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Abbay Showdown: Encouraging Egypt to reap CFA's benefits

BY YESUF ENDRIS

The ongoing dispute between Ethiopia and Egypt over Nile River utilization remains unresolved, with both nations accusing each other of obstructing progress. At

the recent 79th United Nations General Assembly, Ethiopia raised concerns about Egypt's failure to adhere to the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI), which is set to transition into the Nile Basin Commission (NBC). This impasse raises critical questions about

the implications if Egypt continues to resist this multi-member initiative.

Ethiopia has taken steps to deescalate tensions and seek a sustainable resolution,

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Ethiopia eyeing export growth under China's zero-tariff policy

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA- China's newly introduced zero-tariff preferential policy is expected to significantly enhance Ethiopia's export trade volume and strengthen its overall trading system, according to an economist.

Speaking to the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Wachemo University Economics Lecturer Dawit Hayeso (PhD) stated that this landmark zero-tariff decision by one of the world's largest economies is poised to bolster Ethiopia's export base, contributing to the growth of the national economy.

The economist elaborated that this duty-free grant on taxable export commodities will help stimulate demand for increased productivity and improve trade competitiveness. In turn, this will enhance Ethiopia's foreign currency earnings and create more jobs.

Previously, Ethiopia's export tariffs on certain goods negatively impacted its

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Senior diplomat pans Egypt's irresponsible act in HoA

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA- Ethiopia expressed its concern over the expanding militarization of Egypt into the Horn of Africa (HoA) could help terrorist Al-Shabab to recuperate from armament shortage.

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Ethiopia's bold reforms spark currency surge, power private growth

BY HAILE DEMEKE

Ethiopia has recently introduced a bold macro-economic reform policy aimed at stabilizing its economy, which has been strained by a severe foreign currency shortage, rising inflation, and other challenges. Known for being one of the fastest-growing economies over the past two decades, the

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Addis to host Irreechaa with warm welcome

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA- The Addis Ababa Culture, Art, and Tourism Bureau has announced that extensive preparations are underway to warmly welcome guests for the upcoming Irreechaa festival.

Bureau Head Hirut Kassaw (PhD) briefed the media, stating that Addis Ababa is fully prepared to host visitors from Oromia State and other regions of the country for the festival. The celebrations will take place on October 5, 2024, at Hora Finfine in Addis Ababa, followed by a gathering on October 6, 2024, at Hora Arsed in Bishoftu. The event is expected to attract millions of participants from all corners of Ethiopia.

Hirut highlighted that Irreechaa, a significant cultural event for the Oromo people and one of Ethiopia's largest outdoor celebrations, marks the end of the rainy season and the beginning of the harvest. She emphasized that this festival, typically held in September, is a prominent occasion that not only showcases Ethiopia's rich cultural heritage but also contributes to the growth of local tourism, further positioning Addis Ababa as a major tourist destination.

She noted that Irreechaa fosters social cohesion and unity among the Oromo people and beyond, serving as a cultural platform to express values of thanksgiving, forgiveness, peace, and love. The festival also has an economic dimension, connecting communities and promoting local businesses.

During Irreechaa, participants display their cultural and spiritual traditions through dance, song, and a celebration of beauty and aesthetics. The bureau head concluded by emphasizing the festival's role in strengthening unity and fraternity, making it more than just a cultural event but a symbol of national solidarity.

The event is held to express gratitude to Waaqa (God) for the blessings of the past year and to welcome the new season of abundance. Historically, Irreechaa has been celebrated for centuries at sacred natural sites, primarily near rivers or lakes, where participants offer prayers and praise.

Ethiopia reaffirms adherence to CoT principle

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA- Providing updates of the ongoing Home Grown Economic Reform Agenda on a global investors call with eurobond holders on October 1st, 2024, Finance State Minister reaffirmed that Ethiopia is adherent to the principle of Comparability of Treatment (CoT) to sustain debt restructuring.

According to the press release by Ministry of Finance, Ethiopia successfully hosted a Global Investors Call, bringing together key stakeholders and investors to discuss Ethiopia's macroeconomic status, reform agenda, as well as future path.

The meeting held virtually, was led by Finance State Minister Eyob Tekalign (PhD). The State Minister provided participants update on the national economic outlook and its strategies for debt restructuring and long-term sustainability, also reaffirmed Ethiopia's commitment to ensure all creditors are treated equitably, it was stated on the release.

During the call, Eyob provided critical insights into Ethiopia's current debt restructuring efforts



under the G-20 Common Framework. Ethiopia outlined its approach to ensuring long-term debt sustainability, including the transition to a market-determined exchange rate and the implementation of stricter fiscal policies aimed at reducing inflation and rebuilding foreign exchange reserves.

"Ethiopia's ongoing efforts to address its external debt challenges were a central theme of the discussion. The government reiterated its commitment to negotiating with both official and commercial creditors to restore

debt sustainability and resolve liquidity and solvency issues."

