



# The Ethiopian Herald

Vol LXXX No 073 5 December 2023 - Hidar 25, 2016

Tuesday

Price Birr 10.00

## Ethiopia's Green Legacy exemplary to East Africa: IGAD

BY STAFF REPORTER

**ADDIS ABABA** - Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) said Ethiopia's effort to combat climate change through the Green Legacy Initiative is exemplary to the East Africa region.

While visiting the Ethiopian Green Legacy Pavilion at COP 28 being held in Dubai-UAE, IGAD Executive Secretary Workneh Gebeyehu (PhD) commended Ethiopia's endeavor to mitigate climate change under the Green Legacy Initiative mentioning that it is exemplary to the region.

Speaking to FBC, Workneh said that the Pavilion at COP28 demonstrated the country's focus on renewable energy and the public mobilization it has created in the Green Legacy Initiative.

He appreciated the country's leadership role in mobilizing human and material resources to achieve the initiative that enabled the nation to plant 32.5 billion seedlings of the planned 50 billion slated for 2026.

He also lauded the country for striving to achieve its greenery programs using internal resources and capacity. "The main reason that Ethiopia's Green Legacy



See Ethiopia's Green Legacy... page 3

ethio telecom thrc telecbr New

Social Media Packages  
More Data! More Fun!

Telegram + Whatsapp Facebook + Youtube + TikTok

**AGI** CONSTRUCTING THE FUTURE AFRICA  
Abyssinia Group of Industries

Manufacturer of Rebars, Angles, Channels, Flat Bars & Round Bars.  
Introducing cut & bend service for rebars.

**Contact & Address**  
Tel: +251 116 63 97 55/ 251 116 63 51 22/25  
Mob.: +251 962 009 072/ +251 949 440 868  
+251 911 45 9790  
E-mail: sales@agiethiopia.com  
4th Floor, Dabi Building, Bole road Addis Ababa Ethiopia

**Ministry underscores volunteerism for socioeconomic dev't**  
• Commemorates 2023  
*International Volunteer Day*  
BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

**ADDIS ABABA** - Ministry of Women and Social Affairs (MoWSA) said that volunteerism is central to fuel socioeconomic development and strengthen the people-to-people ties.

See Ministry underscores ... page 3



Mengistu Nigussie

## ECAA efficiently manages Djibouti air traffic

• Commences counter-drone system

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

**ADDIS ABABA**— The Ethiopian Civil Aviation Authority (ECAA) said that it has been providing a reliable and secure Air Navigation Service for airplanes that fly above 25, 000 feet in Djibouti air space.

See ECAA efficiently... page 3

## Dembel Lake 2nd phase dev't well underway

• Investors contribute 3.6 bln Birr

BY MESERET BEHAILU

**ADDIS ABABA** – Strong public-private-partnership (PPP) was formed to carry out the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of Dembel Lake shore development, Batu Town Administration of Oromia State said, adding that six local investors contributed the required 3.6 billion Birr.

Town Mayor Ahmdin Ismail told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that six investors with the outlay of 3.6 billion Birr are running the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of Dembel Lake coast development. In this phase, the town administration develops the lakeshore, investors are set to construct various facilities in the area, and the project is expected to be finalized at the end of this fiscal year.

The town administration has been providing the necessary support to the investor's engagement in the construction of hotels, recreation areas, lodges and the likes that are expected to create a significant number of jobs.

The mayor further stated that the town administration spent 120 million Birr for the



Dembel Lake, Batu town

first phase construction of the Dembel Lake development. In the project the construction of fish sheds, roads and the garnishing work along the lake are among the activities that created jobs.

"Lake shore development has been contributing a lot to the town via increasing tourist inflow, maximizing revenue, and creating a conducive environment for tourists. The town administration strives

for ensuring adequate benefit from the tourism sector by increasing destinations. In this regard, the town works to create an enabling environment for visitors. Dembel Lake is being developed based on research on how to develop it without losing its natural value."

He indicated following the reform, the town administration has provided licenses to 36 businesses and has created over 5,000 jobs.

# News

## Japan grants over 12 mln USD aid package

BY FIKADU BELAY

**ADDIS ABABA**—Japan in collaboration with international organizations is providing conflict, flood and drought affected areas with a new humanitarian assistance package worth over 12 million USD, Japan Embassy announced.

According to the information obtained from Embassy of Japan to Ethiopia, the aid will be operational this fiscal year targeting at addressing urgent humanitarian needs, particularly in the conflict-affected areas in Ethiopia.

The aid was made in response to the commitment made at the G7 summit in May to support and protect vulnerable populations in Ethiopia, it was learnt.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will receive USD 1.9 million to contribute to sustainable peace through local governance, economic revival, and durable solutions for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Tigray, Amhara, and Afar states. The World Health Organization (WHO) will also receive USD 1.8 million to strengthen outbreak prevention, improve healthcare access, and support the rehabilitation of health facilities, as to the statement.

To assess and reduce explosive ordnance contamination in conflict-affected areas of northern Ethiopia, the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization's International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa (UNESCO-IICBA), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) will receive USD 3.32 million in aggregate. They will also provide the education sector with the aid to mitigate sorts of the risk, Embassy indicated.

The Embassy further revealed that this assistance package aims to enhance food and nutrition security, diversify incomes, restore crop production, provide mental health and psychosocial support to students, and strengthen climate-resilient water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services in vulnerable areas.

In order to provide protection and emergency assistance to those affected by ongoing conflicts and natural disasters such as flood and drought in the Oromia and Amhara states, Japan will allocate a total of USD 5 million to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the Central Emergency Response Fund (CBPF), and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

This funding will support aid efforts such as emergency shelters, non-food items, and healthcare services, it is cited.

The embassy also remarked that Japan's humanitarian assistance package targets at alleviating the suffering of vulnerable populations in Ethiopia, promoting recovery and reconstruction thereby contributing a lot to long-lasting peace and stability in the country. The government of Japan remains committed to fulfilling its obligations and supporting Ethiopia during these challenging times.

## Ministry says health facilities expansion projects well underway

BY MESERET BEHAILU

**ADDIS ABABA**—The Ministry of Health (MoH) stated that health facilities expansion projects are well underway and would be a significant contribution to the improvement of medical service.

Visiting health facilities expansion projects along with members of the House of People Representatives yesterday, Health Minister Lia Tadesse (MD) said that the projects being built by hospitals in Addis Ababa under the close supervision of MoH are well underway.

ALERT Comprehensive Specialized Hospital is among the health institution and that was praised by Lia and the HPR due to its efforts in improving the health service. The hospital has provided health professionals with a surgical qualification test (The College of Surgeons of East and Central and Southern Africa /COSECSA) who were drawn from some 14 African countries.

ALERT Comprehensive Specialized Hospital General Manager, Shimeles Gezahagne (PhD) said that the hospital has been taking various measures to improve the health service and address people challenge in the health arena.

As to him, Doctors who pass the surgical qualification test will have the opportunity to work in 14 African countries up on re-



ceiving a license from the hospital.

He further stated that the surgical certification exam is being given to more than 150 medical professionals from 14 African countries, and surgeons come from East, South Africa, and Central Africa. Of this total number, 80 % of examinees are Ethiopians. Some 300 professors and drawn from various countries such as Saudi Arabia, Asia, Canada, United Kingdom, and Australia came to Ethiopia as examiners.

“Ethiopia hosted the 23 round surgical certification exam at present and it is the second times to give the test for health professions in the nation’s history. It is significantly helpful to inspire health sector thereby producing proficient health experts at the international level. Similarly, it will play a pivotal role in building the image of the country and realize medical tourism, which is needed by the country to fulfill in the years to come,” Shimeles underlined.

