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Raising red flag on unholy alliances in volatile HoA

BY HAILE DEMEKE

Being one of the most strategic locations in the continent, the Horn of Africa (HoA) has been attracting the attention of continental and global actors.

Taking the advantage of the current tension between Ethiopia and Somalia, some special interest groups have recently tried to create long-lasting instability in the wider region of the HoA

Therefore, these anti-peace elements are in attempt to undermine the security situation in the region and forming unholy alliances, seizing the deteriorating relationships as opportunity to execute their grand strategy of destabilizing the region.

Member of Ethiopian Political Parties Joint Council Mebratu Alemu (PhD) told Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that due to its strategic importance, the HoA has been attracting regional and global actors on several occasions.

“Since Ethiopia is located in strategic area of the HoA, it has been a key player in advocating regional peace and stability. Ethiopia has contributed a lot in the efforts to uphold and restore peace in the neighboring countries.”

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Call for continued financial contribution to nearly-completed Abbay dam

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA - Office of the National Council for Coordination of Public Participation to the Construction of Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (Abbay Dam) called on public to continue their financial support in a bid to accelerate the completion of the dam project.

See Call for... Page 3

Australia to elevate strategic partnership with Ethiopia

• Expanding investment in agriculture, trade

BY MESERETBEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA – The Australian Embassy has announced that its strategic, all-weather, and future-oriented partnership with Ethiopia will continue through various mechanisms.

In an exclusive interview with *The Ethiopian Herald*, Evan J. Clifford, Second Secretary at the Australian Embassy, emphasized that Australia remains committed to fostering a comprehensive and forward-looking partnership with Ethiopia. The two nations enjoy strong relations across multiple sectors, including agriculture, trade, humanitarian efforts, and climate issues.

According to Clifford, Australia has been



See Australia to elevate ... Page 3 Evan J. Clifford

UN reaffirms commitment to support Ethiopia's peace endeavors

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA - The United Nations (UN) has pledged unwavering commitment to back Ethiopia's peace initiatives aiming to promote durable peace and sustainable development.

The UNDP Resident Representative Samuel Doe (PhD) made the above statement recently on behalf of the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator while commemorating the 25th anniversary of the International Day of Peace.

He further remarked that Ethiopia has embarked on a dynamic milestone towards attaining its vision of unity and prosperity by crafting the National Dialogue Commission, Transitional Justice (TJ) which is critical for reconciliation and building trust among all segments of communities.



See UN reaffirms ... Page 3 Samuel Doe (PhD)

News



MoA targets 50% of cultivated land with improved seeds

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA - The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) has unveiled a plan to cover 50% of Ethiopia's cultivated land with improved seeds within the next three years.

Speaking to the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), MoA Crop Development Chief Executive Officer Esayas Lemma emphasized that the use of improved seeds is crucial to boosting agricultural production and productivity. To achieve this, the country is focusing on expanding land coverage for these seeds.

Currently, the coverage of improved seeds stands at less than 20%. The MoA has

outlined a three-year plan, building on previous performance, with the goal of increasing this to 50%. To facilitate the plan, a committee comprising both federal and state institutions has been established.

Special emphasis is being placed on key crops such as *teff*, wheat, and maize, with the aim of achieving 100% improved seed coverage for these staples. The overarching goal is to increase yields from these crops while extending the plan to other varieties as well.

Esayas also noted that the initial supply of improved seeds from multipliers has been insufficient, but steps are being taken to address this issue. In recent years, there has been a notable gap in the implementation

of improved seeds, particularly between federal and state institutions, and the current plan aims to rectify these shortcomings.

In the past, the total supply of improved seeds was less than 1.3 million quintals, covering only 20,000 to 30,000 hectares. This fiscal year, the focus is on significantly expanding cultivation with improved seeds, with a target of covering 148,000 hectares. So far, 75,000 hectares have been successfully planted with improved seeds, Esayas highlighted.

By increasing the coverage of improved seeds, Ethiopia can improve its food security, reduce reliance on imports, and create economic opportunities for its rural population.

ESLSE to secure over 104 bln Birr through import-export freights

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA - Ethiopian Shipping and Logistics Services Enterprise (ESLSE) has planned to earn over 104 billion Birr transporting over 8.2 million tons of goods during the current fiscal year.

ESLSE's Corporate Communication Department Head Demisew Benti told The Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the ESLSE is aiming to secure 104.14 billion Birr ferrying 8.25 million tons export and import goods.

As to Demisew, by facilitating the aforementioned tasks, the institute is going to gain 14.30 billion Birr net profit. During the past fiscal year, 57.14 billion Birr was obtained despite its earlier goal of 51.01 billion Birr revenue.

He further stated that the freight transportation of the current fiscal year has a 10% increase from the past similar period. Providing streamlined public and freight transportation as well as port and terminal services are among the activities that are running by



the Service. It means that over 94 % of the country's import and export trade is facilitated through ESLSE.

He recalled that the persisted of security problems encountered in the Red Sea area during the last budget year, however, the challenges were solved these days due to the cooperative work with the relevant bodies.

Demisew stated that ESLSE has made

preliminary activities to buy six new ships in the current fiscal year. Besides, various activities are being carried out to use many ports in the future as the country has the largest population.

Currently, Ethiopian ships have been servicing over 346 international ports whilst bringing national benefit. He called on stakeholders to support ESLSE activities so as to enhancing its capacity.

Ethiopia's hydropower Dev't Exemplary to clean energy centered power generation: Scholar

ADDISABABA (ENA) - Ethiopia's hydro centered energy development activities are exemplary to showcase pollution free clean energy generation, hydropower development researcher and instructor at the Addis Ababa University, Ermias Tefera remarked.

The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (Abbey Dam) is an essential multi-purpose project for ensuring regulated and constant water flow to the lower riparian countries besides its contribution in reducing their vulnerability to flood and for sustained source of energy, it was learned.

The dam ensures constant water flow to downstream countries by increasing the volume of water by 25 percent during the dry season and would keep water lost by evaporation only to 12 percent.

ENA has conducted an exclusive interview with Ermias Tefera, hydropower researcher and instructor at the Addis Ababa University to discuss about a hydropower centered energy development and other related issues regarding the development of climate change resilient economic development in Ethiopia.

He said hydropower centered energy provides a great deal of contribution to building a climate resilience economy and ensuring sustainable development.

According to the researcher, the 5,150 MW clean energy, which would be generated from the Abbey dam, will mutually benefit the countries of the region and would promote regional economic integration.

He further added that the dam will markedly reduce the vulnerability of irrigation schemes in lower riparian countries to torrential floods by reducing the amount of top soil that would be washed away annually.

He added that Abbey dam is a showcase for the promotion of a strong spirit to succeed in development endeavors among Ethiopians and is a symbol of national pride for the country.

Ethiopia's hydropower energy development is exemplary to showcase pollution free clean energy centered power generation, the researcher stated. Ermias added that the flagship dam has led to the creation of a 1,280 sq. km water body and commended the special contribution made by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed towards the realization of the dam.

In terms of its capacity to hold water Abbey dam ranks 12th among the dams across the world, the researcher indicated.

He mentioned that Egypt's Aswan Dam is the 8th biggest dam in the world and noted that the current pressure being exerted to sabotage the completion of the dam is unacceptable and counterproductive.

He lauded the relentless efforts made by the government and the National Negotiating Technical Committee for all their efforts in resisting the continuous pressure hurdled on the team during the previous negotiations.

Ermias elaborated that Ethiopia, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Burundi and South Sudan have signed the Cooperative Framework Agreement in the spirit of resolving African problems in the African way, adding that as South Sudan recently signed the agreement, there will be a possibility of establishing the Nile Basin Commission.