To ensure equitable treatment of all creditors, Ethiopia has been actively engaging with its bilateral and commercial creditors, including its bondholders. While progress has been made with official creditors, discussions with bondholders remain ongoing.

The government called for continued cooperation and transparency in the negotiations, urging bondholders to engage in constructive discussions aimed at finding a restructuring solution compatible with the requirements of Ethiopia's IMF program and respectful of the principle of comparability of treatment under the G-20 Common framework.

Despite global challenges, Ethiopia has maintained its dedication to reform and growth, demonstrating a strong commitment to meeting its financial obligations.

"Despite turbulences, whether external or domestic, Ethiopia has consistently demonstrated resilience and strength. We take great pride in meeting our financial obligations, even during challenging times," Eyob stated.

CBHI coverage reaches to 52.4 million people: MoH

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA - The Community Based Health Insurance (CBHI) coverage has reached to some 52.4 million people across the country, said the Ministry of Health (MoH).

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Health Financing Improvement Program, six years project end of program ceremony held yesterday.

Speaking at the occasion, State Minister of Health Ayele Teshome (MD) said the country is making strides in developing a comprehensive insurance system, which will serve as a safety net for our citizens, shielding them from the financial burden often associated with seeking medical care. Since community-based health insurance was piloted in 2011 in 4 states and selected 13 districts, it has expanded to cover all states and to more than 1,052 district.

Currently CBHI has enrolled approximately 11.1 million households constituting about 52.4 million people. Currently, the MoH developed Health Sector Medium Term Development and Investment Plan for 2023/24-2025/26 to maintaining and enhancing the significant accomplishments achieved by the country, he

said.

It aims to shift more sustainable health financing from external to domestic sources. It also facilitates collaboration between the government and private sector to meet national health priorities, he added.

As to him, efforts are underway to establish a health fund designed to generate additional resources from new sources for finance emergency responses, provide exempted health services and support initiatives that promote equity for socioeconomically disadvantaged groups.

It requires mobilizing additional resources from innovative financing sources and the private sector to pool health resources and digitize the health financing system. The support of implementing partners such as the USAID Health Financing Improvement Program has been immense.

For her part, the USAID Ethiopia Deputy Director Eleanor Tanpiengco said that access to healthcare financing helps create a healthier society, brings economic stability, and improves everyone's quality of life. The USAID is working to improve the health of Ethiopians.



The USAID Health Financing Improvement Program has worked to support a health system where everyone can get the care they need without worrying about the cost. It is also working to improve the health of Ethiopians and build a healthcare system where everyone can get the services they need, she added.

With USAID support, more than 52 million people are now enrolled in the community-based health insurance program. They can protect their assets because they only need to pay a 780 birr premium on average to get basic health services for themselves and their families for a full year, she stated.

Ethiopian to commence five new Int'l destinations

ADDIS ABABA (ENA) - Ethiopian Airlines Group has announced plan to significantly expand its global reach by adding five new international flight destinations to its network during the current fiscal year.

CEO of Ethiopian Airlines Group, Mesfin Tassew outlined the airline's ambitious growth strategy, which aims to increase passenger traffic and revenue.

Ethiopian Airlines, a leading African aviation company, is committed to achieving annual revenue of 25 billion USD and transporting approximately 67 million passengers by 2035.

To support this goal, the airline is investing in



new aircraft and expanding its international network.

Following the successful launch of five new international routes in the previous fiscal year, Ethiopian Airlines plans to add destinations including Amsterdam, Netherlands;

Monrovia, Liberia; Port Sudan; and Dhaka, Bangladesh this year, Mesfin revealed.

According to the CEO, the Airlines is also actively working to establish flights to Australia within the next two years, expanding its global coverage to all continents.

To meet the growing demand for air travel, Ethiopian Airlines is not only purchasing new aircraft but also exploring leasing and other options to provide comfortable and extensive flight services, the CEO emphasized.

The airline currently operates a fleet of 147 aircraft and serves 139 international and 22 domestic destinations, ENA learnt.

Abbay Showdown: Encouraging...

encouraging Egypt to join the Cooperative Framework Agreement (CFA) on the Nile, which promotes equitable resource utilization among all riparian states. Ethiopian Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Yosef Kassaye, emphasized that Egypt has a “golden opportunity” to restore peaceful relations with Nile riparian states by ratifying the CFA.

Six riparian countries have now ratified the CFA, meeting the minimum requirement for the formation of the Nile River Commission. Political-Economic Analyst Lawrence Freeman commented on Egypt’s escalating tensions, suggesting that it should reconsider its approach. He highlighted that regional economic development will be driven by Ethiopia, rather than ongoing militarization. Freeman noted a growing sense of statesmanship among regional leaders.

