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Authority resolute to safer, efficient aviation landscape

• Holds talks with industry stakeholders

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA – The Ethiopian Civil Aviation Authority (ECAA) revealed its commitment to ensure a safer, efficient and

resilient air transport landscape.

The first African Aviation Safety and Operations Summit, jointly organized by African Airlines Association and Flight Safety Foundation

held yesterday under the theme “Championing African Aviation Safety Together” with the view of enhancing the safety of African aviation.

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ECSOC

VOWS steady support for Nat'l Dialogue

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

ADDIS ABABA- The Ethiopian Civil Society Organizations Council (ECSOC) has pledged to strengthen the necessary support for the success of the National Dialogue process.

The Council held a panel discussion on the role of civil society organizations in Ethiopia's National Dialogue aimed at encouraging participation.

ECSOC Acting Executive Director Hana Woldegebriel stated that the support and contribution of the council would be strengthened for the success

See ECSOC vows ... Page 3

EDRMC toiling to meet nationwide humanitarian aid demand

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA- Ethiopian Disaster Risk Management Commission (EDRMC) is undertaking several activities to achieve the goal of meeting the nationwide demand for humanitarian aid by itself.

During the nine-month performance evaluation of Prosperity Party Executive Committee, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed gave due emphasis on becoming self-reliant

See EDRMC toiling ... Page 3



Call for enhancing Int'l support for DDR implementation

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA - The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) announced that MoFA State Minister Ambassador Mesganu Arga met on Tuesday with U.S. Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa (HoA) Mike Hammer.

It was learnt that on the occasion both discussed the Disarmament,

Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) process and the implementation of the Pretoria Peace Agreement.

The two officials underlined the need for international-level support for the DDR process and for the successful implementation of the Pretoria Peace Agreement.”

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Obtaining better use of own earth's belly resources

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Our writers of yesteryears - eccentricity, drinking and creativity

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Inclusivity, impact, and innovation needed to meet SDGs, UN civil society conference hears

Page 8

Japan assists

100 mln yen for refugees, host community in Ethiopia

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDISABABA—The government of Japan has provided 100 million yen assistance to improve the livelihoods of refugees and host communities in Ethiopia's Somali state.

In a press release sent to *The Ethiopian Herald*, the Embassy of Japan announced that the launching ceremony of the "Project on Promotion of Self-reliance of Aw-Barre and Sheder Refugee Camps and Host Community in Somali Region" was held on 14 November 2024 in Jigjiga city of Somali state.

The Embassy noted that the one-year project totaling approximately 100 million yen is funded by the Government of Japan through Good Neighbors.

Accordingly, the Japanese government will provide unemployed refugees and host populations with skills and opportunities to improve their livelihoods through capacity building on construction and livestock support to help make them economically independent, it said.

In addition, the release mentioned that the project will also support the transformation to improved brick-made shelters to address the problem of poor living conditions.

In this way, the statement indicated that the project aims to encourage Somali refugees to move away from aid dependency while improving their living environment, economic development and enhancing their dignity and self-reliant livelihoods, while also contributing to bridging the gap from humanitarian assistance to development.

Aw-Barre and Sheder Refugee Camps in Fafan Zone, Somali state have been accommodating a large number of Somali refugees for over 15 years. Furthermore, despite their prolonged stay in the camps, the living conditions of the refugees have not been improved, with 88% of the refugees still staying in emergency makeshift shelters made of simple wooden poles and plastic sheets making the refugees' living conditions extremely vulnerable and weak, being exposed to dangers such as weathering, health and security issues and multiple other concerning risks, it was learnt.

MoTRI signs MoUs with key stakeholders to facilitate online trade

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA – The Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration (MoTRI) signed yesterday multiple Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with several key organizations to create an Integrated Company Creation Journey (ICCJ) process.

The agreement held among the MoTRI, the Document Registration and Authentication Service (DARS), the National ID Program (NIDP), the Ministry of Revenue (MoR), the Ethiopian Agricultural Authority (EAA), the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), the Ethiopian Food and Drug Authority (EFDA), and Ministry of Agriculture (MoA).

In his opening remark, MoTRI Minister Gebremeskel Chala (PhD) said that the reform government has been making consolidated efforts to create an enabling environment for the business community. As a result of this, a number of promising outcomes have been registering in the area.

"For instance, there were only 7,000 online services in 2020 whilst this number increased to 27,000 in 2022. Similarly, the number of online services for the business community increased from 1.4 million in last year to 1.8 million currently."

The minister further highlighted that the MoUs would bring a paramount importance in facilitating the trade service and address



Photo Gebabo Gebre

customers' challenges.

One of the signatories of the MoUs and Revenue Minister Aynalem Nigusie said on that occasion that the agreement would help to ensure cost effective, reasonable, and transparent service for the business community. "It is a process of tin issuance in collaboration with NIDP through an online registration platform whilst the accord is significantly helpful for the business community's day-to-day activities.

The minister also noted that the agreement would bring a number of

advantages including modernizing the trade system, enhancing revenue collection, creating an enabling business environment, supplementing international competitiveness, and realizing digital Ethiopia 2025.

Moreover, parties involved in the MoUs promised to work together more than ever for its effectiveness and solve the problems seen in the business sector.

It was learned that a steering committee will be established to oversee the implementation of these MoUs.

EU, co. extend 2.2 bln Birr economic recovery to Ethiopian businesses

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA- The European Union (EU), along with the governments of Germany and Netherlands launched a 36 million Euros (2.2 billion Birr) program to restore Ethiopia's local economy and build the resilience of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in the conflict-affected areas.

In a press statement sent to *The Ethiopian Herald*, the EU noted that the four-year program benefits MSMEs which have been operating in the conflict-impacted states of Afar, Amhara and Tigray and improved their access to finance.

The program is jointly funded by the EU, the German Government, and the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of the Netherlands. It is implemented by KfW Development Bank, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF).

As most parts of Northern Ethiopia are undergoing a transition from 'a state of conflict' to a 'state of development', the program is instrumental in supporting the efforts for post-conflict economic recovery.

EU Ambassador to Ethiopia Roland Kobia said, "This support adds to many other initiatives launched by the European Union and EU Member States to help the people of Ethiopia to recover from the conflicts. We believe that helping the MSMEs will generate more social cohesion, economic recovery and eventually peace in the country."

Industry State Minister Haasan Molalgin for his part said, "This program shows that the European Union, the Netherlands and Germany always support us in the crucial sectors. We recognize the special importance of this action that focuses on job creation for youth and women, as 65% of



our population consists of young people."

KfW, in collaboration with the Development Bank of Ethiopia (DBE), will improve access to finance through the provision of credit lines, to be channeled to MSMEs through local commercial banks and microfinance institutions.

GIZ will address the demand side by providing direct technical support to MSMEs with the aim to strengthen their business recovery and resilience as well as their creditworthiness for increasing their chances of accessing finance and reducing the risks of default for financial institutions. GIZ will provide various types of tailored business development services and trainings to MSMEs to be selected in an open selection process. It will also organize matchmaking formats between MSMEs and financial institutions.

"This program is in line with the overarching objective of the Netherlands activities in Ethiopia: contribution to enduring stability in the latter. This particular Team Europe Initiative puts the private sector in the center, which is crucial for strengthening the economy of the country," said Henk Jan Bakker, Ambassador of the Netherlands to Ethiopia stated.

"We strongly believe that the way forward to support Ethiopia in post-conflict recovery is the Team Europe approach," added Benjamin

Hecker, Head of Development Cooperation from the German Embassy.

Also, UNCDF will provide capacity building support to financial institutions and service providers to better serve the MSMEs, including via digital financial services. Financial institutions and service providers will also be supported to develop new demand-oriented financial products and credit scoring systems, expand their agent networks, and facilitate partnerships among financial institutions and technology companies to enhance innovation.

"We believe this partnership will benefit for all of us and with our constructive efforts we can help restore the sense of normalcy through economic recovery in the post-conflict areas of Ethiopia," underlined Samuel Doe, UNDP Resident Representative

The program will be implemented through the joint efforts of EU Member States' development agencies and UNCDF in close collaboration with Ethiopian partner institutions.

While the EU contributes 30 million Euros (1.8 billion Birr) for the 36-million Euros program, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development provides 3 million Euros (185 million Birr) and the Ministry for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of the Netherlands covered the balance.

MoLS plans to transform TVET to usher sustainable progress

• Chamber recognizes companies in skill dev't

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA-The Ministry of Labor and Skills (MoLS) revealed its plan to transform the TVET into a mainstream activity to ensure Ethiopia's development, ease unemployment and build human capacity.

The Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce and Sectoral Associations (ECCSA) held yesterday the first-of-its-kind recognition program for industries and commercial institutions that registered noble success in the field of skill development.

Addressing the gathering, MoLS State Minister Teshale Berecha (PhD) said collective efforts should be aligned to address the development of a workforce that is highly educated, skilled, creative and innovative in order to be competitive in the labor market.

To achieve sustainable economic development in Ethiopia, the entire spectrum of skill development ecosystem must be revitalized and recognized and it is crucial to implement human oriented market development, he added.

The TVET training and trainers are getting due attention to improve the quality of cooperative training and partnership with other companies. The workplace is the most authentic learning environment to train competent workers.

