Derg regime is still working and it is the most constraint factor for the rapid economic growth of the country. The land proclamation introduced by the Derg gave the government a monopoly power on land ownership.

The government should capitalize on providing land to the youth and encourage them cultivate for mutual benefit of the youth and the country. Doing so, ensuring food security can be realized and importing food will be halted.

In the Sphere of Diplomacy

Pretoria peace agreement: Undisputed diplomatic victory

BY HAFTU GEBREZGABIER

International and regional organizations including the United Nations, European Union, the African Union and countries have been hailing the peace agreement signed in Pretoria, South Africa to end the war in the northern Ethiopia.

The United Nations Secretary-General welcomes the signing of the Agreement for Lasting Peace through a Permanent Cessation of Hostilities between the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the Tigray People's Liberation Front.

The Agreement is a critical first step towards ending the devastating two-year old conflict in which the lives and livelihoods of so many Ethiopians have been lost. The Secretary-General urges all Ethiopians and the international community to support the bold step taken to sign the agreement between the Federal Government of Ethiopia and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF).

The Secretary-General pledges his support to the parties in the implementation of the provisions of the agreement and urges them to continue with negotiations on the outstanding issues in a spirit of reconciliation in order to reach a lasting political settlement, silence the guns and put the country back on the path to peace and stability.

The EU for its part welcomes the announcement of a Cessation of Hostilities and congratulates both the Government of Ethiopia and the TPLF for their commitment and courage towards peace. The EU commends the African Union mediation and its observers, as well as the South Africa host and reaffirms its readiness to support peace efforts moving forward in a process owned and led by Ethiopians.

The statement said that a swift implementation on the ground of the agreement reached today is needed. Priority is to resume humanitarian access in all affected areas and to restore basic services, in particular in Tigray. Further negotiations are encouraged to reach a permanent ceasefire agreement and launch broader political talks.

“As we approach the second anniversary of the beginning of the war, the EU reaffirms its solidarity with the people of Ethiopia on its way to reconciliation and recovery, like it has constantly remained by their side through humanitarian and development assistance.”

The EU stands by the families of the people who have been killed and those who have been victims of the worst atrocities during those two terrible years. It remains of the utmost importance that the victims see justice being brought upon the perpetrators of those crimes. Accountability is a corner stone for lasting peace and reconciliation, the statement further stated.

US State Department spokesperson Ned Price also hailed the agreement. “The African Union’s announcement of the signing of a cessation of hostilities between the government of Ethiopia and the Tigray People’s Liberation Front represents an important step towards peace,” he told reporters.

“We welcome the momentous step taken in Pretoria today to advance the African Union’s campaign to “silence the guns” with the signing of a cessation of hostilities between the Government of Ethiopia and the Tigray People’s Liberation Front. We commend the parties for taking this initial step to agree to end the fighting and continue dialogue to resolve outstanding issues to consolidate peace and bring an end to almost two years of conflict. We welcome

the unimpeded delivery of humanitarian assistance and the protection of civilians that should result from implementation of this agreement.”

The United States commends AU Commission Chairman Mussa Faki for his leadership as well as the extraordinary efforts of AU High Representative Olusegun Obasanjo, former South African Deputy President Mlambo-Ngcuka, and former Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta, whose facilitation led to this significant step toward peace. We also commend South Africa for generously hosting the talks.

The United States remains a committed partner to this AU-led process and to our collaboration with the UN, IGAD, and other regional and international partners to support implementation of today’s agreement. We welcome the statement of Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy expressing gratitude to the AU and share our support for his desire for an enhanced partnership to support reconstruction and development for all communities in northern Ethiopia affected by the conflict.

African Union president and Senegalese President Macky Sall for part said it was “excellent news. “I congratulate the parties and strongly encourage them to persevere on the path towards a permanent peace,” he said.

Furthermore, Türkiye also stated that it is pleased that an agreement was reached and it hopes the agreement will be permanent.

In a statement, the Turkish Foreign Ministry said: “We congratulate the African Union for spearheading these talks, the host Republic of South Africa, and all contributors for their efforts.”

Ankara reiterated that it is ready to give all kinds of support to “friendly and brotherly”

Ethiopia for the establishment of peace and tranquility.

The Secretary-General commends the African Union and its high-level panel for the facilitation of the peace talks and the Republic of South Africa for hosting the peace talks. The United Nations stands ready to assist with the next steps of the African Union-led process and will continue to mobilize much-needed assistance to alleviate suffering in the affected areas.

