



# The Ethiopian Herald

Vol LXXX No 0013 26 September 2023 - Meskerem 15, 2016

Tuesday

Price Birr 10.00



## Call for holistic multilateral system to renew global solidarity

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA-African leaders called for collective work to ensure an inclusive multilateral system to renew global solidarity at the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 78) which recently took place in New York.

Addressing at the UNGA 78, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Demeke Mekonnen highlighted that reforming the UN Security Council is not a choice but an absolute necessity.

A reformed and representative Security Council that fits for purpose is vital, he said adding that allocating permanent seats for Africa as contained in its continental common position is politically and morally justified.

See Call for holistic... page 3

## Abbay Dam Tripartite Committee agrees to meet soon

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA-Ethiopia, Egypt and Sudan have agreed to continue the trilateral talks on the Abbay Dam in October 2023 in Cairo, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) disclosed.

Ethiopia hosted the second round of the trilateral talks on Abbay Dam's water filing and discharge regulations and guidelines on September 23-24, 2023. The three

See Abbay Dam Tripartite ... page 3

## Kenticha receives 1.9 bln Birr lithium producing machinery

- To commence trial production this year

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA –Kenticha Mining Company, a privately-owned lithium mine producer, announced the delivery of the first-of-its-kind lithium producing machinery worth over 1.9 billion Birr from South Africa.

Kenticha's major shareholder Sheik Ali Hussein stated that the machinery has given a significant impetus for the company's vision of becoming the first lithium mine producer from East Africa.

"The machinery processes lithium products, adds values and supplies the output to the international market. To date, we are on the pipeline to import state-of-the

See Kenticha receives... page 3



## Ministry pleads for global pharmaceutical firms' investment

BY NAOL GIRMA

ADDIS ABABA- The Ministry of Health called on international pharmaceutical suppliers to come and do business in Ethiopia and utilize the untapped potential in the sector.

See Ministry pleads for ... page 3

# News

## First-ever coal washing plant goes operational in Benshangul

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

**ADDIS ABABA-** The first coal washing plant, which is said to substitute import and minimize the technical problem of cement factories, has gone operational in Benshangul gumz, Ethiopia.

The factory, which is owned by Yo Holding Trade and Manufacturing Plc, is also expected to play a significant role in generating foreign currency, realizing industrialization, as well as supporting government policy and strategy in the sector.

During the press briefing held yesterday here, Ataklti Tesfaye, Deputy Director-General of Yo Holding Trade and Manufacturing Plc, mentioned that apart from increasing productivity and becoming source of energy, the factory would allow technology transfer and expansion of urbanization.

He said nation's annual demand for washed coal production is 2.21 million tons, of which 0.8 to 1 million tons has been imported from different countries with the cost of 227 million USD per annum, as to the study conducted by Ethiopian Mines and Energy and the Ethiopian Petroleum Institute.

Nonetheless, when the company starts operating in full swing, it would play a vital role in supplying the demand gap as well as generating foreign currency through exporting.

The production capacity of the plant, which is said to be built with half a billion capital, is 300 tons per hour or 2.16 million tons per year of washed coal, which is 95 percent of the nation's demand, he said.

Currently, the factory has created permanent jobs for hundreds of citizens. When fully operational, it will create employment opportunity for thousands of skilled and unskilled laborers.

According to him, cement, ceramic, steel, textile, glass and paper factories are said to be the major targeted markets of the plant.

By the same token, Tewedros Fikre, Director of Supply Chain within the company stated that the factory would put Ethiopia amongst the top coal producing countries in Africa led by South Africa.

Apart from putting a positive impact on the price of the products that are produced using factory's input, it would also create direct employment opportunities for hundreds of Ethiopians and will provide indirect economic and social benefits to many citizens residing in the area, he stressed.

## Ethiopia expands cooperation with UAE, UN agencies

BY STAFF REPORTER

**ADDIS ABABA** – The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) announced that the country is working with UAE and UN agencies to strengthening cooperation in various areas.

The ministry said that discussions on the ways of expanding cooperation between Ethiopia and the UN agencies held on the sideline of the 78th United Nations General Assembly.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Demeke Mekonnen, conferred with his UAE counterpart, Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, in which the two have agreed to expand the multifaceted cooperation.

The information obtained from MoFA stated that the two foreign ministers deliberated on a host of bilateral and regional issues of common interest.

Demeke has briefed Sheikh Al Nahyan about the role of Ethiopia in the upcoming COP-28 Conference that will take place in the UAE at the end of this year.

By the same token, Demeke has also conferred with heads of UNICEF, OCHA and UNDP about the ongoing development in the country.

He told Catherine Russel, Executive Director of UNICEF, and Martin Griffiths, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency that Ethiopia has a firm commitment to implement the Pretoria Peace Agreement and accelerate post-conflict recovery and reconstruction measures.

He also appreciated UNICEF for its support of Ethiopian children in the education and health sectors.



Martin Griffiths on his part stressed on the need to continue and revamp suspended humanitarian support in Ethiopia.

Both UN agency heads expressed the desire of both institutions to continue cooperating in post-conflict peace building efforts.

Meanwhile, Demeke Mekonnen also conferred with Achim Steiner of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

In their discussion, UNDP Administrator

expressed that his agency is committed to supporting the peace-building process in Ethiopia.

He also said that apart from the reconstruction and rehabilitation programs, UNDP supports Ethiopia to sustain its remarkable development momentum.

Deputy Prime Minister Demeke Mekonnen also lauded UNDP for its support so far and called for concerted efforts between the government and development partners.

## Despite challenges , society safeguarding mln lives from Cancer

BY MESERET BEHAILU

**ADDIS ABABA** – Fighting against several challenges , Mathiwos Wondu-Ye Ethiopia Cancer Society (MWECS) is striving a lot to save millions of lives from cancer .

In connection with the 20th commemoration of Child Mathiwos who passed away at the age of two due to cancer , MWECS Executive Director Wondu Bekele yesterday said that the society has been working a lot on protecting citizens from various cancer types.

The main aim of the society is protecting millions of children from cancer disease through providing adequate treatment across the country, it was learnt.

As to him, the society is implementing various projects such as childhood cancer, women cancer, lung cancer, tobacco Prevention, non-communicable disease, pen-plus, and food policy. Besides, the society has over 1,400 members, seven board members, 30 permanent employees,



and its current capital reached over 70 million Birr from the initial capital of some 4,500 Birr two decades ago.

He further stated that the society has been working together with different stakeholders like Ministry of Health (MoH) and Ethiopian Food and Drug Authority (EFDA) to facilitate the

activity. In this regard, the society has played a significant role in establishing big cancer centers in Mekelle, Gondar, Hawassa, Haromia, and Jimma during the past over years.

Likewise, the society helps Ethiopia to have a cancer control plan with a view to protecting citizens from cancer.

He noted that the society had received five international awards during the past three years due to its tireless effort in controlling cancer across the nation.

MWECS's Project Manager Temesgen Sileshi on his part said that : "Maternal and child cancer prevention and tobacco smoke control laws were passed due to the strong measures of the society. Likewise, it supports the Ministry of Health (MoH) in controlling various cancer diseases."

It is to be recalled that Mathiwos is a child who died 20 years ago after two years of treatment for cancer. For this reason, Mathiwos's father and mother established a Society in the name of their deceased son to inform the community about cancer and are saving many lives from the disease.

# News

## Ministry pleads...

The 3rd International Pharmaceutical Suppliers Conference 2023 held yesterday under the theme : “Creating Connections : Building Supply Chain Bridges Together”

In her opening remarks, Health Minister Lia Tadesse (MD) said that such a conference is instrumental to domestic pharmaceutical producers to showcase their potential and display the country’s favourable business climate. “The Ethiopian government is committed to encourage the private sector and international suppliers of medical equipment to enhance health service provision and to invest here.”

Ethiopian Pharmaceutical Supply Service (EPSS) Director General Abdulkadir Gelgelo (MD) on his part said that the conference is beneficial to gather top suppliers from every corner of the pharmaceutical industry and to create unique opportunities to connect one another. It is also a venue for actors in the sector to share insights, and gain valuable knowledge that will propel business opportunities.

“As citizens have been playing a critical role in Ethiopia’s development, their health condition should be protected. If this is not a reality, the country’s path to prosperity will not be realized.”

Also, it is necessary to attain well-trained and competent human resources, convenient and adequate health infrastructure and a resilient health supply chain system in the country.

According to the director general, the EPSS has covered 83 percent of the total pharmaceutical supplies in the country and consolidated efforts are underway to consolidate this large share.

Such conferences will create a good opportunity to identify international pharmaceutical supplier’s desires and challenges they have been facing to enter into Ethiopia’s market. It is also vital to create partnership among local and global actors in the sector, Abdulkadir remarked.

## Organization says caregivers deserve recognition, awards

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

**ADDISABABA**—SOS Children’s Villages in Ethiopia provided caregiver mothers and children in Ethiopia with recognition and awards.

The organization gave recognition, appreciation and certificate for mothers who have been raising 10 to 30 children over the last ten years.