Teshale also noted that TVET contributes to the industry's technology transfer and addresses the need of companies for a qualified workforce. But this requires



Teshale Berecha (PhD)

commitment in contribution from all stakeholders from the demand and supply side. "Education and training systems must be effectively responding to these profound rapid changes of the labor market and emerging employment landscape."

The ministry is working in partnership with different actors including the German Cooperation, ECCSA and other organizations to play a great role in improving TVET skill industries in Ethiopia and narrowing the gap between supply and demand, he elaborated.

ECCSA President Melaku Ezezew (Eng.) said during the occasion that providing recognition for industries is important to help them to engage in a committed way and inspire more.

"The collaboration efforts between the government and private sector help to



Melaku Ezezew (Eng.)

develop creativity and bring sustainable development," Melaku stated, adding that public-private partnership is crucial to address the pressing youth unemployment. The Chamber is strengthening and developing collaboration with the government, private firms and development organizations and serves as a bridge.

The private sector's participation in TVET training programs is highly desirable and it would play a vital role in improving the training delivery and skill to be gained. "We are trying to show our products and services in the national and international market," he remarked.

ECCSA recognized 24 industries and commercial institutions that greatly contributed for skill development in their respective areas of engagement.

ECSOC vows...

of the National Dialogue, peace building efforts and humanitarian assistance.

As to her, Ethiopia is addressing political, security, economic, and social challenges through National Dialogue, with civil society organizations playing a crucial role in encouraging citizens to participate in decision-making processes.

This process helps to overcome the deep-rooted cycle of conflict and ensure lasting peace and democracy, she stressed.

It is important to realize that the preliminary consultations as they play important roles in the National Dialogue process that the country is undertaking for the first time in its history in a way civil society organizations advocate ideas founding on clear understanding, logical reasoning and prioritizing the interests of the country and the people, according to the Director.

Hanna called on the civil society organizations to continue supporting the National Dialogue Commission through promoting and participating the process to resolve conflicts and challenges peacefully.

Meanwhile, ECSOC has summited Agendas collected from civil society organizations to the Commission. The Agenda mainly related to the need to resolve disagreements, current problems and communication issues, she added.

Authority resolute to safer, efficient

Speaking at the summit, ECAA Director-General Getachew Mengiste said that the Authority is working aggressively in line with

guided principles and commitment that ensures the realm of aviation safety across the African continent and globally.

According to him, the summit is a testimony to the collective commitment towards championing Africa's aviation safety and serves as a catalyst for economic growth, social development and global connectivity, facilitating trade, tourism, and cultural exchange.

The director-general also noted that collaborating with aviation regulators, industry stakeholders, policymakers, and partners would be critical to address the potential challenges in the sector. "No single entity can address the multifaceted challenges of aviation safety alone; therefore, it highly requires a concerted

effort, shared expertise and a unified approach from all stakeholders across the aviation value chain."

Getachew added, "Aviation safety is not just a priority; it is a fundamental obligation-one that we owe to every passenger, crew member and community that relies on air transport."

Currently, the Ethiopian Airlines, Africa's largest and most renowned carrier is vigilantly serving in over 62 destinations across the continent, connecting people, cultures and economies.

Ethiopian Airlines Group CEO Mesfin Tassew for his part stated that the aviation sector's sensitivity makes passenger's safety, employees and facilities the core strategic priorities of the airliner.

The CEO underscored that the complex automation and technical advancements made in air navigation systems help towards

achieving higher levels of safety standards. "However, technology merely does not bring the desired level of safety everywhere."

"Since recently, the African air space has brought sound improvements although it has been regarded as unsafe due to unsatisfactory navigation services as a result of their civil aviation authorities' incompetency and having lower grade on safety performance."

Mesfin, therefore, emphasized the necessity of integrating safety as an integral part of the airliners' daily operations, working for excellence and embracing innovation that enhances safety standards.

Affirming Ethiopian commitment to collaborate with authorities, safety institutions, and fellow member airlines, the CEO reiterated that the national flag carrier will always work to advance aviation safety, foster a secure and reliable air transport network across the continent.

EDRMC toiling...

with regard to humanitarian assistance while noting that the nation has the potential to adequately produce and become self-reliant.

EDRMC Commissioner Ambassador Shiferaw Tekelemariam (PhD) on his part mentioned that Ethiopia is working harder on providing humanitarian assistance to its citizens by itself as it is a pathway to significantly minimize nation's dependency on humanitarian partners.

He said the commission conducted a survey to identify disaster and risk on 600 districts. "Mitigating and tackling vulnerability have been given top priority."

Of the four billion humanitarian assistance that was needed last year, only 33 percent was covered by partners. This indicates that the capacity of nation to cover sufficiently the assistance on its own has been built, he stressed.

Over 20 million quintal product is needed

annually which requires over 250,000 hectare of land. Nonetheless, once it is equally distributed to each state, the nation could tackle 99% of the challenge, as to him.

The Commissioner further highlighted that a plan is set to reserve over 500,000 metric ton while backing up 1.5 million metric ton for daily consumption. To this end, several alternative mechanisms have been implementing so far.

Call for...

Amb. Mesganu, moreover, emphasized the need for renewed structural engagement between the two countries to further scale up relations.

Meanwhile, MoFA Minister Taye Atskeselassie met with African Union (AU) Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security Ambassador Bankole Adoye. Taye affirmed, "The Government of Ethiopia is fully committed to the implementation of the Pretoria Peace Agreement," according to the readout from the Ministry.

Commissioner Bankole "commended the implementation of the Pretoria Peace Agreement" so far.

He highlighted the AU's 1 million USD contribution from its Peace Fund to support Ethiopia's DDR process and the full deployment of the AU Monitoring, Verification, and Compliance Mission.

Bankole added that the AU "will continue to support the implementation of the transitional justice policy framework in Ethiopia." The meetings also covered regional security matters, with Bankole stating "Ethiopia is a formidable and effective partner in the peace-making efforts in the HoA."

He underscored AU's commitment to continue strengthening its joint work with Ethiopia.

Opinion

Some misconceptions on the essence of criticism, critique and fault finding

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

Criticism, critique, and fault-finding are related concepts, but they have distinct characteristics and purposes.

Criticism typically refers to the act of expressing disapproval or judgment about something, often highlighting perceived flaws, shortcomings, or deficiencies. Criticism can be negative or positive, constructive or destructive, depending on the tone, intent, and delivery. While criticism may offer valuable feedback, it can sometimes be unproductive or demotivating if it lacks specificity, empathy, or constructive suggestions for improvement. In this context criticism should not be forwarded as a tool for propaganda and hate speech or over generalization of specific information.

Critique, on the other hand, involves a thoughtful and analytical evaluation of something, such as a work of art, literature, performance, government performance or idea. Unlike criticism, which may focus solely on identifying faults or weaknesses, critique aims to provide a balanced assessment that considers both strengths and areas for improvement. A critique often involves deeper analysis, interpretation, and reflection, offering insights, perspectives, and recommendations for enhancing the quality, effectiveness, or impact of the subject under review.

Fault-finding refers to the tendency to seek out and emphasize flaws, errors, or mistakes in something, often in a hypercritical or nitpicking manner. Unlike constructive criticism or critique, which may aim to help identify areas for improvement and promote growth, fault-finding tends to focus solely on the negative aspects, overlooking positive attributes or contributions. Fault-finding can be unproductive and demoralizing, leading to a pessimistic outlook and hindering progress or collaboration.

Critique, when approached with wisdom and constructive intent, can offer valuable insights, promote growth, and foster positive change in various contexts, including academia, the arts, politics, and personal development. Here's how the wisdom of critique manifests:

Constructive criticism provides an opportunity for individuals, organizations, or works to identify strengths and weaknesses, pinpoint areas for improvement, and refine their skills, processes, or products. By receiving feedback with an open mind and a willingness to learn, individuals can grow professionally and personally, leading to continuous improvement and excellence.

Critique encourages innovative thinking and creative problem-solving by challenging established norms, questioning assumptions, and exploring alternative approaches. By examining existing ideas, practices, or systems critically, individuals can identify opportunities for innovation, experimentation, and disruptive change, driving progress and advancement in various fields.

Constructive critique promotes accountability and transparency by holding individuals, organizations, or institutions accountable for their actions, decisions, and performance.

By acknowledging shortcomings, addressing failures, and learning from mistakes, individuals can cultivate a culture of accountability, integrity, and ethical conduct, fostering trust and credibility in relationships and communities.

Critique fosters meaningful dialogue, collaboration, and exchange of ideas by inviting diverse perspectives, insights, and experiences into the conversation. By engaging in respectful and constructive dialogue, individuals can build bridges, bridge divides, and find common ground, leading to collaboration, consensus-building, and collective action to address complex challenges and achieve shared goals.

Constructive criticism builds resilience, perseverance, and adaptability by teaching individuals to embrace feedback, overcome setbacks, and bounce back from failure. By viewing critique as an opportunity for growth rather than a personal attack, individuals can develop resilience, confidence, and a growth mindset, enabling them to navigate adversity and achieve success in the face of challenges.

Critique enhances self-awareness, self-reflection, and self-improvement by prompting individuals to reflect on their strengths, weaknesses, values, and aspirations. By seeking feedback from others and engaging in introspection, individuals can gain insights into their motivations, behaviors, and goals, leading to greater clarity, authenticity, and alignment with their purpose and values.