For its part, the Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Workneh Gebeyehu, congratulated the Government of Ethiopia and TPLF on the signing of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement in Pretoria.

“By signing this agreement to silence the guns and end the armed conflict, the people of Ethiopia now have the opportunity to establish a long-lasting peace”, he stated. Dr. Workneh commended the leadership and commitment of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and his Government to find a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

He also commended the important role of the African Union (AU), especially the role played by Moussa Faki and Olesugun Obasanjo, the former president of Nigeria, Uhuru Kenyatta, the former president of Kenya, and Phumzile Mamo-Ngcuku, former deputy president of South Africa in facilitating the talks and congratulated the team of negotiators from both sides for conducting the dialogue in a responsible manner.

Workneh further thanked the Government of the Republic of South Africa for graciously hosting the talks. The Executive Secretary encouraged all parties to the agreement to live up to their commitments in implementing all its provisions.

Silencing the guns through...

that would measure up to the needs of the country and its people. Ethiopians should creep out of their cocoons and engage in civic democratic nationalism and set an example for the rest of Africa. Ethnicity is natural but should never be political in the 21st century where technology has reduced the world into a small village. Silencing the guns in the mind sets a centerpiece for promoting Ethiopia’s ever growing role in Africa and the world.

The media mindset in Ethiopia is still trying to catch up with the reality on the ground. Emotionally charged news, misconception and misinterpretation, exaggeration of facts, ethnic driven mentality in trying to glare up on this or that ethnic group is particularly rampant in the social media. Some of the local news items are over speculative attempting to focus on sensational opinions that are counterproductive and invariably

divisive.

The whole point boils down to the fact that cessation of hostilities and promotion of peace across the country and particularly northern Ethiopia requires the contribution of every citizen, CSOs, professional associations who should work in unison for the common goal of their country. Sabre rattling to spin the arms of the government is old fashioned, archaic and basically apolitical and no less than a political fever that emanates from irrational and emotional mindset.

The implementation of the peace process is in fact a process and not a single action. Greater care must be made by the people and Government of Ethiopia to safeguard the timely and scheduled implementation of the peace process not to be derailed by backyard plotters.

Developing countries facing...

Quickly evolving geopolitics, high inflation and soaring energy prices have prompted many governments to backtrack on climate pledges in recent months. On Friday, President Joe Biden touted U.S. efforts to help adaptation efforts in Africa, but refrained from mentioning the new carbon market plan. The U.S. initially pledged \$11 billion to help developing nations, but a divided U.S. government only approved \$1 billion this year for that effort—an issue that’s largely out of Biden’s hands.

“We desperately need money,” Kerry told CNN. “It takes trillions and no government that I know of is ready to put trillions into this on an annual basis.”

But debate over who should pay—and how—when it comes to dealing with the costs of climate change remains fiercely

undecided. And many climate activists see this week’s U.S. proposal as the latest evidence that COP27 has been co-opted and compromised by corporate interests. Activists have chastised the summit’s organizers for allowing one of the world’s biggest plastic polluters to sponsor the conference, as well as hiring a global public relations firm that also represents major oil companies as clients.

Still, excluding corporations from COP27, even those that are green washing their images, would be a bad idea, said Michael Vandenberg, a law professor and the director of Vanderbilt Law School’s Climate Change Research Network. In many ways, he told me in an interview, buy-in and cooperation from the private sector is vital for the larger international effort to be successful.

Law & Politics

The continued yet desperate propaganda of peace spoilers

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

Some foreign entities that hate to see peaceful Ethiopia have been many a time and oft throwing a wet blanket over the Pretoria peace deal signed between the Ethiopian Government and Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF).

For the benefit of accomplishing their hidden agenda going on behind closed curtains, foreign affiliates have been pulling out all the stops working in close cooperation with the low-rated international media outlets to undermine the peace accord.

To everyone's dismay the media some media have been getting off journalism ethics and standards and becoming involved in a smear campaign against the government and the positive development unfolded in the country.

Apart from making all possible efforts to move the country into uncharted territory putting layers of treacheries into effect, foreign entities have been playing a part in pouring cold water on the efforts of the incumbent to make peace happen. However, through the unflinching stance of the government and the people of Ethiopia, the peace deal that has been brokered by the African Union ended up accomplishing the sought-after goal at the earliest possible juncture.