## Dashen gives impetus to Ethiopia’s digital economy aspiration

• *Unveils co-branded gift card, wristband with Kuriftu Resorts*

BY STAFF REPORTER

**ADDIS ABABA**-Dashen Bank said it has been taking the lead in introducing convenient and modern payment methods that would not only ensure customers’ satisfaction but also help Ethiopia’s vision of advancing the digital economy.

The above remark came at a co-branded gift card and wristband products unveiling ceremony of Dashen Bank and Kuriftu Resorts held in Bishoftu town over the weekend.

Apart from providing a fast and fashionable payment method for users, the newly launched products would greatly contribute to the national goal of expanding the digital economy, Dashen Bank’s Chief Digital Banking Officer Yohannes Million said on the occasion.

According to him, such digital payment methods are also instrumental to keep the currency in banks and increase its lifespan thereby reducing the amount of foreign currency Ethiopia has incurred to print Birr.

The prepaid stored value cards issued by Dashen Bank and Kuriftu Resorts can be used to purchase goods and services exclusively from Boston Partner and Spa, utilizing the preloaded gift cards and wristbands instead



of physical cash.

The manager further emphasized that the products allow users to enjoy cashback and discounts provided by the bank and resort. “Customers can acquire the co-branded wristbands and gift cards in Bishoftu and Entoto, Boston Day Spa, and selected Dashen Bank branches (Bishoftu/Kuriftu Sub-branch, Africa Godana, Bole Noc, Dilber, Ghion and Amudi branches).”

It was learned that the wristbands and gift cards are reloadable at any Dashen Bank branch and agents, and customers are not required to open a Dashen Bank account to use them. Dashen Bank offers a diverse range

of digital products to its customers, including local and international debit cards, internet and mobile banking (Amole).

Kuriftu Resort General Manager Eskinder Getachew said for his part that the company’s collaboration with Dashen Bank aims to address the evolving needs of its growing customers. “Having the aim to keep our leadership status in the country’s resort business, we are partnering with Dashen Bank which is also known for innovations.”

Eskinder noted that users of the newly launched payment methods would be entitled discounts expressing their desire to provide excellent services to local and foreign guests.

# News

## Commission says cooperatives effort to expand financial services pivotal

• To mark International Savings , Credit Cooperatives Day

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

**ADDIS ABABA**— Ethiopian Cooperative Commission (ECC) stated that savings and credit cooperatives have been providing unbanked rural and urban community with affordable financial services.

Briefing media yesterday in relation to marking International Savings and Credit Cooperatives Day, Ethiopian Cooperative Deputy Commissioner, Shisema Gebreslassie said that Savings and credit cooperatives are regarded as preferred institutions following their effort to reach out to the unreached, rural and urban segments of the society. Besides, they are providing the public with access to convenient banking services such as savings, loans, and small



insurance services, among others.

Financial Cooperative Development Executive with ECC, Birhanu Dhufera, on his part said that not only do saving and credit cooperatives render financial services to the society but they are also contributing

a lot to the financial accessibility across the nation via providing the every segment of the community with various financial lessons with a view to improving their financial awareness and developing saving culture among them.

Rural farmers have also benefited from easy, low-cost loans that help them access crucial technologies for increased agricultural production and productivity.

International Savings and Credit Cooperatives Day is going to be celebrated internationally and in Ethiopia for the 75th and 2nd time on December 7, 2023, respectively, it was learnt.

The main objective of the festival is to promote the role of savings and credit cooperatives in solving the economic and social problems of mankind, the statement mentioned.

Experiences of international and national savings and credit cooperatives are expected to be shared on the occasion, *The Ethiopian Herald* learnt.

### ECAA ...

Speaking to the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), ECAA Air Navigation Sector Deputy Director General Mengistu Nigussie stated that the authority has been providing a successful Air Navigation Service to Djibouti. “The authority builds professional capacity that enables it to serve neighboring countries in addition to providing safe and secured Air Navigation Service for Ethiopia.”

The Addis Ababa Bole International Airport has been managing the arrival and departure of over 144, 000 different flights annually to other countries and there are more than 60, 000 airplanes that cross the Ethiopian air space. The authority has also been monitoring the safety and security of airplanes and unmanned airplanes that fly in the airspace of both Ethiopia and Djibouti, Mengistu added.

He further noted that the Authority owned modern radars to control the safety and security of flights and commenced counter-drone technology service recently.

The radars installed in Dire Dawa, Gode, Arba Minch and other areas have been playing a critical role in ensuring the safety and security of air transport in the country and beyond. Each aircraft that flies in Bole International Airport and other areas of the country passes through the permission of the Authority’s Traffic Controllers.

Airplanes that have a permission to fly in Ethiopia have been receiving the necessary aeronautical information from ECAA in various mechanisms.

Furthermore, the ECAA prepared a national air navigation plan to boost institutional capacity and it aimed to expand outreach beyond Ethiopia. Currently, the authority has finalized preparation to provide air traffic controlling training to Somalia and Djibouti experts.

Over the last Ethiopian fiscal year, ECAA managed the provision of credible, safe, secured and effective Air Navigation Service for 16 million passengers in different airways, the general manager remarked.

International Volunteer Day (IVD)2023 was celebrated under the theme: “The power of collective action; if everyone did” yesterday in the presence of ministers, bureau heads and UN representatives.

Speaking at the occasion, MoWSA State Minister Huria Ali said that it is significant to support volunteers as they are on the frontline to tackle the challenges facing the community and expedite socioeconomic development.

Lauding the International Volunteers including Korean Volunteers for responding to Ethiopia’s development assistance, Huria remarked that Ethiopia and Korea have been enjoying their longstanding cooperation in many fields.

She said: “Volunteerism would help to expand and mobilize communities, and to engage people in implementation for sustainable development goals by localizing the SDG and providing new spaces of interaction between governments and people for remarkable actions.”

She also stated that volunteerism is an enormous renewable resource for social, economic and environmental problem-solving, therefore it is important to work for the practical engagement of international

### Ministry underscores...



volunteers with the national volunteers to share their experience and knowledge among others.

So far, over 21 million volunteers have supported communities in various areas worth about 17 billion Birr in the last summer season, it was learnt.

Country Director of KOICA Ethiopia Office, Han Deog Cho for his part said that IVD is a milestone for volunteers involving organizations to promote governments to create awareness about the contribution of volunteer service to people, planet, prosperity and peace thereby offering services to more people globally.

The Day also creates an opportunity to address development challenges such as poverty, conflict, migration, climate change among others, he added.

Since Ethiopia is on the right path to industrialization, he underscored that the agency is keen to support and strengthen its sustainable development support in areas of manufacturing capacity development, health, climate change and peace aligning with its development policies and strategies.

Citing the lower number of contributors due to COVID, he said the country has planned to enlarge the number of participants to engage in various fields across the country.

### Ethiopia’s Green Legacy ...

Initiative is a pioneered model to the region and others is that the country planted over 30 billion tree saplings by mobilizing its resources, with people’s effort and coordination of leadership, and without pleading for external financing,” he said.

Ethiopia has also provided neighboring countries with seedlings to enable them fight climate change which makes it exemplary to the region and beyond, he noted.

“So this is a big example showing that there is big change by own effort mobilizing own resources without expecting support,” he stated.

According to Workneh, countries in the region are highly affected by climate change impacts during the past few years.

Ethiopia is one of these countries doing exemplary work applying various measures to combat climate change consequences, he

indicated.

The country is also participating in various international platforms to mobilize support for IGAD countries and the continent as a compensation for the loss due to climate change, the Executive Secretary mentioned.

He applauded Ethiopia's commitment to mitigating climate change and expressed confidence that such exertions will inspire other nations to follow suit.

