



The Ethiopian Herald

Vol LXXX No 061 21 November 2023 - Hidar 11, 2016

Tuesday

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Ethiopia, Germany agree to enhance bilateral relations

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA – Ethiopia and Germany have agreed to enhance the longstanding bilateral relations as the leaders of the two countries met last Sunday ahead of the G20 Compact with Africa (CwA) Summit.

During the meeting, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) and German Chancellor Olaf

Scholz have exchanged views on the ways to enhance the diplomatic relation between the two nations in various spheres.

For Ambassador TayeAtske Selassie, Foreign Policy Advisor to the PM, the meeting helps to enhance the amicable relations between the two nations that founded on mutual understanding and respect.

He said that the two sides discussed

extensively on bilateral, regional and international issues.

They also conferred and identified investment opportunities in Ethiopia in which German investors can be engaged in the energy and fertilizer productions, he stated.

According to Amb. Taye, the two leaders discussed on debt restructuring to tackle development

See Ethiopia, Germany ... page 3



Ethiopia's pursuit of seaport spurs cooperation, peace: Scholar

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA – Ethiopia's pursuit to access seaport should not be a cause of disagreement as the country is pressing only on peaceful and negotiable options, a hydro-politics expert said.

Speaking to Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), a senior hydro-politics

See Ethiopia's ... page 3

Horticulture exports record over 169 mln USD in first quarter

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA- Over 169.5 million USD was secured from flower, vegetable and fruit export in the first quarter of the current Ethiopian fiscal year, the Ministry of Agriculture said, adding that the performance attained 63.1 percent of the plan.

Speaking to *The Ethiopian Herald*, the Ministry of Agriculture Horticulture Export Coordinator Mekonnen Solomon stated that the sum was obtained from exporting 96,443.36 tons of flower, vegetable and fruit in the reported period.

Cut flowers have the lion's share in the overall performance and Ethiopia generated over 146.26 USD revenue

See Horticulture ... page 3



IGAD seeks worldwide support for 4.5 mln refugees

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA- The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) announced that about 4.5 million refugees require international support.

In his opening remark on the Annual Ministerial Stock-taking Meeting of the IGAD Support Platform and the Implementation of the Plan of

See IGAD seeks ... page 3

News

Aircraft order heightens Ethiopian position in Africa's aviation industry

• *Enhances ties with Boeing*

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

ADDIS ABABA- Ordering 67 Boeing jets, the largest aircraft order in Africa's aviation history, is a historic move to intensify Ethiopian Airlines' leading status and enhance its partnership with the aerospace company, a noted economist said.

An economist and Global Chairman of Fairfax Africa Fund Zemedeneh Nigatu told Nigeria's TV 360 that the order has also a significant contribution for providing jobs to the U.S. citizens. According to a study, for every one billion USD worth of order to Boeing, 11,000 American jobs are created or retained.

From the perspective of the U.S., it is clear how significant these 67 aircrafts are in creating or keeping a large number of jobs. Furthermore, the move strengthened the relationship between Boeing and its largest African customer Ethiopian Airlines and contributed to the advancement of



Zemedeneh Nigatu

the Ethio-U.S. relations, Zemedeneh elaborated.

"It is very historic and also for Africa this is a telling story that Africans could achieve big things if they focus, if they can execute their strategies and if they

can collaborate. Today Ethiopian Airlines is not just a standalone carrier, it has equity and ownership of several African carriers and it is building up the capacity of airlines across Africa. By adding these fleets, Ethiopian could expand not only its networks but also partner airlines that are spreading across Africa"

According to him, Ethiopian Airlines is the only profitable large carrier in Africa, despite being 100 percent state-owned. The airline operates independently, with no state interference or support and it employs professionals with aviation knowledge.

The airliner employs professionals who know the aviation industry in entirety, which is one of the missing things in African carriers. In many African countries, airline jobs are seen as patronage jobs by governments and politicians tend to fill positions with incompetent individuals who do not know anything about the business, and this does not happen in Ethiopia, the economist emphasized.



Ministry urges citizens to unlock digitally-enabled jobs

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA – The Ministry of Innovation and Technology (MoIT) has urged citizens to unlock job opportunities available online following the advancement of the digital sector.

MoIT State Minister Yisherun Alemayehu (PhD) told The Ethiopian Herald that the government has been investing in manpower, facilitating infrastructure and supporting the private sector to invest and increase their participation to realize 'Digital Ethiopia 2025'.

The implementation of technologies has been contributing to ensure the accessibility and inclusiveness of transportation and other sector services thereby it has been playing positive economic role, he stated.

The government is committed to support the expansion efforts of technologies in all sectors and encourage the private sector to join, he mentioned.

In Ethiopia, the digital technology sector has easily made job opportunities accessible so that new graduates, private sector and others can exploit the digital technology sector since it offers unique jobs, according to the State Minister.

"We should develop technology skills and experience. In this regard, the government has been encouraging local technology expansion for own consumption and economic value by interpreting and analyzing the data," he said.

Furthermore, Yisherun elucidated that the existing technologies are not sufficient to deliver efficient services as it requires bringing or applying new technologies that would increase the accessibility and inclusiveness in each sector.

Implementing these technologies saves time, increases efficiency, creates jobs, improves security and others, he elaborated.



Ethiopia, Djibouti ink MoU to cooperate in defense, security

ADDIS ABABA- Ethiopia and Djibouti signed MoU to cooperate in Defense and Security, according to FBC's report.

This was came while both countries were holding the 10th Ethiopia-Djibouti Defense Experts Joint Committee

Meeting in Djibouti as of last Sunday.

It was learnt that an Ethiopian military delegation led by Brig. Gen Teshome Anagaw has participating in the meeting aimed at enhancing cooperation in the

defense and security areas .

On the sidelines of the meeting, Brig. Gen Teshome held discussions with his Djiboutian counterpart, Taher Ali Mohammed on bilateral issues of mutual concern.

News

MoLS employs institutional building for holistic dev't

• Unveils social dialogue framework

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

SULULTA- A well-facilitated and streamlined institutional building is a game-changer in Ethiopia's development, the Ministry of Labor and Skills (MoLS) said, highlighting its importance to bring socio-economic and political changes.

The three-day MoLS quarter performance review and consultative forum was concluded yesterday.

Speaking at the occasion, MoLS Minister Muferihat Kamil said institutional building is instrumental to bring about inclusive social, political and economic development in an organized manner.

She further remarked that the ministry has been developing and launching a high-tech national market information system at one stop center with a view of avoiding the duplication of activities during registration and service provision phases. The ministry is providing digitized services to job seekers and enterprises among others.



Setting a five-month special job creation scheme, the ministry managed to create 1.1 million permanent jobs for citizens. "The entire discussions and consultations have given foundational inputs and experiences are game-changers for our forthcoming homework."

Moreover, MoLS established 77 training centers that are believed to bridge knowledge, and skill related gaps at local and overseas job recruitment processes. "Streamlining the reform strategies, the ministry has planned to offer about 632,000 trainings through demand-based training in

different levels this year."

According to the Minister, Ethiopia is in a good shape to send skilled labor to various countries. "Identifying the major bottlenecks in the sector, the ministry is working to further develop market centers, financial provision, productivity, skills and awareness creation issues in an organized manner."