Though the achievement of the peace talks managed to win the hearts and minds of all and sundry, some foreign entities that are not interested in the peace agreement have been engaged in dragging through the mud the positive moves of the country. To the surprise of everyone, even after the peace deal has been reached, the disgraced international media outlets have continued coming up with a wide spectrum of intrigues.

However, as the global community embarked on knowing the evil mission of the media outlets, they set in motion brushing aside their bogus news stories that do not reflect the existing reality on the ground. Even worse, they have been bending over backward to disrupt the peace agreement by spreading fictitious stories and divulging unconfirmed documents.

Failing to learn from their past blunders, the so-called international media outlets have been working in close association with Ethiopia's adversaries to obstruct the peace deal under the guise of quite a lot of weak reasons aimed at blackening the positive achievements of the country and the incumbent. Needless to say, the government of Ethiopia has shown the world the fact that it is in a position to resolve its internal matters without the involvement of any foreign entities.

It should be borne in mind that back in the day a lot of efforts have been made over and over again to undermine the African Union-led peace talks brushing aside the phrase African solutions to African problems.



However, the whole thing at the end of the day kick-started bearing fruits and becoming the talk of the entire world. Though some entities spared no effort to cast a damper on the efforts of the government by coming up with layers of treacheries, all their efforts have gone for nothing.

On the heels of the peace deal that had been held in Pretoria Ethiopians from all walks of life have been expressing their innermost feelings on the grounds that the peace deals put a kibosh on the country's civil war. Albeit they have been attempting to dig a hole for Ethiopia with the object of toppling the democratically elected government from power, they have not accomplished the desired goal as a consequence of the concerted efforts of Ethiopians at home and abroad.

Regardless of the fact that a lot of efforts have been made by some foreign entities to foil the peace process under the guise of a number of weak reasons, they failed to achieve the desired goal.

In actual fact, the hidden agenda of some unknown entities conjoined with the ambiguous information campaign has given rise to unjustified pressure against Ethiopia and fortified their meaningless information campaign against the government. Regardless of the fact that Ethiopia's adversaries know the hidden mischievous going on behind closed curtains, they continued weaning themselves from the unvarnished truth and perplexing the wider international community by bringing into play a wide spectrum of fictitious stories.

Speaking to local media lately, Ambassador Redwan Hussein highlighted the existence of some interest groups that have been engaged in misrepresenting Ethiopia's reality. Those groups falsely claimed that the signatories have not abided by the peace accord and ceased hostilities which are contrary to the fact on the ground.

Amb. Redwan however, admitted the existence of some individuals on both sides

who are misled by false rumors and have exchanged sporadic fires. The government and TPLF leaders are in close contact and have discussed ways to handle the challenge.

Though some forces are presenting incidents that happened before the peace deal as if they are happening now, combatants of the signatory parties have not demonstrated hostilities and they are dining, drinking, and burying dead bodies together.

"With only a few days elapsing since the peace deal, we have learned that not only the people of Tigray but those with guns, had not been forced, they would prefer peace over conflict. The best indication for this is the one where they share a meal and drink together with government troops."

"Hostilities could not heal overnight," the security advisor noted, adding that utmost efforts will be exerted to overcome the challenge through transitional justice. Issues that need to be looked at before court as well as social healing activities are amongst the major issues to be addressed.

Though small fights might be inevitable after the peace deal, the government will leave no room for those who benefit through conflicts, hence, it will work exhaustively to address the issue time for the public benefit, he emphasized.

"We Africans need to start to own and tell our own stories, as Africa is a land of immense wonders and beauty, as well as the birthplace of humanity, Ethiopia Ambassador to Tanzania," Ethiopia's Ambassador to Tanzania, Shibiru Mamo, said.

The Ethiopian Embassy in Tanzania organized an online panel discussion under the theme: "Africa through the lens of a fast-changing global media landscape." In his opening remarks, Ambassador Shibiru Mamo regarded the topic as timely, crucial, and worth discussing. "Africa is a land of immense wonders and beauty, and it is the birthplace of humanity," he said, adding, "We Africans need to start to own and tell

our own stories."

He also urged African journalists to use their talents and work for the development of Africa by depicting to the globe the real picture of Africa. The panelists presented papers on the imbalances and misinformation in the global media landscape in relation to Africa. According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the panelists were represented from different countries with diversified professional backgrounds as well as from various walks of life.