Egypt’s representative at the UN accused Ethiopia of unilateral actions and a lack of consensus regarding Nile water use. In response, Ambassador Yosef stressed that the Abbay Dam is fostering regional integration through energy and trade, which Egypt fails to acknowledge. He criticized Egypt for seeking a colonial-era monopoly over Nile waters. “Egypt attempts to exert veto power over the water development efforts of countries that originate the Nile waters.”

Freeman cautioned that the ongoing disputes are rooted in outdated narratives, warning that unresolved

conflicts could worsen regional poverty. He urged African and global leaders to exert pressure on those exacerbating the crisis, emphasizing that Egypt’s militarization is a shortsighted policy if the intention is to compel Ethiopia to halt its Nile utilization.

Despite available diplomatic alternatives, increasing militarization, particularly from Egypt, complicates bilateral relations and regional stability. Freeman pointed out that the crisis in the Horn of Africa is largely driven by economic poverty, with Sudan’s ongoing war being a prime example.

As regional tensions escalate, finding a solution appears increasingly challenging. Freeman argued that leverage from external powers like Europe or the United States is limited, and that a viable resolution will likely come from regional governments, especially those connected to the African Union. “Both Ethiopia and Egypt share borders with Sudan, making them the appropriate governments to intervene and seek a resolution,” he noted.

With the CFA’s accession finalized on August 14, 2024, it is set to enter into force on October 13, 2024, potentially marking a new chapter in Nile cooperation. This framework aims to promote equitable and sustainable management of the Nile River’s resources among all riparian countries, enhancing collaboration on water sharing, energy production, and environmental protection.

Senior diplomat pans Egypt’s...

Responding to Egypt’s accusation on Ethiopia over the water utilization of the Nile River, Senior Diplomat representing Ethiopia at United Nations (UN), Kurbachew Tirfesa said that Egypt is dumping arms in the region in the HoA that could potentially fall on the hands of Al-Shabab.

“Still Egypt is trying to stick to colonial policy of monopolizing the water of the Nile River. Ethiopia is known for respecting international principles, particularly equitable and reasonable use of its own natural resources,” he said.

Egyptian diplomats have been accusing Ethiopia regarding the unresolved dispute over the Nile River water utilization, despite Ethiopia’s call for a multilateral solution through the Nile Basin Initiative, of which most riparian countries are members

A day before kurabachew’s speech at the 79th UN General Assembly, Deputy permanent representative of Ethiopia at UN, Ambassador Yoseph Kassaye stressed that the Grand Abbay Dam is fostering regional integration through energy, trade, and connectivity—factors Egypt fails to recognize. “Egypt advocates for a monopoly based on colonial-era arrangements, seeking veto power over the water development efforts of the countries that originate the Nile waters,” he said.

In related news, Foreign Affairs State Minister, Ambassador. Mesganu Arga also discussed key issues affecting peace and stability in the region and other matters of shared interest with Germany’s Special Envoy to Horn of Africa, Heiko Nitzschke, last Tuesday, *The Ethiopian Herald* learnt.

Ethiopia eyeing export growth...

market and productivity, directly affecting export volume. “When export tariffs rise, a product’s competitiveness and penetration in the global market value chain decline,” Dawit explained. He emphasized that the new policy will be vital in boosting Ethiopia’s export volume and meeting global demand at the desired level.

The expert also highlighted that limited export productivity has a direct effect on employment rates. He further noted that improving productivity efficiency will attract investments and increase hard currency earnings, while enabling greater access to China’s massive consumer market. By removing customs duties across all export categories, Ethiopian exporters now have a significant opportunity to expand into one of the world’s largest markets.

Drawing from the experiences of

other countries, Dawit pointed out that bureaucratic red tape and restrictive preconditions have often been obstacles to effective exports. He recommended focusing on the development of efficient infrastructure and facilities to minimize production costs and enhance export competitiveness.

The academician also reiterated that the zero-tariff policy will help Ethiopia diversify its exports, create jobs, and stimulate economic growth, while reducing the country’s reliance on a limited range of export destinations.

It is worth noting that China recently introduced the zero-tariff policy for 33 African countries, including Ethiopia, at the 2024 Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), offering duty-free access to one of the world’s largest consumer markets.

Ethiopia’s bold reforms spark currency surge,...

nation is now embarking on an inclusive reform process to address these issues. As part of the reforms, the government has implemented a market-based foreign exchange rate system, allowing the private sector to play a larger role in the country’s economic development.

This market-based exchange rate system is seen as essential to relieving the persistent foreign currency shortages the nation has faced for years. The recent policy shift is also crucial in easing challenges that both the private sector and the broader economy have been grappling with. By improving access to foreign currency, the reform seeks to address macro-economic imbalances and increase foreign currency reserves. This could have far-reaching implications for Ethiopia’s economic future.