# Opinion

## The timeline of Ethiopia's Defense Diplomacy and current security strategies

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

Although not adequately documented or researched, the author of this article is of the opinion that Ethiopia has conducted military diplomacy for over a century as a strategy to ensure the peace, sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of the country, but what exactly is military diplomacy?

According to Dr. Erik Pajtinka, Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica, Slovakia, 2016, "Military diplomacy can be defined as a set of activities carried out mainly by the representatives of the defense department, as well as other state institutions, aimed at pursuing the foreign policy interests of the state in the field of security and defense policy, and whose actions are based on the use of negotiations and other diplomatic instruments."

According to him, this meaning verifies military diplomacy from some other related phenomena such as gunboat diplomacy or coercive diplomacy. He mentions that "Military diplomacy as such performs several basic functions, which include the following: 1. Gathering and analyzing of information on the armed forces and the security situation in the receiving state, 2. Promotion of cooperation, communication and mutual relations between the armed forces of the sending and the receiving states, 3. Organization of working visits of representatives of the defense authorities and of peaceful stay of the military units of the sending state in the receiving state, 4. Support of business contracts with arms and military equipment between the sending and the receiving state, and 5. Representation of the sending state and its armed forces at official ceremonies and other events in the receiving state."

The practice of defense diplomacy in Ethiopia dates back to the formation of central government in the country which the author thinks started during the reign of Emperor Tewodros II of Ethiopia in his relation with the British Government of those days which culminated in what historians write as the "Battle of Makdella" although there was no battle in the strict sense of the word the Emperor committed suicide instead of falling into the hands of Napier's forces while Prince Alemayehu was abducted followed by looting of imperial properties at the fortress of Makdella. The defense diplomacy of Emperor Theodros II focused on securing modern armaments and technology and creation of a unified army which Britain failed to fulfil and remained at loggerheads with the national interest of the country during the reign of the Emperor.

Emperor Menelik II continued with what Emperor Tewodros tried to accomplish. During the Era of the Scramble for Africa which was blessed by the Berlin

Conference, Emperor Menelik tried to forge a strong diplomacy with Italy but the treacherous Treaty of Wuchalle in which the Italian version of the Treaty was reinterpreted to mean that Ethiopia will conduct her diplomatic relations with other countries through the Italian Government as indicated in article 17 of the Treaty led to the Battle of Adwa, the first ever battle in which an African peasant army defeated a colonial power armed to the teeth. However, in the advent of the Treaty Addis Ababa, defeated Italy and victor Ethiopia restored their diplomatic relations.

During the reign of Emperor Haileselassie Ethiopia engaged into a comprehensive diplomatic relations with the USA from 1953 up to 1974. This among other things included Mutual Defense Assistance Agreement of 1953 in which the US provided military support for the Ethiopian Defense Forces by providing military hardware and trainings for officers of the Ethiopian Defense Forces. Ethiopia provided the Kagnew Ground Satellite Station. Ethiopia conducted major defense diplomatic relations with the USA as a major partner in the strategic region of the Horn of Africa. Ethiopia enjoys 123 years of diplomatic relations which also included cooperation in the areas of defense diplomacy, security cooperation and the battle against international terrorism.

On the other hand, Ethiopia diversified international donors. Czechoslovakia built an ammunition factory and provided technicians while Sweden provided training & jet fighter aircraft to the air force. In 1959, Emperor Haileselassie returned to Ethiopia with a credit line for more than \$100M (at 1959 market value) after visiting several Eastern Bloc countries.

Ethiopia has an exceptionally proud military tradition which has included decisively defeating the Italian army at the Battle of Adwa in 1896, contributing to the UN military forces in the Korean war, serving as the cornerstone of the first UN mission in Africa in 1960, defeating a Somali military invasion in 1977, and fighting two violent and costly conflicts in the 1980's. More recently, Ethiopia fought another costly border war with Eritrea in 1998-99 and intervened in Somalia from 2006-2010 to defeat the Islamic Courts Union.

Today, Ethiopia is the largest troop contributing country for UN missions in the world with one of the largest and most professional armies in Africa playing critical roles in both Somalia and South Sudan. The US Africa Command considered Ethiopia a priority country and listed Ethiopia as one of eight African "Anchor States." Former American Ambassador to Ethiopia David Shinn noted that, "The United States sees Ethiopia as one of its most important

African partners in the battle against terrorism."

During the Derg period, Ethiopia managed to establish a relatively deeper defense relations with the former USSR in which the later provided Ethiopia with military assistance. From 1978-1985, Following the Ogaden War, the Soviet Union strengthened its ties to Ethiopia. Moscow provided the Derg with more than \$11 billion in military aid, leading to the creation of the largest army in sub-Saharan Africa.

Following an official diplomatic visit to Turkey In 2021, Ethiopia and Turkey signed military assistance agreement which was an important supplement to the overall growth of Turkish foreign direct investment in Ethiopia. This has proved to be an important landmark in the expansion of Ethiopia's defense diplomacy.

In the same year, Ethiopia inked military cooperation agreement with the Russian Federation with the objective of boosting the military capability of the Ethiopian National Defense Forces. Ethiopia maintains excellent defense diplomacy with the neighboring countries of Kenya, Djibouti and South Sudan.

Currently, Ethiopia is playing an important role in the Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization is a regional police body whose membership consists of Chiefs of Police of the 14 countries.

The organization was established in 1998 in Kampala with the aim of harmonizing, strengthening police co-operation and joint strategies, sharing of crime related information and harmonization of laws in order to enhance the capacity of Law Enforcement Agencies to combat transnational organized crime.

The Organization, whose Head Quarter is in Nairobi, is comprised of Ethiopia, Eritria, Kenya, Sudan, South Sudan, DRC, Djibouti, Somalia, Seychelles, Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania, Comoros and Burundi.

From 2006-2009, Ethiopia deployed forces into Somalia with the objective of securitization of the border areas of the country with Somalia by curbing the efforts of the Islamic Courts of Somalia. Ethiopia joined AMISOM in January 2014 as part of the contingent of AU peace keeping forces and also maintained her own armed force to ensure peace and security of Somalia by battling Al-Shabaab terrorist forces in Somalia.

Moreover, Ethiopia is the largest troop contributor to UN peacekeeping with over 8,300 uniformed personnel, the vast majority of them serving in Darfur (UNAMID), Abyei (UNISFA) and South Sudan (UNMISS).

Ethiopia has continued to play a major role in the Eastern Africa Standby Force which is a regional organization whose mandate is to enhance peace and security

in the Eastern Africa region. It is one of the five regional multidimensional Forces of the African Standby Force (ASF) consisting of Military, Police and Civilian components. EASF was established as a regional mechanism to provide capability for rapid deployment of forces to carry out preventive deployment, rapid intervention, peace support/stability operations and peace enforcement.

The Eastern Africa Region, represented by the Eastern Africa Standby Force (EASF), is one of five regions of the African Peace and Security Architecture and is, as such, developing the standby force, as a component of the ASF. Currently, the EASF draws its membership from 10 active Member States including Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda, which are signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of the Eastern Africa Standby Force (MOU).

In the context of change and continuity of regimes which ruled the country here it is very important to stress on the main objective of Ethiopia's defense diplomacy over the several decades.

Ethiopia's defense diplomacy is based on several important factors that depicted the national interest of the country and quest for peace, collective security and maintenance of regional and global peace.

Ethiopia's defense diplomacy is intrinsically part of the Ethiopian foreign policy and diplomacy. As a multi-national country, Ethiopia focuses on the internal stability, unity, security and development of the country, promotion of peace in the Horn of Africa and larger African region with more particular emphasis on the neighboring countries. The defense policy of Ethiopia is not restricted to defending the county but also focuses on the security and stability of the Horn of Africa and the maintenance of peaceful trade transaction on the Red Sea.

