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EU reiterates support for Nat'l Dialogue, TJ implementation

• *Confers Schuman Awards*

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA – The European Union (EU) Ambassador has reaffirmed the Union's readiness and commitment to support the implementation of the National Dialogue and Transitional Justice (TJ) in Ethiopia.

Having the aim to supplement the Ethiopian people's aspiration to resolve tenacious problems peacefully, the EU has been supporting the National Dialogue and TJ from their inception, Ambassador Ronald Kobia told *The Ethiopian Herald*. "We are ready to support these processes and we are waiting for proposals from the concerned bodies."

Owing to the public's urgency to find results, the National Dialogue is expected to be transformed into the implementation stage and bring peaceful solutions to the longstanding problems, Ambassador Kobia emphasized.



See EU reiterates ... Page 3 Ambassador Ronald Kobia

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Canada finances project improve dignity of women, girls

BY GIRMACHEW GASHAW

ADDIS ABABA- The government of Canada provided 2.7 billion birr in aid to Ethiopia through UNFPA to enhance the dignity and rights of women and girls in 55 woredas across eight regions of Ethiopia.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and The Embassy of Canada in Ethiopia launched a project entitled "Protecting the Dignity and Rights of Women and Girls in Ethiopia."

The seven-year project, spanning from 2024 to 2030, has a total budget of CAD\$65 million (2,706,898,454 Birr). It is being implemented in Afar, Amhara, Benishangul Gumuz, Gambella, Oromia, Sidama, Somali, and Tigray.

The project aims to reach more than 1.5 million people with

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Ethiopia's strategic move in Red Sea politics

BY YESUF ENDRIS

The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Ethiopia and Somaliland that granted the former access to the Gulf of Aden, adjacent to the Red Sea, has sparked significant discussions among scholars and policymakers.

While some expect Ethiopia's increased involvement in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden as a positive step towards enhancing regional security cooperation, others, particularly countries like Somalia, express concerns over potential conflicts arising from the MoU.

Despite differing opinions, there is a broad consensus that Ethiopia's geographic proximity makes its involvement in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden unavoidable and critical. In light of rising regional security concerns, Ethiopia has been proactive in organizing scholarly dialogues seeking comprehensive solutions.

The Institute of Foreign Affairs also held sessions of "The Red Sea Dialogue" and the

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South Korea hails Ethiopia's regional peace contribution

• *Newly-appointed Ambassador vows to expand economic ties*

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA-South Korea recognizes Ethiopia's immense contribution to peacekeeping operations in the Horn of Africa (HoA) and other hotspots and it will keep supporting such endeavors, the country's ambassador said.

The newly-appointed South Korean Ambassador Kang Jung stated that Ethiopia's consistent contribution of peacekeepers manifests its commitment to bringing peace and stability to Africa and neighboring countries in particular. Throughout history, Ethiopia has demonstrated its clear stand in ensuring global peace and stability and supporting different African countries' independence movements.

Ambassador Jung also told *The Ethiopian Herald* that the country has capitalized on regional and global forums to voice the HoA countries' peace and security concerns. "Thus, we would like to closely cooperate



See South Korea ... Page 3 Ambassador Kang Jung

News



MesfinTasew

Airline striving to make Ethiopia Africa's aviation hub

ADDIS ABABA-Ethiopian Group Chief Executive Officer MesfinTasew said that Ethiopia Airlines is working to make the country a "hub of Africa's aviation."

US-based global aerospace giant Boeing announced on Monday that it will open its African headquarters in Ethiopia.

The decision puts an end to speculation about South Africa and Kenya being the preferred locations to host the continental branch.

In an exclusive interview with ENA, the CEO noted that Ethiopian Airlines is currently the largest African airline using Boeing aircraft.

Besides, Ethiopian Airlines and Boeing have a long-standing good relationship on different large-scale projects in aviation.

"Ethiopian Airlines and Boeing have recently reached an agreement to make Ethiopia Africa's aviation hub. We have an agreement to work together. Following this, Boeing is set to open its African headquarters in Addis Ababa," he elaborated.

Moreover, Mesfin revealed that the agreement reached by the companies includes cooperation that enables Ethiopian Airlines to produce aircraft parts in Ethiopia.

This is particularly important for the development of the aerospace manufacturing sector of the airline.

The airline would be able to increase its foreign exchange earnings by producing aircraft items and supplying them to other airlines, create job opportunities for citizens and accelerate the transfer of technology in the sector.

And this will be of great benefit to the development of the entire aviation sector, the CEO said.

Recall that Ethiopian Airlines and Boeing signed a strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on positioning Ethiopia as an aviation hub for Africa in August 2021.

The strategic partnership included plans to develop Ethiopia's manufacturing and aftermarket capabilities.

Nat'l Dialogue golden opportunity to Ethiopians: Politicians

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDISABABA-The National Dialogue is one in a million opportunities that Ethiopians should never take for granted and they need to play a crucial role in putting forth major issues on the table, renowned politicians said.

Speaking to the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) Ezema Party Deputy Leader Yohannes Mekonnen stated that the nation has faced multiple challenges that constraint it from moving forward. Hence, political parties are expected to curb the challenges at grass root level through this platform.

Yohannes further stressed that political parties are expected to come up with organized ideas that are relevant to leave past challenges behind. "Parties shall not bring common sense to the table; rather they are more welcomed to come up with organized thought that could help the nation moving forward. Moreover, they need to make themselves ready not only to speak their minds but to listen to others willingly."



Rahel Bafe(PhD)

According to him, despite differences in ideology, taking part and taking an active role should be prioritized. "Isolating from the dialogue would only widen differences.

Thus, the politician urged the people of Ethiopia including those in the Diaspora to contribute their share for the successful realization of the dialogue thereby creating a nation where people live with dignity and freedom.

For her take on the issue, the Ethiopian Political Parties Joint Council Head Rahel



YohannesMekonnen

Bafe (PhD) mentioned that political parties are expected to bring concrete ideas to the table. "They also need to focus on ways to resolve the past and already existing challenges which are vital to create a better future."

The role of the Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission is facilitating the stage and the whole process where concerned bodies held discussions. In this regard, everyone has the responsibility to exert utmost effort in order to hold fruitful dialogue, the head emphasized.

EEPA demands citizens' engagement towards creating livable env't

•Ethiopia set to celebrate World Env't Day

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

ADDISABABA-Ethiopian Environmental Protection Authority (EEPA) has called for active public participation to create a clean and green and livable environment.

The Authority made the call on Friday while briefing the media about this year's World Environment Day that will be celebrated on June 4 and 5, 2024 with a theme "Land Restoration, Desertification and Drought Resilience."

In a joint press statement organized by EEPA, the Ethiopian Forestry Development and the Addis Ababa Environmental Protection Authority, Officials said that the festival will be celebrated with activities including awareness creation, sapling protection, cleaning, and holding exhibitions and panel discussions on papers regarding the environment.

According to EEPA Director General LeliseNeme (Eng), this year's World Environment Day is mainly poised to raise public awareness about the importance of creating a clean and green environment for human beings.

According to her, the government is carrying out various activities including awareness raising efforts to create a healthy and clean Ethiopia for the people.



However, she said, everyone's participation is essential to create a clean and green environment.

The Director General appealed to the people to continue the national campaign of cleaning up the environment and institutions to realize sustainable production.

Ethiopian Forestry Development Director General KebedeYimam on his part said that the best option to reverse the climate change crisis that the world is facing is recovering the damaged nature with active human intervention.

The national green legacy program that

enabled the country to plant 32 billion saplings in a few years, is making a significant contribution to environmental recovery, he added.

This has also a significant contribution to the environmental protection of the surrounding countries beyond Ethiopia, he noted.

On the other hand, Addis Ababa city is undertaking activities to prevent pollution, City Environmental Protection Authority Executive Director DidaDiriba expressed.

This year's World Environment Day will be celebrated for the 31st time in Ethiopia and 51st time globally.