The macroeconomic committee recently reviewed the performance of these new policy measures, introduced as part of the Homegrown Economic Reform agenda. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD), who presided over the meeting, noted in X: “In the two months since the policy’s implementation, we have observed a stable forex regime. Likewise, our revenue objectives are on track, meeting the set targets. Overall, the past two months indicate a successful rollout of the policy.”



Speaking to the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), an economist Emebet Melese (PhD) highlighted the positive effects of the reforms, which are designed to boost private sector participation. She emphasized that the newly introduced policies have played a significant role in stimulating the economy, ensuring efficiency, and creating a more stable

economic environment. The expert noted that these reforms are key to addressing the foreign currency shortage and stabilizing the economy. They have also created new opportunities for the business sector, which has long struggled under restrictive financial regulations.

She added that the policy implementation has provided much-needed relief to both

the private sector and the country by easing macro-economic imbalances. The visible changes in the economy, including a stable foreign currency movement, have been widely acknowledged. The reform has also been commended for its role in curbing illegal foreign currency transactions, marking it as a potential game-changer for the Ethiopian economy.

Governor of the National Bank of Ethiopia (NBE), Mamo Miheretu, emphasized that these historic reforms are designed to enhance private sector involvement and promote efficiency within a stable macroeconomic framework. The government has taken key steps that are already showing positive outcomes. The primary goal is to strengthen private sector participation by fostering a stable economic environment, encouraging exports, promoting investment, supporting import substitution, and boosting the manufacturing sector.

These efforts are expected to improve the competitiveness and efficiency of the private sector, leading to job creation and enhanced economic performance. Additionally, the reforms aim to correct foreign exchange distortions and create a healthier, more robust economy.

Opinion



Demera, Irreechaa colorful celebrations in Ethiopia



Ethiopia's September: A month of celebrations, cultural pride

BY HIZKEL HAILU

September is a month of profound cultural, spiritual, and social significance in Ethiopia, marked by vibrant festivals and celebrations that showcase the country's deep religious and cultural diversity. It comes following the rainy season of three months so that many feel delighted as the season changes to bright that represent hope. While many may be familiar with 'Enkutatash', the Ethiopian New Year, the month of September also features other major festivities such as 'Meskel', 'Demera', 'Irreechaa', and other New Year festivals in different regional states. Each of these festivals holds its own importance, from religious ceremonies to social gatherings, and collectively they reflect the affluence of Ethiopia's heritage.

Enkutatash: The Ethiopian New Year

Enkutatash, which translates to "gift of jewels," is the Ethiopian New Year, celebrated on September 11th (or 12th during leap years). This date corresponds with 'Meskerem 1' on the Ethiopian calendar, and it holds deep cultural, agricultural, and religious meaning for the people of Ethiopia.

Enkutatash has its roots in both biblical and historical traditions. It is believed that the name comes from the time of the Queen of Sheba, who, upon returning from her visit to King Solomon, was welcomed back with jewels and other gifts. In the Ethiopian Orthodox tradition, the New Year also marks the end of the rainy season and the beginning of a new cycle of life, symbolizing renewal and hope. In the church, 'Enkutatash' is celebrated with prayers of thanksgiving and hymns that reflect themes of renewal, peace, and blessings for the coming year.

On the other hand, *Enkutatash* is a time for reflecting on national identity and unity. As Ethiopia is a multi-ethnic, multi-lingual country with a complex history, the New Year offers a moment for people to come together, celebrate their shared heritage, and renew their collective aspirations. Throughout history, rulers and governments have used this time to communicate with their people, deliver messages of hope and national development, and reflect on the achievements and challenges of the past year.

The day further represents a moment of reconnection. Ethiopians, many of whom live in large, extended families, often travel home for the holiday. Family members gather to share meals, attend church services, and exchange gifts. It is also a time when children go door-to-door singing traditional songs, offering blessings, and receiving small gifts or money in return. The emphasis on community, togetherness, and charity fosters a sense of social solidarity that transcends ethnic or religious divisions.

Economically, the New Year also coincides with the completion of the rainy season and the beginning of crop harvest season. For agrarian communities, this time of the year is filled with sanguine as crops begin to yield their produce, bringing the promise of a good harvest and economic prosperity. As a result, local markets are bustling with activities during this period, as people buy and sell goods in preparation for the New Year celebrations.

Additionally, the New Year boosts sectors such as hospitality, retail, and transportation, as Ethiopians engage in festivities. Special traditional foods are prepared, and households make significant purchases to mark the occasion, stimulating economic activity across urban and rural areas.

'Enkutatash' celebrations are incredibly colorful and filled with symbolic meaning. Homes and public spaces are often decorated with fresh flowers, particularly the 'Adey Abeba', a yellow daisy that blooms in abundance at this time of the year, symbolizing the renewal of life after the rainy season.