At the conclusion of the event, the ministry unveils a social dialogue framework, which is believed to bring about holistic and enhanced job creation culture and productivity. The framework is the ministry's 3-year strategic plan.

This framework helps to the inclusivity of entrepreneurship and enables stakeholders to identify posing problems and points to solutions. This approach is also important to leverage opportunities in the community and suggest ways to overcome challenges, Muferihat emphasized.

It is to be recalled that about 3.5 million people were employed in the last Ethiopian fiscal year in various sectors.

IGAD seeks...

Action on the Nairobi Declaration, IGAD Head of Social Development Unit, Mohamed Elduma said that the region is hosting 13 million internally displaced peoples and 4.5 million refugees while the number is still growing.

Conflicts, climate changes, and natural disasters are causing huge displacement in the region, he noted.

He called on member States of the regional block to strengthen their contribution to the implementation of the Nairobi Declaration

and refugees' program as the magnitude of international support is decreasing.

He also appreciated IGAD member states contribution and collective measures on the implementation of initiatives for the benefit of refugees.

"Much has been done, more needs to be done...[] I encourage all to do utmost" to make displaced peoples able to live normal life and be productive, he remarked.

United Nations High Commissioner Refugees (UNHCR) representative to Ethiopia, Andrew

Mbogori also urged IGAD member states and its partners to show better solidarity with refugees.

Countries like Ethiopia, Chad, Djibouti, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, Uganda and Zambia piloted comprehensive refugee response framework leading important policy reforms and innovative programme, he mentioned.

Deputy Director of the Ethiopian Refugees and Returnees Service, Muluaem Desta on his part said that Ethiopia is implementing supportive initiatives to the Nairobi

Declaration.

Refugees are included in the sixth serious of education sector development plan and education management system which have been adopted by the government recently, he remarked.

He also urged all countries signed the Nairobi Declaration to take same measures in achieving common goal of durable solutions for refugees.

Ethiopia is a home of nearly one million refugees, according to Muluaem.

Ethiopia, Germany...

bottlenecks.

The leaders also exchanged ideas on bolstering trade cooperation. According to the Advisor, Ethiopia and Germany have a range of trade relationships.

Ethiopia mainly exports coffee, cut flower, textile to Germany and imports machineries, and industrial inputs including various chemicals related outputs, he noted.

Prime Minister Abiy also briefed the Chancellor on the overall progress of peace process with regard to the northern conflict while expressing that his government is doing its level best to ensure peace and restore life withstanding various challenges, Amb. Taye said.

Abiy also elaborated the role that Ethiopia can play to ensure peace in the region mainly with regard to the Sudan conflict, the Advisor added.

It is to be recalled that the two leaders met earlier this year during the Chancellor's visit to Ethiopia.

Horticulture...

exporting 30,922.69 tons to the global market. Also, the vegetable sub-sector grossed 17.2 million USD from 58,340.40 tons export.

Similarly, the country secured around 6.12 million USD from exporting 14,823.99 tons of fruits in the reported period.

The ministry sets a plan to generate 741.8 million USD from exporting 351,030,031.71 kg of flowers, vegetables and fruits in the current fiscal year.

Mekonnen further said that consolidated efforts are underway to provide exports at the desired quality level and appealing package thereby keeping Ethiopia's competitiveness at the global market.

The government has been paying due attention to attract private investments in the horticulture sector and to improve competitiveness by providing export incentives, customs duty exemption, income tax holidays, and offering land at competitive lease price, it was learned.

Ethiopia's...

expert Prof. Admasu Gebeyehu stated that Ethiopia's quest for seaport access would not be a cause for war while reciting Prime Minister Abiy's (PhD) appeal "very peaceful and clear".

Admasu, who is currently advising the Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission, anticipated that there would be "no war between countries because of port" since there are many peaceful mechanisms at hand.

"Global powers are deploying their forces across and in the Red Sea coasts. The coming up of any country in the region is not threatened by its nature. However, when we came to military deployment, it threatened security. And, Ethiopia's pursuit is much more peaceful than what we are observing."

Ethiopia is claiming access to sea not only for its demand, but also to hasten the regional integration. "Actually,

the integration of regional countries is improving despite some challenges. If they allow Ethiopia to have share from the Red Sea, the integration will undoubtedly grow," Admasu said.

Only those who work mutually can survive in contemporary global politics that is why the Ethiopian government is still calling for cooperation and partnership. "I never heard of violent speeches from the Ethiopian government," he stated.

Making an agreement on port issues is synonymous with making a business agreement. It requires discussion and dialogues either to accept or to reject the agenda, he emphasized.

Negotiating over interests is very natural and obvious, so that Ethiopia's agenda on port should not be considered as irresolvable since the country has many resources that would be shared with the neighbors, the expert remarked.

Opinion

Ethiopia's legal right to access to sea outlet

BY GETACHEW MINAS

The history of the main Red Sea port Ethiopia used to access informs interested groups that the Italian government entrusted a Lazarist missionary with the task of obtaining a port on the Red Sea. This task was assumed by Giuseppe Sapeto who ventured to the Red Sea to fulfill the assigned duty. His adventure immediately followed the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869. Representing Societa Rubattino, an Italian shipping firm, he purchased the port in the same year. He purchased it from two sultans of the local Danakil for 6,000 Maria Theresa Thalers, which was the currency used by the ruler of the Habsburg dominions from 1740 until her death in 1780, and the only woman to hold the position.

In 1870, the Italian government instructed Sapeto to arrange for agreements with local chiefs. The most notable chief contacted was the Sultan of Raheits, who in 1880 submitted himself to Italian protection. Historians, including Richard Pankhurst, wrote that Italy had been eager to bring its titular possessions at the port under effective control. In the meantime, Sapeto had also attempted to create contact with Muhammad Hanfari, the Sultan of Awsa in the south of the Danakil region, after which Sapeto had remained at Assab until 1881.

On his return to Italy, he later conducted a strong critical attack in writing against critics of the purchase of the port. He steadily left and dropped out of the public altercations and squabbles. As person of academic inclination and scholarly interests as well as political ambition, he had attended several conferences and international meetings. He had produced a number of research outputs and writings that covered Ethiopia. He had conducted a study of Ethiopian government, geography, and history, published in 1890. R. Pankhurst wrote that J. Sapeto was reported to have died in obscurity in Genoa in 1895.

After that, the Italian government had intended to colonize the whole of Ethiopia, which was endowed with huge natural resources, including sea, lakes, rivers, minerals and forests. It conducted several skirmishes along the Red Sea coasts, the Danakil and the hinterlands. All these provocations were precursors of a battle to occupy the country as a colonial possession.

Italy was defeated by the Ethiopians in one of the greatest battles in the history of Africa. This was known as the Battle of Adwa of March 1, 1896, conducted under the leadership of Emperor Menelik II. An agreement after the battle cancelled the Treaty of Wichale and acknowledged the full sovereignty and independence of Ethiopia. This arrested further encroachment of the colonial force into the hinterland of Ethiopia.

Yet, Italy attempted another battle on October 1935, forty years after the Battle of Adwa. This was the Battle of Maichew, the

last major battle fought on the northern front during the second Italo-Ethiopian war. The battle consisted of a failed counterattack by the Ethiopian forces under Emperor Haile Sellassie that made frontal attack against a well-prepared Italian force in a defensive position.