SOS Children’s Villages in Ethiopia National Director Sahlemariam Abebe said that the dedicated mothers have safeguarded the children’s well-being, development, education and has taken care of them under good care over the past ten years across Ethiopia.

The award was provided for mothers for their keen interest and higher commitment as well as active involvement thereby developing children into higher level.

According to him, about 41 caregiver mothers were awarded recycled gold, and certification of appreciation for their dedicated services

that has helped children advance into a higher level.

He said: “We are proud of these mothers as a result of their dedication to provide children with wisdom, motivation, education, love and parental care for the children in their life in seven areas of Ethiopia.”

As to him, they have raised, nurtured, and created new generation who would be good citizens with superior discipline.

Authority for Civil Society Organizations Deputy Director General Fasikaw Molla on his part said that they will provide support and follow up the CSO’s work to help them fruitful in the areas of engagement in the nation.

“We will continue provide support for such type of dedication and risk work of non-governmental organizations in Ethiopia since it would provide orphans and the needy with greater benefit and all these caregivers deserve recognition, award and appreciation,” he added. It is to be recalled that SOS children’s Villages in Ethiopia was founded in 1973.

## Abbay Dam Tripartite...

countries exchanged constructive ideas on various outstanding issues with a view to bridge differences.

With the conviction of accomplishing the task entrusted by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed(PhD) and President Abdel Fatah el- Sisi and preserving the positive spirit among the parties, Ethiopia has negotiated in good faith throughout the second round of talks, MoFA added.

Also, the three countries were able to make progress on identifying issues of possible convergence and they further agreed to continue the talks in October 2023 in Cairo, Egypt.

According to MoFA, the Egyptian side has pushed a position that undermines the Agreement on the Declaration of Principles (DoP) of 2015. “It is regrettable that Egypt’s continued insistence on maintaining an exclusionary colonial-era-based treaty, monopolistic utilization, and self-claimed “water quota” have prevented substantive progress in the negotiation.”

Ethiopia maintains that the objective of the current trilateral talks is to finalize the guidelines and rules on the first filling and annual operation of the Abbay Dam. The country also wants the talks to ensure its rights and accommodate the legitimate concerns of Nile lower riparian states.

“It is vital to stress that Ethiopia is keenly engaging in trilateral negotiations to ensure the interests of the present and future generations over the utilization of the Nile River. Ethiopia will continue its engagement to reach a win-win outcome through the ongoing trilateral process,” the ministry remarked.

Meanwhile, Ethiopia’s Chief Negotiator on the Abbay Dam, Seleshi Bekele (PhD-Eng.) stated that the three countries exchanged constructive ideas on various outstanding issues in the second-round meeting here in Addis Ababa.

Seleshi, who is also Ethiopia’s Ambassador to the U.S., further noted that the country will work tirelessly to narrow differences in the construction of the mega dam.

On April 10, 2023, Ethiopia completed the successful completion of the fourth filling of Abbay Dam.

Abbay Dam is Africa’s largest hydropower plant and it is expected to serve as an engine of Ethiopia’s industrialization process. Ethiopia has repeatedly stated that the dam under construction is meant to benefit all the stakeholders and integrate the region.

## Kenticha receives 1.9- bln...

art machinery through phases. As Ethiopia is endowed with petroleum and related minerals, we also have the plan to expand our business in other sectors.”

Company General Manager Bruce Tiny said that the firm has been hugely engaged in importing different modes of machinery that would enable production of lithium this year a reality. “Ethiopia is endowed with a huge potential of lithium and other mineral resources though it has not sufficiently benefited from the potential due to various reasons.”

Lithium is among the minerals which help to produce batteries among others.

“Our project would be significantly useful in attracting foreign investors and fostering

Ethiopia’s economic development.”

Bruce added: “As part of discharging corporate social responsibility, we have been heavily engaging in providing potable water to Kenticha and surrounding villages, repairing local roads, well digging and the supply of medical equipment among others.”

It was learned that the company is established by local and international investors with a view to extracting and developing minerals in Ethiopia. Some 80 billion birr is said to be needed to produce lithium and thallium minerals at full capacity after the completion of the Kenticha mining project.

Upon operation, the firm would play a significant role in addressing forex shortages and employ over 1,000 citizens.

## Call for holistic multilateral system...

“Ethiopia calls all member states to recommit the charter of the United Nations. Maintaining the status quo will not advance our shared interest in ensuring peace and prosperity. We should collectively work for an inclusive multilateral system to renew our global solidarity,” he underscored.

Ethiopia and other developing countries have been advocating for the reform of the UN system as a whole. “We call for a more inclusive effective multilateral mechanism that works fairly for developing countries,” he added.

The DPM further emphasized that his country commands the effort of the UN Secretary General for the financing of the African Union peace support operation from assessed contributions and robust capacity building support should be provided to national law enforcement structures.

He also underlined the need for firm political commitment and renewed global partnership for the proper implementation of Agenda 2030.

The President of South Africa, Cyril Ramaphosa on his part mentioned that the continent requires the UNSC to become more inclusive, representative, democratic and advance the interest of all nations as well as needs a renewed commitment to multilateralism based on clear rules and supported by effective institutions.

“This is a moment to proceed with the reform of the United Nation Security Council to give meaning to the principle of the sovereign equality of nations and to enable the council to respond more effectively to the current geopolitical realities,” he stressed.

He also emphasized that the common African position is increasingly enjoying

wide support on the reform of the Security Council highlighting that the process must move to text-based negotiation creating an opportunity for convergence between member states.

The recently held BRICS summit also affirmed the view that the United Nation Security Council should be reformed, he underlined.

Current AU Chairperson Comorian President Azali Assoumani also stressed the need for in-depth reform of the United Nation system.

Africans intend to play a crucial role in attaining SDGs and have the right to participate in global decision making bodies and be on the Security Council as a permanent member.

He indicated that Africa has been asking loudly and clearly to become permanent member of the UN Security Council, but

failing to respond this inquiry will lead to question of equity and effectiveness.

Underlining that the world is heading in a most undesirable direction, President of Kenya, William Ruto emphasized that affirmative spirit of multilateralism and international collective action and global solidarity is most needed and should be attainable currently.

He further underlined the need to have an inclusive multilateral body mentioning that perusing with the status quo is unacceptable.

“We as Africa has come to the world, not to ask for alms or handouts but to work with the global community and give every human being a decent chance of security and prosperity by taking necessary actions, mobilizing adequate resources for investment, confronting security challenges and resolving conflicts as we all make our contribution to global security.”

# Opinion

## Economic, diplomatic roles of Ethiopia in BRICS

BY GETACHEW MINAS

The creation of BRICS is expected to improve the international relations of least developed countries (LDCs), including Ethiopia. Though industrial countries remain the major partners of development of LDCs, their economic ties with BRICS have increased fast over the past decade.

A study by the IMF has revealed that LDCs' trade with BRICS has reached nearly half of the value of combined trade with the EU and the US, and larger than other emerging market economies. BRICS foreign direct investment (FDI) and development financing have a significant impact in some areas. However, these have been relatively small amounts compared with those from advanced countries.

Further than the increased inflows of goods and capital, BRICS have introduced new elements in the economic relations of LDCs at the global level. These are complementary or competitive with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) member countries. However, while potential benefits from the LDC-BRICS ties are enormous, there are risks of which Ethiopia should be aware of.

Economic relations between BRICS and LDCs are not uniform or harmonized and cooperation at a bilateral level varies significantly. Thus, detailed analysis may be required as input for designing policy in individual countries such as Ethiopia. Nonetheless, many essential leanings and risks facing LDCs are similar. Identifying these might help in placing issues in a global context and facilitating policy dialogues and debates.

Bilateral trade, which grew fast over the past decade, is the backbone of LDC-BRICS relations. The expansions of trade flows have a tremendous positive impact on LDCs' overall trade performance. Fast economic expansion in BRICS and the strong economic correlation between the two groups of countries have emphasized the rapid growth of bilateral trade. Many LDCs, including Ethiopia, have a strong comparative advantage in commodities while most BRICS are competitive producers of manufactured goods. BRICS demand for commodities resulted in a significant improvement in LDCs' terms of trade. There is a potential to further increase LDC-BRICS trade by lowering tariff and nontariff barriers on both sides. It is essential to reduce tariff escalation, to extend preferential access for LDC exports, including that of Ethiopia.

The current pattern of LDC-BRICS trade has created a concern that LDCs could face a commodity trap which deters growth in the long-run. The appropriate responses cannot be limiting commodity exports, which would deprive LDCs of the resources they need for investment and

poverty alleviation. Also, creating import barriers to protect domestic industries would hurt consumers in Ethiopia who may suffer from inflation due to shortage of imported goods. It also undermines competitiveness that reduces inflation. This is a disadvantage to Ethiopian consumers.

The ultimate solution is strengthening domestic productive capacity to increase supply and keep inflation at bay. Also, improving infrastructure, creating conducive investment climate, and facilitating private sector access to capital, skills, technology, and markets to provide goods people demand. These are among the most important requirements for economic advancement in Ethiopia. In this case, BRICS foreign direct investment is critical in boosting productivity of manufacturing industries in Ethiopia. Studies reveal that inflows of foreign direct investment (FDI) into Ethiopia will have positive impact on its economic growth.