Speaking to the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Political Science and Legal Expert Prof. Tilahun Teshome stated that the main aim of those who are opposing the recent peace agreement between the Ethiopian government and the TPLF is to hinder the efforts of resolving the war permanently and building durable peace across the country. He added that these individuals and groups should know that their objective would not be succeeded.

According to Prof. Tilahun, some anti-peace elements in the Diaspora and special interest groups had been spreading fake news and falsely accusing the Ethiopian government of abusing human rights. These bodies are now beginning to undermine the peace deal because it makes their lies and wishes worthless, he noted.

It can be assumed that the individuals or groups who raise objections to the peace accord are those who feel defeated or have lost their personal interests, he said adding, that there are also people living abroad who are blindly opposing the peace agreement. However, the main issue is determined by the general situation in the country.

"Understanding that their shouting will not bring any result, those who are rejecting the accord should refrain from their ill-advised activities," Prof. Tilahun insisted. Some anti-peace elements in the Diaspora have to understand that most of the victims of the two-year war are citizens living in the country, he stressed.

Society

Combating drug abuse, illicit trafficking to improving health governance

BY MENGISTEAB TESHOME

Ethiopia is embarking on the implementation of its National Drug Control Master Plan 2017-2022 putting the health, safety, security and development of its people at the heart of its policy

This is in recognition of the country's growing drug use and trafficking problem and the need to mount a multi-sectoral response to address it comprehensively and effectively.

As the document states, the Master Plan embraces both the drug supply reduction and drug demand reduction aspects, as well as acknowledging a need to respond to a new threat to public health posed to the new pattern of injecting drug use through a harm reduction component, the whole within a policy and legislation framework.

It further recognizes the essential requirement for institutions, communities and civil society to work together in order to achieve success. It, therefore, stimulates the synergy between several key government institutions at federal and district levels, while involving communities at the grassroots. This approach is well-articulated within an institutional framework, encompassing the policy, legislation and legal arenas.

The Government of Ethiopia is convinced that the NDCMP will provide the necessary framework for all sectors to work with the maximum of success to protect the country and its people from the threat of drug use and



trafficking. The country also wants to fulfill its role in the region and at the international levels in order to thwart the danger that the trafficking of illicit drugs and licit narcotics and psychotropic substances and of precursor chemicals pose to peace and security.

As part of this efforts, the Ethiopia Food and Drug Authority (EFDA) has been working in partnership with stakeholders to dealing with drug problems, prevent drug misuse, and address the growing risk of drugs use.

Of late, the Addis Ababa Food Medicine Health Administration and Control Authority (AAMHACA) had organized an event that focuses on informing those stakeholders engaged in the pharmaceutical sector and pharmacists about the drug trafficking realities on the ground; patterns of drug distribution and the role of retailing drug stores.

Speaking at the event, EFDA Director General

Heran Gerba said that it is witnessed that societies are facing illicit drug problems and poor service delivery in the pharmacy services that threatens the lives of the posterity and the productive human capital from realizing their full potential. The act is becoming an obstacle and is creating social and economic challenges.

"We, all should be abided by the rule and regulation of the nation, and pharmacists should work professionally rather than being only business oriented."

According to her, efforts are finalized to restructure the EFDA's arrangement with the states and city administrations in order to help deliver services in more established manner than ever, make it work more effectively and to strengthen nation's efforts to ensure safety and/or efficacy of medicines, food, cosmetics and medical devices as per standards and tackling the challenges of substandard medicines and

drug trafficking.

She further noted that, nation is working with the Ethiopia Customs Authority and National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS) and regional and international bodies.

The production, wide distribution and use of illicit drugs is a global challenge with far-reaching effects on the social, economic, and health of societies. Therefore, it should be tackled before it gets out of hand. "As developing nations, we fulfill from 80 to 90 percent of nation's demand for medicine and equipment through importation. Unless we strive to join hands and work diligently, the danger is lofty; it is like a tsunami but the silent one. To curb the danger, we should act beforehand."

AAMHACA General Director Tadesse Atlabachew for his part noted that, the Authority is working joining hands with all stakeholders to ensure the wellbeing and safety of the general public. There are findings proved through inspections and identified gaps that should be addressed in coordination along stakeholders and awareness creation and law enforcement efforts will be further strengthened.