After winning the local battle, Italy advanced into Addis Ababa without any declaration of war. Its army overwhelmed the ill-armed and uncoordinated Ethiopian warriors. It used mustard gas, tanks and heavy artillery. Ethiopians had been hopelessly outmatched by the occupation force that caused immense poverty among the people. It occupied and owned the port of Assab earlier.

The maritime services at the port of Assab would definitely contribute to the reduction of poverty that engulfed the people residing around and near the port. Poverty is one of the conspicuous features of the developing countries, including Ethiopia and Eritrea. Most of the residents live in extreme poverty, trying to survive with limited access to food, shelter and clothing. This problem is becoming rampant in and around the borders between the two countries.

The governments have been striving hard to curb poverty by undertaking various developmental activities for many decades. However, the poverty reduction activity is not easy to handle well by the local governments and thus it became a challenge to the region. It is to be observed that the Horn, that covers Ethiopia and Eritrea, falls in the arid and semi-arid areas where pastoralists maintain extensive livestock production. This serves as the basis of livelihoods and culture in the region.

The Horn is an area of great diversity and natural attractions, in both its people and the land. However, the Horn is among the poorest regions of the world, where poor infrastructure, insecurity, droughts and limited livelihood choices keep many residents in conditions of poverty.

After suffering from destructive battles with a colonial force, Ethiopia was on the path to economic development. Currently, experts strongly believe that Ethiopia, with a population of over 120 million, has a legitimate right to have access to the sea with mutual agreement with the port owner.

Given Ethiopia's rising population and growing economy, it needs ports for engaging in wider global trade. The port services are required to meet the growing demand for imported consumer goods and services. Ethiopia exports agricultural and manufactured products to earn foreign exchange. It, therefore, needs sea port for its international trade. It has been endowed with incredibly rich natural resources that could contribute to its economic growth. Ethiopia is a self-sustaining country with a rich and diverse political, social and economic history. Nevertheless, its recent loss of sea ports has affected its aspirations.

With its current location, Ethiopia is faced with incredible challenges in its external trade and overall economic performance.

Thus, access to the sea is very crucial for the growth, development and prosperity of the country. Several historical records clearly indicate the legitimacy of Ethiopia's claim to the port services.

However, the successive denial of access to port services severely affected the economy of Ethiopia. It also obstructed its facility to engage in global trade freely. In this situation, ignoring and obstructing Ethiopia's rightful access to the sea is a violation of international maritime laws, rules and regulation as well as principles. The UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) recognizes the right to access and utilize the closest seaports by landlocked countries. It provides legal frame to ensure such access to these countries. Ethiopia's demand for its legitimate rights with respect to the port is perfectly consistent with the provisions of UNCLOS.

The landlocked Ethiopia suffers from numerous socioeconomic impacts. Its access to the sea would considerably minimize its cost of transport thereby enhancing the capacity to export and import. These would entice foreign direct investment and contribute to its economic growth and development.

The countries of the Horn of Africa would also benefit from the positive impacts that accrue to Ethiopia. Experts also believe that this effort would stimulate regional economic integration and development in the Horn. However, the obstruction of economic integration leads to devastating political tensions and skirmishes among neighboring countries.

As a champion of African freedom, toughness and determination in the region, Ethiopia contributes to regional peace, security, partnership and cooperation. It, therefore, deserves the right to have access to the sea, which would result in boosting strength, collaboration, and allocation of affluence among neighboring countries. This would help improve the living standards of people residing in the Horn of Africa.

The people of the Horn have the right to claim their legitimate share of natural resources, including access to the sea. In this respect, the friendly posture of Ethiopia with respect to its legitimate access to the sea is resolute and unwavering.

Moreover, history, international records, and economic realities all confirm Ethiopia's justified access to the sea. Confirming its claims for Red Sea corridors would have serious implications over and above meeting local demands. It is also a critical step in maintaining peace and economic integration for the Horn region.

At the global level, the international community has to confirm the legal and just demand of Ethiopia, a landlocked country, to have a just and fair access to the maritime services. In this respect, the global community has the responsibility to keep at bay unnecessary skirmishes at the Horn that is inhabited by poor people that aspire to meet their basic necessities.

At the global level, the international community has to confirm the legal and just demand of Ethiopia, a landlocked country, to have a just and fair access to the maritime services

The policy of meeting the basic needs of the people in both Ethiopia and neighboring countries is of paramount importance. Both of them have to jointly develop their resources for the benefit of the people. The economic advantage of the maritime services will benefit the people in the region, especially Ethiopians and Eritreans. They should, therefore, address the poverty reduction issues through close cooperation.

They should figure out ways and means of facing a wide range of development challenges that undermine macroeconomic stability at the Horn. They have to cooperate on the beneficial common use of the port in line with international maritime laws.

Such cooperation would in the long-run promote the growth potential, minimize the adverse weather conditions and natural disasters. These natural conditions, unless tamed in time, would generate economic crises, output volatility and inflation. These developments would lead to poverty, ill-health, and lack of access to productive employment in both countries. It is, therefore, justified to use all natural resources, including port, for the benefit of the poor people.

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

Editorial

Diaspora's participation: Key for National Dialogue

Frankly speaking, those who have resided in a country other than the one in which they were born need to be highly attached to their place of origin since they have intrinsically cemented identity therein. Ethiopians are not the exception for this, indeed! Given how vast Ethiopia is, how heterogeneous in its entire social, cultural, economic and religious aspects, among others, one has to present a query in what respect Ethiopia's Diasporas differ from or conform to it.

With a view to helping Ethiopia to have what it deserves from its sons and daughters domiciled abroad, especially at this tough time, the Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission has been relentlessly exerting efforts to enhance the involvement of the Diaspora community in the much-anticipated national dialogue, which is strongly believed to address the long heaped problems of Ethiopia. Characterized by a higher level of skill, a broader range of expertise, and other greater manifestations, the diaspora community has to be better connected with their homeland—Ethiopia.

No doubt, Diasporas can play an indispensable role in fostering the social, economic and even political progress of their country of origin. Beyond their well-known role in sending remittances, Diasporas can also promote bilateral, trilateral or multilateral relations their country has set up with their respective hosts, nurture trade and foreign direct investment, create businesses and spur entrepreneurship, as well as transfer new knowledge and skills.

As part of the effort to make the diaspora community well aware of the mission, vision and values of the national dialogue, the commission is conducting discussion forums with members of the Ethiopian Diaspora Association aiming at seeking ways to foster the Diaspora community's active participation in the dialogue.

The commission has thus made bold steps to involve Ethiopian nationals as well as members of the Diaspora communities in the dialogue as their participation adds value to national consensus. Hence, it is endeavoring for Ethiopians living abroad and foreigners of Ethiopian origin to participate in the process. Most importantly, the dialogue must be made inclusive, credible, and participatory thereby winning the confidence of the Diaspora community to throw what they can to the effort geared towards bringing about stable and prosperous Ethiopia.

Interestingly, the commission has been striving for making the Diasporas active participants of the dialogue; yes nothing is more urgent and timely than this burning issue. Active participation of the Diaspora would also be of significantly useful in recording remarkable outcomes on national peace and tranquility.