News

Ethiopia installing 200 mini-grids in rural communities

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA - Given its thriving off-grid energy sector, Ethiopia is deploying about 200 mini-grid technologies nationwide, the Ministry of Water and Energy (MoWE) said.

MoWE's Senior Energy Advisor Gosaye Mengistic told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the government along with private development actors has given due emphasis to the expansion of the renewable energy sector aligning solar technologies to improve the socioeconomic and development of the communities.

In the past few years, he remarked that about 11 mini-grid projects have been undertaken in various parts of the country at a pilot level and now this number is broadening to 200 where the main grid is not accessible.

Apart from lighting, he said, "The expansion of this innovative solar technology would have a significant role in the promotion of productivity, women empowerment through modernizing the energy utilization, extraction

of groundwater for irrigation among many others."

Upon completion, these grids would also play a huge role in preserving and balancing the general ecosystem, providing adequate power to health centers, schools, and facilities and small scale industries, he underscored.

Precise General Manager Henok Assefa on his part remarked that the government has recognized the potential of the virtues of the off-grid sector and has set ambitious goals for renewable energy generation.

Henok emphasized that Precise, a mission-driven local firm, is scaling up efforts to expand off-grid solar solutions to reach rural communities with off grid tech to help facilitate agriculture, livelihoods and health posts.

As to him, deploying streamlined solar technologies and innovations would help yield a huge amount of products at a minimum cost.

Henock has also stressed that it is crucial to

support emerging startups and innovators with various business ideas who are producing small-scale solutions with solar panels that would be used for various sectors.

"About 90% of health posts found throughout the country have no electric access, therefore, putting consolidated efforts in the off-grid area should be considered as equal as the main one that would be consuming huge cost and time to ensure adequate distribution of electricity nationwide."

Currently, they are carrying out various life-easing and productive pilot projects in 14 spots. Besides, the firm is also implementing pilot projects for farming and pastoralists with solar-powered milking machines around Bishoftu Town, and irrigation schemes in Amhara State thereby enhancing productivity.

Commending the government's room for off-grid solutions as part of the country's electric diversification plan, he emphasized the need to strengthen the expansion of off-grid technologies for permanent solutions.

Ethiopia's strategic...

the latest of which took place yesterday in Addis Ababa.

Speaking at the event, Institute Director General Jafar Bedru emphasized that the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden are historically and integrally linked to Ethiopia, just as they are to neighboring countries. He asserted that any initiative in the Red Sea that excludes Ethiopia is bound to fail, underscoring Ethiopia's determination to integrate itself into regional security frameworks.

As global geopolitical dynamics evolve and the Horn of Africa faces escalating security threats, Ethiopia's involvement is essential. The MoU with Somaliland is also a constructive step towards achieving regional peace and security, he said.

The security of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden has a direct impact on Ethiopia so its active participation in regional cooperation is crucial, according to him.

The Red Sea region, beyond its strategic trade significance, is also a focal point for security concerns, believed Zerubabel Getachew, a Senior Diplomat and International Security Researcher at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The strategic importance of the Red Sea is a vital maritime route for global trade. He noted that 15 percent of international commerce and 30 percent of global container traffic pass through the Red Sea, which also handles around 12 percent of global seaborne oil trade. With 100 percent of Ethiopia's international trade relying on this route, the country's interest in the Red Sea's security is paramount.

Zerubabel (PhD) also indicated that maritime insecurity exacerbates food shortages in Africa and the Middle East, affecting the most vulnerable populations. The high cost of rerouting ships around Africa underscores the economic importance of securing the Red Sea. Therefore, Ethiopia's direct involvement in the region offers an opportunity to enhance security cooperation and neutralize threats.

Refraining from commenting on the MoU between Ethiopia and Somaliland, Israeli Security Researcher Yuval Eylon has stressed the need for increased security cooperation in response to growing terrorist threats across the Red Sea.

Canada finances...

integrated services on gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive health, indirectly benefiting a total of more than 4 million people in the targeted areas.

Speaking at the project launch held at the UNECA compound, State Minister of Health, Dr. Derge Duguma, stated that protecting the dignity and rights of women and girls is a top priority on the Ethiopian government's agenda. Over the past five years, Ethiopia has faced numerous challenges, including conflict, drought, floods, COVID-19, and economic hardships, all of which have significantly impacted the lives of vulnerable groups, such as women, girls, and children.

Acknowledging the generous support of the Canadian government, the Minister said, "I fully recognize that this project supports the neediest members of the community, especially women and girls." He emphasized the need for a multispectral approach in preventing gender-based violence in Ethiopia.



Canada's Ambassador to Ethiopia, Joshua Tabah, highlighted the partnership with UNFPA as a demonstration of Canada's unwavering commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in Ethiopia. He stressed the importance of working together to break the cycle of sexual and gender-based violence and creating safer, more equitable communities where every woman and girl can thrive.

UNFPA Ethiopia Representative, Koffi Kouame, noted that this project represents a significant step forward in their mission to protect the rights and health of women and girls in Ethiopia. By providing essential services and creating a supportive environment, they aim to not only address immediate needs but also empower women and girls to build a brighter future for themselves and their communities, he added.

EU reiterates...

Mentioning the previous criticisms and skepticism that were raised against the Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission (ENDC), the diplomat highlighted that the commission is on a good track to bring the Ethiopian people to a round table discussion and heal the age-long wounds amicably.

"The EU has been supporting Ethiopia's National Dialogue financially and politically and we have a very clear stand on the issue. Now, we are expecting the ENDC to start the real work of the dialogue in different states following the long preparation."

"The EU has also been trying to help the Ethiopian government to improve human rights conditions and if we work together, we will achieve good results."

He also stated that the EU has been extending financial and political support to Ethiopia's transitional justice (TJ) process from the very beginning and it is optimistic that the process will bring the desired outcomes.

Meanwhile, the EU in Ethiopia conferred the first-ever Schuman Awards for six human rights defenders including the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission Chief Commissioner Daniel Bekele (PhD) on Thursday. The award aims to promote democracy, the rule of law, human rights, justice, and prosperity.

Speaking at the occasion, Ambassador Kobia stated that the EU member countries are committed to supporting democracy and human rights in their external relations with partners all around the globe including Ethiopia. "Today, humanity is tested in many parts of the world."

"Concretely, we try to mainstream human rights into all our policies and programs for specific actions to protect and empower individuals, build resilience, inclusive and democratic societies, promote a global system for human rights and democracy, harness opportunities, and address challenges to new technologies and deliver by working together," the diplomat remarked.

South Korea...

in this regard with the Ethiopian government."

Ethiopia is also supporting South Korea's initiative in North East Asia and the two countries have been closely working in the UN, AU and other platforms while Seoul is desirous of expanding its exemplary partnership with Ethiopia in many areas of mutual interest. "Ethiopia is the most important country in Africa and we are building future economic cooperation together."

According to him, successive discussions have been underway with Ethiopian government agencies to pave the way for the two countries' collaboration in priority areas including education, agriculture and infrastructure, and women empowerment.

Apart from its desire to increase the number of projects to be involved in Ethiopia, the Korean government is going to double its Official Development Assistance including grants and loan funds by 2030. This measure will also be applicable in other African countries.

On the other hand, Ambassador Jung

expressed the desire to consolidate his country's multifaceted relations with Ethiopia in trade and investment frontiers and enhance the longstanding ties during his tenure in Addis Ababa.

"Our bilateral relations should not be limited to development collaboration and we should go beyond development assistance. Everybody knows Ethiopian soldiers paid noble sacrifices in the Korean War but many Koreans including me have limited knowledge about Ethiopia. So, I will give due attention to facilitate more cultural and people-to-people exchanges that will pave the ground for the creation of understanding and connectedness between the two nations."

He added, "I would like to make high-level policy consultation not just in bilateral issues but many multilateral and international concerns and will make more of a push to create a strong linkage between the two countries' universities and facilitate knowledge, and experience sharing in the higher learning, TVET training and other related matters."