He further remarked that after its completion, Abbey dam will become a vital catalyst for urbanization and industrial development by effectively fulfilling the energy needs of the country.

News

Ethiopia to chair AFRA for one-year

ADDIS ABABA (ENA) - Ethiopia has taken over the chairmanship of the African Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training related to Nuclear Science and Technology (AFRA) for a one-year term.

AFRA, established in 1990, is an intergovernmental agreement that aims to promote the peaceful use of nuclear science and technology in Africa.

Through AFRA, African countries collaborate on research, development, and training initiatives related to nuclear energy, agriculture, health, and industry.

Ethiopia, having successfully hosted the 35th AFRA-Technical Working Group Meeting in Addis Ababa in June 2024, was elected for a one-year term, beginning in September 2024.

This appointment was announced during the 68th International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Annual Conference, held in Vienna, Austria, from September 16 to 19, 2024.

Ethiopian Minister of Innovation and Technology, Bele Mola was selected by AFRA member states to lead the organization on behalf of Ethiopia.

The handover ceremony took place in the presence of the IAEA Director General, Rafael Mariano Grossi, who confirmed the



agency's strong support for AFRA.

Minister Bele expressed Ethiopia's commitment to leveraging nuclear science and technology for peaceful purposes like healthcare, agriculture, mining, environmental protection, energy, industry, and other sectors.

He emphasized the potential of this technology to contribute significantly to

Africa's development.

The Ethiopian delegation actively participated in the IAEA Annual Conference and related side events.

The Minister highlighted Ethiopia's past collaboration with the IAEA in technical cooperation and sought to expand these efforts in the future.

Belete also emphasized the importance of peaceful nuclear technology for Ethiopia's development in areas like health, taxation, manufacturing, and energy.

The IAEA's recent announcement of the "Rays of Hope" initiative, focusing on healthcare, aligns with Ethiopia's goals.

The agency plans to strengthen its support for member states by establishing cancer treatment centers in health institutions.

Additionally, the newly launched "Atoms4Food" initiative aims to address food security challenges by promoting the use of nuclear science and technology in agriculture.

Ethiopia, with its significant agricultural efforts, is well-positioned to benefit from these initiatives.

The Minister also held a bilateral meeting with IAEA Director General Grossi to discuss areas of cooperation and explore opportunities for further collaboration.

Raising...

Despite Ethiopia's commitment to regional peace and friendship, there are certain anti-peace elements in the region working around the clock to destabilize Ethiopia and the region as whole, he said.

"The destructive forces have been trying to instill chaos in Ethiopia and the region because the former is the source of the Nile waters and its proximity to the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden."

Mebratu indicated that over the past years, the nation has been embarking on steady economic development, despite facing stern challenges of internal and external actors.

For instance, Ethiopia has almost completed the construction of its flagship dam, he said adding that: "But such great development news is not welcomed by some anti-peace elements that is why these groups are working tirelessly to create havoc in the country."

He also said that currently these anti-peace elements and external forces are creating unholy alliance in the fragile region of the HoA with a view of putting pressure on Ethiopia and region merely to execute their hidden interest of destabilizing the region.

"Such ill-intent will further exacerbate the fragile security situation in the region and create fertile ground for terrorists."

An Independent Think Tank and Interaction for Change in Africa (ICA) Director Worku Yacob (PhD) for his part said that countries in the HoA needs to work together to fend off pressure from external actors rather than allowing anti-peace elements to destabilize the region.

He, therefore, insisted on resolving any differences among HoA's countries on negotiating table.

HoA Analyst and Researcher Musa Sheiko said that Ethiopia's historical enemies have been relentless attempting to destabilize the HoA for the sake of their narrow interest. The geopolitical dynamics of the HoA have increasingly become complex as external actors exploit regional tensions to undermine Ethiopia's efforts.

As to him, These hostile forces are forming unholy alliances, seizing on deteriorating relationships of the countries in the region. Thus, Ethiopia has already raised the red flags on the recent political tension in the HoA.

UN reaffirms...

Apart from confronting the past and healing historical fractures, he said, adding that it also reinforces the rule of law, ensuring that everyone has recourse, and that justice is accessible to all.

In the pursuit of comprehensive peace, Samuel also stated that the country is preparing to demobilize approximately 400,000 former combatants. It entails the vital aspects of the society to integrate with their respective society and enable them to contribute to their country's shared prosperity.

Moreover, Ethiopia is finalizing regional and national strategies to reintegrate over 4 million people displaced from their communities due to violent conflicts and climate change induced disasters, he noted.

In addition to these initiatives, the UN partners are supporting the efforts in advancing the Women, Peace, and Security and Youth Peace and Security agendas in the country.

As the United Nations Secretary-General has articulated, cultivating a culture of peace "means replacing division, disempowerment, and despair with justice, equality, and hope for all, he said this requires a focus on preventing conflict, advancing the Sustainable Development Goals, promoting human rights, and tackling all forms of discrimination and hate".

Call for continued ...

In exclusive interview with Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), the Office's Public Relations' and Media Communications Director Hailu Abreham said that since the commencement of the flagship project till last July, the public has contributed over 20 billion Birr.

The building of the mega dam has proved the world that how powerful is Ethiopians' unity, he said adding that such solidarity should be continued until the dam is fully completed.

"The last year's public financial contribution to the dam was overwhelming appreciable."

Various Abbay dam's public fundraising events have been organized over the past years. Last year alone, over 1.7 billion Birr was mobilized in this fiscal year. The amount of contribution to the dam is expected to

surpass the previous one, it was learnt.

Hailu, moreover, pointed out that a total of 137 million Birr was collected during last July alone.

All branches of the Office and political leaders of the government have been actively engaging in various campaigns aimed at raising funds to Abbay dam, he noted.

Last month, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed stated the status of the dam construction of the dam as "a historical arc" that cannot be reversed.

"The dam is a monumental project that everyone should witness. It stands as a powerful lesson for the entire continent of Africa," he said in a televised message heralding the launching of the fourth turbine of the dam.

Australia to elevate strategic...

actively supporting and investing in agriculture across East Africa. Over the past two years, 40 million USD has been invested in improving the agricultural sector in the region, with the primary goal of supporting food security initiatives in these areas.

Clifford highlighted that Australia is placing significant emphasis on enhancing production and productivity, building agricultural infrastructure, and contributing to peace and security across Ethiopia. He pointed out that Oxfam Australia, which operates in Ethiopia, plays a vital role in addressing food security and humanitarian concerns.

Additionally, the Australian Development Aid Project (DAP) supports poultry farming among smallholder communities, helping to improve their livelihoods.

In the trade sector, Australian companies are involved in mining operations in Oromia State. Ethiopian coffee has also become increasingly popular among Australian consumers, presenting a future opportunity for expanding trade between the two nations.

"As Ethiopia continues its efforts to achieve food security, the recent macro-economic reforms are essential in attracting Australian investors and

fostering sustainable, mutually beneficial business partnerships," Clifford noted.

He stressed the importance of maintaining the strong relationship between Ethiopia and Australia. Clifford advised that continuous dialogue, government delegations, and mutual efforts to bridge gaps and utilize opportunities on both sides are crucial to achieving shared goals.

Ethiopia and Australia have cultivated a robust bilateral relationship over the years, characterized by cooperation in various sectors, mutual respect, shared values, and a commitment to tackling global challenges together.