True, the active involvement of the diaspora community has been of paramount importance in improving access to information, supporting initiatives and increasing their involvement in their country's affairs thereby bolstering support for development-oriented initiatives and encouraging the vitality of their social networks, especially professional ones.

National consensus is a must to create a harmonious society. Hence, as per the parameters of the commission and various other understanding between/among all citizens at all corners of the nation, the general public has to be well informed about the crucial value of national consensus.

In a nutshell, the Ethiopian Diaspora has to do all its part to ensure the peace and serenity of the country since no one can come and act accordingly to push the country forward other than its own children at home and abroad. Besides, the Diaspora should fully engage in the national consensus endeavor as they can play a vital role in supporting the effort of the commission, via of course, sharing the experiences of different countries that successfully passed through similar challenges. True, the Ethiopian Diaspora, which is active, can help boost better communication between the government and the people; support the effort to build a better political culture, improve cohesion and defuse divergences.



The Ethiopian Herald

Established in 1943

Published daily except Mondays

By The Ethiopian Press Agency

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Advertisement and Dist.

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The Ethiopian Herald

Opinion



HRH Duchess of Edinburgh and Ethiopian Airlines CEO Mesfin Tassew, celebrated 50 years of flights between the UK and Ethiopia at the HQs in Addis Ababa, 10 Oct 2023.

A new destination, a new chapter in the UK-Ethiopia relations

BY DARREN WELCH

(UK Ambassador to Ethiopia and Permanent Rep. to the AU)

I was delighted to be on board the new Ethiopian Airlines flight to London Gatwick this week, operated using an Airbus A350. As I celebrate the historic renewal of this route between our two countries, I recognize that the strong partnership we have with Ethiopian Airlines is a symbol of the strength of the UK-Ethiopia relationship.

Through its bustling destinations in Heathrow and Manchester, Ethiopian Airlines has been strengthening the people-to-people links between our two countries. Links that span centuries. Taking off to London Gatwick Airport for the first time in nearly two decades, I am enthusiastic for the future of our relationship with Ethiopia.

UK-Ethiopia relations go beyond our shared history; they are also forward-looking. The recent visit by HRH, the Duchess of Edinburgh, signifies the importance of this relationship. Together with HRH and Ethiopian Airlines CEO Mesfin Tassew, we celebrated 50 years of flights between the UK and Ethiopia at the headquarters in Addis Ababa.

We received a warm welcome from board members, followed by an insightful discussion about the airline's vision to double its capacity by 2035, under the leadership of Mr. Mesfin and his team. HRH then tried out an Airbus simulation flight. Earlier this year, I welcomed Ethiopian Airlines leadership to London, where they toured Airbus and Rolls Royce factories.

A fitting program as Ethiopian Airlines prepares to receive its first Airbus A350-1000 aircraft. It is powered exclusively by the Rolls-Royce Trent XWB, the world's most efficient large aircraft engine. Beyond their proven efficiency, Airbus and

Rolls-Royce are leading the way when it comes to reducing emissions. Both our countries have made ambitious goals to cut emissions; the UK's Jet Zero strategy sets out how we will achieve net zero aviation by 2050.

It gives me great pleasure to see mutual partnerships flourish between both of our world-class aerospace sectors. This is true for other sectors as well; our trade and investment ties are rooted in respect and account for what Ethiopia wants and needs. Modern partnerships, like the one we have with Ethiopian Airlines, are at the core of our priorities as the UK gets ready to host the UK-African Investment Summit. The summit will address key issues around trade integration, market access, exports, jobs for young people, and women's economic empowerment.

The UK-Ethiopia relationship is just as strong in other areas of cooperation. We are planning a significant increase in our international development assistance to Ethiopia next year. This will help alleviate the impact of conflict and drought by addressing urgent humanitarian needs, building resilience to future shocks, and boosting the delivery of essential services across the country. Our work here is in support of government leadership and is aimed at helping Ethiopia become a more healthy, well-educated nation where its people can develop all of their potential and go on to have prosperous, fulfilled lives. However, peace is necessary for these partnerships to bear fruit, and we support all efforts to implement sustainable

Peace in all of Ethiopia. These are areas of support between the UK and Ethiopia that show we have an ever-improving partnership. Landing in Gatwick today, fills me with a great sense of hope for what is to come. Ethiopia is a country with enormous potential, and the UK stands ready to support it.

Editor's Note: The author of this article is Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

Business & Economy

The well-knotted facets of change-Energy and economic growth

BY MENGESHA AMARE

Not only are energy and economic development closely connected with each other, but they are also of instrumental in purely fostering the effort geared towards poverty reduction, which involves productivity, income growth, education, and health.

Economic growth and energy have had positive relationship as the former confidently drives the latter though not the sole means to do so. Yes, the two elements are tightly correlated every time and immensely backed each other.

Cognizant of the fact that the firm association of the two intertwined elements is of paramount importance in bringing about real change, The Ethiopian Herald had recently a stay with Solomon Gobena, who graduated in Agro-economics from Dilla University, and working as an energy consultant.

He said, “Since energy is an input for almost all economic activities, we can conclude that the quality and cost of its provision will greatly impact economic output. Energy-inducing economic growth is demanding services which have required energy as it is a necessary enabler as well as driver of economic growth.”

As energy is a fundamental input to economic activity, and the Ethiopian firms have to identify poor infrastructure, especially of power to boost production and productivity.

As to Solomon, because electricity promotes the productivity of labor, capital, and other factors of production, the country has to attach due emphasis to it.

He said, “Renewable energy has a positive impact on state economic growth, and its development helps reduce average costs to generate electricity but improving environmental quality as zero emission resources, which enhances productivity.”

It is important to examine whether electricity generation from renewable energy resources would be helpful to boost economic activities and determine the efficiency and effectiveness of renewable support schemes, he added.

Energy plays the most vital role in the economic growth, progress, and development, as well as poverty eradication and security of any nation. Future economic growth crucially depends on the long-term availability of energy from sources that are affordable, accessible, and environmentally friendly.

Since Ethiopia is blessed with abundant renewable energy resources such as hydroelectric, solar, wind, biomass, there is a need to harness these resources and chart a new energy future for Ethiopia.

Ethiopia is rich in conventional energy resources including national gas, lignite, and coal. It is also well endowed with renewable energy sources such as hydro-power, solar, wind etc.

As to him, hydro-power is attractive because of the large scale of potential development,



Aluto Langano geothermal power plant – photo google

environmentally friendly nature and the low average costs of electricity generated than any other energy generation technology. Yes, the Ethiopian highlands are the origin of many North African rivers, and rivers Abbay (Blue Nile) River, Atbara River, Sobat River, Shebele River, and Juba River, radiate in all directions.

“Besides, there are few promising windy areas in Ethiopia located alongside the main east African rift valley, the north eastern escarpment of the country near Tigray regional state and the eastern part of the country. Ayisha in the eastern part of the country has good potential, and currently, Ashegoda, Adama and Adama wind farms have been completed and connected to the grid,” he cited.

In the context of the Ethiopian power system, wind power will play a vital complementary role with hydroelectric power due to the natural cycle of high wind energy availability in the dry season during hydro-power reservoirs are low in water.

Ethiopia is one of the countries in east of Africa which has abundant solar energy resources, too. The solar resource is relatively lower in the most populous northern, central and western highlands of the country.