Initial investment in Ethiopia, mostly by state-owned enterprises, has been directed to industries that depend on natural resources for their inputs. The investment has also been directed to agriculture, manufacturing, and service industries. The expansion of telecommunications, among other service industries in Ethiopia has been impressive. Telecom has been in a competitive position with other investors in the sector.

Many resource-rich countries have attracted huge investment that created employment and generated foreign exchange. In this respect, small and medium-sized Ethiopian private enterprises have become active in the economy. The government of Ethiopia has also created industrial parks in different regions in which the private sector is operating productively. These parks generate employment opportunities for Ethiopians in different parts of the country.

The policymakers have been able to overcome key challenges to ensure continuous inflow of FDI. Inflows of FDI from BRICS may continue to boost linkages between local private firms and the global economy which helps to enhance domestic resource mobilization. Consequently, continued expansion in investment becomes crucial, as are policies that encourage joint ventures that generate output and employment in the country.

Policymakers should ensure sufficient supply of management and technical skills needed by Ethiopian firms. Efficient management ensures provision of local employment opportunities for graduates from Ethiopian schools and universities. It also guarantees productivity and profitability of firms that produce for local and foreign markets. Producing for local markets may satisfy demand for consumer goods and services.

Ethiopian managers guide their productive

enterprises to produce and supply what is needed by local markets. When the demand for and supply of goods in the Ethiopian local markets are balanced they more or less keep prices stable. Local market price stability contributes to the satisfaction of both consumers and producers. It keeps inflation at bay. Competitive production for external markets earns foreign exchange needed by the country. Export of goods and services demands external market information that alerts enterprises on what to produce for whom and when. Market espionage is of the essence if exporters are to succeed in competitive external markets. Ethiopian embassies have to engage in the exploration of markets from which both Ethiopian investors and FDI benefit.

The development of new and profitable activities conducted by successful FDI may attract other external investors. This facilitates revenue mobilization for financing new projects in Ethiopia. However, the government should carefully consider fiscal costs of any policy incentives for FDI. Such analysis of costs and benefits ensures that public resources are devoted to the highest development priorities. The government should ensure that its development projects are fully or partially financed by BRICS to alleviate some key bottlenecks.

It is noted that BRICS financing is highly conducive in creating linkages with neighboring countries in the area of infrastructure to facilitate trade at regional levels. It is also expected to contribute significantly to electricity generation capacity and the construction of roads and railways within neighboring countries of Ethiopia. Moreover, to maximize its benefits, BRICS financing should also be used for high-return projects, and its debt implications must be carefully assessed by Ethiopian economists. In this respect, the Ethiopian government is fully committed to cooperate with member countries of BRICS.

The Ethiopian diplomacy is all inclusive dealing with the member countries of BRICS on equal grounds. In so doing, it sticks to its economic policy based on the market economy, liberalization and privatization. This policy is manifested by the ideas of democracy, free market economy and human rights particularly in the African countries. Ethiopia engages in democratization process, peaceful conflict resolution and fight against terrorism as an important policy. It promotes and cooperates with BRICS in its operations in Africa.

The government of Ethiopia responds to the domestic and international changes and the process of democratization. In this respect, it cooperates with the neighboring countries in defending peace and security within the sub-region. It takes diplomatic measures to cooperate with neighboring countries, including invitation of leaders

to visit the capital city to create peaceful economic and social cooperation. In this regard, it signs treaties of friendship and cooperate to avoid insurgencies in neighboring countries. This means sticking to the policy of non-interference in the affairs of neighboring countries.

Ethiopia endeavors to maintain positive relations with African countries. Its foreign relation can be characterized by active and positive involvement in various African affairs. It has been involved in conflict prevention and management mechanisms to maintain peace and stability in the Horn of Africa. The foreign policy has also been characterized by the efforts to encourage foreign economic partners. It identifies both western and non-western powers as Ethiopia's external economic relation partners. It provides attention to the significance of the rising powers in accelerating the country's socio-economic and political development.

Moreover, the Constitution provides guiding principles to Ethiopia's foreign policy. These are promoting values of mutual respect for national sovereignty and equality of states and non-interference in the internal affairs of other states; observing international agreements which ensure respect for the country's sovereignty and hence are not contrary to the interests of its people; forging and promoting an ever-growing economic union and fraternal relations of peoples with Ethiopia's neighbors and other African countries; seeking for and supporting to peaceful solutions to international disputes and etc.

The Ethiopian government has made tremendous effort to eradicate poverty and engage in economic development with the goal of improving the living standards of the people. Yet, it has become difficult to rectify the humiliation of the present generation as Ethiopians are losing their national pride due to poverty and social unrest. Economic backwardness inherited from past regimes has forced the people to look for help to save their lives.

The efforts that Ethiopia is making to bring about development, democracy and good governance cannot be separated from the regional and global situations, including BRICS. The world economy is highly influenced by the process of globalization. Ethiopia cannot be free from the influence of globalization.

Globalization, with both its opportunity and challenges, has become a reality. Consequently, the foreign policy makes globalization the base for the relation of Ethiopia with other nations with the goal of minimizing damages and promoting its opportunities. The Ethiopian diplomacy is, therefore, an inclusive one without siding with geopolitical powers, but BRICS. The country has great natural resources from which all partners may benefit in return for their contribution to the development of the country.

# Editorial

## Inclusive global system is worth cheering!

Advancing global peace and security as well as sustainable development definitely requires the world to connect the dots across continents and refrain from linking them where pointless. World leaders have to promise to leave no country behind, with a particular reference to Africa and other developing camps of the globe, as ensuring peace and security as well as development should not be left solely to some.

The world has now been mystified as a result of the lack of an all-encompassing security system and reasonably balanced growth. Instead of being susceptible to security hegemony cascaded from merely some nations, the world has now required an inclusive and sustainable security system to be a fairer home to all. Unilateral sections and getting states marginalized taking wealth status and democratic moves for granted should break somewhere, too.

Heads of States and Governments convened in New York to assess the implementation of sustainable development goals and provide high level political guidance on transformative and accelerated actions including peace and security concerns.

Yes, the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly marked a crucial milestone in the journey towards achieving the 2030 Agenda and the urgent need to put the Sustainable Development Goals back on track.

The world security order was one of the issues of the day. Security architecture and peace order is instrumental in addressing grave regional and global problems and producing considerable security benefits for all member states and beyond. Hence, the world security and development order has to be inclusive thereby respecting the sovereignty of all nations coming out of the box of being a viable weapon to favor finger counted developed nations.

All nations need to rebuild the global security order and prepare for a world of ease in the long run. It is also well recognized and widely witnessed these days that many countries, citizens and companies across the globe have been inadvertent victims of all sorts of conflicts. Here, an inclusive as well as dependable security system should prevail so as to well address all security concerns.

Unequivocally, the comprehensive and partaking concept at the heart of the global peace order balances politico-military questions with democracy, human rights, and the rule of law alongside the economic and environmental dimensions of security. Hence, the progressive consolidation of the world security order and the effective advancement of the sovereignty of nations would open the pathway to treatment equilibrium. A rebalancing of political authority for shared security decision-making with more weight given to the views of world security strata has thus to be quite inclusive and participatory.

Many countries are still of the firm conviction that the comprehensive concept of security is the appropriate pathway, comprehensive strategy and lucrative system to attractively address major security issues across the globe.

Yes, bringing together as many countries as possible around that concept is the correct objective for diplomacy and a matter of urgency towards creating an inclusive security and development system. In doing so, it would be possible to accelerate the agility of creating a safe and just world.

In sum, as predicaments and interconnectedness in the context of ensuring peace and security exist in more structural and less broadly understood ways, moving from a narrowly some nations centric perspective to a wider context incorporating the spirit of the sovereignty and autonomy of all nations is taken as a timely global call. The pursuit of order and some form of universalism must occur through the embrace rather than the rebuff of complexity as the security dynamics in the international system plays a pivotal role in fuelling lasting peace and sustainable growth at global level.



## The Ethiopian Herald

Established in 1943

Published daily except Mondays  
By The Ethiopian Press Agency

### Office of the CEO

Tel. 011-126-42-22

Fax. 251-011-156-98-62

email- [epa@press.et](mailto:epa@press.et)

### Advertisement and Dist.

#### Department

email: [etpresspromotion@gmail.com](mailto:etpresspromotion@gmail.com)

Tel. 011-156-98-73/011-811-13-15

Telegram :- 0976084707 - press

Editor-in-Chief: Worku Belachew

email- [workubelachew@press.et](mailto:workubelachew@press.et)

Address- Nifas Silk Lafto Sub-city

Woreda - 05, House No----

Tel- +251 111 26 41 98

### Managing Editor: Wakuman Kudama

Email: [wakuma220@gmail.com](mailto:wakuma220@gmail.com)

### Deputy Editors-in-Chief:

Alem Hailu

Elizabeth Mengistu

Zekarias Woldemariam

Desta Geberehiwot

Daniel Beyene

Website: [www.press.et](http://www.press.et)

email: [ethiopianherald@press.et](mailto:ethiopianherald@press.et)

Fb/ /Ethiopian Press Agency/

The Ethiopian Herald

# Opinion

## Ethiopians are the guardians of peace in their country

BY EPHREM ANDARAGCHEW

Holidays and peace have a direct relationship. Because holidays are often seen as a time of relaxation, joy, and spending quality time with loved ones. During holidays, people seek peace and harmony in their lives, wanting to escape from the stress and worries of daily routines.