Opinion

Ethiopia's unwavering commitment for peace and stability of Horn countries

BY GETACHEW MINAS

The Horn of Africa has been deprived of peace and stability due to armed conflicts, violent crimes, religious extremism, social violence and political instability. Conflicts and instability in the region are mainly concentrated on or near the border areas spreading out into the hinterland by warlords. Ethiopia has been confronted with these agents of war and terror.

Being located at a strategic area in the Horn and as the most populous country in the region, Ethiopia has a relatively stronger power than the neighboring countries. Its influence is, therefore, growing through time as its economic and political potential developed. As to some scholars, the countries of the region do recognize the leading role of Ethiopia due to its historic link with nearly all of them. The Horn countries respectfully entitle Ethiopia with the privilege of patrolling the region for maintaining peace and order. This is an immense responsibility as the region is prone to violent conflicts.

The Horn is known for various forms of cross border disputes and security threats. For years, the region has been exposed to conflicts, skirmishes and wars between countries. It has also experienced secessionist movements, intrastate conflicts, foreign intrusions, terrorist attacks and piracy.

On the other hand, most countries in the Horn have authoritarian and autocratic systems of government. These governments lacked popular legitimacy, cultures of democracy, human rights and rule of law. Some of these countries also pursued national and regional policies that gained mistrust of neighboring countries. They also engaged in political rivalry with the countries of the Horn. In some of these states, institutions are weak and unstable. Also, undefended territorial boundaries invited external and internal challenges. Such challenges are known to have weakened the Horn countries.

The Horn region is faced with contentions over the territories of countries, leading to regional insecurities. These in turn are causing problems for human lives and economic viability. There are also some regional conflicts, skirmishes and insecurity in the Horn area that arises from failed states in the region that are poorly governed. The border areas of these countries tend to be out of the control of the authority of central governments.

In its peacekeeping role, the Ethiopian government has been consistent in enhancing peace, law and order in these countries. Some neighboring countries have been immersed in civil wars, border disputes and civil disorders in the past decades. These countries also faced problems of sharing trans-boundary resources, including rivers. The challenges to peace and security in the Horn countries include issues of pastoral and

ethnic conflict over resource. These challenges include water sharing, fishery, access to ports and climate changes.

The most serious contention is related to interstate disputes over "water sources." The resolution of such dispute is time consuming and difficult to settle fairly. Those contesting countries have different water requirements related to their population size. Even if there is consent on the sharing of river waters, the right amount of distribution to each country seems to be difficult. Also the fair management of access to trans-boundary water requires special scientific skills.

Even then, there may be unique and hidden political disputes related to water sharing. The tension between Egypt and Ethiopia, for example, has entered a new critical phase. Following the construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), Egypt expressed its opposition to the project. This has led to rising tension between the two countries with huge implication to their relations. The construction of the dam has been progressing though there is a conspiracy on its progress. The Egyptians have done what they could to impede the construction of the dam. Despite being provoked by alien forces, Ethiopia continued its commitment to peace and stability in the Horn of Africa.

The major challenges for peace and security in the Horn have been cross-border and regional land use conflicts. Other challenges include migration and settlement issues and cross border disputes over contested regions. Cross-border conflict is becoming a great threat to peace along the borders of Ethiopia, which may provoke the peace keeping force of the country in the Horn area.

Other problems include environmental and health susceptibilities that have made the Horn people unable to produce agricultural outputs enough to feed themselves. Also, climate variations, ecological ruins, forced migration, and financial and social downgrading have led to social conflicts.

The use of food and land as political weapons are other problems of peace in the Horn region. People starved to death because of shortage of food due to drought and shortage of rain. These natural disasters subjected the people of the Horn countries to look for external aid.

Social conflicts and fights in the countries of the Horn affect neighboring communities, including pastoralists. Also health related problems in these countries affect most of the youth and productive labor force. This results in the loss of financial and social standing of the young people of the region. The existence of unruly youth within communities causes fear that lead to conflicts.

Interneine social conflicts that are not resolved by the governments in time may challenge peace and security in the Horn. The major cause of conflict is related to "center-periphery" confrontation with most communities facing economic marginalization and political exclusion. Related to this, there is inequitable sharing of national resources, accompanied by lack of representation in the

structures of governments.

Throughout the Horn region, political conflict is defined by identity politics. Being committed to peace and stability in the region, Ethiopian troops have been participating in peace-keeping mission to resolve identity issues.

One of the reasons for lack of peace in the Horn region has been social identity. This has been politicized around ethnic, tribal, and clan differences not just to contest democratically but to challenge the political entities. The Horn region is prone to identity based trans-border disputes, crime, piracy, terrorism, and insurgency. It is also a center of violent extremism which includes organized crime, mobilization of armed groups, and illicit trade and trafficking. Experts have identified it as a region exposed to external terrorist groups due to negligent border controls by underpaid security forces.

Consequently, the Horn region has become a major scene of war and terror. The common people, who are farmers, pastoralists, traders and peaceful residents, have been scared of living in their place of origin due to the war on terrorism. The peacekeeping forces, including the Ethiopian forces, have been trying to control the terrorist acts in the Horn region.

Experts have noted that failed or weak states are assumed to be safe for terrorists. It is a fact that a few countries in the Horn are examples of failed states. They are a focus of attention in the fight against terrorism. The proximity of the Horn region to the Middle East has attracted counterterrorism operations across the sea. These operations have become major challenges to Ethiopia that wants to keep peace and security in the Horn area.

One of the major challenges is internal financial problem that constrains Ethiopia. It is one of the countries with low per capita income in the region. Also, high cost of food, rising prices of raw materials for the manufacturing sector, and imported inflation are causing economic difficulties in the country. The country is endeavoring to overcome all its economic and financial difficulties accumulated in previous and current years. Moreover, it is facing internal social skirmishes, conflicts and wars the effects of which are impediments to economic growth and development.

According to the UNDP report and the Human Development Index, Ethiopia is among the poor countries in the world. However, several international economic institutions predicted that Ethiopia will have high economic growth in the coming few years. It is predicted that it will also be one of the fastest growing economies compared to the other non-oil producing African countries. This prediction is based on the post-war situations in the country. During the interneine conflicts and wars, Ethiopia's economic and social infrastructures, including some manufacturing enterprises have been destroyed. These negative impacts on the economy have also caused low production and productivity, unemployment, low income

along with inflation.

However, these negative effects have resulted in serious challenges including social dissatisfaction due to lack of opportunities for the new labor force. Those seeking jobs continue to be dependent on their families for a certain period of time. These negative economic and social trends will be reversed with commitment to peace, stability and order in the Horn region. Ethiopia is doing its best in reversing the negative factors that destabilize this region.

Ethiopia has experienced that conflicts in the Horn countries hinder developmental aspirants. These conflicts are mostly interlinked, calling for mutual peace initiatives. Consequently, weaker states are against any conflicts that affect their socioeconomic progress. They try to counter states that are stronger in the Horn region such as Ethiopia. As a result, the power of Ethiopia in the region is opposed by the combined efforts of smaller states near and around it.

Also, regional players and alien powers attempt to weaken the country through their proxies and bandas. Ethiopia's commitment to peace and stability in the region is an obstruction to alien forces that are interested in the exploitation of the natural resources of the Horn region. These powers also engage the countries of this region in long lasting confrontations, social conflicts and even wars. In so doing, they sell arms to warring factions or countries with the objective of weakening each and every one of them. Weak nations are exposed to exploitation of their resources by the powers or their proxies.

Ethiopia's commitment to the stability of the Horn is an obstacle to the fulfillment of the goal of alien forces of subjugating the region. Moreover, the country has one of the biggest military forces in the region making it capable of defending itself and the Horn area. Its army is experienced and hardened by wars as a result of protracted battles.