Constructive critique cultivates empathy, compassion, and empathy by encouraging individuals to consider the perspectives, feelings, and needs of others. By offering feedback with empathy, kindness, and respect, individuals can create supportive, inclusive, and nurturing environments where everyone feels valued, heard, and empowered to thrive.

In essence, the wisdom of critique lies in its ability to inspire growth, foster learning, and promote positive change, both individually and collectively. By embracing critique with an open mind, humility, and a commitment to continuous improvement, individuals can harness its transformative power to achieve excellence, innovation, and fulfillment in their endeavors.

To be a critique on any issue or subject matter one should be trained in the art of critique and fully master the subject matter, the issue or policy matters under consideration. To be very clear, in Ethiopia we have millions engaged in emotionally charged criticism on a subject matter that one has shallow understanding of the content of the issue to be criticized.

It is also important to take the necessary care in conducting a critique on a subject matter.

Conducting a critique on a subject matter involves a thoughtful and analytical evaluation of its strengths, weaknesses, and overall effectiveness. Here are some steps to guide you through the process:

First one should start by thoroughly understanding the subject matter you intend to critique. This may involve studying relevant materials, gathering information,

and familiarizing yourself with the context, background, and key aspects of the subject.

It is also important to define clear criteria or standards for evaluating the subject matter. Consider factors such as relevance, accuracy, coherence, originality, clarity, and effectiveness, depending on the nature of the subject and your specific objectives for the critique.

Collecting evidence, examples, and supporting materials to inform your critique is a necessary action to be taken. This may include relevant data, research findings, quotations, illustrations, or examples from the subject matter itself or external sources that illustrate your points.

It is equally important to conduct a thorough analysis of the subject matter, examining both its strengths and weaknesses based on the criteria you established. Identify notable features, positive aspects, and areas of excellence, as well as areas that may be lacking, inconsistent, or in need of improvement.

Offering constructive feedback and recommendations for improvement based on your analysis is very useful. It is important to be specific, objective, and constructive in your criticism, focusing on actionable suggestions and opportunities for enhancement rather than simply pointing out flaws or deficiencies.

Acknowledging and considering alternative perspectives, interpretations, or viewpoints that may exist regarding the subject matter. Be open-minded and receptive to diverse opinions, recognizing that different individuals may have different interpretations or preferences.

Presenting ones critique in a clear, coherent, and professional manner, using appropriate language, tone, and format. Organize your critique logically, using headings, subheadings, and transitions to guide the reader through your analysis and findings.

It is very useful to back up ones critique with evidence, examples, and rationale to support your arguments and conclusions. Cite relevant sources, data, or literature to substantiate your claims and provide credibility to your analysis.

Encouraging discussion, dialogue, and feedback from others who may have insights or perspectives to contribute to your critique is a very useful strategy in the process. Be open to constructive criticism and engage in respectful exchange of ideas and perspectives.

A person who prepares a critique needs to take time to reflect on your critique and consider any feedback or insights you receive. Revise and refine your critique as needed to ensure clarity, accuracy, and effectiveness in communicating your evaluation of the subject matter.

Some activists and all-knowing gurus in Ethiopia hurdle criticisms over the social media on issues on which they do not have enough information or deliberately distort the real essence of the information fuming with anger expressed through hateful words and body language.

Yes, the constitution provides for freedom of speech and expression but such legal rights are

being abused and misused putting a number of activists and "professionals" at loggerheads with the law and public order. They think that it is their right to criticize or even shift blames as they have every right to speech.

Ethnicity and not civil nationalism has been deliberately made to be inculcated in the public mindset or social consciousness. People have developed a subculture in which everything is politicized in the context of ethnic framework.

Resolving criticism and fault-finding requires a combination of communication skills, empathy, and constructive problem-solving approaches. Here are some strategies to address and mitigate criticism and fault-finding:

When receiving criticism or feedback, approach it with an open mind and a willingness to listen. Avoid becoming defensive or dismissive, and instead, actively listen to understand the concerns or perspectives being expressed.

If the criticism or fault-finding is unclear or vague, ask for specific examples or details to better understand the issues being raised. Clarifying questions can help identify the root causes of the criticism and facilitate constructive dialogue.

Instead of dwelling on the negative aspects of criticism or fault-finding, shift the focus towards finding solutions and addressing underlying issues. Collaborate with others to brainstorm ideas, explore alternatives, and develop action plans for improvement.

Even if the criticism or fault-finding feels unjust or unwarranted, acknowledge any valid points or areas for improvement that may have been raised. Demonstrating humility and a willingness to learn from feedback can help build trust and credibility.

Respond to criticism and fault-finding in a constructive and respectful manner, focusing on problem-solving and mutual understanding. Avoid responding defensively or engaging in confrontational behavior, as this may escalate tensions and hinder resolution.

If criticism or fault-finding becomes excessive or unproductive, set clear boundaries and assertively communicate your needs and expectations. Establishing boundaries can help maintain a healthy and respectful dialogue while preventing the spread of negativity or toxicity.

Nonetheless, it is important to look beyond the surface-level criticism or fault-finding to identify any underlying issues or concerns that may be contributing to the situation. Addressing root causes and systemic issues can help prevent recurrence and promote long-term resolution.

It sometimes pays off to embrace criticism and fault-finding as opportunities for growth and learning. Adopt a growth mindset and commit to continuous improvement, both individually and collectively, by using feedback to inform decision-making and drive positive change.

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

Editorial

Throwing full weight behind dev't

Lying about 15 kms north of Wukro city, along a trunk road in Tigray State, Nejashi is a small town which has carried a much larger globally significant historical heritage. The Nejashi mosque is an emblem of justice and coexistence built after the Ethiopian King extended a warm welcome to the followers of Prophet Mohammad as they had faced persecution in their homeland.

This makes the city one of the top historical cities of Islam in the world. Ethiopia in general and Tigray State in particular have come back to normal ending a two-year bloody war. The Pretoria peace accord that was signed between the federal government and the TPLF has served beyond a mere peace agreement. It has as well proven true the dictum: 'African solutions to African challenges.'

Today, news of development feats makes big headlines in Ethiopia. To cite, the federal government has launched the Nejashi 00 project which envisages enabling the town attract more tourists.

This is an indication of the extent to which the two sides valued peace and are showing commitment to implement the agreement. It is true that effectively ceasing the two years of brutal war is one big success as it has caused a considerable loss of life, damage of property and left trauma which needs a lot of work to heal in the years to come. The mechanisms such as transitional justice and the Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission have come to effect to heal the wounds.

Therefore the fact that the two sides have now resorted to rehabilitation and reconstruction works needs due encouragement. It is also important to note that all these progress is possible as a result of the positive steps made towards ensuring peace.

In addition to those in the pipeline, the wheels of many of the ecotourism projects that have taken shape in Addis Ababa and various states such as Amhara, Oromia, and Southwest Ethiopia have come to motion. The management of the lodges and resorts built under Dine for Ethiopia are transferred to the Ethiopian Airlines and the respective states. Very recent welcoming news is that the projects' activities are run by a world-class African entity. Southwest Ethiopia State and Ethiopian Airlines Group signed contractual agreement that allow the latter takeover the management of Chebera Churchura Elephant Paw Lodge and Halala Kella resort.

In addition, the government is also undertaking development projects in the agriculture sector which is aimed at ensuring the country's food self-reliance. Among the projects related to raising the country's agricultural productivity is the lowland wheat production, as well as irrigation wheat farming projects that are proven effective in supplying wheat to the local market as well as to export. Furthermore, the government has implemented an effective intervention to boost the country's production of rice which is becoming one of the most widely consumed food crops in the country. Accordingly, the country is able to yield rice more than two folds than its plan. This is not to mention the gains that the manufacturing sector has secured in slashing imports and promoting exports.

Per the second edition of the home-grown initiative, Ethiopia is prancing on along the development track so fast and so high. The multi-sectorial development drive is brining visible results. The contribution of Ethiopia's foreign partners that pursues their policies on the win-win base has also borne sweat fruit. The partnership should continue for the benefit of all sides. What is more, Ethiopia's ascension to prosperity is on an irreversible stage.



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Opinion

Clean mindset a necessary prerequisite for clean Ethiopia

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

A clean mindset refers to a way of thinking and approaching life that prioritizes cleanliness, hygiene, environmental stewardship, and sustainable living practices. It involves cultivating attitudes, habits, and behaviors that promote cleanliness, both in personal spaces and in the broader environment.

How does this relate to the concept of clean thinking in the context of the current campaign to develop clean Ethiopia in this country? Several points could be considered regarding this.

A clean mindset involves maintaining high standards of personal hygiene, including regular bathing, handwashing, dental care, and grooming. It emphasizes the importance of cleanliness for health, well-being, and self-respect.

Awareness on the issues of the environment as a component of clean mindset includes awareness of environmental issues such as pollution, waste management, and conservation. It recognizes the impact of human activities on the environment and strives to minimize negative effects through responsible behavior and sustainable practices.

Carelessness in handling dry and fluid waste has been the practice in many cities across Ethiopia. When it comes to clean mindset citizens in rural Ethiopia are far more conscious and responsible in handling trash and waste. For instance, in rural Ethiopia the front part of a hut is always very clean because farmers use them either to dry cereals and food on mats or use them as a spot for meetings. Organic waste is thrown at the backward and is used to grow pumpkin and other vegetable products.