Pharmacists and business owners who may engage in illicit activities will be accountable for any malpractices, such as dispensing medicines without prescription, prescribing with authority among others, as per the law of the land.

He also urged pharmacists and owners to exert their energy committedly to the effort in the process.



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EU gets down rehabilitating war torn Ethiopian schools

BY DIRRIBA TESHOME

Last week, EU gave a generous funding to Ethiopia at a crucial time to begin rehabilitating the war torn schools. Head of Delegation of the European Union to Ethiopia, Ambassador Roland Kobia has signed a grant of 6.5 million Euros fund with Plan International Country Director Mudasser Hussein Siddiqui for the education sector. Plan International Ethiopia will focus on pre-primary and primary schooling, building and rebuilding schools to increase access to quality education.

The amount is from the fund EU provided 38 Million Euros for Conflict-affected health and education sectors in Ethiopia. In addition to, the EU promised that it will also sign a 33 million Euros agreement soon to rebuild schools on the signing ceremony.

On the occasion, Ambassador Kobia said that EU will continue supporting the critical health and education sectors to benefit Ethiopians. "War not only has a tragic human toll, but it also has a devastating impact on health systems overall. Now with peace being built we can work better to help all Ethiopians, and notably women and children, who have missed out on essential



health services due to the disruption of services and the damage and destruction of health facilities. Therefore, this funding will help rehabilitate and strengthen health systems to restore health gains in conflict affected areas."

As Health State Minister Dr. Dereje Dhuguma said on the occasion, the support from EU is still supplementary and the damage to the sector and the need is huge and friends and partners should seriously support.

By the same token, Plan International representative expressed the criticality of the EU support to the sector and stressed

the need to effective implementation based on plan and priority.

On the other hand, the September report of UNICEF's Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) 2022 currently requires US\$532.3 million to meet the critical humanitarian needs of children, adolescents, women, and men in Ethiopia. This represents an increase of over US\$281 million from 2021 primarily due to the expanded conflict in northern Ethiopia, increased needs due to climatic shocks including severe drought, failed harvests, public health emergencies, and deepening food insecurity across the country.

Within the appeal, funding dedicated to the Northern Ethiopia Response Plan is budgeted at US\$223.1 million and fully incorporated in the HAC. Furthermore, due to the severe drought that has impacted close to 17 million people across Oromia, Somalia, Afar and Amhara, another US\$202.9 million within the HAC has been dedicated to the drought response.

Consequently, UNICEF appealed for support to close the remaining gaps and to ensure that children and their caregivers receive lifesaving support. And UNICEF, had expressed its sincere gratitude to the many donors who have already provided critical support towards UNICEF's HAC, including Australia, Canada, Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), China, Denmark, European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, UK Aid, United Arab Emirates, USAID, Ethiopia Humanitarian Fund (EHF), and private sector donor contributions through UNICEF National Committees.

This is still too little to provide all the humanitarian assistance required for the 12.5 million children in need according to the report in September 2022.

International News

Uhuru Kenyatta arrives in Kinshasa for DR Congo peace talks

The East African Community (EAC) is engaged in the search for peace in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

A day after the arrival of Kenyan troops in Goma, North Kivu, former President Uhuru Kenyatta arrived in Kinshasa where he is to stay for two days. The EAC facilitator is accompanied by East African Community Secretary General Peter Mathuki.

Advisers to the chairperson of the East African Community heads of state summit and President of the Republic of Burundi, H.E. Évariste Ndayishimiye, have also been invited to the talks.

The Eastern bloc authorities are preparing for the third round of the Nairobi dialogue, which will bring together the Congolese government and Congolese armed groups.

The Kinshasa talks come a week after a high-level meeting in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, with President Evariste Ndayishimiye of Burundi and Rwandan President Paul Kagame and Kenyan President William Ruto.

Mr Kenyatta is scheduled to meet President Felix Tshisekedi in Kinshasa.

“The former Kenyan president will also meet the presidents of the two chambers of parliament (National Assembly and Senate), members of the government, diplomats and representatives of local communities, leaders



of religious denominations, traditional chiefs and women’s associations of the provinces of Ituri, North and South Kivu who have travelled from Kinshasa to meet and exchange with the team of President Uhuru on Monday,” reads a statement from President Tshisekedi’s office.

This will be an opportunity for Mr Kenyatta to talk with the communities and understand what they think after so many years of war.