With regard to geothermal energy, Ethiopia has estimated exploitable geothermal potential, but this potential is largely untapped at present installed at Aluto Langano and at Tendaho Dubti. The Aluto Langano geothermal power has been done. The Ethiopian government is currently working on the enhancement of the Aluto Langano geothermal field. Additionally, Corbetti, Abaya, Dofan Fantale and Tulu Moye areas are surface explored for future geothermal prospects.

The predominant energy resources for domestic and commercial uses in Ethiopia are fuel wood, charcoal, kerosene, cooking gas and electricity. The rural areas have little access to conventional energy such as electricity and petroleum products due to the absence of good road networks. “Lack of coordination in planning, inadequate generation due to operational/technical problems arising from machine breakdown, low gas pressure, and low water levels,

poor funding of the organization, among others need to be well addressed to make the country capable of promoting economic growth using energy of all sorts.”

Besides, scarcity of relevant manpower for adequate maintenance, lack of essential spare parts for maintenance of the plants, absence of local manufacturing capabilities and inability to convert gas flares to a source of electricity are also attributable to the problem.

“People in rural areas depend on burning wood and traditional biomass for their energy needs, causing great deforestation, emitting greenhouse gases, and polluting the environment, thus creating global warming and environmental concerns.” Solomon said renewable energy has an important role to play in meeting the future energy needs in both rural and urban areas. The development and utilization of renewable energy should be given a high priority, especially in the light of increased awareness of the adverse environmental impacts of fossil-based generation. A widespread use of renewable energy is important for achieving sustainability in the energy sectors in both developing nations like ours and in industrialized ones.

Renewable energy resources and technologies are a key component of sustainable development and economic advancement. Sustainable energy involves the provision of energy services in a sustainable manner, which in turn necessitates that energy services be provided for all people in ways that, now and in the future, are sufficient to provide the basic necessities, affordable, not detrimental to the environment, and acceptable to communities and people thereby fostering economic growth.

Solomon further elucidated that the energy sector plays a pivotal role in attempting to achieve sustainable development, balancing economic and social developments with environmental protection. Energy is central to the economy because it drives all economic activities. At the local level, energy facilitates economic development by improving energy to produce goods and services and household consumption productivity and enabling local income

generation through improved agricultural development such as irrigation, crop processing, storage, and transport to market and through non-farm employment, including micro-enterprise development.

True, he said energy is directly linked to the broader concept of sustainability and affects most of civilization. That is particularly evident since energy resources drive much if not most of the economic activity, in virtually all economic sectors.

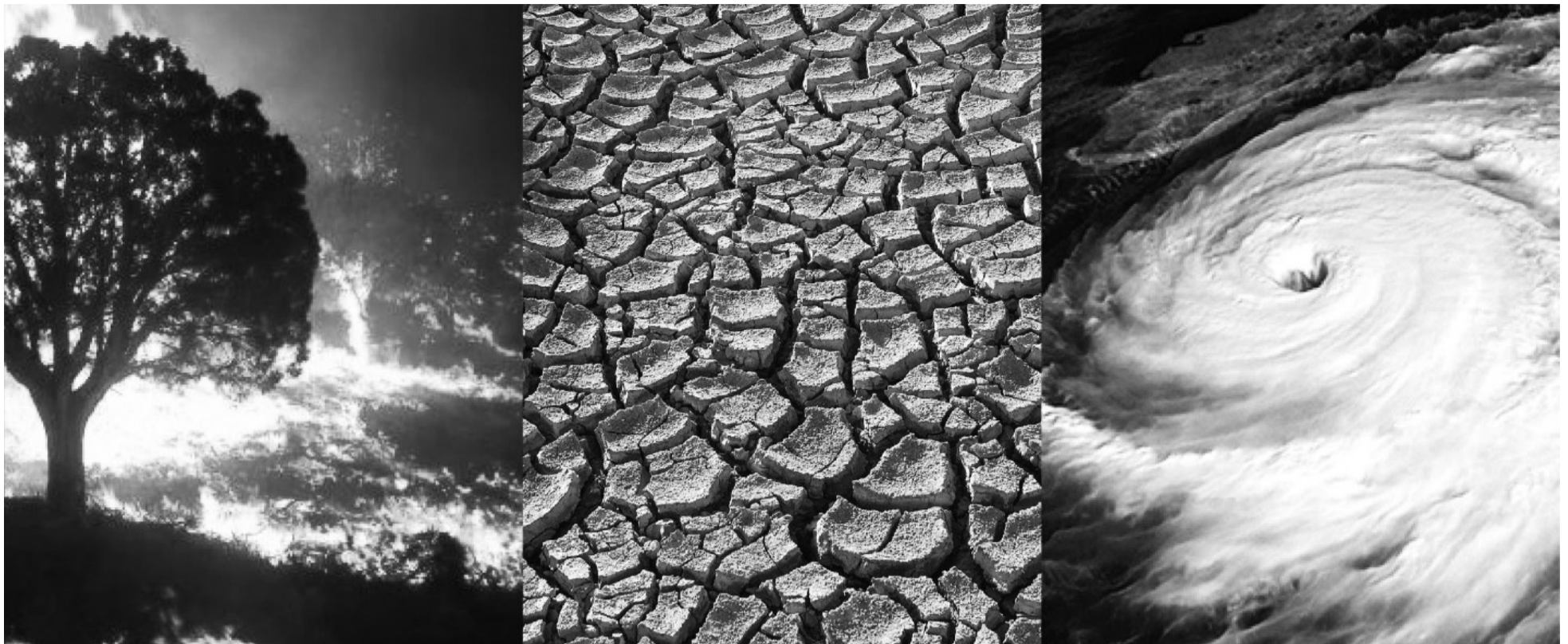
Use of renewable natural resources, combined with efficient supply and use of fossil fuels with cleaner technologies, can help reduce the environmental effects of energy use and help the country replace the existing, inefficient fossil fuel technologies that pollute the environment. As a complementary measure, careful management of energy resources is important to promote economic growth, protect ecosystems and provide sustainable natural resources across the nation.

He further stated that energy efficiency means an improvement in practices and products that reduce the energy necessary to provide services targeting at bringing about economic advancement prevailing over poverty and scarcity. As energy efficiency products essentially help do more work with less energy, Ethiopia has to effectively utilize its energy sources to bring about real change.

Solomon exhorted his case urging the government to capitalize on all sorts of energy sources as it optimizes the use of capital resources by directing lesser amounts of money in conservation investment as compared with capital-intensive energy supply options.

He said, “Energy, peculiarly the renewable one, protects the environment in the short run by reducing pollution and in the long run by reducing the scope of global climate change. The clean energy technologies have a carbon footprint that is much lower than the baseline emission scenario. The technology is accessible, and the required investment is available for adoption in Ethiopia and other developing countries. The implementation of the clean energy technology will contribute to sustainable economic growth and other related facets.”

In the Sphere of Diplomacy



Climate hazards aren't restricted by borders – African countries have taken a big step to address this

Climate risks can be complex to deal with because they don't respect country borders. Hazards in one region can have negative repercussions in another. These are known as transboundary climate risks, and they're a growing concern. They require coordinated, multinational responses, which can be a challenge given the different priorities and capabilities of each country.