The author believes that clean mindset needs to be developed at home level and particularly for children at early stage, cleanness of the entire family, community and the larger areas inn townships and cities across Ethiopia.

According to WHO, an estimated 12.6 million people died as a result of living or working in an unhealthy environment in 2012 – nearly 1 in 4 of total global deaths, according to new estimates from WHO. Environmental risk factors, such as air, water and soil pollution, chemical exposures, climate change, and ultraviolet radiation, contribute to more than 100 diseases and injuries.

A clean mindset entails respecting public spaces and shared resources by avoiding littering, vandalism and other forms of environmental degradation. It involves taking pride in one's community and contributing to its cleanliness and beauty.

A clean mindset emphasizes reducing waste, recycling materials, and minimizing consumption to lessen the environmental burden. It encourages thoughtful consumption habits and responsible disposal of waste to minimize pollution and protect natural resources.

Among other things, a clean mindset involves active participation in community clean-up efforts, environmental initiatives, and advocacy for cleaner, healthier neighborhoods. It recognizes the importance of collective action in creating and maintaining clean environments.

A clean mindset is characterized by a positive attitude towards cleanliness, hygiene, and environmental stewardship. It fosters a sense of responsibility, pride, and satisfaction in maintaining clean surroundings and contributing to a healthier planet.

In a nutshell clean mindset encompasses a holistic approach to cleanliness and sustainability, incorporating personal, social, and environmental

dimensions. It reflects a commitment to living in harmony with nature, respecting oneself and others, and taking proactive steps to create a cleaner, healthier world for present and future generations in Ethiopia

Clean and rational thinking refers to a cognitive approach that is clear, logical, objective, and free from bias or distortion. It involves critically evaluating information, making well-reasoned judgments, and drawing conclusions based on evidence and logical reasoning.

A clean mindset promotes orderliness, organization, and clarity of thought, which can help reduce stress levels. By maintaining clean and tidy surroundings, individuals may experience a greater sense of calm and relaxation, leading to lower levels of stress and anxiety.

In addition, a clean mindset often translates into cleaner living environments, which can have direct benefits for physical health. Cleanliness reduces the risk of exposure to harmful pathogens, allergens, and toxins, lowering the likelihood of infections, respiratory problems, and other health issues.

Living in a clean environment supports a healthy immune system by reducing the spread of germs and infectious agents. This can lead to fewer illnesses and infections, as well as a stronger immune response to pathogens.

Clean air quality is essential for respiratory health. A clean mindset that prioritizes indoor air quality through regular ventilation, dusting, and cleaning can reduce the risk of respiratory conditions such as asthma, allergies, and respiratory infections.

A clean and clutter-free environment promotes better sleep quality. Sleeping in a clean, comfortable space can enhance relaxation, reduce sleep disturbances, and improve overall sleep hygiene, leading to more restful and rejuvenating sleep.

A clean mindset fosters mental clarity and focus by minimizing distractions and clutter in the environment. A clean, organized workspace, for example, can improve concentration, productivity, and cognitive performance.

Living in a clean and orderly environment can have positive effects on mood and psychological well-being. A clean mindset promotes feelings of satisfaction, pride, and accomplishment, which can contribute to overall happiness and life satisfaction.

Maintaining a clean and clutter-free environment reduces the risk of accidents and injuries, such as slips, trips, and falls. By eliminating hazards and maintaining safe surroundings, individuals can protect themselves from physical harm and maintain their overall well-being.

These health advantages cannot be secured only by the efforts of health professionals or persons responsible for ensuring public health and safety in Ethiopia. It is important to develop a common narrative and public consciousness on being conscious of the health advantages of being clean in a more permanent and sustainable manner.

The fact the entire public, government officials and company owners have effectively responded to the call of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed to contribute to clean Ethiopia shows that there is a huge need for developing public rest rooms in Addis Ababa and across the country. Efforts need to be made to build upon this and develop a national protocol for ensuring healthy environment in the country by cultivating clean mindset. This will certainly pay off both in the short run and for longer period of time.

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

Business & Economy

Obtaining better use of own earth's belly resources

BY BACHA ZEWDIE

Ethiopia is endowed with potential wealth of the world's most sought-after precious and ornamental minerals such as opal, emerald, sapphire, ruby, agate and quartz. However, so far, the work done in developing these resources to bring economic benefits is insignificant. In particular, data indicates that efforts to earn foreign currency by developing precious and ornamental minerals, which have been proven by research, are not yielding results.

According to data, a wealth worth about 250 to 300 billion Dollars transacts annually in the field of precious and ornamental minerals. In Ethiopia, it generated 3 to 4 million Dollars until last year. This shows that it is possible to get great achievements if the activities that enable the proper use of the resources that are driving the world economy are done.

However, since the last five years, encouraging changes are being seen due to the government's attention to the sector. In particular, the work of developing precious and ornamental minerals to be used for economic benefits by exporting them to the foreign market has been strengthened.

Presently, by increasing the value of precious and ornamental minerals to the foreign market, they are being made to bring in foreign currency. However, raw minerals without any value addition still dominate the market. The sector's five-year foreign market data indicates this. About 95% of the precious and ornamental minerals sent to the foreign market in their raw form during five years. The remaining only 5% are exported value added.

This indicates that the country needs to do a lot to develop its mineral wealth and earn the foreign currency it deserves from the sector. Especially in this digital age, it requires the use of options developed countries used to go the distance they have gone and be competitive at the international level.

The Ethiopian Mining Corporation is one of the institutions engaged in the mining sector and working to promote the country's mineral wealth. The corporation has been engaged in the sector for the past 80 years. It is working to make Ethiopia's mineral wealth known to the world and to produce high-quality mineral jewelry at an affordable price.

The Corporation was formerly known as the Ethiopian Mining, Petroleum and Biofuel Corporation; it is a development company that was re-established under Decree No. 462/2020 and changed its name to Ethiopian Mining Corporation. The purpose of its establishment is to directly participate in mining, oil and bio-fuel activities, to enable it to benefit from the country's natural resources by developing them appropriately.

According to the Acting Director of Ethiopian Mining Corporation, Ahmed Abagisa; Ethiopian Mining Corporation is a public development company engaged in the mining sector. The corporation carries out activities such as exploration and mining, analysis and identification of minerals, marketing and export of precious metals, providing training and consulting for the sector.

Ahmed pointed out that using the long years



Dyed-Ethiopian-opal-beads

of experience, the corporation is making Ethiopia's mineral resources contribute to the country's economy. In recent times, it has made various changes and is more ready to work in the sector. He stated that Ethiopia is doing many things to fulfill its role so that it can use its mineral wealth. It is working on value addition to increase foreign exchange earnings.

He further stated that efforts are being made to prevent the illegal transfer of minerals by introducing precious and ornamental minerals to the world and offering the minerals through digital market, so that the country can get the foreign currency it deserves.

Ahmed said, "The Corporation has been given the responsibility by the government to do its part in the Ethiopian economy by strengthening it in manpower and material than before." Though opal has been widely used in mining, he pointed out that efforts are being made to increase the value of others like emerald; sapphire and other precious minerals found in Ethiopia and bring them to the market. Ahmed stated that the corporation has a precious metals enrichment workshop equipped with qualified professionals and necessary machines. The workshop will be used for the production of quality jewelry by molding precious metals. They are in the process of buying a machine to make the jewelry in silver and gold. Many jewelry pieces such as necklaces, bracelets and earrings are being made by carving the minerals. He also explained that they will produce various types of jewelry products plated with gold and silver that can earn foreign currency.

"We are increasing the work done on precious metals by working in different ways and making them be used for different purposes," the representative director said. Ethiopia has many unknown minerals. Opal is also a recent discovery that hasn't been around for very long. Therefore, there is a situation where opal can be sold raw and value added. "Precious minerals have a limited share in the country's economy, so efforts are being made to boost the country's economy by promoting the minerals," he said.

Adding value to the minerals and using the

digital market are taken as options to increase the foreign exchange. He indicated that they are currently offering precious metals for sale by organizing precious metals shops and keeping them at the head office, Ethiopian Tourist Trade Organization and Ethiopian Airlines' foreign terminal.

In addition, it is working in coordination with various institutions to provide value added minerals to the local and foreign markets through digital platform. The preparation for selling precious metals in the digital market through Dashen Bank, Eagle Line and Mastercard has been completed.

Ahmed said that concrete works are being done so that they can play a part in the development of the country by promoting precious metals. It is necessary to strengthen and hold on this work. They are preparing to buy various materials and ornaments that can work with gold and silver in an attractive manner. "When we look at the experience of other countries such as India and Turkey, they are known for precious metals, and have gone a long way in the field. Therefore, by importing these materials from these countries, it is possible to be competitive in the world market," he explained.

When the corporation obtained minerals from small producers engaged in the sector four months ago, it provided training to 34 small associations engaged in precious metals production. The training provided them with an understanding of how the minerals can be processed and converted into the market and how they can be transferred. After the training, a system was set up where they can work with the corporation identifying the types of mines in which the associations will participate, he pointed out.

As he said, at present, the minerals come from various regions of Ethiopia (Tigray, Amhara, Oromia, Benshangul and Gambella regions). Opal is widely produced in the Wolo Delanta area of the Amhara region. The opal producing associations are being extensively trained to sell the mineral to the company with a legal transfer license. When the corporation buys minerals, it is legal. Working with the corporation that works in accordance with the law will prevent the illegality of mining.