Traditional dances, music, and cultural performances are held in public squares, and families gather to elaborate meals featuring dishes like 'dorowat' (chicken stew) and 'injera' (the staple Ethiopian flatbread). People appear dressed in traditional white and decorated clothes, singing songs, and exchanging greetings paints a vivid picture of national pride and cultural heritage.

Meskel: The Feast of the Holy Cross

The Feast of 'Meskel', celebrated on September 27 (or 28 during leap years), is another important event in the Ethiopian Orthodox Church. It commemorates the discovery of the True Cross by Queen Helena, the mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine the Great, in the 4th century.

For Ethiopian Orthodox Christians, 'Meskel' is one of the most revered religious holidays of the year. It is believed that Queen Helena found the cross upon which Jesus Christ was crucified through divine guidance. This discovery is seen as a monumental event in Christian history, as it strengthened the faith of early Christians and became a symbol of their victory over persecution.

The centerpiece of the 'Meskel' celebrations is the lighting of a large bonfire known as the 'demera', symbolizing the light of Christ and the discovery of the True Cross. The lighting of the 'demera' is often preceded by days of prayer, fasting, and reflection. In the Ethiopian Orthodox tradition, 'Meskel' is not just a religious event but a powerful symbol of faith, light, and hope for the nation.

Socially, *Meskel* is a time for Ethiopians to reconnect with their communities and celebrate together. Much like 'Enkutatash', it is a moment of collective joy, where neighbors and families come together to share meals, exchange greetings, and participate in traditional activities. It also plays a key role in maintaining cultural continuity, as traditional dances, songs, and rituals are performed across generations.

While primarily a religious holiday, 'Meskel' also has economic implications. The influx of tourists, both domestic and international, during this period stimulates the local economy, particularly in Addis Ababa, where the largest 'Meskel' bonfire is lit at 'Meskel Square'. Pilgrims and visitors flock to monasteries and churches, bringing with them economic activity that benefits local vendors, artisans, and service providers.

Markets are filled with people buying food, clothing, and other items for the celebrations. In rural areas, where the holiday is celebrated with equal fervor, livestock markets are particularly active, as families prepare for communal feasts.

The visual spectacle of 'Meskel' is one of its most defining features. The 'demera' (bonfire) is built using branches, flowers, and other natural materials, creating a towering structure that is set alight in a dramatic and symbolic ceremony. As the flames rise into the night sky, crowds gather around, singing hymns and offering prayers.

The celebration is accompanied by traditional music, dancing, and the wearing of bright, colorful attires. Priests and deacons, dressed in elaborate religious attires, lead processions that wind through streets and public squares, adding to the festive atmosphere. The sight of the giant 'demera' fire blazing against the backdrop of the night sky is one of the most iconic images of *Ethiopian religious life*.

Irreechaa: The Oromo Thanksgiving Festival

Irreechaa is one of the most important festivals for the Oromo people, Ethiopia's largest ethnic group. It is a thanksgiving festival celebrated in late September, marking the end of the rainy season and the beginning of the harvest.

The day is a time to give thanks to 'Waaqa' (God the creator) for the rains that have nourished the land and to ask for blessings for the coming harvest season. The festival is traditionally held at sacred water bodies, with the most famous celebration taking place at Lake Hora near Bishoftu (Hora Arseddi), a town located about 40 kilometers southeast of Addis Ababa. The celebration also takes place at Addis Ababa (Hora Finfinne) and other areas of the country with great mass gatherings.

During the festival, participants gather at the shores of the lake, carrying bundles of grass and flowers, which they dip into the water as a symbol of thanksgiving. Prayers are offered, songs are sung, and traditional dances are performed. The festival deeply serves as an important cultural marker for the Oromo people, reinforcing their identity and connection to the land.

Irreechaa is a time for the Oromo people to come together, not only to celebrate the harvest but also to strengthen communal bonds. It is a time of joy, where families reunite, friendships are renewed, and peace is fostered within the community. As with many other Ethiopian festivals, verity of foods play a central role, with traditional dishes shared among participants.

The day also brings significant economic activity, particularly in cities like Addis Ababa, Bishoftu and others which see a large influx of visitors during the festival. Vendors set up stalls selling food, drinks, clothing, and other goods, while hotels and transportation services benefit from increased demand. The festival also provides an opportunity for local artisans to sell traditional crafts, boosting the local economy.

The celebration is a riot of color, with participants dressed in traditional Oromo attires, including brightly colored shawls and beads. The sight of thousands of people gathered by the lakeside, singing, dancing, and waving bundles of green grass and flowers, is a powerful image of cultural pride and unity.

In addition to *Enkutatash*, *Meskel* and *Irreechaa*, September is known for its various local and regional festivals that reflect Ethiopia's diverse cultural and religious landscape.

All in all, September in Ethiopia is a month of extraordinary cultural and religious significance. These festivals reflect the diversity and affluence of Ethiopia's heritage. They provide moments of joy, reflection, and communal unity, bringing together people from different religious, ethnic, and social backgrounds.