Opinion

Complementary role of customary dispute resolution

BY GETACHEW MINAS

The Ethiopian society has institutional and cultural mechanisms to maintain peace, tolerance, solidarity, and respect for one another. These mechanisms are instrumental for building confidence, conflict monitoring and prevention. They also manage and resolve conflicts anywhere in the country. Customary dispute resolution strategy has the goal of promoting social cohesion by creating community harmony.

Dispute resolution mechanisms are rooted in local customs that restore and maintain harmony within the Ethiopian communities by addressing conflicts in a way that is culturally acceptable. They promote strengthened relationships by emphasizing reconciliation and repairing productive relationships. This helps to recover, repair and mend social bonds with the objective of preventing future social conflicts. These conflicts are resolved using socially accessible and inclusive mechanisms.

Customary dispute resolution in Ethiopia is more accessible to people in remote or rural areas. In these places, formal legal systems might be sparse, scant or difficult to access. In the country side, local languages and customs allow these processes to be more all-encompassing and comprehensible for all the community members. This ensures broader mass participation and acceptance within the community.

It also ensures efficient and effective resolution of social problems. Such customary ways of dispute resolution are known to be faster than legal court procedures. They allow for timely solutions to conflicts thereby reducing the social waste caused by prolonged disputes. The customary courts are generally cost-effective. They are less costly than formal legal proceedings. This makes them a feasible and practical option for individual disputants who may not be able to pay the required legal fees.

Focusing on social healing, customary dispute resolution emphasizes on fraternity and equitable means of settling disagreements. Of course, it focuses on restorative justice, which stresses on healing the harm done to persons seriously affected. It reverses social injustice caused by a dispute rather than merely punishing the offender.

In some cases, the offense may be an extended one affecting other members of the neighborhood. The elders who handle such disputes ensure that all those negatively affected by the incident are compensated morally or materially. In other words, they focus on restitution and reconciliation, in which apologies, and other forms of reconciliation are crafted by the elders.

The efforts of elders results in the restoration of social balance within the community. In the modern urban areas of Ethiopia, the role



Indigenous Conflict Resolution Mechanism of Shekacho People – photo google

of the elders in keeping peace and order is being diminished. Disputants often prefer to appeal to the legal courts in the country. In so doing, they are ready to accept any decisions by these courts without hesitation.

In the rural areas the elders have community empowerment in resolving disputes. This process involves community members in the resolution process in which they elect elders using customary methods. These empower individual elders and enhance their sense of urgency and responsibility in settling disputes. Their decisions are normally based on participatory processes. These processes promote active participation from all parties involved, including the aggrieved and the offender.

By promoting open discussions and arguments, the elders engage themselves in collective decision-making. In these processes, the elders ensure the preservation of cultural heritage and its continuity. They are instruments in retaining customary dispute resolution for preserving and promoting traditions and values. They are also the means for reinforcing community identity and heritage.

The Ethiopian society, particularly in the rural areas, has great respect for elders. It has generated social systems which often involve respected community elders. The communities also develop and foster respect for elders who are the traditional authority and store of wisdom. Such authority minimizes the burden of formal legal courts in all parts of the country.

Experts are of the opinion that such institutions alleviate court backlogs by passing decisions on many disputes at the community level. In Ethiopia, customary dispute resolution may, therefore, decrease and diminish the burden of formal courts on litigants. This allows the courts to focus on more complex legal issues of disputes. These alternative traditional systems have a complementary role to play with the formal legal mechanisms. They provide an optional and different avenue for justice

thereby reducing the burden on the formal legal system in the country. However, customary dispute resolution often implies early intervention in conflicts, avoiding their escalation into more dangerous dispute and violence.

For effective customary dispute resolution, it is necessary to monitor its implementation by all concerned parties. Community members are regularly involved in monitoring and addressing potential conflicts before they blow up. They apply traditional methods to resolve conflicts based on their cultural norms, values, and practices. In Ethiopia, this practice plays a major role in areas where access to formal legal institutions is limited.

Customary dispute resolution, as mentioned earlier, has cultural relevance as it is deeply rooted in the social heritage of Ethiopian communities. It reflects their values, beliefs, and social structures. It is, therefore, seen as a legitimate and respected traditional institution for resolving conflicts. It is more accessible to those in dispute than the formal legal institution. It enables members of the community to resolve disputes without the need for official legal representation. It creates and develops social attachment by involving community elders, leaders, and the parties to a dispute.

The traditional dispute resolution process contributes to social reconciliation and restoring of positive relationships. Traditional mediation facilitates discussions between the parties involved in a conflict. Mediators assist the parties to look for a mutually acceptable solution through negotiation.

Also, disputes are resolved using the art of arbitration, in which a neutral party makes a binding decision. This is usually based on facts and evidences produced by the parties to a conflict. Community dispute settlement is often based on compensation and restoration with a return to normalization. This can include formal

apologies for harms done or other forms of compensation agreed upon by the parties. These processes are usually open to the community, allowing for transparency to encourage community support. Community members may act as witnesses and provide inputs into the dispute resolution process.

The customary dispute resolution process is not free from challenges. It is not always legally accepted and recognized or included in the formal legal systems. This may further lead to clashes between customary and formal legal systems. The customary processes may be biased against certain groups of the society.

In some countries, women and marginalized communities may have limited representation. They may be denied to air their views in the customary discriminatory process. Since these processes lack accountability mechanisms, they may entail decisions that may be arbitrary or unfair to marginalized communities.

Moreover, some community members may be ignorant or unaware of their legal rights. They may have no clues about the formal legal ways available to them, forcing them to rely solely on the traditional dispute settlement schemes. These situations reveal that the authorities responsible for judicial affairs and for enforcing the rights of citizens have not fulfilled their duties of keeping citizens aware of their constitutional rights.

Finally, customary dispute resolution plays a vital role in the rural communities in Ethiopia. It offers a culturally relevant and accessible means to resolve social conflicts in a traditional manner. Though traditional dispute resolution has several benefits, such as promoting social cohesion and providing quick and accessible justice, it also encounters challenges related to lack of legal recognition. It is challenged for its gender bias. Traditional dispute resolution faces problems arising from the lack of accountability.

Efforts by the concerned institutions in Ethiopia to address these challenges may help in preserving the benefits of cultural integrity of dispute resolution. These benefits include access to inclusive justice, ensuring timely and cost-effective resolutions.

Additionally, communities are empowered to preserve cultural heritage, and prevent conflicts from escalating. By recognizing and integrating these traditional practices with formal legal systems, Ethiopian communities may enhance and strengthen their overall capacity to address and resolve different kinds of conflicts effectively.

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

Editorial

Partnership through the thick and thin

In today's intertwined world, major activities happening in one country or region have a direct or indirect bearing on neighboring and faraway places. A stronger economy that is providing better livelihoods in certain places, ill-branded as "paradise," is not able to keep problems at bay. Those problems crossed over to the other side of the shore.

We are witnessing the consequences of disproportionate development among African and the EU countries for instance. The harsh and arid desert as well as the flimsy boats of smugglers has not deterred fellow Africans from illegally crossing borders to EU countries. Just to add a few more, the maritime trade route via Babel Mendeb experiences uncertainty time and time again creating an unprecedented problem for the global community. No entity can remain indifferent to a major situation unfolding nearer or farther.

Ethiopia truly understands that humanity's fate is intertwined.

Deputy Prime Minister Temesgen Tiruneh recently remarked as Ethiopia needs reliable and sustainable development partners at the Inauguration of the Second International Construction Exhibition (Big 5 Construction Ethiopia) organized at the Millennium Hall under the theme "Let's build Ethiopia!" True, Ethiopia treasures an all-weather friendship with its neighbors and countries on the other side of the ocean. History bears witness to the fact that Ethiopia understands as humanity cannot thrive in a divided world where one tries to patronize the other.

Multiple historical evidences have proven that Ethiopia made favorable contacts with civilizations at various times. It has also taken a lesson that rivalry is the venom that paralyzes the critical organs of the globe. Only honest friendship and partnership ensure the wellbeing of our world.