A peaceful holiday allows individuals to recharge and rejuvenate, fostering a sense of well-being and contentment. Furthermore, holidays often bring people together, promoting social connections and understanding among different cultures and communities. Ultimately, the desire for peace during holidays reflects the universal aspiration for tranquility and harmony in everyone's lives.

In Ethiopia, holidays play a significant role in promoting peace and unity among its diverse population. Ethiopian public and religious holidays are many, intriguing, and colorful in September, which marks the start of the Ethiopian New Year. Irreecha (Thanksgiving Day for the Oromo People), Meskal, the two-day feast commemorating the discovery of the True Cross, Mawlid will be celebrated this month.

The end of the period of heavy rains and the start of spring are also marked by these wonderful, vibrant festivals that are observed throughout the nation. These celebrations call for large crowds of people and feature singing and dancing from various religious and cultural traditions. On the religious front, a ceremony is performed according to a custom found in various animist religions.

Although the festivals are always celebrated in a vibrant style, there have been doomsday prophets and people who have planned to convert the celebrations into catastrophes. When the festivities concluded, the audience was not surprised to learn that many opponents of peace had been jailed.

Due to several reasons, it may not be convenient to celebrate public holidays in public, however, the collaboration and commitment of peace-loving Ethiopians, security agencies, religious leaders, and Abba Gada at all levels made the celebrations to be completed successfully last year.

This year, the people making themselves ready to celebrate holidays namely Meskal, the two-day feast commemorating the discovery of the True Cross, and Irreecha (Thanksgiving Day for the Oromo People). The holiday of Meskel holds great importance in Ethiopia. It commemorates the finding of the True Cross by Queen Helena in the 4th century. Celebrated on September 27th, Meskel is marked by vibrant processions, bonfires, and traditional dances. The holiday brings communities together, fostering a sense of peace and harmony among different ethnic and religious groups.

Irreecha is a significant celebration that

will be celebrated by the Oromo people in Ethiopia. It is Thanksgiving Day which marks the end of the rainy season and the beginning of the harvest season. It is celebrated in various locations, with the largest gathering taking place in Addis Ababa and Bishoftu, a town located southeast of the capital city, Addis Ababa. The celebrations are colorful and vibrant, with participants singing, dancing, and chanting traditional songs.

This month also sees the celebration of Mawlid. In contrast to prior years, Mawlid celebrates on Meskele's Eve. Muslims gather in mosques and community centers on this day to celebrate the Prophet Muhammad's birth. The celebrations often feature sermons, poetry readings, prayers, and Quranic verses. The Muslim community in Ethiopia enjoys a time of joy, harmony, and spiritual reflection during Mawlid celebrations. It is an occasion to strengthen faith and community bonds.

From the aforementioned, one can understand that all holidays need peace and stability. The most important thing about any holiday festival is that people get to enjoy themselves in a safe and secure environment which requires the security apparatus to be involved to handle things in a balanced way.

Large holiday events and public gatherings may become a target of opportunity due to the concentration of crowds at celebrations, the perceived vulnerability of those participants in festivities, and the inherent significance of holidays. Large holiday events and public gatherings like Meskal and Irreecha may become a target of opportunity. Such events allow targeting large groups of concentrated crowds who cannot escape. Hence, Ethiopians should be the guardians of peace in their country for the peaceful completion of the public and religious holidays.

All of these public festivals and religious holidays will be celebrated by millions of people including several foreign tourists decorated with religious and traditional values as well as accompanied by grand innovative displays without any security problems. Hence, apart from the general public, the federal and regional armed forces should effectively carry out their tasks in collaboration with the people and foil the conspiracies of anti-peace groups that have plans to use the holidays for their destabilization acts.

Generally, holidays in Ethiopia serve as a time for recreation, enjoyment, and consolidation of social bonds. They offer a platform for people from various backgrounds to connect, understand, and appreciate each other's cultures and traditions. By promoting unity and peace, these holidays contribute to a harmonious society in the country. Therefore, the coordinated efforts of the people the government, and the security personnel are imperative for the holidays to be ended peacefully.

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

# Business & Economy

## Drawing lesson from South Korea's economic development

BY ABEBE WOLDEGIORGIS

The world history indicates that attaining economic development determined by various factors and among others the historical situation, the climatic nature of the countries, good visionary leadership, culture and others.

For instance, for the economic development of Gulf States, the extraction of petroleum through utilizing foreign investment and technology played pivotal role.

40 years ago, the United Arab Emirates was one of the poorest countries in the world, but thanks to its visionary leaders, in addition to unified the states, they modernized and made the country richer by extracting its natural resources. Currently, the country extracts revenue from services such as hotels and tourism in addition to petroleum and it has also become one of the hubs of information and communication technology.

By the same token, the end of the Korean wars in 1953 paved way for the creation of North and South Korea. Both countries that time were pauperized in the world.

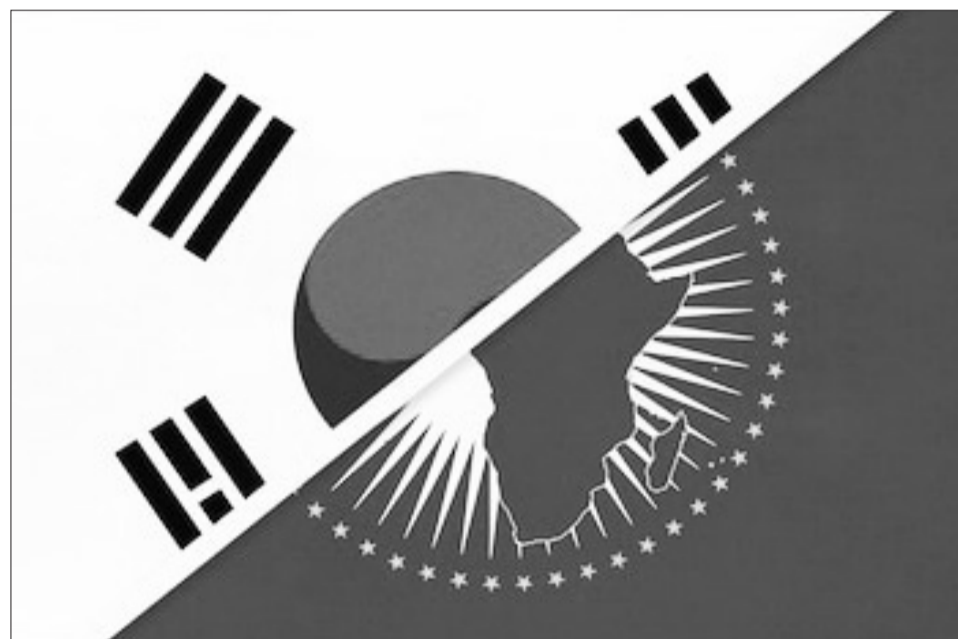
The outbreak of the Cold War after the end of World War II further divided the countries ideologically. North Korea pursued socialist ideology to build a government-dominated economy and create strong economic bonds with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries.

On the contrary, South Korea pursued a liberal politics to build capitalist based economy and won the strong backing of the USA and the Western European countries. In order to block the expansion of communism to the south, USA provided economic, military and technological support to South Korea. South Korea on its part used the opportunity to develop its economy created due to the cold war.

The inflow of foreign investment from western countries increased from year to year. The modernization of the agricultural sector, coupled with environmental protection, doubled the sector's production and productivity. Within two decades, it changed itself from a net importer of food into an exporter. In the initial phase of its economic growth plan, the country gave emphasis to the expansion of labor-intensive manufacturing industries such as textiles and sugar.

The sector played pivotal role in creating jobs for hundreds of thousands. The expansion of research institutions on science and technology attributed South Korea's structural transformation to policy reforms aimed at opening the country to foreign markets.

Indeed, the export-oriented policy of South Korea is one of the most important factors of its success. South Korea became one of the top 10 exporters in the world, and its exports as a percentage of GDP increased from 25.9% in 1995 to 56.3% in 2012. The increasing role of Korea in international import and export trade and industrialization



**The potential for Africa to become a leading market frontier, boasting enormous potential in agriculture and renewable energy sources**

accelerated the development of the country.

In addition, a strong business environment fosters growth in the domestic market and attracts foreign investors. According to the World Bank, South Korea is ranked No. 4 in terms of the overall Ease of Doing Business (DB) index in 2018, while the U.S. is ranked No. 6.

Recently, African Development Bank President Akinwumi Ayodeji Adesina called on Korean investors to seize untapped investment opportunities in Africa, especially in the energy and agriculture sectors.