The festivals of September not only have religious importance but also play a vital role in Ethiopia's social, political, and economic life. They offer opportunities to the expression of identity, the reinforcement of communal bonds, and the stimulation of local economies through increased trade and tourism. Through vibrant and colorful celebrations, Ethiopia's September festivals continue to be a source of national pride, reflecting the country's enduring faith, resilience, and cultural diversity.

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

Editorial

Urgent response to Africa's quest for permanent seat at UNSC

The quest for a fair world will never stop until those underdogs, especially Africa can have the right place to decide over global issues for which they are equally responsible and have interest.

In the past, the seat for the UNSC was shared among the 5 countries that had the upper hand in the political and economic sphere of the time. This still has a flaw as it was an attempt to justify the position because of might rather than justice and the principle of equality.

But at this moment the world is at least 8 decades away from the time when the world scrambled the seat as per their narrow criteria of that time. If Africa is still kept at bay in the matters of the Security Council without a permanent seat with veto power, what makes the situation different from the time when the continent was under the colonial fist?

If at all the same parameter is intended to apply, it is impossible to underestimate Africa's global significance politically and economically. It is also unfair to rule Africa's matters with the outdated orders of the global powers. Therefore, all the provisions that govern the permanent membership with veto power should be amended in a way that enables Africa to exercise its rights in the global organization.

Among the topics that should be noted here is that the United Nations was established at the end of the Second World War during which almost the whole of Africa was languishing under the rule of colonial powers. All the decisions that enabled the now superpowers were taken when the continent was not present to defend its interests.

The delayed entry of the countries of the continent into the global organization was also unfortunate as they were not in a position to seek their rightful place due to the post-colonial economic and political chaos that the majority of the countries faced. Yet the prolonged silence of the countries to request equal participation in the decision-making body should not be taken as an advantage to keep them as mere lookers on the global affairs in which they are integral elements.

Still, there is ample time for the UN and other members of the SC and others to bring Africa, through its continental umbrella organization, the African Union (AU) to be part and parcel of the council and discharge its responsibility as other members.

In this regard, friends of the continent who are already members of the council should push forward with their positive outlook to the membership of the continent in the SC. They have to start now to speak more loudly than ever to scale up their support at least one step forward.

On the other hand, the recent suggestion of the United States for two permanent seats for Africa in the UNSC without veto power should be corrected and amplified as it is completely against the real interest and the right quest of the continent.

Regardless of the number of seats, Africa deserves to get the proper place in the council that decides over issues of the world in which a significant portion are related to Africa itself. Obtaining a decision-making power in this council is not a matter that should be put forward as a secondary matter, but a long overdue agenda. Africa can no longer wait and see decisions passed on its behalf. It has to play its due role in the affairs of the world in which it accounts for a significant part.



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The Ethiopian Herald

Opinion

Dialogue is the only solution for shared development of natural resources

BY GIRMACHEW GASHAW

After 14 years of relentless efforts, The Nile Basin Initiatives Cooperative Framework Agreement (CFA) has finally come to effect with South Sudan Ratifying the document recently. This is a great historical victory for the upper riparian countries as they can now utilize the river to their needs of development.

The other riparian states have to keep up the endurance they exercised during the last 14 years in further implementing the agreement, establishing the commission and revamp their development.

In this era of globalization, if you want to survive as a country, you must develop what you have. The key is to be productive, supply your products in the international market at competitive prices, and strive to maintain your position without interference from others.

Ethiopia, with a population of over 120 million and abundant natural resources, is one of the East African countries striving to improve the livelihood of its people through resource development. Water is one of the country's many natural resources. Despite some visible projects, the development of trans-boundary Rivers has not yet reached its full potential.

The manufacturing sector has the potential to create a large number of job opportunities for Ethiopian citizens, but the country has struggled to meet the sector's electricity needs due to limited capacity. With a power shortage in the East Africa region, importing electricity has also been a challenge.

Building a mega dam is the best opportunity for Ethiopia to meet the growing demand for power in the manufacturing sector. After exploring all options, Ethiopia has embarked on mega dam projects such as the Great Renaissance Dam (GERD). Despite the lack of international financing, the commitment of the people and government has turned this seemingly impossible project into a reality.

GERD is a dam that has gone through triumphs and trials. Just as the victory did not make the Ethiopians and the Ethiopian government proud, the challenge did not make them fall even for a moment. Whenever the people and the government were challenged, they strengthened their unity and were able to effectively overcome every conspiracy and influence.

The history of Ethiopia from yesterday remains undefeated. This story of invincibility is observed and repeated today. Despite facing many challenges since the foundation stone of the Renaissance Dam was laid, the tests were not strong enough to push the dam over the edge. It proved that it was not defeated on the world stage.