The development feats in Ethiopia are primarily premised on its domestic policies. On top of this, partnerships that the country forges with its friends have brought concrete results in realizing its development ambitions. It could have been a nightmare to realize mega development projects without the support of Ethiopia's dependable partners.

On the flip side, Ethiopia has been playing a vanguard role in fulfilling its regional, continental, and international commitments. From doing its best to bringing African fellows to unity 61 years ago by championing the signing of the OAU founding charter by all then independent African countries, to participating in peacekeeping missions and representing Africa in global forums, Ethiopia has proven true that mutual interdependence is inevitable.

Most importantly, the development feat that Ethiopia has made is not only benefiting Ethiopians. Ethiopia's neighbors are also enjoying the fruits of its clean energy, just to name a few. The country has presented itself as a trusted regional, continental, and international partner in all areas—development, diplomacy, security, and the like.

To cap it all, Ethiopia has paved the way for speedy development. And it has opened itself to international partners, both from the private and public spheres, to set the wheels of their participation in motion. The huge market, ample resources, adequate energy, and ever-improving service provision make it an ideal place to pour capital. And it needs reliable friends to seize the opportunity. No doubt, some have already taken the opportunity. They will surely expand their investment. As the investment potential is so huge and untapped, more investors need to eye the opportunities.



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Opinion

Agenda selection a critical step in the process of national dialogue in Ethiopia

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

For more than three decades and probably even for half a century, Ethiopia and Ethiopians have been grappling with multiple sets of challenges that needed a meaningful and applicable solutions. The nation was pushed into internal and external wars that resulted in the loss of hundreds and thousands of lives, public and private property.

The nation was engulfed into ethnic conflicts that sporadic civil strife that spread a spirit of animosity, revenge and hatred among the people of Ethiopia. This has resulted in the multiplication of the scale of poverty and destitution in the country with heavy dependence on food aid and galloping foreign debt.

The recurrent drought and adverse climatic conditions that were triggered by climate change has made the country one of the 20 vulnerable countries on climate change across the world. Food insecurity and drought triggered internal displacements and a considerable level of disruption of family fabric in Ethiopia.

Periodic epidemics in the form of water borne diseases, malaria, malnutrition induced illness, and more recently COVID-19, and HIV and AIDS have seriously affected the state of health in the country. Inadequate health infrastructure and shortage of well-trained medical professionals have seriously affected prevention and control of the top 10 killer diseases in Ethiopia.

Ethiopia faces a variety of political challenges and obstacles that have significant implications for its stability and development of the country and which remained unsolved for ages.

Ethiopia's system of ethnic based federalism enshrined in the current constitution of the country, where regional states are largely based on ethnicity, has led to competition and conflict among different ethnic groups. Misconceptions on the merits of the federal order and misinterpretation of the constitution along with shortfalls in the provisions of the constitution itself have led to serious political misunderstanding among political parties in the country.

Persistent ethnic tensions and violence have been a major challenge, exacerbating divisions and leading to displacement and loss of lives. There is no better example than the war that has been going on the northern part of the country over the previous two years.

The political landscape is fragmented with numerous parties, many of which are aligned along ethnic lines, making consensus and unified action difficult.

In addition, deep political polarization between different factions and parties undermines efforts at national unity and reconciliation. The presence of various armed groups and the challenges of demobilizing and reintegrating combatants add to the complexity of the security situation.

Reports of human rights abuses in conflict ridden and war zones across the country, false narratives on the social media and foreign commercial media outlets on the situation in the country have tarnished Ethiopia's human rights record and have frustrated government efforts to ensure law and order in the country.

Weak governance structures, corruption, and lack of accountability impeded effective administration and the rule of law in the country. Besides the prevalence of nepotism, parochialism, and rent seeking have complicated the level of social service delivery in the country.

Significant economic disparities between regions and among different ethnic groups fuel grievances and exacerbated tensions. High levels of youth unemployment and underemployment contribute to social instability and unrest.

Ongoing conflicts and ethnic violence have led to large numbers of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees, creating humanitarian challenges.

The presence of refugees and IDPs puts additional strain on already limited resources and services. Resettling war affected IDPs demands huge amount of resources that the country may not be able to afford and would be forced to seek international support.

Relations with neighboring countries like Somalia and Sudan as well as with Egypt on issues related to GERD strained, impacting regional stability and cooperation in the Horn of Africa.

Issues related to the administration of justice and equity in the country has remained one of the bottlenecks in the country that need further improvements in the restoration of justice for all.

Limited capacity of state institutions hampers effective governance and service delivery. The spread of misinformation and hate speech, particularly on social media, exacerbates tensions and conflict.

Addressing these political challenges requires a multi-faceted approach that includes fostering inclusive dialogue, strengthening institutions, promoting human rights, ensuring fair and transparent elections, and addressing economic disparities. It is crucial for Ethiopia to pursue comprehensive national dialogue and reconciliation processes, supported by strong governance and robust institutions, to overcome these obstacles and achieve lasting peace and development.

Despite huge efforts underway by the government and in spite of promising economic growth, Ethiopia still faces a range of economic challenges that affect its development and the well-being of its population.

Ethiopia has been experiencing high inflation rates, which erode purchasing power and increase the cost of living for its citizens. Food inflation, in particular, has been a significant issue, affecting food security and access to basic necessities.

The country faces shortages of foreign currency, which hampers the ability to import essential goods and services. Dependence on a limited range of exports, primarily agricultural products, makes it difficult to earn sufficient foreign exchange.

High levels of external debt pose a significant challenge, with concerns about debt sustainability and repayment capacity. Servicing this debt diverts resources from critical areas such as infrastructure development, healthcare, and education.

High levels of youth unemployment and underemployment are major issues, contributing to social instability and economic inefficiency. The economy struggles to create enough jobs to absorb the growing labor force, particularly in urban areas.

The economy is heavily reliant on agriculture, which is vulnerable to climate variability and other shocks. There is however good attempts to increase the share of the manufacturing sector in the national GDP.

Ethiopia faces a significant trade imbalance, with imports far exceeding exports, contributing to the foreign exchange crisis. Corruption and lack of transparency in governance hinder economic development and efficient allocation of resources.

Bureaucratic red tape and inefficient regulatory frameworks stifle entrepreneurship and business growth. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused significant economic disruptions, leading to slower growth, reduced investment, and job losses. Moreover, increased healthcare costs and the need for pandemic response measures have strained public finances.

The fact that the National Dialogue Commission has set the ground rules and has continued to invite armed groups and political parties who refuse to take part in the national dialogue needs to be supported by the entire public.

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

Art & Culture

Ethiopia: A country worth paying homage to

Ethiopia, the cradle of mankind, sticks out in so many ways. Its natural wonders run the gamut from the spellbinding Dashen Mountain, awe-inspiring Blue Nile Falls, and breathtaking Sophomore Cave to the astonishing Danakil Depression, which is the nadir of planet Earth. The live volcano of Erta Ale also offers an opportunity to escape Earth, while on Earth.

As it has different agro-ecological zones, Ethiopia, boasting 13 months of sunshine and a land of origins has a climate that is salubrious for health.

Adding to its tourist attractions, it also boasts animal species like Walia Ibx, Red Fox, and Chillada Baboon indigenous to Ethiopia. In addition, it is the top birding destination in Africa. Bird species endemic to Ethiopia, mostly roving the blue sky, wading through lakes, and landing on trees arrest the attention of photographers and tourists, addicted to bird watching.

It is not a nationalistic bombast to claim that feasting one's eyes on scenery and greenery as well as valleys that set cliffs apart serves as an elixir. From the vantage point of mountains, observing gorges, rivers, lakes, and landscapes is soul-nourishing.

Ancient civilizations that left their footprints behind in places like Axum, Lalibela, and Harar are among the country's looked-forward tourist spots.