Moreover, it is the second most populous country in Africa, making its armed strength formidable. However, it has been facing political instability due to the interference of alien powers in its internal affairs. These forces have been using chaotic neighboring countries as excuses for encouraging disputes along its borders. But, Ethiopia has been defending its border while maintaining law and order as well as providing services to the people that are engaged in economic activities. Simultaneously, it has been observing peace and stability in the neighboring countries of the Horn of Africa.

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

Editorial

Ethiopia's call for collaboration, investment on G7 Agricultural Forum

The Ethiopian delegation, led by Minister of Agriculture Girma Amente (PhD), has made its presence felt at the recent agricultural forum hosted by the G7 countries in Syracuse, Italy. This prestigious gathering brought together leaders and experts from around the globe to address pressing agricultural challenges and explore innovative solutions. Ethiopia's inclusion in this select group of nations reflects its growing importance in the global agricultural landscape.

Fortunately, Minister Girma (PhD) took the opportunity to share Ethiopia's rich experiences in agricultural investment, underscoring the country's commitment to leveraging its vast agricultural potential. He articulated how Ethiopia has crafted policies that not only foster growth but also create a more sustainable agricultural framework. These policies have enabled the country to make significant strides in productivity and food security.

One of the key highlights of Minister Girma's presentation was the success of mechanized farming in Ethiopia. As agricultural technology advances, mechanization has become an essential tool for increasing efficiency and output. By adopting modern farming techniques, Ethiopia has been able to optimize its agricultural processes, resulting in tangible benefits for farmers and the national economy. This progressive approach is not just about enhancing yield; it also plays a crucial role in improving the livelihoods of millions of Ethiopians who rely on agriculture for their sustenance and income.

The Minister also pointed out the impressive achievements made in wheat production, attributing much of this success to the proactive initiatives of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD). Under the current administration, Ethiopia has transformed its wheat farming practices, leading to a remarkable increase in production. Currently, the nation is not only meeting its national demand but is also positioning itself as a significant player in the regional food security landscape. This achievement is particularly noteworthy given the global challenges surrounding food supply and agricultural sustainability.

In his address, Girma stressed the urgent need for collaboration among African nations to achieve food self-sufficiency. He highlighted the untapped resources across the continent and the potential they hold for transforming agricultural practices. By working together, African countries can share knowledge, resources, and technologies, paving the way for a more resilient and self-sufficient agricultural sector. Ethiopia stands ready to lead in this endeavor, offering its insights and experiences to foster a collaborative approach to food security.

Furthermore, the minister issued a clarion call to the G7 member states, urging them to take note of Ethiopia's Agricultural Transformation Roadmap. This strategic framework outlines the country's vision for a modern, productive, and sustainable agricultural sector. By investing in Ethiopia's agricultural initiatives, G7 countries can play a pivotal role in supporting economic growth and stability in the region. The roadmap not only presents opportunities for investment but also encourages partnerships that can enhance agricultural practices and technology transfer.

The forum in Syracuse serves as a crucial platform for dialogue and action on global agricultural issues. As nations grapple with the impacts of climate change, population growth, and food security challenges, collaborative efforts are more important than ever. Ethiopia's participation underscores the country's commitment to being part of the solution, while also showcasing its potential as a leader in agricultural innovation and development.

In short, the insights shared by the minister of agriculture at the G7 agricultural forum resonate far beyond the confines of Syracuse. They highlight the pressing need for a collective response to agricultural challenges, particularly in Africa. Ethiopia's experience offers valuable lessons in harnessing potential through sound policies and strategic investments.

Opinion

Destabilizing the Horn of Africa under the smokescreen of peace keeping is unacceptable

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

History seems to repeat itself. The same forces who were out to follow the footprints of their colonial masters under the inherited credo of La Grande Somalia or Soomalida Gaalbe or Greater Somalia in 1960, 1964 and 1977 are again taking the stage in a dress rehearsal to contain and choke Ethiopia, not ready to learn from history.

Ethiopia has rendered immense to peace keeping across the world. The irony is, some nations in the neighborhood and afar are plotting to rob the nation of peace which is a major prerequisite for the country's development. It seems that some countries are posing with red eyes when Ethiopia registers the minimum economic development in the country. This nation does not deserve to be intimidated by proxy wars.

The people of Somalia have already staged strong resistance against later comers who pose as "peace keepers but busy with their own agenda of destabilizing the Horn and ultimately igniting a regional war the consequence of which they are not sure. Ethiopia has 60 years history of peace keeping in practice and now is responsible to keep the peace of 60% of Somali territory. Taking a position of forcing out Ethiopia is indeed self-suicidal. How in the world can Egypt whose population is suffering from inflation, economic downturn and poor social services claim to be a champion of peace in Somalia?

The whole thing boils down to neo-colonial containment on a country that has a shining history of peace keeping? The Somali leadership is openly declaring that it intends to arm groups in Ethiopia who wish to take power by force when her own house is gradually tearing apart.

On the other hand, wherever Egyptian forces have set in the results were war, massive displacement, and mitosis of terrorist forces, hunger and influx of refugees. Suffice it to mention Libya and Sudan. This should not be repeated in Somalia or South Sudan.

The peoples of Ethiopia, Somalia, Djibouti, Eritria, South Sudan and Sudan are craving for peace; they need better health services, balanced nutrition, education and better social services and not guns. Those who claim to bring peace on the Horn should do it peacefully and not at a gun point. Somalia cannot be at peace by working on destabilization in Ethiopia. Peace is collective and mutually beneficial particularly for nations in the most vulnerable part of the world- the Horn of Africa. The population in the region needs tractors, seeds, and fertilizers, medical services to withstand drought, food shortage, epidemics and malnutrition.

OCHA Report issued in March 2024

indicates that "The Greater Horn of Africa faces a convergence of increasingly recurring and intensifying climate crises, mainly drought and flooding, conflicts, disease outbreaks, and economic shocks. These, including the impact of El Niño conditions, are driving millions of people into displacement, acute food insecurity and malnutrition, public health emergencies, and destitution. The region accounts for nearly 64 million people in need, one fifth of the people in need worldwide, mostly in Sudan and Ethiopia. And yet the humanitarian funding remains severely low. Urgent humanitarian resources, climate crisis mitigation measures, peace and security resolutions, and durable solutions, are desperately needed to avert large-scale humanitarian catastrophes in some areas."

On the other hand, it is necessary to avoid "cry wolf" policy which refers to repeated false alarms or exaggerations regarding a potential threat, which can undermine credibility and weaken the effectiveness of future warnings. When applied to the Horn of Africa, such a strategy could involve overstating dangers or threats to national security or regional stability to justify actions like military interventions, political maneuvers, or foreign involvement.

In addition, to avoid a "cry wolf" policy and strategy in the Horn of Africa, a few key approaches should be considered:

Governments and organizations must base their security and foreign policies on clear, verified data regarding threats such as terrorism, ethnic conflict, or external interference. Avoiding exaggeration helps maintain credibility both domestically and internationally.

Countries in the region should engage in open dialogue with their neighbors and international partners, addressing concerns honestly and preventing unnecessary escalation of conflicts. This builds trust and prevents misunderstandings that can arise from exaggeration or misinformation.

Clear, consistent, and truthful communication with the public and international bodies is vital to prevent the loss of trust. Repeated alarms that do not materialize into actual threats can lead to skepticism and inaction in times of real danger.

By promoting collaboration among the countries of the Horn of Africa such as through the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) nations can work together to address common threats like terrorism, drought, and political instability without resorting to alarmist policies.