A transboundary climate risk could be due to a shared ecosystem, such as a river basin. For instance the Nile River, which flows through 11 countries, can experience variations in water availability due to changes in the weather. This will affect the millions who depend on it.

Transboundary climate risks can also cross continents and oceans and spawn crises on the other side of the world. These could range from food and water shortages to threats to trade and energy, widening inequalities, forced migrations and even geopolitical conflicts.

For instance a drought in East Africa could affect tea production in Kenya. This would lead to an increase in prices for tea drinkers in importing countries, like the UK. Likewise, a typhoon could affect manufacturers in south-east Asia. This could disrupt the supply of electronics to African markets and lead to price hikes or shortages.

Africa is particularly vulnerable. Trade routes, supply chains and shared ecosystems span across the continent. A climate-induced disruption in one country can easily ripple into cascading effects in its neighbours. The coordinated management of transboundary climate risks is both a challenge and a necessity.

At the recent Africa climate summit in Kenya, the African Union and other African stakeholders presented the Roadmap for African Resilience to address this.

The roadmap contains a series of actions meant to enhance coordination between

The inaugural Africa Climate Summit marked a significant step for Africa's collective commitment to resilience. The roadmap acknowledges the reality of Africa's intertwined destinies and the need for collaborative solutions to cross-border climate risks

the regional economic communities and member states in addressing and managing transboundary and cascading climate risks. This is an objective of the African Union's Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan 2022–2032.

Historically, adaptation efforts have largely addressed localised impacts, such as rising sea levels and coastal communities or frequent droughts and their impact on agricultural yields.

As an expert on adaptation to climate change, I believe that the significance of this roadmap lies in its comprehensive, continent-wide approach. It recognises that shared challenges require shared solutions. And it underscores Africa's commitment to taking charge of its climate destiny. This makes the roadmap valuable in the evolving discourse on global climate resilience.

Unified front

The Roadmap for African Resilience outlines 25 crucial actions to fortify Africa's resilience against transboundary climate risks. It has a focus on the risks posed to global supply chains, energy and food markets.

The roadmap's actions can be grouped into four general plans:

- Recognise the risks: this includes a pan-African transboundary climate risk assessment and the development of risk indicators.
- Govern together: identify the transboundary risks that each country considers most important. These will be included in different areas of policy.
- Implement Africa-wide adaptation: create a plan to find the best ways to strengthen communities against transboundary climate risks. Just resilience principles are embedded into this, such as prioritising the needs of the most vulnerable people and

upholding human rights and cultural values. The roadmap also kickstarts a programme to put these ideas into action.

- Mobilise resources for resilience: getting more money from multiple countries to support climate action, making sure private investments match public goals by emphasising systemic resilience, and building capacity to invest together.

The Roadmap for African Resilience thus offers a holistic, pan-African vision. It not only identifies transboundary climate risks but also proposes a structured approach for collective action.

Implementing the roadmap requires the active involvement of a range of African organisations. These include the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union Commission, the African Union Development Agency – New Partnership for Africa's Development, the African Group of Negotiators Expert Support and the Regional Economic Communities in Africa. In addition, national governments, the private sector, civil society and academia play crucial roles.

The challenge will lie in ensuring cohesive action among these entities, especially when adaptation to climate risks is a relatively new endeavor for some of the above organizations.

Significant step

The inaugural Africa Climate Summit marked a significant step for Africa's collective commitment to resilience. The roadmap acknowledges the reality of Africa's intertwined destinies and the need for collaborative solutions to cross-border climate risks.

Given the borderless nature of climate risks, global cooperation must be at the heart of adaptation initiatives.

SOURCE (THE CONVERSATION)

Law & Politics

Unlocking Horn countries' potential through regional diplomacy

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

The Horn of Africa is a region that holds great importance in terms of its geopolitical and strategic position. However, the lack of peace and constant instability is having a detrimental effect on the region's development. The absence of peace in the Horn of Africa hinders progress and prevents the region from reaching its full potential. It creates an environment of uncertainty and fear, which discourages investments and economic growth.

When there is no peace, it creates a lot of problems. People feel scared and worried about what might happen next. They don't feel safe going about their daily lives or doing business. Businesses need peace to grow and be successful. But when there is so much instability, it becomes really hard for them to thrive and make progress. This means that the economy in the region suffers. There are not enough opportunities for people to find jobs and support themselves and their families.

Because of the lack of peace, people are hesitant to invest their money or start new businesses in the region. They don't want to take risks in an unstable environment. This leads to a lack of economic growth and development in the Horn of Africa. It's difficult for the region to attract outside investments and support because of the ongoing conflicts and insecurity. Not having enough peace also means that it's challenging for governments in the region to provide essential services and support to their citizens.

The resources that could be used to improve healthcare, education, and infrastructure are often diverted towards military efforts and security measures. This further hampers the region's ability to progress and improve the quality of life for its people. Moreover, the constant state of instability and violence causes displacement and refugee crises.

Many people are forced to leave their homes and seek safety elsewhere both within the region and beyond. Without a stable environment and opportunities for economic growth, it becomes difficult for individuals and families to escape poverty. Basic needs such as food, shelter, and healthcare become even harder to access in such circumstances.

Additionally, the absence of peace hinders cooperation and collaboration between countries in the region. Instead of working together for mutual benefits, there is often tension and conflict. This prevents the region from harnessing its full potential and taking advantage of its strategic position. The lack of peace in the Horn of Africa has far-reaching consequences affecting not only the region itself but also neighboring countries and the international community.

The Horn of Africa's strategic importance is overshadowed by the lack of peace and constant instability plaguing the region. Addressing this issue is crucial for its economic development, the well-being of its people, and ensuring regional and global stability. The Horn of Africa is a special



place because of its location and how important it is.

When there is no peace, it makes people feel unsure and scared about what might happen next. This makes it very hard for businesses to get bigger and for the economy to improve. People do not want to put their money into an unstable place, so they do not start new businesses or invest their money. This means there are not enough chances for people to find jobs and make enough money to have a good life.

People are reluctant to start businesses or invest their money in an unstable region. This lack of development opportunities leads to high rates of unemployment and poverty affecting the lives of millions of people. The constant state of instability in the region disrupts essential services such as healthcare and education. Hospitals and schools struggle to function properly when there is violence and conflict around them.

This negatively impacts the well-being of the people, especially the most vulnerable, including women and children. The lack of peace increases the refugee crisis in the Horn of Africa. People flee their homes and seek safety in neighboring countries or even further away. This puts a strain on resources and creates tensions between host communities and refugees. It is a humanitarian crisis that requires immediate attention and resolution.

Moreover, the absence of peace in the region perpetuates cycles of violence and revenge. Conflicts between different ethnic or political groups continue unabated causing widespread suffering and loss of life. The lack of peace also breeds extremism and terrorism as desperate individuals turn to violent means to express their grievances. In order to achieve lasting peace and stability, governments and stakeholders must prioritize regional cooperation. This means putting aside differences and working together towards common goals.

By engaging in open and honest dialogue, they can find solutions to conflicts, promote reconciliation, and build trust among different communities. It is important for governments to work together to address cross-border issues. This includes tackling transnational crimes such as human

trafficking, drug smuggling, and illegal arms trade. Cooperation in these areas can help create a safer environment for the people of the Horn of Africa. In addition to peace building efforts, governments and stakeholders must focus on sustainable development in the region.