Tourists that pay homage to this mysterious country, whose name is often mentioned in Holy Books, will not go back without memorable scenes printed on the temples of their minds.

Spectacular obelisks, magnificent rock-hewn churches, and splendid castles are but to mention the architectural standouts of the country. Add to that mysterious steels and spectacular walls encircling towns.

Places like Adwa hosted showdowns, mounted to chase out colonizers, and helped write histories of invincibility in golden inks. They are absolute must-sees. Ironically, the mountains of Adwa resemble lions sitting side by side.

Churches and mosques that abut each other



without discomfort bear testimony to the time-old coexistence of both Christians and Muslims in Ethiopia, which pioneered in Africa when it comes to accommodating Judaism parallel to the aforementioned two religions.

Shifting the focus to its intangible heritages, the ancient country Ethiopia is marked for the electrifying vibe of its outdoor celebrations. The finding of the true cross (Meskel), the pilgrimage to Sheikh Hussien Mosque and Epiphany are but to mention the salient events that wind their way into the hearts of celebrants, including tourists who reportedly are sure to come back with relatives or friends. "Euphoria washed over us when we witnessed the events," tourists corroborate this fact.

Home to over 80 ethnic groups, Ethiopia is an amalgam of splendid cultures. The superb chemistry among its children of the ethnic mix, especially in the south, draws researchers in droves to delve into the unity in diversity mystery. During festivities, it is magnetizing to watch the traditional-musical-instruments-accentuated grooving styles of these ethnic groups that come together in a show of unity in diversity.

On Epiphany Day, the nooks and crannies of Ethiopia witness a colorful procession

of the laity as well as other celebrants that pour out to the streets to see off replicas of the Ark of the Covenant to nearby rivers as well as escort them back in the return route. The procession starts on the eve of Epiphany and, in some places, continues on the morrow.

This time-old anniversary, having cultural aspects too, transcending barriers of religious lines and denomination, is ever expanding the number of its attendees.

The cordiality and kindheartedness of its people are in the magnetic pulls of the country that proved a haven even to refugees.

Luckily, standard hotels and lodgings are dotting the map of Ethiopia which is experiencing a rapid technological turnaround.

Fledgling parks are joining the attraction list. Many others are in the pipeline promising tourists' spike and the prolongation of their stay. The country is also bolstering the smokeless industry in e-technology.

Organic coffee made traditionally, and mouth-watering dishes are the allurements that await tourists who pay homage to Ethiopia. Souvenir shops also await tourists with artifacts the latter could not resist



buying.

Epiphany day, which brings all ethnic groups together, is a sign of accretion.

The time-old peaceful coexistence and considerateness Ethiopia has set as an example from time immemorial must be kept as the apple of one's eye.

Any tide, against this sentiment, be it from within or otherwise, must be checked in good time as it is tantamount to militating against the nerve center of the world.

Resilient Ethiopia must learn to iron out differences in an amicable way not oblivious to the radar of accountability. Infrastructural development that buttresses tourism and also investment is afoot.

The bottom line is Ethiopia must remain a sought-after hub of tourists to bolster its economy with much-needed hard currency. Hence, we must maintain our time-old tranquility, unity, and cordiality and spur our development as well as our neighbors by tapping our bountiful resources such as water.

On earth away from earth

BY ALEM HAILU G/KRISTOS

*A*re you a tourist or
A volcanologist my dear?
With a painful joy
To a live volcano getting near,
Do you want to pay homage
To earth's nadir
Conscious that beneath a sea level
A sweltering heat you can bear?
Then to Erta Ale go you not why
Found under Ethiopia's sky?
With a style jumping high,
Hitting the ground
Beating drums, on their waists,
Sabers tied around
Afro men along with braided women,
With butter greased hair,
The latter ululating and clapping
In a row facing each other

Chant a love song
"My feeling for you is strong! "
The male herd camel,
While women babysit, prepare food
And make short huts
With tiny malleable wood.
Also dot the mirage-forming sand
Huts grand.
Are you a tourist my dear
Eager to see about
Out of the ordinary you heard
Say about multicolored magma
Volcano's dusts,
Disgorged out of earth's crust?
Do you want to see a scenery
You have not seen
Since you were born,
How in a motley garment
Mother nature itself adorn
Come then to Ethiopia,



Located in Africa's horn?
Visit Erta Ale,
On earth
To run away from earth

Enjoying its hearth.
You will witness
The extraction of salt
In a volcano-formed fault.

Law & Politics

Is African Unity optional or a necessity?

BY SOLOMON WASSIHUN

Sixty-one years ago, when the heads of state and government of thirty-two independent African states signed the Charter establishing the Organization of African Unity (OAU), they all agreed on a common goal: a united Africa, though they preferred various strategies to achieve it.

Having won the favor of the majority of member states, the slow-paced strategy towards unity became the modus operandi of the OAU. Nevertheless, over the past six decades, the OAU became instrumental in the liberation of the entire continent from the shackles of colonialism and apartheid and included all countries in its membership list, and it was upgraded to the AU, African Union in 2002, after almost 40 years since its establishment.

The slow progress of the AU towards unity frustrated many African activists and scholars so much that some of them referred to the continental organization with pejorative adjectives such as “talk shop”, “club of dictators” “good for nothing” ...etc.

However, when Africans realized that their political independence did not mean much without the assertion of economic sovereignty and that the legacies of colonialism continued to leave Africa weak, destabilized, divided, marginalized and economically dependent on foreign powers, they began to appreciate the indispensability of the African Union as a collective force for asserting full-fledged sovereignty and as a unified voice representing the interests of Africans, and as the only possible African power that, if well organized, could play a significant role in the global arena and negotiate with world powers on an equal footing.

The AU has demonstrated its relevance and ability to make a difference by supporting the continental COVID-19 response campaign, averting the feared catastrophe that the pandemic could have triggered. It has also built a peacekeeping capacity, as seen in Somalia and other conflict-affected areas of the continent.

AU also demonstrated that it is building on a capability to diffuse disputes and peacefully resolve conflicts erupting within and among African states before they escalate, exacerbating the already troubled economic and social life of African civilians. AU has successfully facilitated the Pretoria peace deal that ended the Tigray war, in 2022. Similarly, AU has gone a long way to mediate the GERD dispute, and had it not been for the intransigence of the Egyptian side, the negotiation would have been completed.

AU has made several achievements concerning peace and security, which is the top priority need of Africans today, as they are increasingly under threat of religious fundamentalism, ethnic extremism, terrorism, border disputes, etc. Beyond the

issue of ensuring sustainable peace, the AU has also achieved a major milestone in its endeavor to prove its worth to the African people. In May 2019, AU launched the operational phase of the world's largest free trade area, AfCFTA, taking a big leap forward to the ultimate goal of economic and political integration of the continent.

Few doubt about the practicality of the road map the AU adopted, AGENDA 2063, which has the ultimate objective of realizing inclusive and shared prosperity in a peaceful and integrated Africa. What is being questioned is not the road AU is taking; rather it is the speed with which it is traveling on that road. With its current pace, many doubt whether AU would achieve the Agenda 2063 objectives in less than 40 years. That is the duration it took the continental organization only transform from OAU to AU.

The major political and economic obstacles that were impeding Africa's progress toward unity several decades ago are still there. These problems have caused African states to dwell on territorial disputes, and old colonial narratives, and clandestinely plot against each other, rather than forge bilateral economic and security cooperation. They build mutual distrust that bars them from having honest dialogue to reach a consensus over their disputes and disagreements.

For instance, Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt, along with Kwame Nkrumah and Emperor Haile Selassie, was the key player that masterminded the establishment of OAU in Addis Ababa.

In his congratulatory message, he sent to Africans on the anniversary of Africa Day, Africa Union Commissioner, Moussa Faki Mahamat has been bold and direct in pointing out some of these lingering problems. “the various forms of foreign interferences in the in our[African States] internal affairs, the permeability of certain categories of [African] elites to foreign discourse, and the obvious shortcomings Africa leaders in terms of good governance have impeded us not to transform our assets into factors of social justice, equality and inclusive prosperity.”