Ahmed stated that the minerals are supplied

to the local and foreign markets through various shops and digital markets. The country's foreign exchange will be increased by promoting the country's minerals in the world market through the digital market. With this, he announced that efforts are being made for the country to earn the foreign currency it deserves from the sector.

He said that many works are being done to provide value added precious metals to the foreign market since it needs a lot of work that includes purchasing necessary materials to be globally competitive in terms of value addition. "Currently, the work being done around precious and ornamental minerals is not said to be fulfilling its role in the economy; it shows that it is growing." He pointed out that there are still many works to be done in terms of value addition; so many efforts will be made to do it as required.

"Mining is one of the pillars of the economy that ensures the prosperity of our country," he underlined. He mentioned that the mineral expo organized by the Ministry of Mines last October would allow minerals to be introduced to the world. He also noted that it was an eye-opener for mining to play its part in the country's economy, to avoid illegality, to do quality mining work, and to do effective work based on research.

Recalling that the corporation was also participating in the expo; he pointed out that it is making extensive efforts to contribute to the development of the country through mining. The results are constantly improving, he noted.

The Acting Director mentioned that there are various challenges that are faced because the mineral exploration and production work is carried out in different places in the country. The challenges faced with peace and tranquility are being gradually solved and fixed, so good conditions are being created that will help the mining industry in the future.

He concluded that the efforts being made for the country to benefit from the sector will continue to be strengthened by taking an active part in extracting and using the mineral resources and other resources that Ethiopia has.

Art & Culture

Our writers of yesteryears - eccentricity, drinking and creativity

BY MULUGETA GUDETA

Back in the 1990s, there was an interview by the late Amare Mamo, editor, critic and author in his own right. The interview was published by a literary magazine and the discussion focused on the social and economic status of Ethiopian writers and artistic personalities in general. Amare Mamo who was considered the best editor of his time, was quoted as saying that “Ethiopian writers and artists are the poorest in the world,” adding that, “most of them are so broke that they have no money to get their manuscripts typed or buy themselves a decent lunch after long hours of sweating.”

By the way, Amare Mamo was to Ethiopian literature what Maxwell Perkins was to American letters. Maxwell Perkins was an American book editor, best remembered for discovering authors Ernest Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald and Thomas Wolfe to name but a few of them. By the same token Amare Mamo discovered first time published authors like Bealu Girma, Berhanu Zerihun, Abera Lema and many others. I met Amare when I was publishing my debut short story collection entitled, “Ye Arada Lijoch” (The Boys of Arada). He read my manuscript, encouraged me to write more and chose to publish it. He was the first literary editor I met in my career.

Although Amare said that Ethiopian writers were mostly paupers, all of them were not however poor. Bealu Girma, Tesfaye Gessesse, Mamo Wudeneh, and others were members of an elite group from the middle class intelligentsia of the time. They were not professional writers. They had decent jobs, decent incomes and a stable middle class life. Most of them were government employees earning regular salaries. Of course, there were also rebel ones, chief among them being Abe Gubegna who chose to lead a rather the life of a professional writer devoting his time to writing while he had no stable income and lived in poverty. He was the victim of government harassments and even banishment for his political views that were radical for this time.

In his time, there were two kinds of writers and artists, the ones wealthy enough to lead decent lives the other too pauperized that they were the victims of drinking in excess which was the scourge of artists everywhere in the world at that time. By the way, drinking in excess was wrongly believed that it was the catalyst of creativity. And this drinking culture was mainly imported from the West. Hemingway, Faulkner and Scott Fitzgerald, considered the stars of the 1920s and 1930s, were famous not only for their writing acumen but also their drinking excesses.

William Faulkner, the author of the classic “Absalom! Absalom!” among others, was more than a drinker but an alcoholic addict



who did not function with his daily dosage of alcohol. Hemingway was of course the quintessential American drinker whose ink was flowing on the paper at the same pace as his drinks. When he travelled to Stockholm to collect his Nobel Prize for literature, he was found utterly drunk in his hotel room where he had slumbered for long hours before regaining consciousness.

Fitzgerald was also a young and talented writer who indulged in the notorious habit of drinking too much alcohol and died relatively very young. His famous novel, “The Great Gatsby” and others are replete with scenes and characters who were fond of the evening cocktail parties. It was Maxwell Perkins who discovered Fitzgerald before, “Fitzgerald’s profligacy and alcoholism strained his relationship with the famous editor.

These writers were considered literary heroes in this country in the 1960s, 1970s and after. Local writers tried to copy not only their literary styles but also their lifestyles. When the American writers were indulging in Martinis and Whiskey, our good old writers frequented ale houses, and backstreet booze joints where they discussed literature and the arts or the latest works of foreign writers and even gave clues about their own works that were still under gestation. There were also boasting and loquacious writers among them. Sebhat G/ Egziabher was one of them.

Hemingway was famous for his observation on writing and drinking. He was once quoted as saying that he wrote while he was drunk and edit when he was sober. “Write drunk, edit sober” was his infamous recommendation. “Researchers have identified that there are times when alcohol helps creativity as well as get in the way. Alcohol helps to inhibit that part of the brain that constantly “checks” to see how we are doing when we are creative. The upside to this can often be breaking through writer’s block.”

Sebhat was no doubt a good writer although he frequented the liquor houses around Teret Sefer ((‘neighborhood of tales’)

right on Churchill Road, or down near Ambassador Theatre, in one of the shacks called “groceries” where he clicked glasses with the celebrities of his time. There was many famous writing people who came to those places simply to see Sebhat or listen to his drunken discourses that became more vehement when he reached his “epiphany moments” or his violent outbursts and possible abuses. Sebhat was of course more famous for his eccentricities than his literary work.

As an aside, according to one information why authors drink alcohol, “There are any number other possible reasons for the close relationship between writing and drinking., however, including the need to bring out exhibitionism, increase sociability, encourage fantasy, bolster self-confidence, ease loneliness, or most simply relax after a long day of hard concentration.”

Flipping back to Sebhat, once when dawn fell in the area, he held his coat in one hand and started to walk up Churchill Square and into Teret Sefer where women of pleasure and drinkers brushed shoulders and gulped their misery into tons of liquor that was as not only widely available but also as cheap as pipe water. Sebhat later on married one of the ladies in the area and had a daughter. The day after drinking sprees, the famous gentlemen were sitting for what they called “bercha” which was a ritual of eating the narcotic plant in order to deal with their hangovers. Then the cycle continued later in the afternoons.

At this point, we should consider the following questions: Does drinking really help creativity? Why are writers, journalists and many of them engaged in intellectual activities often prone to drinking too much and hurting their health? In short is alcohol a catalyst of imagination? Alcohol is considered by the medical science as a relaxant, when taken in moderation. The problem is that we do not know when moderation ends and abuse kicks in. Many users may start drinking alcohol for its relaxing properties.

Writers may start drinking alcohol as a

relaxant and then grow to become addicts and end up as abusers. This was also the case with some of our writers and journalists of yesteryear. Of course writing is a very stressful job and writers usually take a few drinks after work, usually in the evenings to relax and develop addiction without knowing it. However, drinking alcohol while working does not help the quality of the writing. “After receiving the highest level of alcohol, individuals were found to have an increased reaction time, more errors and an overall decrease of successful trials.”

Unfortunately, addiction leads to dependence and then to pauperism and the lives of many scribes are cut short by alcohol abuse. Drinking for some of them was also an escape from ordinary life they found irritating or boring. They were usually loners who usually go to backstreet drinking outlets to satisfy their cravings or fuel their inspiration. They did not have many friends and they preferred solitude rather than crowd pleasing that gave them more time for reflection or self-examination.

Whatever the reason or cause behind too much alcohol drinking, the risks are far more serious than the benefits if any. This is particularly true to writers who drink and write or write and drink. If writers are considered to belong to the lower echelon on the social and economic ladder, drinking cannot obviously come as a remedy.

Poverty plus writing may not click and the stress of writing under miserable conditions is likely to lead to too much stress, depression and anxiety. In more affluent societies, writing do not only have the means of buying a number of glasses of liquor every day or every night, alcohol is also considered a fuel for creativity to a certain extent. According to one opinion, “having a blood alcohol level of 0.07% may actually help with tasks such as problem solving and creative projects.”

Young writers in particular should be advised against indulging in alcoholism whatever their callings may be. The myth of alcohol helping creativity has proved to be more a myth than a reality. Young writers should not therefore fall prey to this myth. Staring to drink earlier in their careers may create serious health, economic and social troubles. If you start as a passionate young writer indulging in drinks every day, you may soon find yourself a victim of anxiety and depression when the going gets tough or when you fail to get your first novel or short story published. Recovery from mental illness has its own serious costs as the lives of many of our writers testify.

The bottom line is why not writers develop the healthier habit of having always a bottle of water nearby and sipping now and then in the process of creativity? That would certainly help both your writing as well as your health.

Indepth

Inclusivity, impact, and innovation needed to meet SDGs, UN civil society conference hears

The world is neither on track to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) nor is it leveraging emerging opportunities to effectively address global concerns such as extreme hunger, poverty, conflict, and climate change. Global concerns have outpaced existing structures for international cooperation and coping.