Recently, Federal Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (Dr.) announced that two turbines have been converted for power generation in Guba, where the Great Ethiopian Renaissance

Dam is located. Currently, four turbines are producing power, with three more expected to be operational by December. This will bring the total number of turbines producing energy to seven.

The Prime Minister emphasized the importance of water as a common resource, stating that it is the responsibility of the country and its people to use and share it appropriately. He also mentioned plans to distribute wheat in the future, highlighting the benefits of cooperation among downstream countries.

Despite Egypt's threats of war, the Prime Minister's message from Guba conveyed goodwill to both Sudan and Egypt, emphasizing the shared water resources. He expressed hope for regional growth through cooperation and emphasized the benefits of completing the Great Ethiopian Renaissance Dam.

The completion of the Renaissance Dam is crucial for Ethiopia and the region, offering economic, social, and political benefits. Ethiopia can set an example for development and peace in the region, challenging colonial-era water laws that disadvantaged countries in the basin. The dam's completion will inspire confidence in Ethiopians and regional countries, showcasing Ethiopia's strength and right to utilize its resources.

GERD is a symbol of Ethiopian strength and determination. It is demonstrating Ethiopia's right to the Nile's resources through actions.

The completion of the Renaissance Dam will benefit the region by providing much-needed energy and fostering joint development projects. It will also attract investment and reduce poverty by ensuring a reliable power supply. The economic benefits of the dam are significant, especially in the context of advancing technology.

Ethiopia's potential to become a major power producer in Africa, emphasizing the importance of utilizing this potential for technological advancement. Ethiopia's surplus energy can benefit neighboring countries and attract technology-driven investments.

Even before the dam's construction is fully completed, Ethiopia has already begun sharing electricity with neighboring countries, demonstrating its commitment to regional cooperation. The completion of the Renaissance Dam will further enhance these efforts and open doors for joint development projects, ultimately benefiting the entire region.

There are no benefits that countries gain from differences. The only way to survive is through cooperation. Countries located downstream of the Abbay River, as well as others, should come together round a table to discuss ways to develop equitable water use and share the benefits that can be earned from the river.

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

Business & Economy

Promising economic development of Ethiopia through coffee, tea exports

BY LAKACHEW ATINAFU

Ethiopia, which is often referred to as the birthplace of coffee, has a rich history and cultural heritage surrounding its stimulant beverages. Coffee and tea are not just integral to daily life but also represent significant opportunities for economic development through export. Ethiopia's beverage sectors, focuses on coffee, tea, and other drinks, and how they can contribute to the country's economic growth.

Ethiopia is renowned for its diverse coffee varieties, particularly Arabica, which is considered the finest quality in the world. The country produces unique flavors due to its diverse climates and altitudes. Ethiopian coffee is celebrated globally, and its export potential is immense.

Further documents unveiled that coffee exports account for a substantial portion of Ethiopia's foreign exchange earnings. In recent years, the coffee sector has contributed to approximately 30% of total export revenues. The government has recognized coffee as a priority sector, implementing policies to enhance production, processing, and marketing, thereby attracting foreign investment.

According to the Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority (ECTA), Ethiopia exported 46,000 tons of coffee in June 2024, representing a remarkable 108% increase compared to the previous period. This record-high volume of coffee exports generated USD 218 million in revenue, a 107% rise.

The Authority announced a landmark achievement for the country's coffee sector, reporting record-breaking coffee exports in June, 2024.

The exceptional performance in the month under report contributed to Ethiopia's total coffee exports reaching 298,500 tons for the 2023/24 fiscal year, resulting in USD 1.43 billion in earnings. This marks a 20% increase in export volume and a 7.5% rise in value compared to the previous fiscal year.

Ethiopia's earnings from coffee exports reached an all-time high of 196 million USD in August, 2024 said sector regulator as the industry continues its record breaking performance in the 2024/25 fiscal year.

Recently, the Authority reported that 42,322 tons of coffee was shipped to the global market in August, bringing in USD 196 million in revenue.

"This is the highest ever monthly earning secured from coffee export to date," ECTA's Director General Adugna Debela said.

The performance showed the Authority's achievement both in its export volume and value targets for August by 165% and 143%, respectively.

Ethiopia significantly increased its coffee supply to the global market in the past couple of months. The surge comes after the country set up a new market option by "eliminating unnecessary steps" in the coffee supply chain, per ECTA.

In July, the export volume grew 78%



Ethiopia's tea performance is promising

to 40,532 tons of coffee – making it the country's biggest shipment for that particular month.

Together with August, ECTA has overseen the shipments of 82,853 tons of beans to the international coffee market that generated USD 377 million in two-month revenue.

Compared to the same period last year, Adugna said the two-month exports' volume rose by 32,925 tons (66%) while the revenue jumped by USD 110 million (41%).

The Coffee industry is considered the backbone of the country's economy. Its exports in the previous financial year brought the country USD 1.43 billion in revenue.