Taking advantage of the troubled economic situation of the majority of African states, foreign powers are openly meddling in the internal affairs of Africa, and pushing their interests through the much-needed and tantalizing offers of humanitarian aid, development aid/ loan, and financial bailouts, and the threat of trade sanctions and delisting from trade benefits.

The continuation of the dominance of foreign powers in post-colonial Africa was well articulated by the late Pan-Africanist leader, Kwame Nkrumah, of Ghana. “The colonialists never left Africa. They are here alive and well. They wear different masks. These masks may appear to camouflage them. Be Aware. They are still here.” he said in a public speech he made in Accra.

AU itself is a victim of the influence of foreign powers, as most of its budgets are mainly supported by non-African sources. Thus it is safe to say that the Union's actions are compromised, as the saying goes; “He who pays the piper, calls the tunes.”

If AU had not been compromised, The Rwandan genocide, the vilest act in history since the Second World War would not have happened. If AU had not been compromised, Libya, a once prosperous secured African state would not have regressed to be awashed in blood and tears for several years and become a playing ground for terrorists, and human traffickers. The once peaceful Libya would not have been a stage of a televised horrific beheading of scores of Ethiopian migrants by the ISIS terrorists in 2018 and of the slave trade like in the middle Ages.

Nevertheless, as stated earlier, Africans have no option except for the AU to secure sustainable peace and development in their continent. They need to see their borders as division lines created by their colonial masters. They should replace their border dispute agenda with a cross-border economic and infrastructure development agenda. It is an urgent case for African states to exert maximum effort to strengthen AU both economically and politically.

We are now in a new multi-polar global order where African states see conducive situation and various options to chart their African strategy and forge alliances to break away from the perpetual cycle of beggary and secure economic sovereignty. Africans could effectively use this opportunity, only if they can stand together and make the AU stronger than ever. In 1997, one of the most charismatic OAU founding leaders, the late Julius Kambarage Nyerere of Tanzania eloquently said: “Without unity, there is no future for Africa.”

African states should build a consensus to devolve some of their sovereign power to make a stronger AU and they should devise ways by which the AU would no longer be a recipient of financial aid from non-African sources. Similarly, now is the time for the regional organization to expedite its organizational reforms and prove its worth by providing timely and effective responses to crises developing in the member states even before they explode and spin out of control. It is quite a shame for AU to sit and watch in Addis-Ababa, while the Western and Middle Eastern powers initiate peace talks between warring parties in the neighboring Sudan.

“Now AU finds itself at a real crossroads, we must reform [AU] resolutely and courageously to become what our founding fathers wanted us to be, which is a powerful leader for unity, liberation, integration and defense of Africa's dignity in relation to ourselves, but also in relation to others”, says AUC Chair.

The slow progress of the AU towards unity frustrated many African activists and scholars so much that some of them referred to the continental organization with pejorative adjectives such as “talk shop”, “club of dictators” “good for nothing”



There is a mutual desire to transform Morocco-Ethiopia relationship into a strategic partnership

Nezha Alaoui M'hamdi

BY GIRMACHEW GASHAW

Migration has been a long ingrained issue throughout human history, shaping and reshaping societies, cultures, and economies. Current trends suggest that migration will continue to increase in the future.

Migration in search of work, known as international labor migration, has increasingly become a livelihood strategy for both women and men, with many countries involved as the country of origin, destination, or transit.

When properly managed, international labor migration can serve as an engine of economic growth and development for all parties involved. Migrant workers benefit from skills acquired during their migration experience, and countries of origin greatly benefit from remittances and the reduction of their unemployment rate.

However, many migrant workers, particularly those with irregular status, suffer human and labor rights violations, facing even worse problems and challenges. With the rise in the volume of migration over time, the need to regulate this activity has increased.

Before leaving home, migrants are expected to pay large sums to facilitate the migration process. If third parties are involved, the cost generally increases, putting migrants' safety at risk. Trafficked persons suffer physical and emotional abuse, rape, threats against themselves and their families, document theft, torture, debt, unlawful confinement, and even death.

Even after reaching their final destinations, many migrants endure poor working and living conditions and engage in low-paying jobs. They often work in unsafe environments, are denied basic labor rights, and face culture shock, language barriers, and discrimination in host countries.

Deportation of migrants has severe consequences for the migrants, their families, local communities, and sending states. Economic studies show that deported workers are less likely to benefit from migrating, as they rarely have the opportunity to earn income, save money, gain skills, or education.

The rapid return of large numbers of migrant workers to their countries of origin within a short time period has tremendous negative consequences, as returning migrants quickly shift from being the primary provider for a family to becoming a dependent.

This adjustment is often difficult and stressful for both the individual and family members, with families bearing an additional burden on their scarce economic and financial resources until the returnee reintegrates and establishes a livelihood.

Social isolation and marginalization are other frequently mentioned difficulties for deportees or involuntary returnees. Migrant returnees who have lived for many years abroad may find themselves with limited social networks and lacking up-to-date knowledge on how things are done locally.

The shame of returning empty-handed is almost unbearable for most of the returnees and some of them choose to isolate themselves. Furthermore, many returnees suffer from health problems, post-traumatic stress, depression or other mental health issues.

The complications the returnees undergo may become severe in circumstances where there is a lack of treatment, or in the presence of social stigma and isolation, or if their families and local community fail to understand their experiences.

The Ethiopian Herald recently interviewed Nezha Alaoui M'hamdi, the Ambassador of Morocco to Ethiopia, discussing bilateral relations between Ethiopia and Morocco and the issue of Arab migrants.

Please tell me about the situation of Arab immigrants, especially in Ethiopia?

Thank you very much. We recently celebrated Arab Expatriate Day in Addis Ababa, organized by the Arab Ambassadors Council in the Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco. This event aimed to recognize and honor the role of Arab migrants worldwide, particularly in Ethiopia. They assist official diplomats in strengthening relations with the host country, Ethiopia.

Arab expatriates contribute to investment, trade, sharing expertise, and fostering connections between countries. They serve as ambassadors for their respective nations, working to enhance relationships with Ethiopia. Recognizing their efforts is crucial for strengthening official ties and expanding trade and investment opportunities.

International Migrants Day is celebrated globally, including among Arab communities. While there are no significant



differences in the challenges faced by migrants, the Arab world recognizes this day to honor their contributions. The Kingdom of Morocco has been a leader in managing migration, providing rights and support to migrants living within its borders.

The Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco initiated the celebration of Arab Migrants Day to acknowledge the important role migrants play in strengthening relationships with Ethiopia. This commitment aligns with Morocco's history of supporting migrants and promoting safe and respectful migration practices.

Regarding immigration dynamics, migration is a natural phenomenon driven by various factors, including economic, political, and environmental conditions. African countries, such as Ethiopia and Morocco, are at the crossroads of different regions, influencing migration patterns. Each nation has its policies to address migration challenges.

Would you briefly tell us the challenges that many African countries are facing

in terms of controlling migration? What is the experience of your country in this regard?

In terms of controlling illegal migration, African governments face the challenge of addressing root causes while respecting the rights of migrants. Migration is a complex issue influenced by global trends, social media, and economic disparities. Collaborative efforts between countries of origin and destination are essential for managing migration effectively.

Morocco has implemented successful strategies to protect migrant rights and promote co-development initiatives. The country's experience serves as a valuable example for others seeking to address migration challenges.

As Ethiopia and Morocco continue to strengthen their relationship, mutual cooperation and dialogue will enhance bilateral ties and promote shared prosperity.

The recent visit of Moroccan officials to Ethiopia focused on preparing a joint commission to review bilateral

There is a mutual desire...

cooperation and launch future projects. This collaboration demonstrates the growing relationship between the two countries and the potential for further development and cooperation.

What can you say about the dynamics of immigration in general, and the handling of Arab immigrants here in Ethiopia?