To forge a global perspective, the United Nations Office in Nairobi is currently hosting the 2024 United Nations Civil Society Conference under the theme Shaping a Future of Global and Sustainable Progress. Bringing together more than 2,000 participants from civil society organizations, academic institutions, think tanks, member states, private sector companies, UN entities, change-makers, and other relevant stakeholders from across the globe.

“That civil society engagement remains a critical cog in the wheel of development is well established. Greater collaboration between civil society organizations, governments, and the private sector can therefore not be more urgent at this time as we gear up for the Summit of the Future,” says Carole Ageng’o, Global Initiatives Lead & Africa Regional Representative at HelpAge International.

“Indeed, civil society participation will contribute greatly towards meeting the aspiration of an international system that is better prepared to manage the challenges we face now and, in the future, for the sake of all humanity and for future generations.”

Since 1947, sixty-eight civil society conferences have resulted in successful outcomes due to previous interactions with civil society organizations. The ongoing conference is the premier event on the civil society calendar at the United Nations and the first of the UN’s civil society conferences to be held in Africa.

Born in Zimbabwe and currently working in South Africa as a human rights defender, Constance Mukarati told IPS that the role of civil society organizations and, more so, human rights defenders cannot be overstated towards ensuring that no one is left behind.

“For us, SDG 5 is really SDG 1. As a matter of urgency, women and girls everywhere must have equal rights and opportunities. We are still in an era where girl child education is not a priority and a gathering such as this is an opportunity for a revolution in how we think about issues of national and global concern, how we talk about these issues, who is in the room and how we execute and implement commitments towards sustainable development,” says Mukarati from the African Initiative of Women



Credit: Joyce Chimbi/IPS

The United Nations Office at Nairobi is hosting the 2024 United Nations Civil Society Conference on May 9 and 10, under the theme Shaping a Future of Global and Sustainable Progress.

Human Rights Defenders.

The ongoing gathering of civil society and other stakeholders is on track to provide preliminary discussions and data ahead of the world’s leaders’ Summit of the Future on September 22–23, 2024, at the UN Headquarters in New York. The Summit is part of a monumental effort to reset global cooperation towards accelerating efforts to meet our existing international commitments and take concrete steps to respond to emerging challenges and opportunities.

Ultimately, the Summit of the Future is about rethinking what multilateralism means in a world characterized by plummeting levels of trust in public institutions, glaring wealth inequalities, and a majority of the world’s population in underdeveloped and developing nations being left furthest behind, falling deeper into extreme hunger and poverty. To address global concerns, the Summit will produce three international frameworks: the Pact for the Future (available as a zero draft), the Global Digital Compact, and the Declaration on Future Generations.

“It is highly urgent that the UN systems relook and redesign how they engage its global citizenry so that the citizens can in turn engage the UN more effectively. This is what is needed to bring the SDGs back on track. What are people saying about the multiple challenges they face today? There is a feeling within the civil society movement that governments’

voices are prioritized within the UN system. This engagement is unique and highly relevant for our voices as activists and human rights defenders, which will inform and influence the direction that the Summit of the Future takes,” Eric Omondi, a Nairobi-based activist, told IPS.

This is a historic gathering aimed at galvanizing collaboration and reinforcing civil society organizations engagement in sustainable development. “We recognize that our generation stands at a critical junction where every action we take can significantly shape the future of our shared planet,” said Florence Syevuo, Executive Director, SDG Kenya Forum, and Co-Chair, Coalition for the UN We Need, Nairobi.

She stressed that the need to recognize the urgency of addressing global concerns such as climate change has never been more tangible as the effects of human interactions with nature become even more evident, underpinning why the outcome of the conference matters to all.

The Civil Society Conference and the Summit of the Future are critical platforms for deepening the engagement of citizens in international cooperation. As a prelude to the Summit of the Future, the Civil Society Conference features in-depth dialogues, a variety of workshops, and exhibits centered on three main objectives: inclusivity, impact, and innovation.

Inclusivity helps broaden the scope of discourse on global issues by enhancing the visibility and impact of diverse voices. On impact, participants are shaping global multi-stakeholder coalitions to advocate for and push the key issues that will be the outcome of the September Summit of the Future. On innovation, the two-day gathering is redefining the interaction between civil society and intergovernmental processes, showcasing a new model of collaboration that spans generations and sectors.

“The inclusion of youths and young voices in the SDG processes and other related commitments must become a priority. I recently completed my studies in law at Kampala International University and I intend to use my legal knowledge to amplify the most pressing problems facing young people in the global south and the communities in which they live,” Kiconco Shallom Esther, a youth participant from Uganda, told IPS.

As the curtain fell on the first day of the landmark civil society conference, there was consensus around the need to promote civil society’s insights and initiatives to bolster the Member State-led Summit of the Future process. Further emphasizing that a reinvigorated, organized civil society group can more effectively hold governments and powers accountable for progress towards a just, fair, and equitable shared future.

SOURCE: INTER PRESS SERVICE

Law & Politics

Will Africa Ever get Fair Representation at UNSC?

BY Solomon wassihun

The global order, if it still exists, is unjust and undemocratic, to say the least. What is more saddening is it remained so despite the centuries long preaching, declarations revolutions and multilateral alliances made on the promise and vision of democracy, justice, peace and equality. The world is still increasingly unsafe place, plagued with violence, greed, injustice, and hypocrisy. The irony is the presumably existing undemocratic global order is shaped and being guided predominantly by powers that proclaimed themselves as the vanguards of freedom and democracy.

One need not look further than the UN to corroborate the above argument; it is the world's largest multinational political organization epitomizing the blatant injustice and unfairness of the global order. It show cases the powerful few are dominating the weak majority, and how the poor are speechless and have no say even on matters that directly affect them and shape their future.

Last September the UN Chief has warned world leaders of his frustration saying "our world is becoming unhinged. Geo political tensions are rising. Global challenges are mounting. We seem incapable of coming together to respond. The world has changed, but our institutions [like UNSC, IMF WB] are not. We cannot effectively address problems as they are. If institutions do not reflect the world as it is, instead of solving the problem, they risk becoming part of the problem"

The lingering question about UN's and its institutions' strength as a neutral body and its organizational fitness for the 21 century world geo-politics has now been reignited. More than ever before, people are questioning if the UNSC would ever be capable achieving its goals of international peace and security. There are several other longstanding pressing issues that are challenging the impartiality, competence and structure of the UN, in general and its powerful unit, the Security Council, UNSC in particular.

For instance, UN Assembly has debated the question of equitable representation in the Security Council since 1979 and that not much has changed since then to adapt the institution to better reflect current realities. Thus UNSC membership composition has not made any meaningful change since the UN's establishment in October 1945 with 51 founding member states of which four were African countries including Ethiopia.

The situation of Africa's under

Notable African leaders like Ethiopia's premier Abiy Ahmed, South Africa's president Ramaphosa and others have made repeated bold statement on various international arena calling for fair representation of Africa in the UNSC

representation in the UNSC, is a quintessential and stark display of the Council's unfairness and its marginalizing of the Global South nations affected by colonialism]. Africa is the least represented continent given its membership share in UN and population size. In a recent statement he made at a gathering held here in Addis, the African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security said "Multilateralism cannot be what we see in the current composition of the UNSC. It is not inclusive, equitable, representative democratic; and it is not in any way reflecting the Global South."

The funny thing is that Africa, with all its 54 countries being members of the UN and thus accounting far more than a quarter of the organization's total membership, has no fair representation and equal say at the Security Council, where the considerable portion of decision made are directly concerning Africa. A study report found that in 2020, Africa's peace and security issue made up more than 70% of UNSC resolutions, making it the most discussed continent in the council."

This figure may not be surprising given the fact most of the political crises and security issues that grab global attentions are happening in Africa. What is rather striking is why Africa is underrepresented in the global forum that discusses mainly African affairs. The figure also explains why it is important for Africa to have adequate presence in the UNSC.

The other hilarious thing is the UN, established with the leadership of those powerful nations that describe themselves as champions democracy, is an undemocratic institution where its members have no equal voice and only five states out of 15 council member and 193 general assembly members has the veto power to control decision taken by the UNSC. In addition if one of the five permanent privileged members opposes a substantive draft resolution, then it will be discarded even if all the rest of the members support it.

The fact that only five powerful states were made to be permanent member of the UNSC may have an explanation based on the configuration of the global power balance at the period of its establishment. But now times have changed.

The over representation of Western countries in the Council does not reflect the geopolitical diversity of the United Nations nor the geopolitical realities of the twenty-first century. All African nations are now members of UN. The equilibrium of world power has significantly shifted to the East. The world has become multi-polar.

Nations with formidable military power, including nuclear powers has proliferated. All these realities explain how obsolete the UNSC structure is and how urgently it should be restructured in tune with the present geo-political realities.

Africa, with AU[African Union] increasingly making a chorus of call for change, and becoming self assertive, is beginning to chart its own course of journey to the future. Africa has now emerged as a major geo-political player, moving towards the epicenter of the international relations in the twenty first century. As a vibrant and dynamic continent, Africa today is now at the forefront of the numerous shared core challenges the world facing. These include terrorism, climate change, environmental pollution, poverty, drug and human trafficking etc.

UN critics say that the Council, UNSC, has been by large unable to address the most serious threats to international peace and security in a timely and effective manner. This is, they argue, because of the UN's reluctance to accept and adjust itself to the existing reality that the center of world politics is no longer Europe and North America. So now if UN wants to maintain its relevance in the 21st century, its reform plans must incorporate and cater to the demand for change by the developing word including Africa.