Focusing on both security and socio-economic development can help address the root causes of instability in the region, making exaggerated threat narratives less necessary.

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



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The Ethiopian Herald

Art & Culture

Bridging Cultures: Empowering Ethiopian diaspora children

BY LEULSEGED WORKU

Children are the future leaders, engineers, doctors, teachers, and innovators of our society. To cultivate these future leaders, it is crucial for them to understand their culture and identity, which largely depends on the support they receive from families or guardians. However, for many diaspora children living in unfamiliar cultures far from their parents' homeland, this connection can be challenging to maintain. The experience of numerous Ethiopian diaspora community children highlights their struggles with the language and culture of their host countries, often leaving them feeling disconnected from their roots. Recently, an Ethiopian-born diaspora figure, Solomon Leta, has proposed a groundbreaking strategy aimed at addressing this cultural gap and empowering Ethiopian children to embrace local language at the early age by developing Amharic Fidel, a toy that let children to know Amharic alphabets. The Ethiopian Herald had contacted him online to know more about his innovation and what benefits it will bring to diaspora children and others. Enjoy your reading:



Can you tell us your name and current position?

My name is Solomon Leta, and I was born in Ethiopia. I have lived in the UK for over two decades. I studied my first degree in Marketing Management from Middlesex University, earned an MA in Development Economics from Kingston University, and an MA in International Marketing from Ulster University. Currently, I live in London and work at Gauselmann Group UK, while also managing some property portfolios in London.

Can you tell us about your innovation and how the idea came to you?

The idea came from the challenges I faced while teaching my children the Amharic *Fidel* (alphabet) using traditional methods. Last Christmas, I bought them a card reader toy designed to teach basic English words, which inspired me to create something similar for teaching the Amharic *Fidel*. Incorporating over 234 characters was challenging, but I found a way by utilizing both sides of the cards. After adding newly programmed sound devices, my children started learning the *Fidels* effortlessly. Encouraged by their progress and positive feedback from family, I decided to develop the product for other children in the diaspora.

What exactly is this innovation? How does it work?

The *Fidel* Toy is an audible electronic

flashcard reader toy that helps children learn the Amharic alphabet without the need for a teacher. Each letter is encoded on a corresponding card, and when inserted into the reader, the device pronounces the letter aloud. This makes learning both interactive and fun for children.

How user-friendly is your innovation, particularly for Ethiopian diaspora families?

The toy is very user-friendly. Children only need to switch on the reader, insert the flashcards, and the device reads out the letters. This is ideal for parents who may not have time for traditional teaching and helps reduce children's screen time, which can be detrimental to their development.

How does your innovation relate to Ethiopia's ancient alphabet?

This toy is a modern take on Ethiopia's ancient alphabet, which has progressed from inscriptions on stone to parchment (Brana) and printed books. Now, the *Fidel*



is accessible as a toy, making it fun and engaging for children to learn.

Do you think your innovation will help people outside Ethiopia learn more about the country?

Absolutely!! This toy will not only teach children in the diaspora the Amharic *Fidel* but also strengthen their connection to Ethiopia and its rich heritage. Learning the *Fidel* will help children feel more connected to their cultural identity as they

grow.

There are attempts to integrate Ethiopian alphabets with digital technologies. What makes your innovation unique?

What sets my innovation apart is that it's a physical toy rather than a digital app or software. It's the first hands-on, interactive product specifically designed to teach the Amharic alphabet in a playful and engaging way.

Are there any additional points you'd like to share with our readers?

The Amharic alphabet has a long and rich history, from being inscribed on stone to written on parchment and later printed in books. My toy takes this script into the modern age as an interactive learning tool that makes it easier and more enjoyable for children to learn. This is the first toy ever developed to teach the *Fidel* a script that remains one of the few written languages in continuous use today.

I am incredibly proud of this innovation and believe it will benefit children both in the diaspora and in Ethiopia. This is just the beginning—I've also developed other electronic and physical toys that celebrate Ethiopian culture, heritage, and daily traditions. I hope to release them soon, so children in the diaspora can connect with their roots and immerse themselves in their cultural heritage through play.

Law & Politics

Multilateralism: A recipe to realize pact for the future

BY STAFF REPORTER

Reforming and getting a new way of doing business in major global institutions has become a call from various stakeholders as the world revolves dramatically. The act of inclusivity and multilateral partnership should be a ground foundation in every international organ.

In recent scenarios, reforming the United Nations (UN) and other financial organizations of the world has been pivotal to represent the unrepresented. Some countries and continental blocs have also started to push forward for a better inclusion and representation in those global organs.

Again, the high- power blocs like the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and their member states have started to consider a better way to reform their system. The good part is that those global blocs have started to work on reforming and introducing better platforms for all member states to be represented and have a better share in all aspects.

In recent times, the United Nations has adopted a new platform in order to exercise the long awaited fair inclusion in the world arena. The 'Pact for the Future', which UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres described as a landmark agreement that is a "step-change towards more effective, inclusive, networked multilateralism.

Leaders pledged to bolster the multilateral system to keep pace with a changing world and to protect the needs and interests of current and future generations facing persistent crisis, according to media reports.

This Pact is the culmination of an inclusive, years-long process to adapt international cooperation to the realities of today and the challenges of tomorrow. The Pact for the Future includes a Global Digital Compact and a Declaration on Future Generations.

The most wide-ranging international agreement in many years, covering entirely new areas as well as issues on which agreement has not been possible in decades; the Pact aims above all to ensure that international institutions can deliver in the face of a world that has changed dramatically since they were created.

Overall, the agreement of the Pact is a strong statement of countries' commitment to the United Nations, the international system and international law.

Leaders set out a clear vision of an international system that can deliver on its promises, is more representative of today's world and draws on the energy



and expertise of governments, civil society and other key partners.

"The Pact for the Future, the Global Digital Compact, and the Declaration on Future Generations open the door to new opportunities and untapped possibilities," said the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres during his remarks at the opening of the Summit of the Future.

The President of the General Assembly noted that the Pact would "lay the foundations for a sustainable, just, and peaceful global order – for all peoples and nations."

The Pact covers a broad range of issues including peace and security, sustainable development, climate change, digital cooperation, human rights, gender, youth and future generations, and the transformation of global governance.

The Declaration on Future Generations focuses on securing the well-being of future generations, also highlighting the need to include their interests in decision-making processes. It also underlines the importance of protecting the environment, promoting intergenerational equity, and ensuring that long-term consequences of today's actions are considered.

By the same token, the Ethiopian delegation led by Amb. Taye Atske-Selassie also took part in the UN Summit of the Future in New York. The United Nations (UN) must be at the center of effective multilateralism by overcoming the influences coming from selective national interests, Foreign Minister Ambassador Taye said.

The Summit calls for scaled up cooperation and multilateralism by adopting three negotiated documents: Pact for the Future, Declaration on Future Generations and Global Digital Compact and participating in an interactive dialogue under the banner "Enhancing multilateralism for international peace and security. He also said that the UN needs to augment its human and other resources to provide a trusted convening platform for contentious issues.

During the course of his speech, the

foreign minister underscores the need to shift from rivalry to cooperation, enhance tolerance for policy differences, and build bridges to attain the most basic global development agenda. He also stressed the need for better prioritization, enhanced solidarity, and political commitment in the UN to assist nations in their efforts to eradicate poverty within their policy choice.

Speaking on the efforts to reform the UN, Ambassador Taye called on the UN Security Council to carry out its functions and preserve its authority and to respond to the quest for representation by Africa.