I cannot speak about the treatment of migrants in Ethiopia as it is a national policy, a sovereign policy, so it is not my role to interfere in that. But I can discuss migration in general. We witness different historical steps in migration. Initially, people move in search of a better life abroad, always looking for greener pastures. Due to peace and security situations, especially on our continent, we now have climate change pushing people to relocate, creating many reasons.

We started with economic reasons and sometimes political reasons for people moving abroad. Now, there are even more reasons for people to migrate. That being said, we cannot stop migration as it is a natural human tendency, with mobility always present.

Looking at Africa, there is a significant amount of internal migration within Africa and from Africa to Europe or other parts of the world. Ethiopia, like Morocco, is at the crossroads of many regions and continents, situated in the eastern part of Africa near Asia and Europe, creating migration routes. Ethiopia has chosen its national policy to address this phenomenon.

While you were marking Arab Migrants Day, you gave recognition to some migrants. What was the reason behind this recognition, and what was the criterion?

Recognizing outstanding Arab migrants during the celebration involved designating nominees from each embassy. This process ensured that deserving individuals were acknowledged for their contributions to strengthening Arab-Ethiopian relations.

What should African governments do to control their young generation from illegal migration?

I have no lessons to give to African governments, but I can share some thoughts and experiences from my country. Migration cannot be controlled as it is a natural phenomenon. However, we see a high awareness among African youth, driven by social media and globalization. African youth are ambitious, envisioning a better future for themselves and their countries, seeking recognition internationally.

To address this, countries must provide



opportunities for work and talent expression, making their citizens proud. European countries are not taking significant steps to retain African youth in their home countries, contributing to the ongoing migration. Migration should be managed rather than seen as a threat, addressing the root causes in both the country of origin and the destination.

Morocco organized the first conference on co-development in 2006, inviting the European Union to discuss root causes of migration, emphasizing the importance of shared responsibility between origin and destination countries.

What is the best practice of Morocco to share with others in terms of protecting migrants' rights?

Morocco has no lessons to give but shares its experiences with others, recognized under the leadership of His Majesty the King. Morocco is eager to share its practices with those interested, focusing on protecting migrants' rights.

Ethiopia-Morocco relations are growing, with high-level officials visiting Ethiopia. Could you tell me more about that?

A delegation from the Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, led by Ambassador Fouad Yazourh, visited Ethiopia and met with State Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Mesganu Arga, to discuss bilateral relations. Both countries are confident in the growing relationship and mutual benefits.

The purpose of the visit was to prepare for a joint commission between the two countries in the near future to review bilateral cooperation and launch future projects.

As you rightly said, the bilateral cooperation between Ethiopia and Morocco has been showing progress especially in the past few years. The agreements signed to strengthen the relationship between the two countries in 2016 were among the engines that strengthened bilateral relations between the two countries.

The discussions and agreements between the two parties have helped to strengthen the partnership, in addition to expanding the scope of cooperation between institutions in various fields, including sports, culture and industry.

The historical relationship between Ethiopia and Morocco has not transformed into trade and investment cooperation to the extent desired. Thus, the countries must work to strengthen cooperation in these spheres.

A fertilizer factory project is being implemented in Dire Dawa in line with the agreement signed between the Moroccan Fertilizer Company and the pertinent Ethiopian party. Morocco wants to expand its investments in the field of fertilizer production and increase its activities in various fields, including manufacturing and agriculture. In this regard, my embassy is working to involve Moroccan investors in the field of investment in Ethiopia.

Ethiopia and Morocco have a good relationship in the field of education; the country provides educational scholarship opportunities for Ethiopian students in various fields in Morocco. The coming period of cooperation between the two countries is bright and there is a mutual desire to transform the relationship into a strategic partnership.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

The celebration of Arab Migrants Day highlights the valuable contributions of migrants to strengthening diplomatic relations and fostering economic growth. By recognizing their efforts and promoting dialogue, countries can work together to address migration challenges and promote mutual understanding and cooperation.

Thank you, Ambassador

It is my pleasure.

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Ethiopia and Morocco have a good relationship in the field of education; the country provides educational scholarship opportunities for Ethiopian students in various fields in Morocco

Society

Ethiopia's endeavor to roll back Antimicrobial Resistance

BY TEWODROS KASSA

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) has emerged as one of the greatest threats to global public health in the 21st century. As bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites evolve to become resistant to the drugs designed to kill them, common infections are becoming increasingly difficult to treat. This phenomenon, known as antimicrobial resistance, has the potential to undermine decades of progress in modern medicine.

The rise of AMR is driven by the overuse and misuse of antimicrobial drugs, such as antibiotics, antivirals, antifungals, and antiparasitics. When these drugs are used excessively or inappropriately, it allows resistant microbes to survive and proliferate. Poor infection prevention and control practices in healthcare settings and agriculture also contribute to the spread of resistant pathogens.

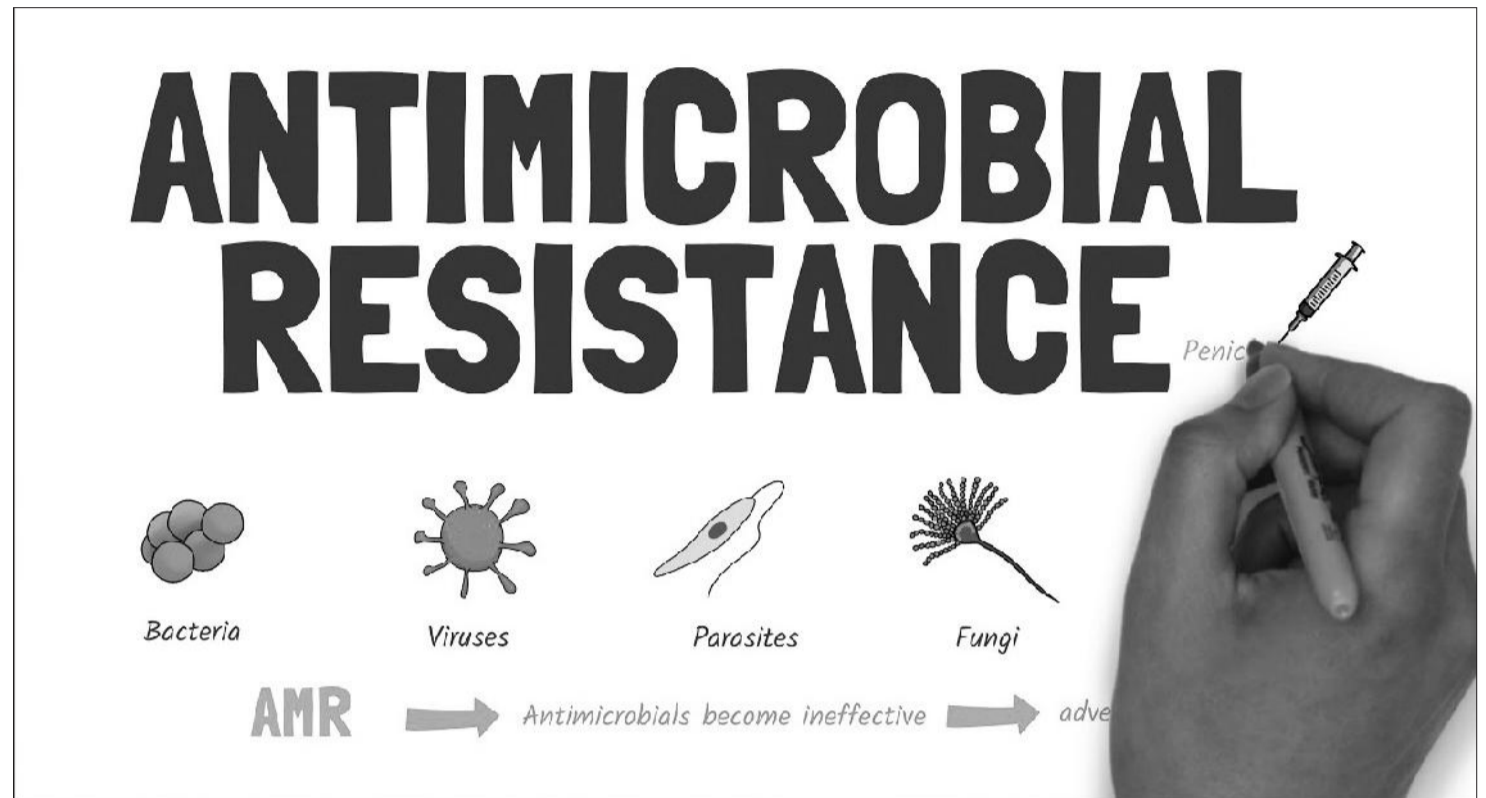
The consequences of antimicrobial resistance are dire. Common infections that were once easily treatable, such as pneumonia, tuberculosis, and gonorrhea, are becoming life-threatening as our arsenal of effective antimicrobial drugs dwindles. Routine medical procedures, like surgery and cancer treatment, also become riskier without reliable antimicrobial therapies to prevent and treat infections.