As the author of this article has repeatedly stressed, the geopolitical and geostrategic position of Ethiopia, maintaining the peace and security of the country dictates the country to conduct a blend of defense, economic and political, cultural diplomacy to ensure peace and stability that is of crucial importance for the development of the country. Ethiopia's defense diplomacy is therefore not an isolated form of diplomacy disconnected from other forms of diplomacy.

On the other hand, the defense diplomacy of Ethiopia is based on negotiated collective peace and security for the nation, the African region and the entire world.

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

# Editorial

## Ethiopia's CRGE: Exemplary stride

The question how can a planet of over 8 billion inhabitants be adequately supplied with clean, safe, and substantial energy? has to be a pressing question to be dealt with. Yes, renewable energy sources are increasingly seen as an essential component of the solution. Resource depletion coupled with potential climate change effects of peoples' continued use of traditional fossil and nuclear fuels as well as rampant pollution have contributed to the increased interest in renewable energy sources. Hence, Ethiopia has immensely been investing in climate resilience green economy (CRGE) for years.

The world has been severely entangled with the negative repercussions of climate change occurring in various forms. Cognizant of the fact that expanding green energy would get climate hazards unequivocally dwindled, Ethiopia has been embarking on it ranging from cultivating wind farm to well expanding green legacy from which many countries of the world can draw important lessons.

Taking the immense contribution Ethiopia has made to the effort geared towards CRGE, the world has started giving it due recognition. To cite even the latest move, Ethiopia concluded a landmark deal for the largest Onshore Wind Project. Ministry of Finance and AMEA POWER Partner signed accord to build the Horn of Africa's largest, 300 MW, onshore wind power project, which represents a significant milestone in the country's renewable energy sector. The signing of a landmark agreement for the construction of the Aysha Wind Power Project is an exemplary step to further develop carbon free energy, indeed!

Yes, the Aysha wind energy project, lying on 18,000-hectar wind farm located in Ethiopia's Horn of African region, is poised to become the largest wind energy project in the Horn of Africa after investing 600 million USD. The agreement demonstrates the Ethiopia's unwavering commitment to renewable energy and dedication to attracting private investment in the energy sector.

Following suit, other African countries are expected to work hard with a view to harnessing the region's abundant wind resources and generate clean, sustainable electricity to meet the ever growing demand for electricity. True, this would be of an indispensable stride in Ethiopia's journey towards increasing clean energy, production, providing sustainable electricity to fellow citizens, and driving economic growth and job creation across the nation and beyond.

Unequivocally, a large number of people, communities, and public facilities do not have access to electricity, and clean cooking solutions, imposing limits on education, economic growth, and development though the African continent in general and Ethiopia in particular has vast untapped renewable energy resources.

Needless to state, diversifying energy supply and reducing dependence on imported fuels is an incomparable measure towards creating economic development and many more jobs.

Renewable energy sources are available in almost all nations of the world, and yet their potential is to be fully harnessed. Interestingly, Ethiopia has mobilized private sector investment for on-grid clean energy generation and for distributed renewable energy technologies. It has also capitalized on investments aiming at increasing energy access levels as well as the reliability and affordability of electricity supply and create strong pipeline of clean cooking solutions via expanding the sources of renewable energy genres like hydropower, wind, among others. To this end, the country has to work hard to unlock private sector investments thereby meeting the ultimate goal of achieving universal energy access centering carbon free technology.

Since Ethiopia aims to become the region's leading producer of renewable energy, it has laboriously embarked on new energy to feed economic growth as power cuts are still persist in major cities and about half the country still has no access to electricity. Hence, Ethiopia as well as Africa needs an increase in renewable energy access due to the fact that it is rich in untapped energy sources.

# Opinion

## Global security depends on ambitious climate action

BY JOSEP BORRELL FONTELLES

"Present trends are racing our planet down a dead-end 3°C temperature rise", explained UN Secretary-General António Guterres recently. If we do not act decisively, climate change will pose an existential threat for humanity in coming decades. It is already a major risk multiplier for conflict and instability.

Since 2008, floods and heat waves have led to the forcible displacement of more than 20 million people every year according to UNHCR. According to the World Bank, by 2050, more than one billion people may have insufficient access to water and more than 200 million may be forced to migrate.

Water scarcity and food shortages are already fuelling conflicts in the Sahel, the Horn of Africa and other parts of the world. Of the 20 countries most vulnerable to climate change, twelve are mired in conflicts. Authoritarian powers are also taking advantage of this fragility by trying to control governments and secure raw material for their own geopolitical interests.

To avoid the catastrophic future of a +3°C climate, the EU is doing its part. With the European Green Deal, we have set out the EU's ambition for 2030 to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55%, produce more than 42.5 % of our energy from renewable sources and increase energy efficiency by at least 11.7 %. We strive to become climate-neutral by 2050.

To achieve this, EU's climate action is based principally on putting a price to CO2 emissions. However, if this were to result in carbon-intensive activities simply relocating outside Europe, the so-called carbon leakage, it would mean the EU losing jobs without achieving any emissions reduction globally.

That is the reason why it is complemented by a Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) to ensure that the most carbon intensive goods imported in Europe are also subject to a comparable carbon pricing. It is not protectionist. It is simply the necessary counterpart of our ambitious emissions reduction measures to guarantee that they are effectively a win for the planet.

While we decarbonise our own economy, we cannot wash our hands of the greenhouse gas emissions caused outside the EU by our consumption of imported goods. This is why we are also greening our trade policy. We want to ensure, in particular, that the products we import no longer cause deforestation, one of the greatest threats to climate and biodiversity.

While most will share these objectives, I know that these measures require further engagement with some of our partners on the requirements stemming from this EU law. We are ready to support them implementing these measures and address together the common challenge of deforestation.

The urgent green transition will shake up the global balance of power. For the EU this shift holds promises and threats. On the one hand, it will lessen the high political

and economic cost of our dependence on fossil fuels as illustrated by Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. On the other hand, it risks creating new dependencies on critical raw materials and products. Therefore, diversification of supply is key for European security. We need to strengthen our ties with Africa, Latin America, South Asia... with tailor made partnerships that allow adding value and creating jobs in our partner countries.

Europe bears a historical responsibility for climate change but with currently only 7.5 % of global emissions, what we do in the EU has only a limited impact on world climate. To fight climate change, there is no other solution than a global one. Multilateralism is increasingly under pressure. If we succeed to agree on how to meet the targets of the Paris Agreement, we will not only save the future of our children but also show that multilateralism can deliver.

At COP 28 in Dubai, a gear change is needed. The EU will push for the phase out of unabated fossil fuels and of all fossil fuel subsidies, the doubling of energy efficiency measures and the tripling of renewable energy capacity worldwide. To succeed, we will need the buy-in of the other industrialised nations and also of China. China has certainly built many renewable capacities, but it is also burning more coal than the whole rest of the world combined.

The green transition will succeed only if it is just and benefit all. The most vulnerable countries are not contributing significantly to global warming, but risk bearing the brunt of it. They too will have to be part of the global race to net-zero, but they need support. The EU stands ready to help partners adapt to climate change and embrace the green transition while avoiding our past mistakes.

With €23 billion in 2021, the EU, its Member States and the European financial institutions are already the largest contributors of public climate finance to developing economies and developed countries are finally on track to meet the goal of \$100bn annually. Yet, we must now think beyond 2025, when the current pledge ends.

It is high time to align private and public financial flows with the Paris Agreement and go from billions to trillions of climate finance. International Financial Institutions and Multilateral Development Banks need to be reformed to better support global public goods. The new fund responding to loss and damage must also acquire the needed financial fire power. The first substantial pledges are encouraging. Here also, will China be an indispensable partner.