Talks with M23

The meetings are being held against the backdrop of an intense war between the M23 rebels and the Armed Forces of

the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC) in North Kivu.

For the East African leaders, the parties involved must favor dialogue to achieve peace.

The DRC authorities say they have a “double strategy”: diplomacy, but also war to impose peace.

For this reason, Kinshasa simultaneously says it remains open to dialogue while continuing to fight the rebels who paradoxically also say they are open to dialogue.

President Tshisekedi on Saturday welcomed President João Lourenço, the Angolan head of state and mediator of the Luanda negotiations.

João Lourenço was in Kigali on Friday to meet President Paul Kagame, again in the search for peace. For the moment, despite the increasing number of meetings, the resolutions of the Luanda roadmap, in particular the ceasefire in the theatre of war, have remained a dead letter.

In the DRC, many Congolese reject the idea of dialogue with the M23.

Kinshasa has already set its conditions, including the withdrawal of the M23 from their positions.

Martin Fayulu, a very vocal opponent of Félix Tshisekedi, also believes that Congo “should not dialogue with the M23”. He proposes to talk with Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi “so that they withdraw their soldiers from the DRC”.

Fayulu also rejects the deployment of Kenyan troops in the DRC. According to him, “this deployment is a big joke”.

Almost the entire Congolese public opinion does not want to see DR Congo in talks with the M23. With one year to go before the general election, the authorities are sensitive to national opinion.

Source: The East African

ADVERTISEMENT

Invitation to Bid

The Ministry of Urban Development & Housing, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, with support from the World Bank and the Agence Francaise de Developpement (AFD) is implementing the Urban Institutional and Infrastructure Development Program (UIIDP). The UIIDP will provide Performance Grants (PGs) for investments in infrastructure, services and in capacity building to enhance the institutional and organizational performance of participating Urban Local Government in developing and sustaining Urban Infrastructure and services portion of this Grants has been allocated for Qabri Dahar City Administration towards the cost for infrastructure construction works of bellow mention construction works plan of CIP projects of the city.

1. Qabri Dahar Administration invites sealed bidder from eligible bidders for furnishing the necessary labor, materials, equipment and service for the construction and completion of the following Urban infrastructure construction

- Construction of 10 (Ten) km Earth Road (Kebele 07,09 &11), Package number:- KD/UIIDP/CW/001/2022/23
- Expansion of 5(Five) km Water Supply, Package number: KD/CIP/CW/002/2022/23
- Construction of 1 (One) block Market Center, Package number:- KD/UIIDP/CW/003/2022/23
- Construction of 360 (Three hundred sixty) meter Fence for kebele-08 Elementary School, Package number: - KD/CIP/CW/004/2022/23
- Service land electric Expansion of 2(Two) km, Package number: - KD/UIIDP/CW/005/2022/23
- Construction of 600 (Six hundred) meter Fence for Main Road Center (from Menahariya Hotel to Kader Maalin Hotel), Package number: - KD/UIIDP/CW/006/2022/23
- Construction of 540 (Five hundred fourty) meter Fence for old Stadium, Package:- number KD CIP/CW/007/2022/23
- Construction of one (1) Basketball field, Package number:- KD/CIP/CW/008/2022/23
- Construction of 45 (forty five) meter fence for Kebele 10 office, Package

number:-KD CIP/CW/009/2022/23

2. The tender will remain floating for 21 calendar day’s start from the date advertised on the Ethiopian Herald.
3. Qabri Dahar city Administration invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the construction of those projects site work:- Construction of 10 (Ten) km Earth Road 09 days, Expansion of 5(Five) km Water Supply 60 days, Construction of 1 (One) block Market Center 120 days, Construction of 360 (Three hundred sixty) meter Fence for kebele-08 Elementary School 60 days, Service land electric Expansion of 2(Two) km 90 days. Construction of 600 (Six hundred) meter Fence for Main Road Center (from Menahariya Hotel to Kader Maalin Hotel)90 days, Construction of 540 (Five hundred fourty) meter Fence for old Stadium 120 days, Construction of one (1) Basketball field 60 days and Construction of 45 (fourty five) meter fence for Kebele 10 office 60 days, is completed within calendar days.
4. Bid will be conducted in accordance with the open national tendering procedures contained in the public procurement proclamation of the Federal Government of Ethiopia and is open to all eligible bidders who are Tax payer registration certificate, VAT registered at the same time renewed license for 2015 EFY.
5. A complete set of bidding documents prepared in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the bidders below and upon payment of non-refundable fee of birr 500 (Five hundred birr only) of payment will be in in cash. During working hours (8:00 am -12:30 am, in the morning and 2:00 pm -5:30 pm the afternoon).
6. Bidders should submit separate technical and financial proposals enclosed in a wax sealed envelope clearly marked the projects title and must be delivered to the address Qabri Dahar City Administration Office of Finance and Economic Development, Procurement.