In his quest for respect to the foundation principles that constituted the UN charter, he said no rule, regional grouping, or alliance should be allowed to undermine the principles of sovereignty and sovereign equality, non-interference in the internal affairs of states, the prohibition of the threat or the use of force, and peaceful resolution of disputes.

In addition, according to the official document of the pact of the Future, it disclosed five major objectives achieve the south after goal namely: close all digital divides and accelerate progress across the Sustainable Development Goals; expand inclusion in and benefits from the digital economy for all; foster an inclusive, open, safe and secure digital space that respects, protects and promote human rights; advance responsible, equitable and interoperable data governance approaches; and enhance international governance of artificial intelligence for the benefit of humanity.

In order to seize the opportunity that present generations possess to leave a better future for generations to come and to fulfill the commitment to meet the demands of the present in a way that safeguards the needs and interests of future generations, while leaving no one behind, based on the official document.

The document disclosed some guiding principles including: the maintenance of international peace and security, and the full respect for international law; the pursuit and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, encompassing civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, which includes the right to development, must be respected, protected and promoted, without distinction or discrimination of any kind; the opportunity for future generations to thrive in prosperity and achieve sustainable development must be ensured, and acknowledging the special challenges faced by the most vulnerable countries, in particular African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

The act of inclusivity and multilateral partnership should be a ground foundation in every international organ



Water is known for putting off fire rather than igniting

Feki Ahmed Negash

BY ZEKARIAS WOLDEMARIAM

There are approximately 276 transboundary river basins on the planet with a geographical area corresponding to almost half of the earth's surface and 60 percent of freshwater supplies. One of these rivers, and according to many sources, the longest in the world is the Abbay or Nile.

The Nile Basin is shared among 11 countries that stretch from East and Central Africa to North Africa. However, not all members of the basin have equally benefited from the River. Due to the unfair colonial period agreements Egypt and Sudan have been utilizing almost the entire regime of the river.

The Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) is a partnership among the Nile riparian states that "seeks to develop the river cooperatively, share substantial socioeconomic benefits, and promote regional peace and security". In May 2010, five upstream states signed the Cooperative Framework Agreement of the Initiative. Ethiopia, Uganda, Rwanda Tanzania, and

The Nile Basin Initiative progressed when South Sudan acceded to it by signing the agreement. What is next for the initiative?

When NBI was first signed in May 2010 it stated that the agreement would become binding when it is ratified by six member states. Then it will enter into force. The first task would be institutionalizing it. As indicated in the agreement AU will announce to the member states the binding status of the agreement 60 days after the sixth country that ratified the agreement deposits the instrument of the agreement. The first decision to be taken by the member states will be the establishment of the Nile Basin Commission (NBC). The establishment of the commission has been indicated in the agreement. In addition, an Institutional Design Study was conducted in 2010 along with the agreement. The design has already framed what the organization of the NBC should look like after analyzing the objective reality of the basin and other inputs. Since there is a long time gap since the study was conducted there is a need to update it. Moreover, the member states should also need to gather and pass decisions on how and when the commission should be established. So far the upper decision-making authority used to be the Council of Ministers (Drawn from Ministers of Water resources of the member states). By now this would be replaced by the Summit of Heads of State. The upcoming Summit of heads of state is scheduled to take place in Entebbe or Kampala [Uganda] in the coming weeks. This assembly is expected to pass a decision for the formation of the commission.

What are the changes that occurred after the first signing of the agreement in 2010 and called for updating of the Institutional Design Study?

The [Institutional Design] study was conducted in 2010. At that moment the agreement was signed by a few countries. It was even questionable if all 6 countries could ratify the agreement. The number of

Burundi have already ratified the agreement which enables the NBI to be established as Commission.

On the other hand, this historical development has stirred another geopolitical tension in the Horn of Africa region as Egypt, the strong opponent of the Initiative is trying to put pressure against Ethiopia indirectly through involvement in the security affairs in Somalia. This attempt by Egypt gained momentum after Ethiopia signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Somaliland for Maritime access this year.

The Ethiopian Herald has recently interviewed Feki Ahmed Negash, on the progress of the Nile Basin Initiative and the impact of Egypt's military maneuverings in Somalia on the progress.

Feki Ahmed Negash is a consultant in water resource development and Transboundary River and hydro diplomacy in the Horn of Africa. Enjoy reading!

GERD

never causes any harm to others. It is already witnessed. The GERD has already been filled up. Aswan Dam is also full. None of their farmers have also been dislodged contrary to their fears. This proves that the dam has no harm



member states within the basin has also now increased with the coming of South Sudan as an Independent Country. It has also ratified the agreement. Sudan has also shown fundamental change. In addition, though it has not ratified the agreement, it has returned to the cooperation. It is part of the cooperation. I believe that Sudan will be the 1st country to join once the commission is established.

Many signs of progress have also occurred since then like an increase in population number, and development activities as there are many mega projects already underway in the region. There is a change in the economy of the member states as they are

scoring rapid development. There is also a change in the structure as the interest of countries was only cooperation in the past but by now they may also be interested in engaging in development activities.

How would the Commission succeed in the Initiative by incorporating the achievements of the initiatives and also undertaking the required revisions?

The provisions of the Initiative indicate that the commission will succeed the NBI and will take over all the resources, facilities, experiences ... etc. This means the Commission would not start from zero.

continued to page 9



Water is known for putting off ...

Continued from page 8

The initiative will gradually evolve into a commission. This will take some time.

What do you think would be the impact of the progress of NBI in changing the so far confrontation of the Upper and Lower Riparians of Nile? What do you think would happen next?

The agreement would have a binding effect against the signatory countries only. Those who have already endorsed the agreement are only the upper riparians except Kenya and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Kenya has signed the agreement but has not yet deposited the instrument signed by the President. Now that the agreement has already been signed by six countries I have hope that it will do so. DRC accepted the agreement and played a pioneering role in the signing of the agreement, but officially decided that it preferred to wait until Egypt and Sudan signed it.

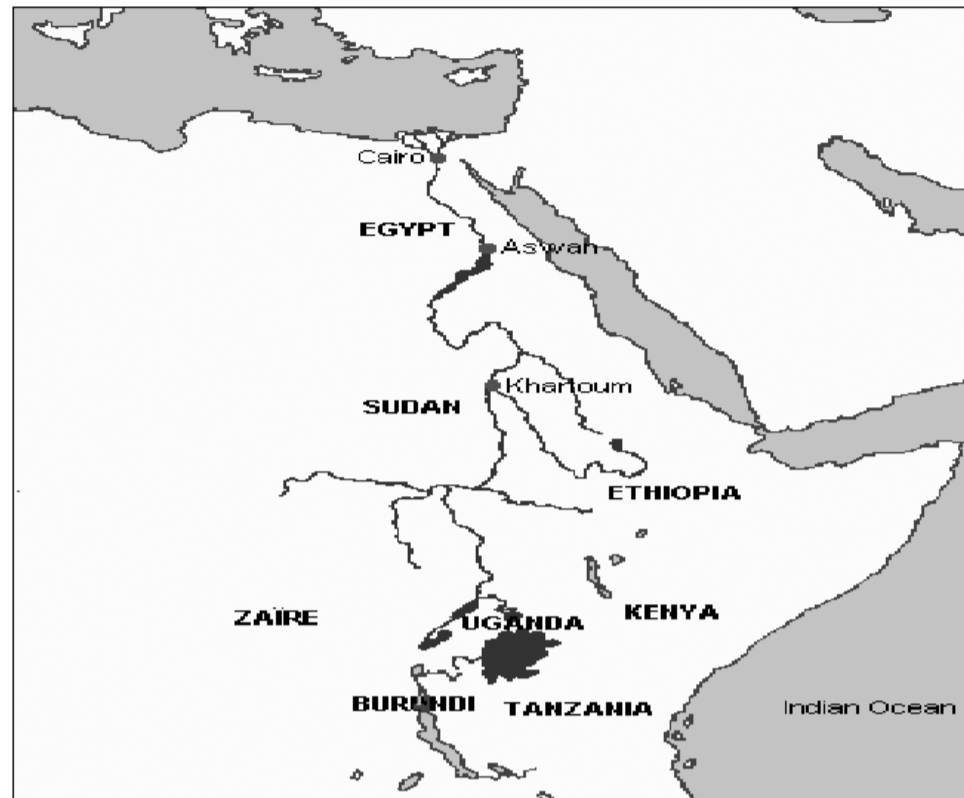
Hence, there are a lot of works that the upper riparian should do. These countries share many underlying interests because all of them were victims of the colonial period agreement regarding the Nile water. They have not yet utilized the water so far. On top of that they have suffered from the various plots that were designed to prevent them from using the water. So I believe that they would choose to collaborate and embark on harnessing the river. Countries like Ethiopia have actually embarked on utilizing the river. It didn't fall complacent due to the lengthy process of dialogues. But other countries have to some extent fallen complacent to it. If the upper riparians decide to plan together and implement separately, the lower riparians would be left with no alternative than trying to pressure for some time and after proving the futility of putting pressure they would finally join the agreement.