In an increasingly multi-polar world, marked by the return of power politics, we need more than ever to come together to fight the biggest global challenge of our time, climate change.

Editor's Note: the writer of this article, Josep Borrell Fontelles is a High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Vice-President of the European Commission

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



## 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

# Business & Economy

## Free rider problem in contract farming

### *Side-selling puzzle*

BY MEKONNEN SOLOMON

In many developing countries like Ethiopia, there is a growing concern that with increased globalization and emergence of expanded lucrative markets, smallholder farmers could be marginalized from emerging market opportunities and market information. Contract farming has been widely recognized by policymakers as a strategic option with the potential to link smallholder farmers to emerging market opportunities.

Most recently Ethiopia has established a legal framework in July 2023, known as the Agricultural Production Contract Proclamation No. 1289/2023, which aimed at regulating agricultural production contracts. This legislative milestone comes as a response to existing legislation which lacked comprehensive coverage of agricultural contracts. The proclamation is designed to specifically govern agreements between contractors and producers in the context of supplying agricultural produce.

This new legal framework specifically deals with agreements made between contractors and producers in the context of supplying agricultural produce. The proclamation also provides a prospect to both parties to renegotiate on price when price escalation occur at time of agricultural product delivery above or below the price indicated on agricultural production contract considering equity and long-term relationships.

One of the biggest obstacles to the success of a contract farming scheme is that the small farmers will fail to honor the contract by selling the contracted crop to a third party, a practice known as side-selling. A critical problem is when smallholder farmers sell part of their crop to alternative buyers, rather than the contracting company. This is an issue for companies as they may have invested in inputs and training, yet do not receive the benefit of increased supply and may find it difficult to recoup the costs of inputs provided on credit from the smallholder farmers. As a result, when farmers fail to live up to the terms of the agreement, the contractual arrangement breaks down.

At a minimum, this behavior decreases the overall efficiency of the arrangements. In extreme cases side-selling may drive the buyer firm to exit the market, causing a loss to contractor and the participating farmers. Avoiding side-selling requires an understanding of the incentives of the small farmers who engage in it and the creation of an enabling environment that reduces the risk that farmers will resort to this behavior.

Many studies reveal that Farmers engage in side-selling for a variety of reasons. Some of these motivations are purely economic, such as an opportunistic sale to another buyer at a higher price, knowing that a weak judicial system gives the buyer firm little recourse to enforce the contract. For smallholder farmers, who frequently operate in a very risky environment with slim margins and few assets, selling agricultural produce in a spot market when liquidity is needed may make



very real economic sense.

Indeed, side-selling is the opposite of monopsony power. In cases where there is a local market for the crop produced under contract, it is not uncommon for the contracted price to be lower than the local market price at the time of the harvest. In such cases, it might be tempting for growers to sell some of the contracted crops on claiming this as a loss. Whereas the exercise of monopsony power is an opportunistic behaviour on part of the processor, side selling is what refers to as leakage, which is an opportunistic behaviour on the part of the growers.

On the other hand, the biggest obstacle facing the survival of contract farming on crop which has little local demand is still side-trading.

However, smallholders may also lack the sophistication to adhere to contract terms. They may have little experience with formal contracts, low literacy and technical expertise, and may lack requisite knowledge of grades and standards. Side-selling may also occur due to a lack of trust between the parties, a failure to effectively communicate the terms and conditions of the contract, or due to other extraneous circumstances that prevent the farmer from living up to his or her side of the bargain. Faced with these risks, contractor or by person who has investment and trade licence or rent farm to enter into contract farming often prefer the sophistication and reduced monitoring costs by working with medium farmers.

Side selling seems to be economically unsound but it remains to be a rational decision from a small-scale farmer's livelihood perspective. However, side selling has remained to be the main challenge in contract farming arrangements as it breaches the trust of the two actors, increases the buyer's transaction costs and terminates the agreement. Some works of literature have tackled side selling but did not take into account of important policy variables such as neighbourhood effect, extension contacts, level of bargaining power and network externalities alongside trust, credit provision, higher prices, off-farm income, delayed payment and experience in horticulture production.

Despite much emphasis has been made on agricultural production contract or contract farming production arrangement, in developing countries especially in Africa,

concerns and frustration on free rider problem are on rise across agriculture landscape in context to side-selling. This problem is brought by incomplete arrangements and institutional let-downs since the legal institutions are not functioning properly especially in developing countries, the traditions and customs of economic forecasts that investment and exchange flop as there is a fear of breaching and holdups.

Even if courts were to be present, legal action could not be taken in the breaching of agreements in agriculture as they will be restricted by the transaction costs. This has forced most of the agricultural aggregators to use third parties who are private or use informal mechanisms such as repeated dealings and reputation to improve the mutual trust among the actors during ex-ante and also resolve disputes in ex-post.

So far, that much emphasis has not been given on the trustbuilding between producers and buyers, their bargaining power and monitoring of farm enterprise in order to reduce the side selling behaviors of the farm enterprise owners. Trust encourages long-term relationships with the partners reducing side selling effect. This trust can be achieved through ensuring information flow between the buyers by developing advanced information sharing systems and also incorporating them in decision-making. For bargaining power, farm owners should be integrated in setting the prices and quality which might sensitize small-scale producers to comply with the contract terms reducing the leaking to alternative markets. Frequent monitoring is encouraged to create good relationship with the producers reducing side selling.

Farmers defaulting on part or their full contract by side selling to other buyers (often to avoid repaying input loans or when they have an immediate need for cash) results in significant losses for companies. Designing and enforcing contracts that effectively control for side selling is inherently challenging when working within weak developing country legal frameworks and with poor, remote smallholder farmers. Companies often bear a disproportionate amount of risk, but have little legal recourse if and when farmers default on their contracts. Smallholders, on the other hand, typically have limited cash flow, and therefore may have few options outside of

defaulting in the face of emergencies or lower than expected production volumes.

In Ethiopia Agro- industry development landscape free rider problem is a crucial factor that affects contract enforcement. According to recent study, malt barley value-chain development study (2020), contract providers often incur additional costs to ensure quality production of the required volume of malt barley, which has a direct effect on pricing. These costs are associated with the provision of training, supervision, and providing access to inputs. However, those actors not engaged in such investments can manipulate farmers through a minor price margin incentive. In addition, the proximity of market actors such as local assemblers and traders creates an opportunity to manipulate market information that can influence marketing decisions, which encourages farmers to engage in side selling.

Indeed, contract farming is not without its critics. Agricultural production contractual arrangement involves natural expansion and contraction as market prices and consumer demand fluctuate. When coupled with farmer side-selling and other environmental challenges, smallholder-based contracting schemes have a turnover and significant failure rate. In some part of Africa like Ghana, poor relations between buyers and sellers resulted in more than 50 percent of all pineapple contract growers leaving the arrangement within 12 years. Studies in Kenya and Senegal have also shown a decline in the use of smallholders in favor of larger farms and production estates over time.

These statistics have led critics to question whether the short-term welfare gains from participation in contract farming schemes translate into long-term benefits for the smallholders involved, especially if the farmer must take on debt to invest in new technology in order to join the scheme. Critics also argue that contract farming exploits the free family labor employed by smallholders in these schemes, particularly the unpaid labor of women and children. Others have raised concerns that contract farming encourages (or indeed requires) monoprop.

The policy implication of this situation is clear. Establishing legal framework alone would not be sufficient to resolve the critical small holder and private sector problems. Whether contract farming is an appropriate business model depends on the structure of the market, the capabilities of implementing institutions, the level of small holder skill, incentives, behaviors, social tradition and the practical logistics setting of agriculture. Contract farming makes sense where the product has a limited and specific output market that requires a substantial upfront investment on road, storage, grading room, satellite collection center where the buyer seeks a particular quality and quantity that the market would otherwise not provide.