He said that, Africa is a continent that cannot be ignored by investors during the opening ceremony of business forum attended by Chief Executives of Korean corporations, heads of financial institutions as well as ministers and business leaders from Africa.

The business forum was held at the 7th Korea-Africa Economic Cooperation Ministerial Conference, held in Republic of Korea's second-largest city, Busan.

He also highlighted the potential for Africa to become a leading market frontier, boasting enormous potential in agriculture and renewable energy sources.

The bank chief assured Korean investors by telling that Africa is not as risky as it

is explained by international media. It is a continent of opportunities, waiting to be tapped.

He cited Moody's analysis of global infrastructure default rates which shows that the continent rank better at 5.5%, compared with 8.5% in Asia and 13% of Latin America.

The African Development Bank uses partial risk and credit guarantees to reduce the risks faced by the private sector.

Adesina observed that bilateral trade between Republic of Korea and Africa was important and growing, but said its volume needed to be improved. He said Korea's trade with Africa in terms of exports and imports stood at only two percent of its total trade with the world. This, he said, must be changed given the huge economic opportunities and investment potential in Africa.

He also said that, the size of consumer expenditures is estimated to be \$2.5 trillion by 2030. The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), which is the largest in the world in terms of numbers of countries, is estimated at \$3.5 trillion market size. With a population of 1.3 billion, of which 600 mln are young people, rapid urbanization and rising incomes of the middle class, Africa is the leading emerging market frontier.

Adesina listed several sectors which offered huge opportunities, including energy and agriculture, which is expected to grow to \$1 trillion by 2030. This includes the development of special agro-industrial processing zones in which the banks and partners have invested more than \$1.5 billion in 11 countries.

In the energy sector, Adesina said Africa has enormous renewable energy potential, including 11 WM2 huge solar powers, which is the highest in the world, but only one percent is utilized. With 350 GW of hydro, only seven percent is utilized; 115 GW of wind potential of which only two percent is used; and 15 GW of geothermal power of which only two percent is utilized.

Speaking at the forum, Korea's 1st Vice President, Minister of Economy and Finance, Byoung Hwan Kim, acknowledged

that despite global shocks, African countries were experiencing higher growth rates.

Kim shared his strong conviction that there are enormous opportunities for investment in Africa compared to other continents and highlighted the important role of the private sector in harnessing these opportunities. Kim recalled that Korea was one of the poorest countries in the world but was able to overcome this largely by focusing on its small businesses and the private sector.

As to him, he hopes that Korea has interest to share those experiences to the African counterparts and support the private sector to boost investment and provide guarantees tailored to private sector needs.

Kim said that the Korean government would work with the African Development Bank to identify opportunities and use the Korea Africa Economic Cooperation/KOAFEC/Trust Fund to enhance the capacity of the private sector.

The meeting identified the African Continental Free Trade Area as a platform for mutual trade and investment.

The Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank of Korea, Hee-sung Yoon, said Africa's population and vast resources offered enormous opportunities for growth. He also said that the AfCFTA will connect Africa with the rest of the world and creates an opportunity for Korea to build strategic partnerships.

It is also learned that the forum offers strong investment opportunities to Africa in green metals that could drive global market growth in clean renewable energy technologies, where countries can create jobs, stimulate economic growth, and reduce their dependence on fossil fuels.

Adesina also said that, Africa is the perfect place to build batteries for electric cars and lithium-ion batteries.

During a subsequent panel session on Just Energy Technology Transition in Africa, the CEO of Neo Themis, Tas Anvaripour, encouraged Korean investors to consider on investing instead of only selling equipment. She corroborated at the gathering that the African Development Bank is a trusted risk guarantor on the continent.

Africa is endowed with natural resources such as renewable and non-renewable energy, arable land, water, mines and others but due to the absence of sufficient investment and technology the resources are unexploited. As the result, the continent remains poor and relied heavily on the foreign handouts particularly in meeting food demand. Hence, it is time to exploit the natural resources by mobilizing domestic and foreign financial resources.

The other opportunity the continent can use as input for economic growth is the youth segment of the society. Almost 70% of the population is under the age of 30 and this figure shows that the continent has a potential for development through training and creating job to this segment of the society.

# In the Sphere of Diplomacy

## Ethiopia's growing diplomatic leadership in Horn of Africa and beyond

BY EYUEL KIFLU

Since the signing of the Pretoria peace agreement, Ethiopia has been making commendable efforts to restore its position in international diplomatic affairs. These efforts have borne fruit as Ethiopia's foreign relations with various nations have witnessed a significant improvement. Besides, the agreement has proved to be a crucial factor behind Ethiopia's recent diplomacy success, as it has opened up new avenues for the nation to strengthen its ties with various countries and enhance stability and cooperation in its foreign relations.

The country's standing within the international community was temporarily affected by the conflict that lasted for two years in the northern Ethiopia. However, the Ethiopian leadership responded to this situation in an open and transparent manner engaging with various international communities and sharing the truth about the situation.

This approach helped bring clarity to the conflict and instill confidence in the country's commitment to peace and stability. Ethiopia's willingness to engage in dialogue even during times of conflict has demonstrated to the international community that it is a reliable and trustworthy partner.

Ethiopia's leaders received high-profile visits from world leaders, foreign ministers, and representatives of international organizations. These visits served as a testament to Ethiopia's diplomatic momentum and its continued attractiveness as a partner for development and cooperation. The conflict resolution and the country's diplomatic engagement have also positioned Ethiopia as a leader in the Horn of Africa and beyond.

The peace agreement has provided Ethiopia with an opportunity to move towards a new chapter of stability and cooperation in its foreign relations. As the country works towards consolidating peace and stability on the domestic front, it will be able to strengthen its role as a key player in the regional and global diplomatic arena.

Through the proper handling of the conflict resolution process, Ethiopia has demonstrated its commitment to peace building and its readiness to tackle difficult issues through dialogue and negotiations. As such, it has established itself as a critical player in regional peace and stability initiatives. Ethiopia's diplomatic efforts have focused on driving economic growth and development in the country and the wider region.

Ethiopia's participation in various counter-terrorism initiatives has been driven by the recognition that terrorism remains a significant threat to global peace and security. The country has been actively leading efforts to promote regional security and peace in the face of threats posed by terrorist groups. Ethiopia's counter-terrorism interventions aim to promote stability in the region, ensure



national security, and protect its citizens from the threat of terrorism.

The country has been actively involved in various counter-terrorism initiatives, including military interventions, intelligence and information-sharing programs, and capacity-building programs. Its involvement in these initiatives is driven by its national security interests and its aim to promote regional stability and peace.

Its efforts in the fight against terrorism have made it a key player in the region, and its cooperation with regional and international partners has been crucial in creating a coordinated and effective response to the threat of terrorism. Furthermore, Ethiopia's diplomatic efforts have been focused on promoting peace, stability, and social and economic development. The successful resolution of the recent conflict, coupled with Ethiopian leadership's engagement with international communities has shown Ethiopia's commitment to openness and willingness to tackle challenges through dialogue and negotiations.

The conflict had a temporary impact on Ethiopia's diplomatic relations, as some countries reduced their engagement. However, the country's leadership took an open and honest approach, engaging with international communities and sharing the truth about the situation. As a result, suspended issues, including loan renewals, began to be addressed.

The agreement was welcomed by regional and international actors as a major step towards resolving the conflict and restoring stability in Ethiopia. The positive impact of the peace agreement on Ethiopia's foreign policy is evidenced by multifaceted realities.

The visit of Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni to Addis Ababa on April 14 and 15 was the first visit of a Western head of government to the country since the November 2022 signing of the Pretoria peace deal. According to MoFA, the visit was

aimed at deepening the partnership between the two countries. It was stated that during her stay, she met with Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and high-level government officials from Ethiopia and the African Union.

Strengthening humanitarian and development assistance support for Ethiopia was at the top of the agenda. Ideas were also exchanged on regional, continental, and global issues of common concern. According to reports, Italy has decided to resume development cooperation with the country, putting on the table €125 million for the country's reconstruction.

On May 4, Germany's Chancellor Olaf Scholz paid one-day visit to Ethiopia and had a discussion with Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed. In their discussion, PM Abiy and Chancellor Olaf Scholz exchanged views on enhanced Ethio-German partnership in addition to regional and multilateral issues. "Pleased to receive Chancellor Olaf Scholz this evening, where we discussed enhanced Ethio-German partnership in addition to regional and multilateral issues," the premier tweeted.

Also, South Sudan President Salva Kiir visited Ethiopia for a one-day working visit on August 7, 2023. During a working lunch held at the Office of the Prime Minister, the two leaders discussed bilateral issues, including trade and infrastructure development, as well as regional peace and security issues.

"As neighbors with common regional interests, we will continuously strengthen our cooperation," the Prime Minister said after his meeting with President Salva Kiir. It was recalled that the two countries signed a pact to promote bilateral security relations in 2022.

According to MoFA, in a bilateral meeting the leaders of the two countries held with their respective delegations, they acknowledged the ever-strengthening ties between Ethiopia and the UAE.

Following the bilateral meeting, the leaders presided over a signing ceremony of 17 agreements in various sectors, including industry, agriculture, investment, and finance.