Regional cooperation should involve fostering cultural exchange and understanding among different communities in the Horn of Africa. By celebrating diversity and promoting tolerance, governments can help build bridges and strengthen social cohesion. Sustaining regional cooperation requires long-term commitment and dedication. It is not a quick fix solution, but rather a continuous effort that must be upheld by future generations.

Governments and all the people involved in the Horn of Africa should work together more closely to make sure there is peace and progress in the region for a long time. To achieve this, they need to focus on regional cooperation. This means talking to each other and finding common ground to solve problems and make decisions together. By strengthening regional cooperation, governments can build strong relationships with each other. They can have open and honest conversations, listen to each other's ideas, and find ways to work together towards common goals.

By sharing resources, knowledge, and expertise, governments can work together to improve infrastructure, provide better education and healthcare, and create economic opportunities for all. Each country in the Horn of Africa has its own unique challenges and successes. By sharing these stories, governments can learn from each other and find innovative solutions to common problems.

Regional cooperation strengthens the voice of the Horn of Africa on the global stage. When countries in the region speak with one voice, they can have a greater impact in international discussions and negotiations. This can help them advocate for their interests and secure favorable outcomes for their citizens. In order to strengthen regional cooperation, governments should invest in building trust and understanding among themselves.

Governments and all concerned stakeholders in the Horn of Africa should strengthen regional cooperation diplomacy in order to ensure lasting peace and sustainable development, Foreign Affairs Institute Senior African Affairs Researcher Gizachew Asrat said, according to information obtained from Ethiopian News Agency.

The senior researcher noted that conflicts and political instability continue to be challenges for the countries of the region.

Despite the high geopolitical and strategic importance of the region, the lack of peace and instability is having a negative impact on the development of the region.

According to him, the Horn of Africa, which comprises Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, Sudan, South Sudan and Somalia, is an important region for the promotion of regional economic and political sphere.

It is, therefore, important to realize the importance of the geopolitical and economic significance of the region and strive to transform the region based on strong political commitment.

Gizachew added that the Horn has been marred with conflicts and internal political instability that have become major bottlenecks for the peaceful development of the region.

Inability to build strong democratic institutions, economic hurdles, and competition over scarce resource, internal squabbling and insecurity that have continued unabated have become causes for plunging the countries in the region into political crisis, he said.

The countries in the region do not seem to exploit their resources through effective cooperation, and this has to be reversed in order to resolve the outstanding challenges in a more sustainable manner.

Therefore, promoting peace and stability in the region for regional integration and peaceful development is crucial, Gizachew said.

The senior researcher believes that regional integration will not be realized without the political commitment of the countries.

The countries should, therefore, have the commitment and interest for the integration to become a reality.

Cooperation and economic integration of countries is key to solving political, economic and social problems in the region.

Gizachew underscored the importance of political commitment of the leadership in the region and the support to be provided from the AU and IGAD to ensure a viable regional union.

Countries in the region should act in unison to resolve threats to the security in the region, terrorism, human trafficking, illegal financial transactions and contraband, he further noted.

It is high time also that the countries in the region committed themselves to putting in place strategies for border administration between the countries.

Society

Diaspora's role in fostering peaceful dialogue

BY STAFF REPORTER

The Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission (ENDC) plays a crucial role in promoting and facilitating peaceful dialogue in Ethiopia. Its primary purpose is to bring together various stakeholders and establish channels of communication to address grievances, conflicts, and issues of national importance. The ENDC serves as a platform for dialogue between different groups, including political parties, civil society organizations, religious institutions, ethnic communities, and Diasporas. It aims to create an atmosphere of trust, understanding, and inclusivity, where all perspectives can be heard and considered.

Conflict resolution is a key aspect of the ENDC's mission. The commission mediates between conflicting parties and helps them find common ground for peaceful resolutions. It provides a neutral space for negotiation and dialogue, encouraging all parties to actively participate and find sustainable solutions.

Reconciliation is another major role of the Commission. The ENDC fosters reconciliation among different ethnic groups and communities, seeking to heal the wounds of past conflicts, promote social cohesion, and encourage forgiveness and understanding.

The work of the ENDC extends beyond immediate conflict resolution. It focuses on long-term peace building efforts by addressing structural and systemic issues, promoting equitable development, and creating an enabling environment for sustainable peace in Ethiopia.

The Commission upholds democratic processes as one of its core values. It supports peaceful political competition, promotes respect for human rights, and ensures inclusive participation of diverse communities in decision-making processes. Additionally, the ENDC provides policy recommendations based on the outcomes of dialogue and consultations. These recommendations play a crucial role in shaping government policies, laws, and initiatives that address the root causes of conflicts and promote long-term peace and stability in the country.

Building trust is one of the foundations on which the Commission focuses, aiming to enhance the cordial relationship between the government and different segments of society. By creating spaces for dialogue and inclusive participation, the Commission helps bridge the gap between citizens and institutions, fostering a sense of ownership and shared responsibility for building a peaceful nation.

Recently, the Ethiopian National Consultation Commission convened a meeting with members of the Diaspora Association at the Millennium Hall in Addis Ababa. The forum included various programs in which diaspora members from different cities across the country participated. The purpose of the discussion was to raise awareness about the active involvement and support of the diaspora community residing in the country in the national consultation process.

During the discussion, the Commission



Chief Commissioner Professor Mesfin Araya

The Ethiopian Diaspora plays a vital role in sustaining peace in Ethiopia through various means, including advocacy, financial support, bridge-building, cultural exchange, economic development, knowledge and skills transfer, and remittances

members provided an overview of the fundamental concept of national consultation, the Commission's activities, and the legal framework under which it operates to the diaspora communities.

Chief Commissioner Professor Mesfin Araya, speaking at the event, emphasized the importance of the active involvement of Ethiopian nationals and diaspora communities in the dialogue. He highlighted that in order to make the dialogue credible, the Commission has held successive discussions with the diaspora community. The role and participation of the Ethiopian diaspora are crucial for national dialogue and consensus. The Commission is actively working to ensure the participation of Ethiopians living abroad and individuals of Ethiopian origin who reside in other countries.

Ethiopian Diaspora Association Chairperson, Kidist Lulseged, expressed at the event that the active participation of diaspora communities living all over the world plays a key role. In this regard, diaspora communities should contribute their part to the success of the dialogue. Captain Solomon Gezau, a board member of the Addis Ababa Diaspora Association, echoed Kidist's view and affirmed the diaspora's determination to enhance their participation in the national consultation process to contribute to its success.

During the event, the diaspora participants highlighted the significance of the national consultation as a crucial step towards consensus-building and strengthening national unity. They affirmed their commitment to actively engage in the national consultation process and provide valuable ideas to ensure its success. Furthermore, participants acknowledged the value of the national consultation in encouraging peaceful resolution of conflicts and setting aside differences for the collective benefit. They emphasized that peace is essential for living and working in the country, and they pledged to work diligently to make the national consultation a platform for lasting

peace.

The Ethiopian Diaspora plays a vital role in sustaining peace in Ethiopia through various means, including advocacy, financial support, bridge-building, cultural exchange, economic development, knowledge and skills transfer, and remittances. Their contributions have a profound impact on peace-building efforts and the overall development and stability of the country.