This intern requires broad-based organizational structure that seeks to address the existing vacuum of market and behavioral research, contract administration, functional market linkage, and supporting judicial and alternative dispute resolution in our contract farming platform.

# In the Sphere of Diplomacy



Search and rescue operations after severe flood caused by Storm Daniel in Libya Halil Fidan/Anadolu Agency via Getty Images

## Building African cities that cope with climate shocks – experts outline what it will take

The international climate change negotiations began almost three decades ago when many were still hesitant to accept that human activities were changing the planet. Now the scientific evidence is unequivocal. Climate change is a major threat to our wellbeing, the health of the planet and the ecosystems we rely on.

But there's a very large gap between what the science calls for and the actions that have been taken to date. The window of opportunity to secure a liveable, equitable and sustainable future for all is closing rapidly.

For those working on African city sustainability, the mountain to climb is particularly high. Seventy percent of African cities have high vulnerability to climate shocks.

Africa is the fastest urbanizing region in the world. This fast growing and highly vulnerable urban population is experiencing climate change impacts first-hand. We are all too aware of the devastation caused by climate-related disasters like Cyclone Idai, which hit southern Africa in 2019. Just this one cyclone led to over 1,000 fatalities and affected over 3 million people.

Recently the catastrophic flooding in Libya claimed close to 4,000 lives.

Unless drastic changes occur in how energy is produced and consumed in African cities, carbon emissions will rise as these cities develop and build infrastructure. This is already happening. The 2022 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Working Group III report revealed that Africa contributed 11% of greenhouse

gas emissions growth since 1990.

It is therefore not surprising that the eyes of the world are on Africa's urban areas. The question is whether they will develop in emissions-heavy ways that undermine natural systems and increase inequities, or in low-carbon ways that are nature-positive and reduce inequality.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, global greenhouse gas emissions must begin dropping within the next three years in pathways that limit warming to 1.5°C. These pathways require immediate action. Rapid and deep emissions reductions must happen throughout the next three decades.

Without limiting carbon emissions, securing climate finance and enabling a free flow of knowledge and technology into Africa, the opportunity to build climate-resilient African cities may be lost. And fossil fuels will continue to power development for years to come.

There are some signs of progress. The US\$8.5 billion pledged by the US, the UK, Germany, France and the EU to help South Africa transition away from coal is an example. But this is well below what is required to effect such a change.

### Limit carbon emissions while adapting to climate change

It is our view that Africa should be acting ambitiously, aiming to reduce carbon emissions to limit global warming to 1.5°C, while adapting for a potential global warming level of 3°C.

Many African cities are already taking great

strides. Through the Covenant of Mayors in Sub-Saharan Africa initiative over 360 sub-national governments have pledged their commitment to these crucial issues. Notably, 107 of these cities have formulated specific targets and plans to tackle climate change. What is needed now is finance to implement these plans at scale.

Not enough finance is flowing to African urban areas. In 2020 only US\$30 billion flowed to Africa, which is about 12% of what is needed. And in 2017/2018 sub-Saharan Africa received only about US\$3 billion or 0.8% of global urban climate finance.

In June 2023 heads of state met in Paris to discuss a new global financing pact, and many African countries expressed frustration that international climate finance promises had not been fulfilled. Solutions were also offered, such as the African Development Bank's initiative on channeling Special Drawing Rights to multilateral development banks to help rebuild livelihoods affected by climate change and other global challenges. But big questions still remain about how cities themselves will be able to access – directly – the climate finance needed to enable climate resilient development.

The ICLEI Africa network's Sustainable Finance Centre is tackling this issue head on, by providing the knowledge brokering services needed to bridge divides and fill gaps that prohibit city-scale projects from progressing from concept to financial close and implementation.

### Build climate resilient urban areas in context appropriate ways

Africa's urban areas need to respond to the urgent need for development in a way that is equitable and minimizes emissions, but also builds climate resilience to unavoidable losses and damages and minimizes mal-adaptation.

This resilience building will look different in different locales, and there is a growing database of good practices that are inspiring change. For example, in Freetown and Kampala, ICLEI Africa is working to deploy clean cooking solutions to about 3,000 households and businesses in target informal settlements. This is to reduce these communities' exposure to household air pollution, decrease deforestation for fuel wood, and reduce time burdens that are predominantly shouldered by women who collect fuel wood or charcoal for cooking.

### Re-envision what a resilient African city is

Given the unique context of the continent and the broad ranging challenges and opportunities it offers, African policymakers need to pause and re-imagine what resilient, low carbon African cities would look like.

African cities must meet the needs of a culturally diverse population. Policymakers need to direct resources, solutions and finance in ways that allow the continent to thrive.

Climate change requires a whole-of-society response. Without a thriving urban Africa, global climate change ambitions will never be met. This is the moment to rethink the African city.

(SOURCE: THE CONVERSATION)

# Law & Politics

## Championing green diplomacy in world stage

BY EYUEL KIFLU

The 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP28, is the 28<sup>th</sup> United Nations Climate Change Conference, which started on November 30 at Expo City, Dubai. Every year, the United Nations consults on climate change with the countries of the world, climate change experts, and other stakeholders. The Paris Agreement Review has been the top agenda item of the conference. The heads of state, government officials, ministers, and others are taking part in the conference from over 190 countries to discuss the boiling crisis.

Ethiopia, the exemplary country for Africa's effort in tackling climate change, is also taking part in the conference led by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (Ph.D.).

Climate change is one of Ethiopia's foreign policy goals; work on it in collaboration with different countries and institutions.

The country has presented its experience at the conference. It is known that the country planted a billions of seedlings; beyond this, the country gave over one billion seedlings and extended the country's experience by sending experts to different African countries.

On side-lines of the Conference Ethiopia organized a huge exhibition on 1,500 square meters that is adorned by the nation's greenery achievements. The country has opened it to share its experience and what it is doing to tackle the world headache of climate change. Different country leaders are headed to Ethiopia's Green Legacy Pavilion, including the conference host nation leader.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, along with Prime Minister Abiy, visited the Ethiopian Green Legacy Pavilion, the PM office information indicated. And the two leaders discussed matters of mutual concern, including climate change.

The Premier said on his social media page, "I thank my brother Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan for visiting Ethiopia's Green Legacy Pavilion at COP-28, where we are showcasing our strong commitment to address climate change through concrete solutions.

Ethiopia is promoting its green development work at the 28th edition of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 28).

Also, Abiy had discussions at the Ethiopian Green Legacy Pavilion during COP28 with former UK Prime Minister Tony Blair, Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo, and Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel.

Prime Minister Abiy and President Miguel Díaz-Canel spoke about bilateral cooperation, national development issues, and global climate change responsibility. The two leaders also spoke about how to promote collaboration in the travel and agricultural industries.

Abiy and Alexander De Croo discussed how their nations should work together on



climate change and expand their partnership in other areas where they have common interests.

The topic of the Premier and Tony Blair's conversation was how to carry out Ethiopia's greenery campaign going forward.

Also, Prime Minister Abiy, addressing his speech at the event, said that the fight for growth and prosperity is also the fight to save and heal the planet. The country has made significant progress in lowering emissions and enhancing environmental resilience.

More than 130,000 nurseries have been established across Ethiopia in the last five years thanks to the Green Legacy Initiative, an effective nature-based solution that was introduced in the nation in 2019. The planting and care of seedlings in Ethiopia have involved millions of people every year.