If the agreement is once declared binding by AU is there any likelihood that will reverse it?

Nothing can reverse the agreement once the six countries sign and deposit the document. If at all one or two signatories' states opt out of the agreement, it cannot be reversed. The remaining states can carry on. Once the agreement becomes practical any country can leave but will have no effect of nullifying the agreement.

What about the political tension that flared up in the Horn of Africa between Ethiopia and Somalia? Do you think it would have an impact on the CFA or NBC?

One global experience shows that any agreement signed regarding water utilization would not be void even if the signatory countries go to war. For instance, we can see India and Pakistan. The two countries signed an agreement in the 1960s regarding the Indus River. They have engaged in war three times after that



agreement. But they have never interrupted their collaboration even in the time of the war. Relevant authorities from both sides kept the mutual undertaking.

Regarding River Jordan, the agreement between Jordan, Palestine and Syria was always sustained despite the sporadic but protracted war and conflict in the region.

The political tension that is growing in the HoA at this moment is not because of other reasons than the issue of the Nile. If Egypt perceived the construction of GERD positively it would be a gain for both of us. But the utilization trend so far shows that one side was a beneficiary while the other was a mere onlooker. This is a dangerous trend. The one which is kept as an onlooker would take a harmful reaction later. But GERD never causes any harm to others. It is already witnessed. The GERD has already been filled up. Aswan Dam is also full. None of their farmers have also been dislodged contrary to their fears. This proves that the dam has no harm. But they view it as being a loser. They know the danger of compensating for their loss through water. Any conflict that emanates from water claims is very disastrous. By the way, no such conflict has ever been recorded in history yet. The only such incident that occurred in history is the 4500-year-old war between Uma and Lagash near Mesopotamia. Water is known for putting off fires rather than igniting them. International experience shows that there would be disagreement surrounding Transboundary Rivers, but they end up in agreement.

So I suppose that they are making a desperate attempt to put pressure through circumnavigating via Somalia. So we need to exercise wise leadership to manage this issue. No one would gain from conflict. Even the winner would collaterally lose many things. In another way, all parties to the conflict would eventually be losers. So we need restraint.

influence. The main point here would be to resolve differences peacefully. We have now to work on addressing problems peacefully. Considering the tense situation, we are in it is better to avoid any possibility of conflict every issue has an alternative.

Some say that Egyptian Foreign policy regarding Nile water is contrary to the growth of Africa. Do you agree with that?

It is good to comprehend the concerns of Egypt. It is more of a desert. They have a lack of rain so lower riparians have this fear. Egypt should also understand that the upper riparian states live in poverty. So the policy they pursue today, which is weakening the upper riparians, prolonging negotiations and keeping the upper riparians under poverty cannot be a durable solution. These are short-lived and old-fashioned approaches. They have all to sit around a table and discuss. Upper riparians should show compassion and drag Egypt to join the dialogue or cooperation any time.

There are still unresolved issues. This can be solved when Egypt opts to engage in dialogue. I hope they are likely to come to dialogue with their own choice or under some compelling situations.

As you said both sides should understand each other. Have you seen any hint that could push Egypt to refrain from provocation and engage in dialogue?

By now the agreement is already signed and the commission is due to be established. They may continue efforts to tackle this process. It is possible to allow Egypt to join as an observer. This enables them to observe the process of work. They may not be part of decision-making, to avoid the possibility of hampering the progress. This could pave the way for bringing Egypt to cooperation.

This will enable Egypt to understand that the cooperation would not negatively affect its interests. For instance, the lower riparian states' claim that their water volume would decrease is false since the cooperation framework is not limited only to water utilization but also soil and water conservation, management and saving. This would enable them to gain even more water. It is important to explain this. We should address not only politicians but also the people of Egypt. Through dialogue, we can benefit more. But if we do not come to terms all of us would get less of what we deserve.

Is there any important point you would like to underscore on this topic?

I would like to say the establishment of the commission needs due care as it should be able to involve all riparians without affecting the national interest of others, and as we have had a leading role since the beginning we need to uphold this role in the realization of the commission.

Thank you very much for your insights!

You're welcome!

The main point here would be to resolve differences peacefully. We have now to work on addressing problems peacefully. Considering the tense situation, we are in it is better to avoid any possibility of conflict every issue has an alternative

What do you think should be the role of AU, and IGAD to de-escalate the tension in the region?

What shrinks the role of IGAD is that Egypt is not a member of it. So the option is through AU. AU could have played a good role but Egypt still is suspicious about Aus's impartiality as it believes that it is inclined towards [Ethiopia as it believes that it is an organization of the Black people or the black part of the continent]. So they prefer to resort to others like the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). They believe that AU inclined towards black people. So AU could have some role to play but it is not clear to what extent it can exercise

Society

Concerted efforts towards ensuring youths' health

BY TEWODROS KASSA

Currently, different countries are working to ensure societal health by giving due attention to the health sector and investing hugely. No doubt, there is nothing more precious than a healthy life and everyone deserves to be healthy.

However, the impacts of different communicable and non-communicable diseases are worsening and affecting people, mainly the young ones following the lack of awareness. Thus, it requires local and international health sector practitioners and government's proactive actions regarding ensuring a healthy society.

In Ethiopia, the annual National Adolescents and Youth Health Forum has become a great milestone in mobilizing youths to bring about a tangible change in sensitizing the new generation about the value of a healthy life. On the forum, youths across the country will attend and actively participate by discussing timely health challenges and the growing impact of bad addictions in their community.

Recently, the 5th National Adolescents and Youth Health Forum was held in Addis Ababa attracting numerous stakeholders from different parts of the country. On the forum, officials underscored the significance of keeping the health of the youth and the greater consideration it requires to achieve holistic development and transform the socio-economic situation.

Opening the forum, Health Minister Mekdes Daba (MD) said that the issue of youth health requires proactive efforts from all sectors to address the ongoing challenges.

The forum sought to bring about a tangible change to ensure the mental and physical health of the youth, and that is why the government has given due attention. Accordingly, the Ministry is working to provide timely health information to counter the ongoing misinformation in the sector, she stated.

Addressing sexual-related health problems, delivering timely and verified health information, and ensuring that persons with disability have access to health services, among others, are the top priorities of the Ministry regarding youths, she said.