Ambassador Dina Mufti, a seasoned Ethiopian diplomat, shared insights with the EPA on Ethiopia's diplomatic progress over the past year. He acknowledged the presence of obstacles in the diplomatic arena, with the northern Ethiopian conflict being a significant hindrance. Resolving these conflicts in a peaceful manner required navigating through ups and downs. However, the successful resolution of the conflict stands as a significant achievement for Ethiopia's diplomatic endeavors. The Pretoria agreement can be highlighted as a result of the country's diplomatic movement, showcasing Ethiopia's commitment to peace.

The conflict attracted various influences from international governments and organizations. Ethiopia's struggle to overcome these influences has yielded success. Despite challenges, the country has achieved economic and social growth under such circumstances. Ambassador Dina emphasized the resilience and determination of Ethiopia to manage external influences.

Ethiopia's membership in the BRICS bloc presents a significant opportunity to expand its diplomatic reach.

Ambassador Dina said that this membership creates the chance to establish new partnerships alongside existing ones. The membership facilitates enhanced trade relations, increased investments, and accelerated technology exchange, fostering political interdependence. Ethiopia recognizes the immense potential for growth and development through its association with BRICS.

Ethiopia's participation in various continental and international stages reflects the country's commitment to safeguarding its interests. The shared understanding among participants was that protecting national interests leads to fruitful outcomes. Overall, Ethiopia's diplomatic stance aims to shield the country from problems, obstacles, and outside influences.

The fourth round of water filling at GERD was one of the greatest achievements of Ethiopia's diplomacy this year.

He regarded the fourth round of water filling at the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) as one of Ethiopia's most significant diplomatic achievements. The successful cooperation displayed during this process has showcased Ethiopia's effectiveness in withstanding diplomatic pressures.

The national success that Ethiopia has achieved in resisting external pressures and supporting the construction of the GERD highlights the country's unwavering commitment to utilizing the dam's vast potential while also considering the benefits it can bring to the countries located within the Nile Basin.

# Law & Politics

## Achieving all-rounded peace, stability through implementation of SDGs

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

The world is facing unprecedented challenges that require immediate action to ensure a sustainable future for all. The implementation of sustainable development goals (SDGs) has thus become an essential tool for achieving peace and stability globally. These goals are a call to action that urges all nations to make significant progress towards environmental sustainability, social inclusivity, and economic growth.

The international community recognizes that sustainable development is one of the most significant challenges facing the world today. As such, the implementation of sustainable development goals has become an essential tool for achieving all-rounded peace and stability not only nationally but also globally.

Sustainable development is critical because it seeks to balance economic growth, social progress, and environmental protection. The world's population continues to grow, and this growth comes with various environmental, social, and economic challenges.

SDGs aim to end poverty, promote education, reduce inequalities, protect the environment, and foster economic growth. All these goals aim at creating a better world for all. It calls for every nation to contribute towards meeting these targets to achieve the envisioned sustainable future.

Synergy in cooperation is required to achieve the agendas of SDG on the grounds that they require a commitment by every nation to support the common good. This demand reflects the growing recognition that progress must be sustainable and that it has consequences beyond national borders.

SDGs call for sound environmental practices, sustainable consumption and production, poverty eradication, and equitable distribution of wealth and resources. These goals are achievable, but it requires a concerted effort by all nations to achieve them. It is fundamental that governments prioritize sustainable development goals, which are critical to global peace and stability.

The implementation of SDGs is crucial for achieving all-rounded peace and stability globally. Nations must work together to make significant progress towards sustainable development, environmental sustainability, and peace building not only within their borders but also across nations.

The integration of the SDGs is necessary to achieve a balance between economic growth, social progress, and environmental protection. By addressing issues such as poverty, inequality, climate change, and environmental degradation via sustainable development goals, we can create a more peaceful world.

By the same token, SDGs promote holistic approaches towards development, and they aim to ensure no one is left behind. The achievement of sustainable peace and stability requires a joint effort from governments, civil society organizations, the private sector, and individuals.

This collaborative approach allows for the creation of inclusive societies, where the



promotion of human rights, social justice, and equality is embraced. Thus, achieving all-rounded peace and stability through the implementation of SDGs is an achievable goal that requires a multi-sectorial response. There is no denying the fact that the global community has been facing a wide range of conflicts resulting from political instability, economic inequality, and social tensions.

Ethiopia's commitment to sustainable development is evident in its policies, programs, and efforts to protect its natural resources and promote economic growth. The country has made significant progress in achieving SDGs, and its achievements have been recognized by international organizations.

The decisive goal of the SDGs is to create sustainable peace within nation-states and between nations, prioritizing the needs of vulnerable groups, and promoting social cohesion and gender equality. There is a need for continuous efforts and investment to promote sustainable development and address these challenges.

Sustainable development is a way of developing in a manner that preserves the health of our planet and its resources for current and future generations. It is important to recognize that sustainable development is not just about environmental protection, but also about economic growth.

The need for continuous efforts to promote sustainable development is also reflected in the need for global collaboration. Sustainable development is a global issue that requires a collective effort from all countries, regardless of their economic status. The need for continuous efforts to promote sustainable development is essential for ensuring social justice.

The SDGs promote innovation and technology transfer. To find sustainable solutions to pressing development challenges, research, and development investments are essential. Since the world's population is mainly concentrated in urban areas, creating sustainable cities and communities will be essential in achieving the SDGs. Sustainable cities provide residents with access to basic necessities such as water, electricity, and affordable housing, while also promoting low-carbon transportation, sustainable waste management, and environmental sustainability.

Collaborative efforts within and among

countries are essential for tackling universal issues. Global partnerships, including governments, the private sector, and civil society organizations can leverage their expertise, knowledge, and resources to leverage the challenges of the development agenda. SDGs promote sustainable consumption and production.

By implementing the SDGs, we can address the most pressing global challenges while simultaneously promoting economic growth, inclusiveness, and innovation. Meeting the SDGs requires the collective efforts of all countries, including the private sector, civil society organizations, and individuals.

Implementing the SDGs will help to address this issue by promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth, creating decent jobs, and providing social protection to vulnerable groups. This will enable people to have access to basic necessities such as food, water, and sanitation. Since the world's population is mainly concentrated in urban areas, creating sustainable cities and communities will be essential in achieving the SDGs.

Sustainable cities provide residents with access to basic necessities such as water, electricity, and affordable housing, while also promoting low-carbon transportation, sustainable waste management, and environmental sustainability.

Ethiopia's commitment to sustainable development is also reflected in its efforts to preserve its natural resources. The country has established several national parks and wildlife reserves to protect its natural habitats and biodiversity. The country is home to several innovative agricultural practices, such as agroforestry and conservation agriculture, which have helped to improve soil health, reduce erosion, and increase crop yields. These practices have enabled smallholder farmers to improve their livelihoods while preserving natural resources.

Ethiopia still faces significant economic and social challenges such as poverty, unemployment, and inequality, which can hinder progress towards sustainable development. However, the government's commitment to sustainable development and its efforts to promote inclusive economic growth can help to address these challenges.

Collaborative efforts within and among countries are essential for tackling universal issues. Global partnerships, including governments, the private sector, and civil society organizations can leverage their expertise, knowledge, and resources to leverage the challenges of the development agenda.

SDGs have become a vital aspect of achieving global peace and stability. This is partly because development, environment, and peace are all interconnected. In other words, achieving sustainable development is crucial to environmental sustainability, which in turn is necessary for building and maintaining peace, stability, and resilience across the globe.

The implementation of SDGs is a crucial component of achieving all-rounded peace and stability globally as it addresses the fundamental issues that impact social, economic, and environmental sustainability, and fosters cooperation among nations towards achieving a prosperous and equitable future for all.

Demeke Mekonnen, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of FDRE, said Ethiopia is committed to the full implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), according to information obtained from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia.

Demeke paid a courtesy call to the President of the 78th UNGA, Dennis Francis, in New York and exchanged views at length on the current global agenda of the General Assembly (SDGs).

He also noted that the implementation of the SDG agenda deserves continuous attention and a series of considerations. Ethiopia remains committed to implementing the global agenda as it complements the ten-year national development plan.

Demeke told the President of the General Assembly that Ethiopia has undertaken various projects, such as the Green Legacy, successfully.

The President also expressed his satisfaction over the extraordinary measures Ethiopia is undertaking to achieve the targets of the SDGs. He also said that UNGA will press for more funding to support the global south, including Africa, to succeed in achieving the SDGs.



# Society

## Colorful festivals to boost tourism earnings

BY MENGISTEAB TESHOME

Street festivals have the potential to draw tourists because they create a unique opportunity for visitors to experience a certain country's rich cultural and religious values, enjoy their traditional music and dances, and colorful celebrations.

In Ethiopia there are a number of street festivals that are celebrated warmly and colorfully among different ethnic groups of Ethiopians. Especially in the month of September, when the summer season is concluded and the bright, sunny season spring comes, these colorful festivals are marked in various parts of the nation with different stunning events.