African politicians and scholars are reiterating their calls to make the UNSC more representative, transparent and accountable in order to address the most serious threats to international peace and security. Notable African leaders like Ethiopia's premier Abiy Ahmed, South Africa's president Ramaphosa and others have made repeated bold statement on various international arena calling for fair representation of Africa in the UNSC.

And yet, it has to be underlined that Some African political analysts have strong doubt with the success of the bid for permanent seat at UNSC. They argue that, although Africa has legitimate reasons to demand for a permanent seat(s) on UNSC. However, since the inception of the UNSC, its permanent members enjoy comfortable status with their veto powers that they would arguably do everything within their means – politically and diplomatically to maintain the Status quo.

Nevertheless, Africans should strengthen their collective efforts for change through their regional organizational. History shows that when African countries unite and speak in unison, their demands are heard, say the scholars.

Women in Focus

Raising awareness on climate, environmental issues is crucial: Bezawit

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

Born and raised in Addis Ababa, Bezawit Edilu is a Software Engineer. She has been giving Training of Trainers (ToT) on climate awareness, climate justice, circular economy and waste management in different European countries.

She is currently based here in the Capital, Addis Ababa, and is in the process of making the organization in Africa with partners. They have launched an 'Eco Aware Youth' initiative with the Union of Women and Children Association.

Previously, she used to engage in website development, app development and have been working with NGOs and the private sector.

Bezawit had a short stay with The Ethiopian Herald where she walked us through her life experience and career journey. Enjoy reading.

How do you end up working on climate awareness?

After the incident that occurred in 'qoshe' area in the capital, which took the lives of 70 people that resided in the area, a company named "Biruh Hills Development" which had the information that I used to volunteer reached out to me.

Not only the company that used to fund the organization quit funding, but their website was also blocked as the funding company left when they approached me. Through the process of supporting them technically, I became more aware of the climate and environment issue.

It goes without saying that most of us are not fully aware how to dispose wastes safely and in the right way. Starting from my experience, I used to take no caution to separate garbage when I take them out. I believe that is most people's experience as well. But I started to grasp more information by working with the company. While working with the initiative, I was able to attend climate program training in Oxford University. That's how my climate journey continued.

Could you tell us about the voluntary activities you have so far engaged in regarding climate awareness?

Currently, I am providing Training of Trainers (ToT) with the Union of Women and Children Association in Amhara, Tigray, Oromia and Central Ethiopia states. We are on the third round and targeting university students, lecturers, regional leaders, as well as people who are believed to have an impact on the environment.

The major objective is to alert people of the environment and allow them to see the problem from their perspective be it education and field of work so that they could deeply understand the issue and come up with different solutions.

How do you assess the level of awareness regarding climate in Africa?

If we see the statistics, it says climate awareness in the African continent is around 40 percent. Nonetheless, I don't think we have that percent of people that have adequate knowledge or awareness about climate in Africa. Any irresponsible action we take can pile up and eventually affect the environment.

By simply looking at how we handle garbage in most cities in Africa, it could be said a lot about where we are in reality. I believe that

most of the challenges on environment and climate arise from lack of awareness. There are people who still don't understand that the little waste that is tossed out today can have a deeper impact at national level.

Though it is forbidden and there is an effort towards enforcing one-use plastic, it is still taking place in most cities. However, in Rwanda there is a good experience that encourages communities to use paper bags. Apart from making the price of plastic bags so expensive, consumers in South Africa will not receive plastics after purchasing goods from shops or supermarkets to the point where they are obliged to carry bread or any other thing openly in their hands if they do not take paper bags with them.

Here, it is to note that enforcement by itself might not be effective thus, the nation needs to take into account the importance of taking both the awareness raising and enforcement activities hand in hand.

Who do you think is the most responsible when it comes to climate and environment awareness issues?

Everyone is responsible. Back in campus, I organized a climate acetone event and reached out to students to see the environment in their field of study and come up with ideas that are useful. Surprisingly, the students came up with several technologies that were impactful for the environment as well as climate.

The issue of environment and climate cannot be left to a single entity. We all have a part to play and we are expected to exert responsibility in our profession.

What kind of mechanism should be put in place to mobilize people, especially youth, women and children?

Back in the days, it was the people who were in higher positions or hierarchy that used to implement policies or regulations. Much was expected from the youth to fit into something. Fortunately, different organizations are now emerging that aspire to engage youths and want to become their voice.

Children are the most interested segment of the society on climate awareness. We can't enforce or impose awareness on people. For example, anything you teach children in school about climate will not only be fun to learn but also enhance their awareness.

I worked on a workshop in Ireland with grade 5 students. The task we gave them was to do art using papers. They came up with art by cutting the papers. Then, we asked



Bezawit Edilu

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them if they could come up with something else using the waste papers. They reused the paper and created different arts. That was how we taught the kids.

There is also a new technique that allows reusing paper by demolishing the color it was already printed on; however, it is not still applied in our country. As we use new papers, we are cutting new trees. If we reuse exam papers, it would be win-win. And, there are different innovations that are surfacing around the globe.

What do you suggest that the gov't, stakeholders and concerned entities need to do to work with the youth?

Opening the space and making it inclusive is crucial. The more you engage people (Youth), the better new ideas flourish. There is new regulation that huge organizations formulate be it Agenda 2030 or 2063. The aforementioned agendas need to be more inclusive where the youth can freely express new ideas and concerns. The United Nations have implemented such an application that allows youth to take part. A toll call could be implemented in order to enable youth to have their say regarding essential issues.

As the saying goes, raising awareness on the most pressing environmental issues of our time is more important than ever.

Thank you!

Society

Nneameka's feminist negotiation in Ethiopian context

BY MEKDES TAYE (PhD)

Africa has its own unique culture, history, religious perspectives and socio-political background. Thus, on those controversial issues like gender, theories and principles which emanate from Westerners failed to suit the reality of the continent since such issues did originate from a given nation's real background.

Among these debatable issues, in the process of examining gender based discriminations and inclusions, basing the actual life of the society and understanding the cultural background did mean the very addressable point to mirror the issue and frame it appropriately in a theory form. In line with this idea, many scholars, especially Africans have been proposing theories which exclusively address African real background on certain subjects.

Feminism, as a leading controversial phenomenon, has been passing through lots of proposals or perspectives in dealing African women gender based experiences. In relation with the above mentioned logic, African scholars propose theories that disguise African women at every edge of the social, cultural, economic and political realities. The dominant theoreticians raise their pen from Nigeria particularly Igbo tribe to deal with the socio-cultural backgrounds of the continent that intervenes the equal participation of women with men on different stages, and to frame the causes for solution. To mention some of these, Chimamanda Adichie, Akakia Ezigabo, Obioma Nneameka, Alice Walker and others. These feminists and critics commonly raise the idea and necessity of negotiation as a perfect solution for gender equality in the continent.

The crucial point under this principle is the following reality of Africa. Primarily, African people are characterized by the give and take principle. The culture oriented the people that if they take something from someone, it is culturally taboo to keep it without returning it with its equivalent compensation. If a person goes to someone with a gift, it is culturally expected that that person will return it with another gift or ceremony in most African countries as the 2003 Nneameka's study on the continent showed. Ethiopians' experience is not different from the orientation mentioned above.

Secondly, Africa is a heterogeneous or familial based nation. This did mean that Africans are dependent on women to men marriage.

Thus, negotiation between the two counterparts is very relevant for fruitful family and societal formation and nation building at large. Ethiopians, as it is actually detected, are religiously, culturally and even legally heterogeneous. Thus, marriage between men and women, which does mean sustaining the institution of giving and taking principle between the two, has been the trend though male domination and



If negotiation is successfully implemented in the house, it could lay its base for nation based agreement and peaceful and prosperous universe at large

female subordination is prevalent till these days. Thirdly, Africans believe and base their life on a sharing principle. Giving what the person has as his own private asset to someone who needed it is very usual and a predictable practice since long years in the continent. In Ethiopia too, even though the extent of kindness might vary in the different sections of the societies, sharing what someone has is the most vital and deeply embedded cultural practice.

As the theoretician proposes, in the process of negotiation, things that are going to be exchanged are very important for both parties. Because of this, to end up in a win-win principle, the two parties should be very strategic in their approach. In the study of gender, especially the negotiation, Nneameka asserted that the process is highly dependent on the skill of the woman rather

than the man since the continent is greatly characterized by rooted patriarchy.

As a patriarchal nation, African women keep voiceless and vulnerable sections of the society. Thus, finding the space for expressing themselves requires being very tactical and very effective to achieve the goal which is set by them. Having the attention and beyond that persuading the man for negotiation requires a very especial smartness, confidentiality and optimistic point of view of the woman rather than man in African real perspective.

In Ethiopia too patriarchy is the remaining and highly impressing factor even at this age of modernity. Since the culture and religiously abused norms and practices still dominate the society, women have been struggling for equal inclusion and to sustain the marriage for many social related consequences. The problem still continues as an issue with the presence of massive institutions and organizations both at governmental and non-governmental level. Therefore, Ethiopian women needed to be very cautious when dealing with men around them as their African sisters.