Moreover, providing health services in industrial parks and youth centers as well as school health programs are among the ongoing activities being undertaken regarding the protection of youth's health, she added.

On his part, Education Minister Prof,



Brehanu Nega said that ensuring nutritional security is fundamental to enable the youths to be healthy both mentally and physically.

Thus, the Ministry is taking various measures and mobilizing support to keep the health of the youths to help them achieve their ambitions, he noted.

As to him, stunting is posing a serious challenge in some parts of the country. Thus, he indicated that expanding health education and other tangible works is required to promote the health of young people.

"The new generation should be mentally and physically fit and the Ministry is working with pertinent stakeholders to create a suitable environment in schools. The generation should also be ready to confront the challenges of globalization and its impact," he said.

Adulthood is a period of golden opportunity if utilized properly and Ethiopia embraces a greater number of youths that can significantly contribute to revolutionizing sustainable development, Women and Social Affairs Minister Ergoge Tesfaye (PhD) said.

Investing in youths should be the priority of the country to maintain the health of the future generations. Therefore, it is important to create more awareness of sexual-related health, addiction, and other bad habits, she stressed.

Currently, there are more than 3,000 youth centers throughout the country where more awareness creation is being conducted to build the mental and physical health of the youth, the Minister added.

Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development Commissioner at the African Union (AU), Minata Samate Cessouma also commended the Ethiopian government for championing the continental adolescent nutrition

campaign. Investing in the health and well-being of youth is a critical milestone for the development of Ethiopia and Africa at large.

According to the Commissioner, the vision of creating a prosperous Africa cannot be achieved without integrating the strategy of health and nutritional well-being of youth and adolescents. Thus, the effort that the Ethiopian government has been exerting to champion the continental adolescent nutrition campaign is an act that should be celebrated.

"Ethiopia is a shining example of commitment demonstrating great initiatives to improve nutrition. The food and nutrition strategy, "The Sekota Declaration of Ethiopia", is just one feature that portrays what the government of Ethiopia is doing."

Emphasizing that improved access to health and nutrition services enables adolescents to exercise their rights and make their own decisions to achieve their full potential; she urged other African governments to provide exemplary leadership by integrating adolescent nutrition in all sectors such as health, education, social protection, water and Sanitation.

USAID Ethiopia Health Office Director, Jonathan Ross also said that Ethiopia has a large youth population that significantly impacts the social, economic, and political landscape of the country by providing a crucial opportunity for the overall development of the country.

Ethiopia can cultivate healthy and productive citizens by addressing the needs of the youth such as ensuring access to quality health and achieving educational milestones. In this regard, the USAID is providing 200 million USD annually, he stated, adding that currently the Agency is supporting the provision of responsive youth and adolescent health services in various health centers of the

country, he stated.

USAID continues investing in youth and adolescent health in close collaboration with the government of Ethiopia to ensure accessible, quality, and responsive health service in the country, the Director reaffirmed.

WHO Ethiopia Country Office Representative Owen L. Kaluwa stressed that addressing health issues of adolescents can prevent future health problems and needs a multi-sectoral approach for an accessible, quality, and responsive health system of the country.

He also restates WHO's commitment to work in collaboration with Ethiopia to ensure youth and adolescent health, noting organizations' ongoing support in strengthening youth and adolescent health services through various initiatives at the national and regional levels.

The forum, themed "Access and quality: responsive health system for all adolescents and youth" was attended by ministers, youths, and development partners representatives.

Meanwhile, Ethiopia was honored by UN for its efforts in the presentation of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs).

The United Nations has celebrated Ethiopia for its significant accomplishments in preventing and controlling Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs). The UN Task Force on NCD Prevention and Control presented the award to the Ethiopian Ministry of Health during the ongoing 79th General Assembly in New York.

Ethiopia was specifically recognized for its effective integrated approach to NCDs prevention, the provision of community-based health services, and particularly its strides in cervical cancer prevention. Dr. Mekdes Daba, Minister of Health, accepted the award at the assembly on behalf of the country.

Verbatim and Caption



Leaders should adopt effective leadership to propel prosperity: PP President

Leaders should develop more effective and service-driven leadership to foster Ethiopia's growth. Realizing growth and prosperity requires self-sacrifice and commitment of leadership.

Hence, the leadership in the incumbent party has to develop more effective and service-driven leadership to realize Ethiopia's prosperity. The leadership should properly acquire the key principles and characteristics of leadership to facilitate a speedy and expedited transformation.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD), President of the ruling Prosperity Party (PP) addressing PP leadership

Enhancing multilateralism key to eradicate poverty:

FM Taye

Shift from rivalry to cooperation, enhance tolerance for policy differences, and building bridges to attain the most basic global development agenda is crucial.

The United Nations must be at the center of effective multilateralism by overcoming the influences coming from selective national interests, to provide a trusted convening platform for contentious issues.

Multilateral institutions like the UN also need reforms. The UN Security Council should respond to the quest for representation by Africa.

Ambassador Taye Atske-Selassie, Ethiopian Foreign Minister said during the UN Summit of the Future session



Post-ATMIS arrangements need careful consideration: FM Taye

Ethiopia's position towards the Horn of Africa remains unchanged. Ethiopia is always committed to work in maintaining sustainable peace and security in the region.

Ethiopia continues its efforts in fighting terrorism. To maintain peace and security of the region, there should be a careful and comprehensive consideration before any post-ATMIS (African Union Transition Mission in Somalia) arrangement is decided.

Ambassador Taye Atske-Selassie, Minister of Foreign



Affairs of Ethiopia during a discussion with Catherine Molly Phee, Assistant Secretary for African Affairs of US State Department

UNSC, global financial architectures need deep reforms: UN Chief

The international financial architecture and the Security Council need deep reforms to make the institutions more reflective of today's world. Bringing multilateralism back from the brink is a timely action.

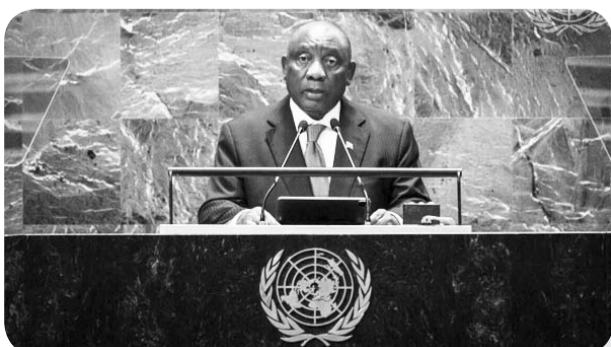
Deep reforms make global institutions more legitimate, fair and effective. The United Nations Security Council is outdated, and its authority is eroding. And unless its composition and working methods are reformed, it will eventually lose all credibility.

Similarly, the international financial architecture was established when many of today's developing countries were under colonial rule. It does not represent the realities of today's



global economy, and is no longer able to resolve economic challenges, depth, climate action, sustainable development was established when many of today's developing countries were under colonial rule.

António Guterres, United Nations (UN) Secretary-General said at 79th UNGA



UNSC needs urgent reform: President Ramaphosa

Achieving and maintaining peace and security requires the collective will of the community of nations. It requires that the UN Security Council is representative and inclusive.

Seventy-eight years since its formation, the structure of the UN Security Council remain largely unchanged. Africa and its 1.4 billion people remain excluded from UNSC key decision-making structures.

The UN Security Council must be reformed as a matter of urgency. It must become more inclusive so that the voices of all nations are heard and considered. Africa stands ready to play its part in building a safer global order.

Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa said addressing the 79th UNGA