Of these awe-inspiring festivals, the Meskel festival that commemorates the discovery of the Finding of the True Cross on which Jesus was crucified by Queen Helena in the 4<sup>th</sup> century; and Irreecha, Oromo people's thanksgiving festival that is celebrated colorfully in Addis Ababa, Bishoftu and in other parts in Oromia State, are tourist magnets that are known for their potential to draw more tourists.

Addis Ababa Culture, Arts and Tourism Bureau Tourism Development and Promotion Directorate Director Head Firehiwot Gebremedhin said that Addis Ababa has finalized preparations to celebrate the colorful festivals. Both festivals Meskel and Irreecha are going to be celebrated in the coming few days, in an open air space. The Bureau is working along with pertinent stakeholders like Oromia Tourism Commission and religious leaders of Orthodox Church and Christianity sects as well as security forces to make sure that the celebrations to be more peaceful and as per the religious and traditional values of the people.

Further, the Bureau is working with hotel owners and tour operators as well as transport providing firms so as to make visitors' stay more comfortable and let them get products and services at a reasonable price.

Addis Ababa is a peaceful city and everyone can come to the festivals; thus, the Bureau invites local and international tourists to come to Ethiopia and join the colorful festivals, understand why the people celebrate the festivals, and enjoy the bonfire, known as *Demera*, the spiritual practices of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, the dancing and singing of the believers.

According to her, each festival has its own unique color which makes them more glamorous. During Meskel festival, the gathering of the priests, deacons, choir and worshipers from different churches presents an elaborate procession at the Demera place. The songs and the rituals towards the power of the cross and its findings are breathtaking.

The Bureau is responsible for safeguarding the content of the festival's to be as per the religious and cultural values of the people. The Bureau is ready to introduce Ethiopia's and Addis Ababa tourist destinations and let the local and international tourists know them well.



Meskel celebration at Meskel Square, Addis Ababa



Celebration of Irreecha Festival at Hora Harsadii, Bishoftu Town

In similar manner, Irreecha will be celebrated in Addis Ababa, Bishoftu Town and various parts in Oromia State warmly and colorfully a week later.

In an exclusive interview with *The Ethiopian Herald* Oromo Culture and Tourism Commission Deputy Commissioner Nega Wodajo said that September is known for being a month where a number of colorful festivals that have the potential to draw tourists from various parts of the world are celebrated. In this regard, Irreecha is the one.

Irreecha, as other festivities, constitutes cultural and spiritual values that promote unity, love and reconciliation among the people.

The Commission organized Oromia Tourism Week from September 24-26 in Addis Ababa and exhibitions in various parts of Oromia State and Irreecha fashion shows and cultural dancing that depict the cultural and traditional value of Oromo people are exhibited.

The Commission also invited Uganda and Rwanda tourism counterparts to take part in the Oromia Tourism Week. "The Commission is striving to promote Irreecha and the culture of Oromo people in Ethiopia and beyond. Through the connections along with Africa countries

in the tourism sector, we can develop and promote sector's product and services, and expand market opportunities."

Responding to the query raised in relation to the preparation made to celebrate the festival, the Deputy Commissioner said that "Preparations to celebrate the colorful festival as per the value of Oromo people are underway. The youth and elderly people are working along with the Commission. The young people are informed to keep on playing a vital role in celebrations."

According to him, Irreecha celebration is all about thanksgiving to God for the blessings and mercies the Oromo people received throughout the previous year. It is celebrated every year at the beginning of spring, new season after the dark and rainy winter season.

The grand colorful Irreecha festival of Oromo people's Thanksgiving Day is celebrated at sacred lakes like Hora Finfinne of Addis Ababa and Hora Harsadii in Bishoftu and across Oromia State.

What makes the festival more intriguing is that the people adorned by their colorful traditional attires will come together and trek to the sacred place singing traditional songs and dancing.

As celebrants reach once at the lake,

festival-goers immerse freshly cut green grass and the flowers they are carrying and sprinkle themselves and place them in the water. The youth from all over Ethiopia, especially from Oromia State, will play traditional songs and dance.

"We want to safeguard the traditional and cultural values of the Oromo people through creating awareness through media and other platforms. The efforts made so far are bearing fruits and millions are coming to celebrate the colorful Irreecha festival year in, year out."

The Commission, since it became operational in 2020, is working in collaboration with public and private institutions to promote tourism in all parts of the State and create jobs in a more organized fashion.

"For sure the colorful festival of Irreecha is going to be the brand of Oromia tourism sector and we will keep on capitalizing it as per the value of the people of Oromo. The Commission is well-aware the festival has potential to create a market. We want the private sector to participate actively and meaningfully"

The Commission also invites all Ethiopians, Africans and the Diaspora community as well as tourists from around the world to be part of the occasion and enjoy the colorful festival.

Meskel, the discovery of the True Cross that Jesus was crucified on, is one of the intangible heritages, inscribed in the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2013.

# International

## Al-Shabab militants killed in raid after truck bomb - Somalia

The Somali government says its forces killed scores of al-Shabab militants just a day after a truck bomb killed at least 10 people in the central town of Beledweyne.

Deputy Information Minister Abdirahman Al-Adalah says the Somali army and local militia attacked the militant camp in Caad village in Galmudug state.

The number of al-Shabab fighters could not immediately be verified and the group has not issued any statement about the government's claims.

The government also says its forces have retaken villages from the jihadists in the western Hiiraan region.

It comes as President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud met US Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin in Djibouti to discuss the fight against the al-Qaeda-linked group, which

has waged an insurgency in Somalia for more than 15 years.

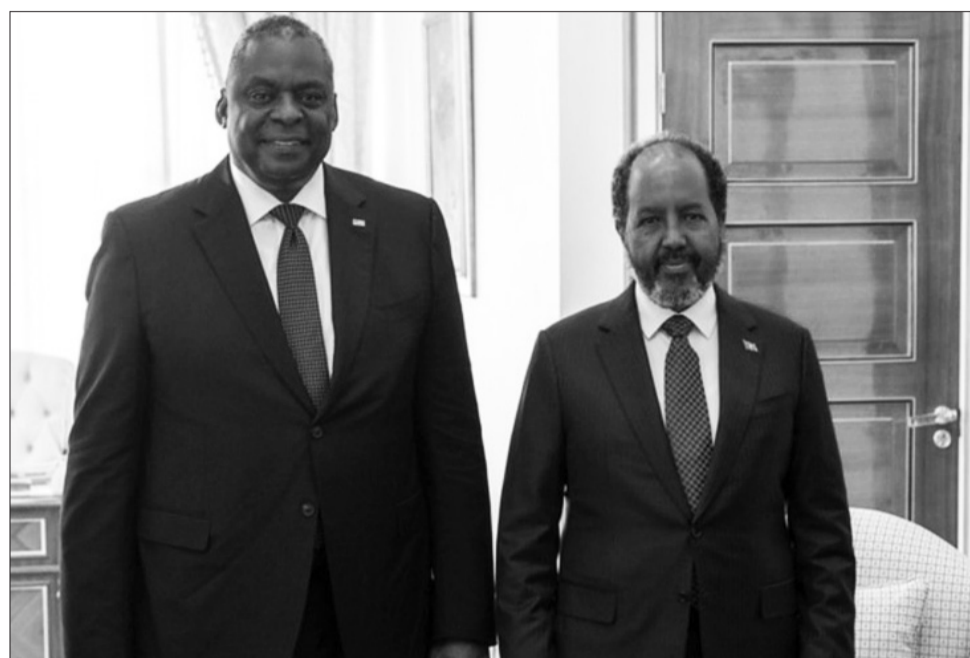
In recent months, the Somali government has intensified its military campaign against al-Shabab but has recently faced setbacks in the fight in central Somalia.

Somalia receives military, humanitarian and training support from the US, whose forces also help Somali troops by conducting air strikes against al-Shabab.

Mr Austin is on a three-nation tour of the continent. He has already visited Djibouti, where he met President Ismail Omar Guelleh and discussed regional security.

He is due in Kenya's capital on Monday to sign a defence agreement and then wind down his tour in Angola.

BBC



: The Somali president (R) met US Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin (L)

## Libya orders 8 officials jailed in probe into deadly dam collapse

Libya's prosecutor general on Monday ordered the arrest of eight officials as part of his inquiry into the recent flood disaster which killed thousands, his office said.

The flash flood, which witnesses likened to a tsunami, broke through two ageing dams on September 10 after a hurricane-strength storm lashed the area around Derna, a port city in Libya's east.

The officials are suspected of "bad management" and negligence, a statement from the prosecutor general's office said, adding that they served currently or previously in offices responsible for water resources and dam management.

On Saturday the official death toll passed 3,800, and international aid groups have said 10,000 or more people may be missing.

After opening a probe, Libya's prosecutor general Al-Seddik al-Sur said more than a week ago that the two dams upstream from Derna had been cracked since 1998.

But repairs begun by a Turkish company in 2010 were suspended after a few months when Libya's 2011 revolution flared, and the work never resumed, the prosecutor said on September 16, vowing to deal firmly with those responsible.

The 2011 NATO-backed revolt toppled longtime dictator Muammar Gaddafi, leading to more than a decade of start-stop conflict.