Thus, based on these mentioned traits of Africa and Ethiopia, the principle of negotiation is framed so that endorsing and amplifying it to be implemented between men and women in the house and in the society is the very practical and comparatively easiest move for the betterment of gender discrimination and underdevelopment.

As the principle of negotiation which was boldly framed by Obioma Nneameka (2004) under the umbrella of Nego Feminism, Ethiopians, as it is said above, have esteemed culture of sharing principle, the people prefer to give before receiving from others. The religious background has also been obliging the society to prioritize the needs of others over self-interest. This reality of the country did sound like the principle of negotiation. Thus, though the women are muted sections, the culture and the religion could help them find a space for getting the attention of the man. This is very successful, as Nneameka asserted, with the smartest approach of the women.

In the deal of women and men relationship and exposure too, these backgrounds matter a lot in certain areas of concern. Though the nation is characterized by male supremacy, identifying and uplifting those cultures and fighting the abusive and promoting the impressive trends is very vital for balancing the two counterparts at every share of the nation building process.

Nneameka advised African women to be strategic in identifying the appropriate time and situation before appealing to the men for negotiation. Ethiopian women, as can be referred from different literary genres like folktales and proverbs which echo the real life of the society, are very cautious and stylish in choosing the time and conditions before approaching their men for compromise.

Lots of literary materials convey the efficacy of Ethiopian women in applying various mechanisms to find the sympathy of the men for gaining what they needed from them. For the success of negotiation, the woman primarily is expected to know and understand the strong and weak sides and sensitive parts of her man. Thus, before acting, the woman should identify these things. Next to this, the way of the approach did matter very much. The way of dressing, the body movement, the language and overall style need to be very influential for the give and take process to happen.

These days, though women are massively availing themselves at certain competitive areas, the persuasive and soften strategies of getting the positive rewards of their men seems diminishing since the generation, I believe, loses or degrades the life path of the previous generation. Thus, dragging the influential practices and strategies of the society in the past; and contextualizing some relevant aspects in the current status of the culture could be a basement for even including other additional strategies for negotiation so that for strengthening the principle between men and women which did mean boosting the culture of negotiation between the two parties and the society and for the long ran transformation of the nation in all aspects of development.

In conclusion, dealing with the elements or practices of the African and Ethiopian women using this principle can help to find out very important trends so as to strengthen the essence of negotiation at certain levels. In Ethiopia, researchers and responsible stakeholders need to examine and analyze those approaches and trials that women at different levels apply for heeding negotiations with men as a husband, brother, father, fiancée, spouse or friend for achieving a certain goal. With such a study, those very relevant strategies and moods can be figured out and utilized with certain subjects and/or some other appropriate medium to make them familiarized by the society. Thus, as this article believed, if negotiation is successfully implemented in the house, it could lay its base for nation based agreement and peaceful and prosperous universe at large.

International News

Africa's role in promoting Spanish Language gets exaltation

BY ZEKARIAS WOLDEMARIAM

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) has hosted the annual celebration of Spanish Language Day with the presence of the diplomatic community residing here in Addis Ababa, notably from Spanish Speaking countries.

Director of Gender, Poverty and Social Policy Division with UNECA, Sweta Saxena said on the occasion that with over 500 million native speakers, Spanish is the world's second most spoken language in terms of the number of native speakers. Adding the number of those with limited proficiency and those who are studying Spanish, the total reaches nearly 600 million, making Spanish the third most-spoken language worldwide. It is the official or co-official language of 21 countries in Africa, Europe and Latin America. Besides, it is an official language of many international organizations, including the United Nations. It is also worth noting that 10 per cent of the population of the United States speaks Spanish at home.

She further added, Spanish plays a prominent role in the global cultural sector, encompassing literature, theater, cinema, music, media, scientific and intellectual production, education and publishing. The reach of the Spanish language is expanding across the globe.

According to Saxena, a related celebration had previously been observed on 12 October and was known in Spanish as "Día de la I-lispanidad". The aim of that celebration was to showcase the cultures and diversity of Spanish-speaking countries and to mark the arrival of Spanish explorers to the Americas. Later on, 23rd April was chosen as the date for Spanish Language Day, in tribute to the Spanish writer, novelist, poet and playwright Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra, who died on 23 April in 1616.

In 2010, the United Nations decided to organize language-day celebrations to commemorate each of its six official languages, namely, Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. In doing so, the United Nations has sought to celebrate linguistic and cultural diversity, which is the foundation of peace and harmony in the world.

Coincidentally, English Language

Day is also celebrated by the United Nations on 23rd April because it is the date on which the renowned British novelist, poet and playwright, William Shakespeare, passed away.

According to Saxena, the people who speak it have imprinted upon the language a local colour through

variations in lexicon, accents and metaphors. The peoples of the Caribbean, Central America and South America have molded Spanish to suit their political, economic, scientific and cultural needs - in short, their daily lives. It is reflected in the rhythms that move the people of the region such as rumba and salsa.

The Spanish language, like all languages, is ingrained in the minds of its speakers and shapes their identities. Language serves as a means of communication, a vehicle for self-expression, and a mirror of individual and collective humanity - in a word, culture. As a proof of this, it is sufficient to observe the common characteristics that the Spanish language has engendered in those who speak it. Despite differing flags, spaces, cultures and social projects, all these differences come together under the banner of a single language to foster harmony, mutual understanding, tolerance and peace.

"Thanks to its versatility, language is a precious tool in the hands of humanity. We celebrate all of the above today." Saxena reiterated.

The Spanish language links Africa to Europe and the Americas. Cooperation among Spanish-speaking countries has contributed to the development of human resources and the building of human capital in African countries. For decades, countries such as Argentina, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Cuba and Mexico have trained many Africans in their universities in the fields of health, economics, administration and culture.

Spanish Ambassador to Ethiopia Guillermo Lopez Mac-Lellan said on the occasion that the future of Spanish also relates to Africa.

"The demographic strength of this continent implies that it has a fundamental role in the growth of the Spanish language over the coming decades. This is why the government of Spain in collaboration with the rest of

Spanish speaking countries and Spain has made a Determined commitment to promote our common language in Africa.

The Institute of disav is already active in over 20 centers on the continent and there are over 60 Spanish language departments and assistantships in African universities. Mac-Lellan mentioned the great Cuban writer Diplomat and writer Guo cabera infantis who indicated that Spanish is too important to leave it to the Spanish.

Therefore, he noted, in addition to recognizing the great contribution that many Latin American countries have made to the spread of the Spanish language in Africa. It is necessary for Spanish speakers from all countries. Listen to each other until the customs of each country are familiar to us all.

"It's important to celebrate Spanish Day in Africa because this is the continent with the youngest population in the world. Spanish is a language used by young people. It's the second most used language on social networks and the internet Uh series such as House of paper the language of Music, uh, listen to a great deal. 50% of Spotify users in the world Listen to at least 1 song in Spanish per month. That's just by way of an example in conclusion Spanish."

As being spoken by such a large number of population across the globe, he elaborated that Spanish is the language of a universal culture which unites millions of people around the world and which needs to involve Africa. That is why I invite all those present to continue to promote our great language on this continent. Let us work together to make Africa a country thinks feels and speaks in Spanish. This will increase the richness of the culture of this continent and of the culture of Spanish and it will lead to better understanding between different peoples on both sides of the different hemispheres and well beyond I'd like to end by quoting

Equatorial Guinea is the major African country where Spanish is widely spoken in education and other parts of daily life. Ambassador of the Equatorial Guinea to Ethiopia Miguel Ntutumu Evuna said on his part that it's important to find strategies that represent all Spanish-speaking countries, uh covering all their social cultural aspects. We need to promote

cooperation between Spanish speaking States.

Ambassador of Uruguay to Ethiopia and AU, as well as Dean Ambassadors of Spanish Speaking Countries in Ethiopia, Nestor Rosa says there are 21 countries where the Spanish language is the official language and there are almost 500 million people throughout the world who speak Spanish as their mother tongue.

Including the United Nations and its economic Commission as well as the African Union, the Spanish day is celebrated throughout the world by around 600 million speakers across all continents, and by all those people who love study or have an affinity with our language and culture, Rosa noted.

With a population of about 120 million people Mexico has the largest Spanish speaking population in the world. Spanish Ambassador to Ethiopia Alejandro Ives Estivil Castro said on his part that Spanish is the basis of our communication, but they shouldn't be to the detriment of all the different indigenous languages constantly ethnic and cultural diversity of our country and African America indigenous languages have enriched The Spanish language.

Speaking on behalf of Dr Rita Bissoonauth, Director of UNESCO Liaison Office to AU, UNECA and Representative to Ethiopia, Dr Abdulaye Salifou said that the celebration of the Spanish Language Day, which shows our solidarity and our strong commitment to support to Spanish Speaking Countries.

The UN established Spanish Language Day in 2010 to celebrate multilingualism and cultural diversity. This initiative is strongly recognized by UNESCO. Indeed, Spanish is among the six working Languages of UNESCO. Spanish is also among the six working languages of UN. This celebration honors the Spanish language's global significance and cultural contributions. UNESCO is proud to be part of this celebration.

Today, Salifou noted, some languages such Spanish plays a pivotal role in development, mainly in: Promoting cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue; Strengthening cooperation; Offering quality education; Building integrative knowledge societies; Preserving cultural heritage; and mobilizing political will to apply science and technology achievements to sustainable development.