Somali Regional State
Kebri Dahar City Administration
Finance and Economic Development Office

Planet Earth

Developing countries facing uphill battle to secure climate funding

BY STAFF REPORTER

After decades of delays, excuses and outright resistance, a small but growing number of wealthy Western countries have committed to paying direct aid to developing nations to help them deal with the climate crisis, which burdens them disproportionately even though they had little to do with causing it.

Delegates at COP27 will officially discuss for the first time the creation of a global fund for “loss and damage”—the idea that rich nations are largely responsible for causing global warming and therefore owe a financial debt to poorer countries struggling to deal with the costs of worsening drought, storms and other climate-fueled disasters.

For 30 years, developing countries—predominantly in the Global South—have called for such a fund and been met with resistance. But this week, several Western countries, mostly in Europe, committed to begin paying that debt with cash, signaling a notable shift in the decade’s long fight and marking one of the most surprising developments so far this year at the United Nations’ cornerstone climate summit.

“The COP must make progress on minimizing and averting loss and damage from climate change,” European

Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said during her Tuesday speech at the conference in Egypt, during which she encouraged other world leaders to also support the loss and damage fund. “It is high time to put this on the agenda.”

As of Friday morning, Germany has pledged \$170 million for the fund, while Australia has pledged \$50 million; Ireland has pledged \$10 million and Belgium has promised \$2.5 million. Scotland—which pledged \$2.2 million to the cause when it hosted COP26 last year—increased that commitment this week by an additional \$5.7 million. And in September, Denmark promised \$13 million to the effort.

The announcements, however, were met with mixed reactions from climate activists and world leaders living in some of the world’s most climate-vulnerable places, including Pakistan, which suffered deadly and historic flooding this year that left a third of the country underwater for months.

At just over \$250 million, the recent commitments fall drastically short of the \$200 billion in annual funding for “climate reparations” that the U.N. says is needed this decade alone to adequately address the issue. It also falls far below the \$100 billion in annual international climate spending that the world’s wealthiest nations previously promised in a similar 2009 U.N. agreement,

but have failed so far to deliver.

Two of the most significant carbon emitters, the United States and China, were also notably absent from the slew of announcements. Since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution, the U.S. has produced roughly a quarter of the world’s total greenhouse gas emissions, making it by far the most significant overall contributor to the climate crisis, according to 2020 data from the Union of Concerned Scientists. And in the short span of China’s industrial boom, it quickly became the second leading historical contributor, responsible for 14 percent of total emissions.

But carbon markets, along with other voluntary market-based solutions that rely on incentives, not regulation, to reduce emission, have long been a source of controversy in the climate community. It’s not surprising, then, that the U.S. announcement this week was met by fierce backlash from environmental advocates who say carbon markets rarely deliver the climate benefits they promise, suffer from poor management and regulation and delay meaningful efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by promising to address the issue in the future. Rather, advocates say, that money should be spent on proven climate solutions, such as building new renewable energy sources.

Take California, for example, which runs one of the world’s largest carbon markets. Instead of reducing their own emissions, companies participating in the state’s carbon market—including major conglomerates like Microsoft—have poured billions of dollars into projects that planted trees. But even though an estimated 153,000 acres of forests that were part of the state’s carbon market burned in wildfires last summer, the companies can still claim those forests for credits in the program.

In fact, just a day prior to the U.S. announcement this week, U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned delegates not to rely on carbon markets to achieve their climate goals.

“The absence of standards, regulations and rigor in voluntary carbon market credits is deeply concerning,” Guterres said in a speech Tuesday. “Shadow markets for carbon credits cannot undermine genuine emission reduction efforts, including in the short term. Targets must be reached through real emissions cuts.”

On Thursday, U.S. climate envoy John Kerry defended the carbon market plan, saying there was “not enough money in any country in the world to actually solve this problem.”

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