Libya is now divided between an internationally-recognised Tripoli-based administration in the west -- to which Sur belongs -- and another in the flood-struck

east.

Eastern forces years ago launched a failed assault on the capital which ended in a 2020 ceasefire.

Since then a period of relative stability has held and allowed war-ravaged Libya to try to rebuild.

The first dam to collapse in the disaster was the Abu Mansur dam, 13 kilometres (eight miles) from Derna, whose reservoir held 22.5 million cubic metres (nearly 800 million cubic feet) of water.

The deluge then broke Al Bilad, the second dam, which had a capacity of 1.5 million cubic metres and is just a kilometre from the coastal city.

The wall of water and debris swept through the normally dry riverbed or wadi that cuts through the city centre.

Both dams were constructed by a Yugoslav company in the 1970s, "not to collect water but to protect Derna from floods", Sour said earlier.

Since Libya's 2011 revolution, a budget has been allocated every year to repair the two dams, but none of the successive governments has undertaken the work, according to an official.

In a 2021 report from the Libyan audit bureau, officials criticised "procrastination" on resuming repair work at the two dams.

In November 2022, engineer and academic Abdel Wanis Ashour warned in a study that a "catastrophe" threatened Derna if the authorities did not carry out maintenance on the dams. (AFP)

## Nigeria: 6km charity walk to support children fighting Cancer

In a bid to create awareness on early cancer detection on children the Okapi Children Cancer Foundation in Abuja, Nigeria held a 6km charity walk to support children fighting cancer. This year's walk which is the seventh edition is tagged- Steps to survival for children fighting cancer.

The meaningful event was aimed towards making a difference in the lives of children battling cancer, the group said if children are detected on time, their chances of survival increase a great deal.

The founder of the foundation, Kemi Adekoya said the major problem with childhood cancer is lack of awareness.

"The more we create the awareness, the more we get events like this, the more people get to know about children battling cancer and the more they can also support these children. There are people here today who have never met a childhood surviving cancer patient, and meeting one today will encourage them to do more and support people with cancer," said Kemi Adekoya, Founder, Okapi Children Cancer Foundation.

Head of Management, Okapi Cancer foundation, Dr Ozi Okonokhua said the walk is to create awareness on children's cancer and educate people that cancer is treatable. According to him, the walk is creating a good impact on people.

"We have what we call a charity shop, in that shop, when people come and they give us donations, we reward them with items in the shops. So it's actually people that help us to raise funds. The funds we use to help these

children comes from rewards from T-shirts that people buy from us. So it's actually from the general public, that is where we get the funds, we appeal to friends and loved ones and they support us, he added."

The group say the event is a way to show support and solidarity towards young warriors fighting against cancer. By participating in the walk, participants will contribute to raising awareness and funds for their treatment, giving them a chance to fight and survive.

A child survivor, Tobi Hope encouraged other children to get tested and not to lose hope adding there is hope for cancer patients.

"When our money finished, our doctor had to introduce us to the Okapi Children Cancer Foundation, they supported us with all they had and God used them to make me alive today.

According to Titilayo Moses-Ehi, Secretary Board of Trustees, Okapi Children Cancer Foundation is a non-governmental organization that helps to fight cancer in children between ages 0-18 years, She said the foundation currently works with the National Hospital, Abuja and the Teaching hospital in Gwagwalada, Abuja.

"Currently we have about 40 children that the foundation is supporting with health care services.

It would be recalled that in 2020, almost 125,000 people were diagnosed with cancer in Nigeria and almost 79,000 died from the disease.

(Africa news)

# Planet Earth



## The second round of Green Legacy achievement is a stepping stone for other sectors

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

The Ethiopian Green Legacy is a climate mitigation and ensuring food security initiative launched by the government of Ethiopia in 2019. The main aim of the initiative is to combat deforestation and climate change by planting a large number of trees across the country.

The initiative was introduced by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, who called on all Ethiopians to plant at least 4 billion trees in the country within a year. The target was later enhanced to 5 billion trees due to the overwhelming response and enthusiasm from the public.

Moreover, the initiative is part of Ethiopia's commitment to the Paris Agreement on climate change and its efforts to restore the country's degraded landscapes. It also aligns with the country's national development plans, which prioritize sustainable environmental practices through protecting natural resources.

The Green Legacy campaign involves various stakeholders, including government institutions, non-governmental organizations, private companies, ambassadors and diplomats residing in the country, the diasporas and their communities, individual citizens, and so on. The government has provided various tree seedlings and organized tree-planting events throughout the country, encouraging citizens to actively participate in the reforestation efforts.

Besides, the initiative has received international recognition and support, with several countries and organizations pledging their assistance. For instance, Norway pledged 28 million US Dollars to support Ethiopia's reforestation efforts, while the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) commended Ethiopia's ambitious tree-planting campaign.

Furthermore, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) expressed also its plan to share the experiences of Ethiopia's Green Legacy Initiative with

about 10 other African countries and make the Initiative Pan-African.

According to UNDP, supporting the initiative has an enormous advantage for national, regional, and international adaptation and mitigation of the harmful effects of climate change, biodiversity preservation, combating desertification, ensuring green development, ensuring food security, and achieving the SDGs.

The Green Legacy initiative is a stepping stone to a better future for Ethiopia. therefore, UNDP plans to share Ethiopia's experiences with about 10 other countries to make the initiative Pan-African since it is important to set the pace in combating climate change and fostering community resilience.

The Ethiopian Green Legacy initiative has not only contributed to combating deforestation and climate change but has also brought about other positive impacts. It has helped to create job opportunities for youths, improve soil fertility, conserve biodiversity, and enhance water resources management in the country. In addition, the first Green Legacy initiative expanded across the region, especially in neighboring countries.

This year, the nation also started the second green legacy initiative, taking into consideration the knowledge gained and the lessons learned from the first initiative. To double the amount of work put into the first round of the initiative, a second round was launched.

It is to be recalled that Prime Minister Abiy launched the second phase of the Green Legacy Initiative in the first week of June this year in the Afar region under the theme "Let's Plant Our Future Today".

According to Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD), "At the completion of this year's season the second phase of the Green Legacy initiative, we achieved more than our intended target, i.e. 7.5 billion saplings have been planted nationwide. The premier added that the government honors the hard work and perseverance shown by our people. Besides, the Green Legacy program

**A**ccording to UNDP, supporting the initiative has an enormous advantage for national, regional, and international adaptation and mitigation of the harmful effects of climate change, biodiversity preservation, combating desertification, ensuring green development, ensuring food security, and achieving the SDGs.

not only stabilizes the ecosystem but also enhances agroforestry".

The successes being registered in the Green Legacy initiative and other sectors demonstrate the inevitability of Ethiopia's journey to prosperity. He stated that 7.5 billion saplings have been planted in the first year's Green Legacy Initiative, and some 32.5 billion saplings have been planted since the start of the initiative. Moreover, the nation has set a target of reaching 50 billion saplings in the first and second phases of the Green Legacy initiative.

Abiy underscored that there will be no earthly force in the future that can stop Ethiopia's progress and prosperity. The nation will have attained a target of planting 25 billion saplings by the end of the second phase of Green Legacy which runs for four years.

"According to the plan, 60 percent of the saplings will be used for agroforestry, 35 percent for forest cover, and 5 percent for urban ornaments. Through the united efforts of the Ethiopian people, we will bequeath a strong and prosperous Ethiopia to future generations. Numerous forums on the impacts of climate change have been held at the global level. As regards mitigating the impacts of climate change and taking concrete actions, progress has not been made, he said, adding, however, Ethiopia's Green Legacy Initiative has been exemplary

in mitigating climate change impacts and taking concrete actions".

The premier also disclosed that 7.5 billion tree seedlings have so far been planted this year in the second phase of the Green Legacy Initiative. Combined with the two phases of the Green Legacy initiative, Ethiopia is set to plant 50 billion saplings in four years, Abiy elaborated.

For instance, the Jogo basin area was barren areas four years ago, but now the area is covered with green plants. The prime minister further mentioned that the local communities have contributed a lot to this success and they are now engaged in beekeeping activities following the green development in the area.

He also explained that the massive green development activities that Ethiopia has embarked on are helping the nation to prevent soil erosion, increase rainfall and maintain ecosystems. Moreover, Abiy said green development is becoming a big economic source in Ethiopia. He further stressed the need to prioritize fruit, coffee, tea, and other market-oriented green development activities.

PM Abiy also expressed the appreciation of his government to the people of Ethiopia for their immense contributions and achievements in the Green Legacy initiatives during the past years. Mentioning the successes that are being recorded in the Green Legacy initiative, the construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), wheat farming, and Lemat Trufat, Abiy urged the public to replicate the successes in all sectors. He also stated that effective activities are being carried out with the cooperation of the government and the people, ensuring the inevitability of Ethiopia's journey to prosperity journey.

Overall, the Ethiopian Green Legacy is a significant environmental initiative that showcases Ethiopia's commitment to sustainable development and environmental conservation. It serves as a model for other countries in their efforts to combat deforestation and mitigate the impacts of climate change.