The Premier added that Ethiopia's Green Legacy Initiative is a proactive solution to urgent socioeconomic and environmental issues. It lowers carbon emissions, protects biodiversity, generates employment, and strengthens industries like tourism. "We aim to plant 50 billion seedlings by 2026, and I'm proud to report that this initiative has achieved remarkable success with 32.5 billion seedlings planted to date. This project will grow to be the biggest afforestation project in the world when it is finished.

It is known that every Ethiopian winter season, the country has started seedlings since 2019. This is not only planting and afforestation but also getting food from the seedlings that were planted, and this is the opposite of chasing two rabbits. This helps not only the country but also the international community because climate change is a borderless crisis. The global community is still striving to tackle the issues that are getting our planet into

trouble.

The climate change effect is worldwide; however, the burden in Horn Africa is unimaginable because of the region's other unsolved issues. In developed countries, industry smoke has hardly hit most developing Africans, who are struggling out of poverty. Especially the Horn of Africa region is now known for drought, and millions of people are waiting for the international community's support.

Also, the region has not benefited from the developed countries industries, products, or cultivation of its land because of drought. To tackle this hurdle, Ethiopia contributes its part to climate change through its Green Imitative Program, which gained world attention by planting over 560 million seedlings in one day.

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Green Legacy Initiative is Ethiopia's continued commitment to championing green diplomacy on the world stage and combating environmental degradation as well as climate change effects and disasters from it, in tandem with increasing agricultural productivity.

It was announced that 79 countries have signed a declaration to help reduce climate change. The 'Climate, Relief, Recovery, and Peace Declaration' was announced at the on-going COP28 conference in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

The Office of the President of the COP28 conference announced the signatories to the declaration. The declaration expected to accelerate international efforts to help communities most vulnerable to the effects of conflict and climate change.

Seventy governments and 39 institutions have signed the declaration, showing their commitment to take action and increase investment to reduce climate change.

The climate change effect is worldwide; however, the burden in Horn Africa is unimaginable because of the region's other unsolved issues



# Society

## Realizing sustainable peace via dialogue

BY LEUSLEGED WORKU

Peace is a valuable and important aspect of every country; it is not something to be compromised or should be taken for granted. Without peace, it is difficult for society to function freely, business to flourish properly, foreign investment to flow in and, the government to implement economic development strategies effectively. That is why as a nation that aspired to achieve economic prosperity and ensure sustainable peace in the Horn of Africa, Ethiopia is excreting all its energy for the sake of peace. That is why the nation gave priority for peaceful discussions instead of other directions.

Lately, the Ministry of Peace had conducted its second National Peace Council Forum, speaking at the event, State Minister of Peace, Seyoum Mesfin (PhD), said that peace is a multifaceted issue that has a key role to ensure democracy and economic development. According to him, while pursuing economic progress and ensuring democratization peace will prevail. In this regard, it is the prime target of the nation

According to him, several Ethiopians have been displaced from their village and lost their precious life because of conflicts. For this reason, the government is doing its level best to ensure sustainable peace and stability.

Peace is not a one-time agenda or should be left to the government or few stakeholders working in the area. It should be the responsibility of every citizen. According to him, in order to ease the efforts of the Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission and create an enabling environment for the commission the council has key a role.

Speaking at the event Peace Minister, Binalf Andualem on his part said that, preventive measures should be given priority over post-conflict actions. It is always more effective to address the root causes of conflict and intervene before they escalate into violence or animosity. In this regard, the government is working aggressively to ensure a sustainable peace.

Preventative measures do not undermine the value of peace. Instead, they reinforce the importance of proactive and strategic actions that can mitigate or avoid all the potential threats of peace before they erupt. As witnessed in the country, this approach has enabled the nation to create stable, inclusive and peaceful society.

Ethiopia is diverse with various ethnic, religious and regional differences. For this very reason, fostering unity at the expense of conflict benefits the whole society. That is why the government is exerting all its efforts to realize sustainable peace and security.

Fostering unity, inclusivity and tolerance among all citizens are among the steps the government has taken to ensure long-lasting peace. This is in the form of the Ethiopian



*Peace is priceless*

National Dialogue Commission or in other discussions. By doing this the government is able to address the root causes of conflict, promote equality and justice and respect the rights and voices of its citizens.

It is crystal clear that the peace that prevails in Ethiopia has a direct and indirect contribution to the region. In other words, sustainable peace will not only benefit its citizens but can also have a positive spillover effect on the entire region. It can create a conducive environment for economic growth, development and cooperation, which an uplift the lives of millions of peoples in the Horn of Africa. As witnessed from previous experiences, the peace and stability of Ethiopia has positively affected those countries in the region.

In this regard, all stakeholders and every Ethiopian citizen to prioritize peace and work for the good of the people promote reconciliation and create harmonious society.

As indicated by Peace Minister, Binalf, preventive measures involve identifying the potential threats to peace, addressing grievances and promoting dialogue. This can be done through various means, such as educational initiatives, community engagement programs and inclusive governance.

As witnessed several times, due to its preventive measures the government is able to avoid several threats peace, minimize suffering and reduced long-term economic and social costs associated with conflicts. What is more, taking all necessary measures to avoid conflict through dialogue is one of the measures the government took to ensure peace. The recent measure that avoids conflict in the northern part of the nation is a good example in this regard.

**S**ustainable peace-building through dialogue is a complex and long-term process that requires commitment, patience, and continuous efforts from all stakeholders

Sustainable peace-building through dialogue is a complex and long-term process that requires commitment, patience, and continuous efforts from all stakeholders. Additionally, addressing underlying structural issues, promoting social justice, and addressing historical grievances are critical for achieving lasting peace in Ethiopia. In this regard, establishing effective conflict resolution mechanisms, such as peace committees, mediation processes, and reconciliation initiatives, provide platforms for addressing grievances, resolving disputes, and promoting understanding among conflicting parties.

As indicated by literature, dialogue should focus on reconciliation and healing processes that acknowledge the historical, social, and political factors contributing to conflicts. Truth and reconciliation commissions, community dialogues, and cultural initiatives can help address past grievances and promote healing within communities. What is more, public awareness campaigns, education initiatives, and community engagement programs to promote a culture of peace, tolerance, and non-violent conflict resolution at the grassroots level have their share to ensure sustainable peace

Dialogue for sustainable peace should also encompass discussions on economic development, social justice, and the equitable distribution of resources. Addressing socio-economic disparities and promoting inclusive development can contribute to long-term stability and peace.

Ethiopians have had their share of conflicts and challenges in the past, but the government, society and individuals must work hard to ensure sustainable peace. This can only be achieved through dialogue, understanding and compromise rather than resorting to violence.

# Planet

## Gullele Botanic Garden-A hub for...

Another notable feature of GBG is its medicinal plant garden, which displays a wide range of plants traditionally used in Ethiopian medicine. This garden not only showcases the country's rich traditional knowledge of herbal medicine but also raises awareness about the value of conserving medicinal plants and preserving traditional healing practices.

As Ethiopia continues to place greater emphasis on environmental conservation, the garden stands as a shining example of the country's commitment to preserving its natural treasures. With its dedication to biodiversity, education, and research, the garden serves as a beacon of hope for sustainable practices and the protection of Ethiopia's unique ecosystems.

In addition to its conservation efforts, he mentioned that the garden plays an active role in education and community outreach. The garden offers a wide range of educational programs, workshops, exhibitions, and guided tours, with a focus on fostering an understanding of biodiversity, sustainable living, and the vibrant role of plants in maintaining a

healthy ecosystem. These initiatives target schools, universities, and the local community.

Beyond its conservation and research efforts, it offers a tranquil getaway for visitors seeking funding in nature. Walking paths wind through various habitats, offering sights of diverse plant species and the opportunity to observe a rich array of birdlife.