The World Health Organization has warned that without urgent, coordinated action, the world is headed for a "post-antibiotic era" in which common infections and minor injuries can once again become deadly. Estimates suggest that by 2050, AMR could claim 10 million lives per year and cost the global economy up to \$100 trillion.

Combating antimicrobial resistance requires a multi-pronged, global approach. Improving antimicrobial stewardship in healthcare and agriculture, investing in new drug development, enhancing infection prevention and control, and strengthening surveillance and research are all critical components of the solution. Governments, healthcare providers, researchers, and the public must work together to preserve the effectiveness of antimicrobial agents and protect public health for generations to come.

To curb the spread, the pharmaceutical industry has provided antimicrobials, including antibiotics, antivirals, antifungals, and antiparasitics, which are medicines used to prevent and treat infections in humans, animals, and plants. However, despite concerted efforts, AMR remains a global health concern, posing a significant threat as microorganisms evolve and develop resistance to the antimicrobial drugs used to treat them.

Ethiopia, like many other countries, has been working diligently to address this pressing issue and implement strategies to prevent and control antimicrobial resistance. The country has developed a national action plan on antimicrobial resistance, outlining strategies to prevent the emergence and



spread of resistant microorganisms, optimize the use of antibiotics, and ensure access to quality-assured antimicrobial medicines.

Meanwhile the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly (WHA) was unfolding under the theme 'All for Health, Health for in Geneva', Switzerland, on 27 May – 1 June 2024 was discussing working system.

On the occasion WHA delegates, partner agencies, representatives of civil society and WHO experts had discussed current and future priorities for public health issues of global importance.

Ethiopian was one of the participants attending the assembly and got the opportunity to share the country's promising efforts to address growing global health challenges.

Speaking on the occasion, Health Minister Mekdes Daba (MD) said that the country has designed a strategy to combat AMR threats and effective medicines utilization.

Currently, the Ethiopian Public Health Institute is working actively regarding strengthening and widening diseases surveillance and protection through organizing a one-stop information center that conduct successive research on AMR, medicines distribution and proper medicines utilizations as well as vaccinations chain and its impact on AMR, she said.

According to her, the Ethiopian government is also actively engaged in organizing an enterprise that works to produce vaccine shield locally.

"Realizing the WHO's directive of decreasing antibiotic use and promoting vaccines is fundamental to combat AMR and failed to do so will remain severe challenge to global public health," she noted.

Though, the problem worsens in lower and a middle-income country, the problem is still affecting the developed countries. Thus, it is important to promote existing and new

To curb the spread, the pharmaceutical industry has provided antimicrobials, including antibiotics, antivirals, antifungals, and antiparasitics, which are medicines used to prevent and treat infections in humans, animals, and plants

vaccines towards controlling AMR, she added.

Ethiopia, Korea, Sweden, England and El Salvador co-sponsored the forum titled "Role of existing and new vaccines for drug sustainability in low- and middle-income countries" was organized by the International Institute of Vaccines.

Ethiopia has also implemented several key initiatives to counter antimicrobial resistance, including: Strengthening surveillance systems to monitor antimicrobial drug use and track the emergence of resistance, allowing for targeted interventions. Second, raising awareness about AMR among healthcare providers, policymakers, and the general public through education campaigns to promote responsible antimicrobial use and discourage over-prescription of antibiotics. Last but not the least implementing regulations to improve the quality and safety of antimicrobial medicines, ensuring that only licensed healthcare facilities and practitioners can prescribe and dispense these drugs.

Furthermore, Ethiopia recognizes the importance of collaboration and partnership with international organizations, research institutions, and other countries to combat this complex public health challenge. By sharing best practices, exchanging knowledge, and coordinating efforts on a global scale, the country is making significant strides in mitigating the threat of AMR and preserving the efficacy of antimicrobial drugs for future generations.

In conclusion, Ethiopia's endeavors to counter antimicrobial resistance demonstrate the country's commitment to safeguarding the health of its population and ensuring the effectiveness of essential medicines. Through a multi-faceted approach that includes surveillance, education, regulation, and collaboration, Ethiopia is taking proactive steps to tackle this global health threat and sustain societal health.

Verbatim and Caption

ENDC enters agenda-gathering phase

The Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission (ENDC) started agenda-gathering phase in Addis Ababa on Wednesday 29 May 2024. This shows that the National Dialogue Process enters the next phase. During the opening

session, ENDC commissioners, scholars call the general public to actively participate in the national dialogue so as to find sustainable solutions for the age-old problems of Ethiopia.

National Dialogue can build stable, strong nation:

Prof. Mesfin Araya, Chief Commissioner, ENDC

Through effective National Dialogue, Ethiopia set to resolve age-old problems of the country. To realize lasting peace and stability in Ethiopia, ensuring the public's active involvement in national issues is the only way.

Previously, citizens did not have opportunity to consult or decide on national issues. National decisions were left to politicians and elites. The National Dialogue has created a new chapter in enabling people from all walks of life to engage equally and meaningfully through their representatives to decide on critical national issues.

Effective national dialogue would create a transparent political system, develop a new political culture and bring sustainable solutions to the longstanding and contentious issues.



NDC does not give any agendas to citizens: Mahmod Derir, Commissioner of ENDC

ENDC has begun the journey of the national dialogue from Addis Ababa. Ethiopia has decided to discuss on and solve its problems on its own through a peaceful, civilized, comprehensive national dialogue. Different groups from all walks of society will participate and all the people from different groups become involved to present their agendas.

The National Dialogue Commission does not present or give any agendas to citizens. Rather it collects the agendas that the communities initiated through their dialogue. This procedure will continue until these agendas are collected. Then the participants will choose who will present them in the next stage in the national dialogue.



National Dialogue enters critical stage:

ENDC Deputy Chief Commissioner

Hirut Gebreselassie

Addis Ababa already started the national dialogue session. The main agenda of the session which runs from 29 May to June 4, 2024 bringing representatives drawn from various segments of the society is agenda gathering phase.

The agenda gathering session in the metropolis started following the completion of necessary preparations. These dialogue sessions will continue in regional states and other city administration as per set plans.

This stage is a critical stage to realize the national dialogue. The ENDC is expecting from Ethiopians to actively participate and contribute their share for the successful conduct of the dialogue processes. The participants who come to this stage will bring agenda ideas through consultation and discussion and organize ideas as common points.

National Dialogue new avenue to solve national problems:

Prof. Ahmed Zakaria

Ethiopia is experimenting with a new avenue to solve its problem through dialogue, discussion, and tolerance (accommodating) each other. The country is big and diverse with enormous experiences, starting from the origins of mankind up until now.

It has lots of experiences. It's about concocting up our medicine through our experiences. Within communities, there is a lot of wisdom that we are going to share and solve our major national problems for better development, progress, and peace.

Ethiopia would be in a better position to discuss soberly and to identify its problems by next year. Not only identifying problems, through the national dialogue Ethiopia can find medicine to solve its major national problems.