The role of the Ethiopian diaspora community is indeed vital in the national dialogue process. As an integral part of Ethiopian economic, political, and social affairs, diaspora communities have been playing a significant role and continue to do so through various means. The organization of cultural events, festivals, and educational programs that promote Ethiopian culture, heritage, and values by diaspora communities is a testament to their active engagement. These activities help build cultural bridges, foster understanding, and portray a positive image of Ethiopia to the wider world, contributing to peace and harmony. Additionally, diaspora communities are seen playing a significant role in Ethiopia's economic development by investing in businesses, supporting local entrepreneurs, and creating employment opportunities.

Economic stability and development are essential components of sustaining peace, and the diaspora's contributions in this area are significant. The Ethiopian diaspora serves as a source of financial support for initiatives and organizations working towards peace-building efforts in Ethiopia. They contribute through remittances, donations, and fundraising activities, which aid in funding projects focused on conflict resolution, dialogue, and community development.

Moreover, Ethiopian diaspora communities act as bridges between their host countries and Ethiopia, helping bridge gaps in understanding and fostering dialogue between different groups. They facilitate connections between diaspora organizations, local communities, and institutions in Ethiopia to promote collaboration and exchange knowledge and skills.

Knowledge transfer is another area where the diaspora community contributes to their country. Many Ethiopians in the diaspora have acquired valuable knowledge, skills, and expertise in various fields such as education, healthcare, technology, and governance. They contribute to sustaining peace by transferring their knowledge and skills back to Ethiopia through mentoring, training programs, capacity-building initiatives, and collaborations with local institutions. This exchange of knowledge and expertise contributes to the overall development and progress of the country.

Ethiopian diaspora communities across the globe actively engage in advocacy efforts to promote peace and economic development in Ethiopia. They raise awareness about the issues affecting the country and utilize their influence to advocate for peaceful resolutions to conflicts. The active participation of the diaspora community in the national dialogue will enhance the credibility of the discussions and ensure inclusivity.

Results of climate...

reinforce or mitigate historic structural inequalities between the global North and South.

“But given the dismal failure of the Clean Development Mechanism and the greenwashing of the voluntary carbon market, I am in the camp that believes it will reinforce these deep inequalities. The carbon market allows big polluters to keep doing so with no overall reduction in their emissions. Local projects in the global South that reduce carbon are exploited with no real benefit accruing to the communities.”

Moosa, who also lectures in Chemical Engineering at the University of Cape Town, says carbon trading must be seen for what it is, “a lot of hot air to legitimise the continued production of greenhouse emissions. We keep hearing the rhetoric that depending on how the market is structured, it will be of benefit, which is a Northern narrative, and there is no way to structure exploitation that will make it equitable because it is exactly what carbon trading is: exploitation.”

Kaboub affirms, citing a recent investigation that found that the majority of carbon offset projects essentially amount to greenwashing fraud – making false or misleading statements about the environmental benefits of a product or practice – that does nothing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Stressing that this is one of the most disturbing climate finance false solutions and dangerous distractions.



Moosa and Kaboub emphasise that the cause of disagreement is that carbon markets are attractive to high polluters as they enable wealthy industrialised nations and corporations to maintain carbon-intensive and climate-warming practices while transferring their emission reduction duties to Africa. Stressing that it is time to explore other climate financing mechanisms and bring into full effect the Polluter Pays Principle – one of the key principles underlying the European Union’s environmental policy.

The principle demands that polluters bear the costs of their pollution, including the

cost of measures taken to prevent, control and remedy pollution and the costs it imposes on society. As such, polluters are incentivized to avoid environmental damage and are held responsible for the pollution that they cause. It is also the polluter, and not the taxpayer, who covers the cost of remediation.

Moosa is particularly focused on Loss and Damage, “while the Loss and Damage funding arrangements are being designed, we do not need to be distracted by a concept that only works for the big polluters. The developing countries’ energies should be directed to Loss and Damage and

Adaptation finance because there cannot be climate justice until climate injustice is addressed. The global North has a long way to go to address these injustices, and carbon markets are not a way to do it.”

Kaboub agrees, calling for a need to steer clear of the carbon market as African countries that have not contributed to climate change and who are, in fact, the victims of climate-induced shocks are now being forced to give up territorial sovereignty over large swaths of land to foreign corporations to issue pollution permits – adding that this is a new form of colonialism.

Planet Earth

Results of climate crisis in Global South

BY STAFF REPORTER

Somalia, Syria, DRC Congo, Afghanistan, Yemen, Chad, South Sudan, Central African Republic, Nigeria, and Ethiopia are the 10 countries at greatest risk of climate disaster globally despite collectively contributing just 0.28 percent of global CO₂ emissions. A climate-induced humanitarian crisis continues to unfold across these countries and many others in the global South, including Kenya, which declared drought a national disaster in September 2021.

Flash floods, failed rainy seasons, severe food insecurity, and climate-induced health disasters such as cholera are becoming frequent, and their debilitating effects are increasingly difficult to mitigate. In late 2022, for instance, floods caused extensive damage to farmlands in Nigeria, and projections show 25 million Nigerians could face high levels of food insecurity by the end of 2023.

Against this backdrop, there is growing concern that the carbon market has failed Africa and other developing countries in the global South. Governments and companies created carbon market systems to address their greenhouse emissions – a trading system in which carbon credits are sold and bought. One tradable carbon credit is equivalent to one tonne of carbon dioxide,



or the amount of different greenhouse gases reduced, sequestered, or avoided.

Fadhel Kaboub, a Tunisian economist based in Nairobi, a senior advisor with Power Shift Africa and the President of the Global Institute for Sustainable Prosperity, said, “Carbon credits are pollution permits that allow global North polluters to continue polluting while offering financial crumbs to the global South. They displace vulnerable communities from their ancestral territory and pastoral land. They enrich middlemen and speculators.”

Kaboub, who is also an Associate Professor of Economics at Denison University, says,

“Through the dominant market power of the corporations that buy these pollution permits, they pass the cost of the carbon credits on to their customers, many of whom are actually in the Global South, so we end up paying for it indirectly.”

There are experts, however, such as those powering the Africa Carbon Markets Initiative (ACMI), who are proactively promoting the carbon market systems as a powerful tool to deliver carbon justice. And for developing countries to accelerate socio-economic development by leveraging on selling carbon while transitioning to a low-carbon economy.

ACMI seeks to capture more of Africa’s potential in carbon markets by addressing the challenges to voluntary carbon market growth and building the foundations for a thriving voluntary carbon market ecosystem in Africa by 2030. Its priority areas are “not only on driving decarbonization activities but also on driving economic development by supporting energy access, scaling the clean energy transition, protecting forests, improving agriculture, and creating new income sources.”

However, a recent report found that “ACMI’s growth target would allow big private companies to emit an additional 1.5-2.5 Gigatonnes CO₂e per year by 2050, more than the total emissions from fossil fuels from all of Africa in 2021 and double the entire annual CO₂ emissions from all of sub-Saharan Africa.”

This week, JSE Ventures launched South Africa’s first carbon market at the Johannesburg Stock Exchange.

But carbon trading is not universally seen as a panacea to addressing global warming.

South African-based Dr Shehnaaz Moosa, the director and head of finance hub at SouthSouthNorth, which is a climate change non-profit organization, said that carbon markets have the potential to either

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