He stated that it had been able to create opportunities for 350 individuals temporarily and 200 people permanently at the institutions. He also said that the garden is playing an essential role in enhancing the ecotourism offerings in the country.

Due to its attractiveness, the garden offers visitors a refreshing and relaxing environment for picnics, leisurely walks, and photography. Moreover, the garden showcases traditional uses of plants, offering enthusiasts cultural experiences that draw them in. Travelers looking for outdoor experiences are drawn to the garden because it offers a variety of leisure opportunities, such as bird watching and

nature walks.

The garden has a large economic impact because it makes money from product sales, guided tours, and entrance fees. It offers educational opportunities, cultural experiences, recreational options, biodiversity conservation, and economic growth to the tourism industry.

Additionally, it highlights the country's unique flora, including endemic species found nowhere else in the world. This garden serves as a living museum, enabling visitors to appreciate and learn about Ethiopia's plant diversity and the cultural and ecological significance of these plants.

Furthermore, it serves as a platform for community engagement and empowerment. The garden collaborates with local communities, providing them with training and employment opportunities in areas such as horticulture, landscaping, and garden maintenance. He added that involving the community in the garden's activities fosters a sense of ownership and encourages sustainable practices that benefit both the environment and the local people.

The garden's role in promoting sustainable development extends beyond its immediate surroundings. Gullele Botanic Garden actively participates in regional and international collaborations, sharing knowledge and expertise in biodiversity conservation, ecosystem management, and sustainable tourism. By contributing to global conservation efforts, the garden helps raise Ethiopia's profile as a leader in environmental stewardship.

He emphasized the critical importance of consistent care and attention to ensure the successful growth and development of the seedlings. He also stressed the community and all concerned institutions to be diligent in tending to their seedlings, even after planting them, in order to maximize their probabilities of thriving.

The Gullele Botanic Garden also stands as a testament to Ethiopia's commitment to environmental conservation and the preservation of its unique biodiversity. It serves as a vibrant hub for education, research, and the promotion of sustainable practices, making it a must-visit destination for anyone interested.

### SA rescues 33 trafficking victims found in house

South African police have rescued 33 victims of suspected human trafficking after they were found cramped in a room in Benoni, Gauteng province.

One suspect has been arrested in relation to the Sunday evening incident, the police said in a statement.

It said KwaZulu-Natal detectives were investigating a trafficking syndicate, after a foreign national was kidnapped in Springfield Park, Durban, last week.

"Investigations led the police to a house in Benoni and working together with other national police specialized units, the house was tactically penetrated and 33 male victims were found cramped in the house and one suspect was arrested," it added

The ages of the victims are yet to be confirmed.

The suspect will soon appear in court, the police have said.

Source: BBC

### Somalia floods death toll rises to 110 – UN

The death toll from Somalia's ongoing floods has risen to 110, the UN humanitarian agency UN OCHA said on Sunday.

More than one million people have been displaced and 2.4 million people impacted across 36 districts, the agency added.

UN OCHA also warned of a high risk of disease spread following reports of suspected cases of cholera and acute watery diarrhoea in the states of Hirshabelle and Galmudug.

The agency added that only 30% of those impacted have received help, but at least 37 boats have been deployed to deliver supplies or evacuate those trapped by the flood water.

In recent weeks, Somalia and neighbouring Kenya and Ethiopia have experienced the heaviest rains in more than two decades, causing fatalities, displacement and widespread destruction.



More than a million people have been displaced by the floods, UN says

The floods are caused by the El Niño weather phenomenon, which occurs due to the Pacific Ocean warming.

Scientists say extreme weather events

like floods will become more frequent and intense as the atmosphere warms due to climate change.

Source: BBC

## Zambia yet to retrieve trapped miners days later

Zambian officials have said they have been unable to locate dozens of illegal miners believed to be trapped after a mudslide at an open cast copper mine on Friday.

The accident in Zambia's northern Copperbelt province occurred after heavy rains.

Rescue teams have been pumping water from the underground pits at the Sesili mine in Chingola but have not made contact with the miners.

President Hakainde Hichilema, who arrived back on Sunday from the COP28 conference in Dubai, said he was saddened

by the "heartbreaking situation"

He sent his thoughts and prayers to affected families, adding that government efforts were being directed towards the rescue efforts.

The vice-president, Mutale Nalumango,

said the incident at the Sesili mine was a "disaster".

Rescue efforts are continuing. Illegal mining is common in Zambia, one of the world's largest copper producers.

Source: BBC

# Planet Earth

## Gullele Botanic Garden-A hub for indigenous plants

BY FIKADU BELAY

Environmental conservation is a crucial practice that aims to safeguard natural resources on our planet and maintain ecological balance. In order to preserve ecosystems, biodiversity, and natural habitats for the benefit of both present and future generations, they must be properly managed sustainably.

Its efforts focus on protecting and restoring ecosystems, conserving and managing wildlife populations, and promoting sustainable land and resource use. People work towards minimizing human impact on the environment, preserving endangered species, and maintaining the integrity of ecosystems.

The conservation of plant species and their habitats is a critical aspect of environmental stewardship and plays a vital role in maintaining the health of Earth's biodiversity, addressing climate change, and ensuring sustainable development.

The Ethiopian government attempts to address the impacts of the environmental crisis together with international partners, private companies, and other concerned parties. One of the many projects that are being carried out by the government to prevent environmental degradation is the Gullele Botanic Garden (GBG).

Since its inception in 2004, it has become a beacon of biodiversity and a symbol that



demonstrates Ethiopia's commitment to preserving its natural heritage. Spanning over 705 hectares, it is one of the largest botanical gardens in Africa and serves as a vital hub for conservation, research, education, and recreation, according to GBG data.

It serves as the center of many endemic plant species. Its mission is to conserve and present indigenous species that can be found in Ethiopia. The garden's significant objectives are to foster a greater environmental consciousness and support the wise use of natural resources.

According to GBG data, it boasts indigenous plant species, including traditional medicinal plants, ornamental trees, and others. The garden's diverse habitats, such as woodlands, wetlands, and grasslands, support a wide range of flora and fauna,

making it a shelter for animals, researchers, and botany enthusiasts.

GBG plans to propagate one million and two hundred thousand indigenous seedlings to provide various government origination's this fiscal year, Engineer Gutema Moreda, head of the Gullele Botanic Garden, told the Ethiopian Herald.

He stated that during the last three years, the garden's around one million indigenous seedlings propagated have been cultivated annually and distributed to the Urban Beautification Green Development Bureau.

He also highlighted that it is worth noting that GBG is home to an impressive collection, housing over ten percent of Ethiopia's diverse array of over 6,700 indigenous plants.

"We'll supply the Urban Beautification

Green Development Bureau with native plant seedlings prepared from seeds gathered in regional states including DebreBirhan, Borena, the southern regions, and other areas of the country." According to him, the collaboration will contribute to preserving indigenous species that are in danger of going extinct and encourage the growth of traditional medicinal herbs.

He noted that the urban Beautification Green Development Bureau will disperse to various sub-cities and districts to promote environmental conservation and sustainable practices.

Apart from its conservation efforts, it facilitates scientific cooperation and study. Its vast grounds offer a living laboratory for researchers to explore biodiversity, plant ecology, and the possibility of sustainable agriculture. He said that the garden's collaborations with domestic and foreign organizations promote information sharing and develop botanical research.

One of the garden's notable achievements is its role in preserving endangered plant species. According to him, GBG actively participates in plant conservation projects and works closely with local and international organizations to safeguard fragile ecosystems. By collecting and propagating endangered plants, the garden plays a crucial role in ensuring their survival for future generations.

*See Gullele Botanic... page 15*