According to local media, while Ethiopia is primarily known for coffee, its tea industry is emerging as a promising sector. With suitable climatic conditions in regions like Sidama and Oromia, Ethiopia has the potential to produce high-quality tea that can compete in international markets.

The Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority (ECTA) reported that more than 1,142 tons of tea was exported to the global market in the 2023/24 fiscal year, generating over two million USD in revenue.

ECTA Communication Director Sahlemariam Gebremedin told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the tea exports for the year exceeded the previous fiscal year's (2022/23) volume by 292 tons. However, he emphasized that while 50,000 tons of tealeaf were exported, there is still significant untapped potential in the sector.

In earlier years, Ethiopia's renowned tea was grown on just 5,000 hectares of land, with foreign earnings never surpassing three million USD annually. To increase output, 460 million saplings were planted across 30,000 hectares during the 2023/24 fiscal year.

Despite these efforts, Sahlemariam highlighted the low participation of investors as a key obstacle to maximizing foreign currency earnings. "The government must encourage more investors to engage in the sector to fully realize the country's potential," he said.

The global tea market is expanding, and Ethiopian tea can capitalize on this growth. The government is working to improve the quality and quantity of tea production, supporting farmers with training and

resources. By promoting Ethiopian tea on international platforms, the country can boost its export revenues significantly.

The demand for natural and health-oriented products is on the rise globally. Ethiopia's diverse agricultural landscape allows for the production of a variety of fruit juices. By tapping into this market, the country can diversify its beverage exports and increase foreign exchange earnings.

Despite the potential, Ethiopia had been faced several challenges in the beverage export sector. The government has been making smart move to alleviate poor infrastructure, including inadequate roads and logistics systems, hampers efficient transportation of goods. Investment in infrastructure is essential to facilitate exports and improve the competitiveness of Ethiopian beverages.

Ensuring consistent quality and obtaining international certifications (such as Fair Trade and Organic) are crucial for Ethiopian beverages to succeed in global markets. The government and private sector must collaborate to enhance quality control measures and support producers in meeting international standards.

Many agree that Ethiopia must enhance its marketing strategies to promote its coffee, tea, and other beverages effectively. Participation in international trade fairs, establishing partnerships with foreign distributors, and leveraging digital marketing can help increase visibility for Ethiopian products.

Ethiopia's rich heritage in coffee and emerging tea and beverage markets is not the moon to come project; rather it is an opportunity for economic development, according to documents and scholars in the sector. By addressing challenges in infrastructure, quality control, and market access, Ethiopia can enhance its beverage export sector. As the global demand for unique and high-quality beverages grows, Ethiopia stands poised to capitalize on this trend, driving economic growth and improving the livelihoods of its farmers and producers.

With a concerted effort from the government, private sector, and local communities, Ethiopia can transform its beverage industry into a cornerstone of economic development, showcasing its rich cultural heritage to the world while securing a bright economic

future.

The Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority (ECTA) play crucial roles in the development of the coffee and tea sectors, which are vital to the country's economy. Here's an overview of its key functions and initiatives aimed at enhancing quality production, productivity, and maximizing export volumes.

According to documents, the establishing standards ECTA sets and enforces quality standards for coffee and tea production. This includes grading systems that ensure only high-quality products reach the market.

The Authority implements certification programs, such as Organic and Fair Trade certifications, which help Ethiopian products gain acceptance in international markets.

ECTA supports research initiatives to develop improved agricultural practices. This includes the introduction of disease-resistant coffee and tea varieties and sustainable farming techniques.

The authority conducts training sessions for farmers, focusing on best practices in cultivation, harvesting, and post-harvest processing to enhance productivity and quality production.

ECTA works to promote Ethiopian coffee and tea at international trade fairs and exhibitions. This helps raise awareness and increases demand for these products in global markets. By streamlining export procedures and providing necessary documentation, ECTA helps producers' access international markets more efficiently.

ECTA encourages the formation of cooperatives among farmers. This enhances bargaining power, improves access to resources, and fosters collective marketing efforts. The authority collaborates with financial institutions to provide loans and credit facilities for farmers and processors, enabling them to invest in better equipment and technology, as it is learnt from documents.

ECTA plays a key role in developing national strategies for coffee and tea production. This includes setting long-term goals for sustainability, productivity, and export targets.

The Authority establishes regulations that govern the industry, ensuring fair practices and protecting the interests of all stakeholders, from farmers to exporters.

ECTA promotes sustainable agricultural practices that protect the environment and biodiversity, ensuring the long-term viability of coffee and tea production. The Authority supports programs that help farmers adapt to climate change, ensuring consistent production and quality.

ECTA conducts market research to identify trends and opportunities in the coffee and tea sectors. This information is vital for producers to make informed decisions.

The Authority collects and disseminates data on production volumes, export performance, and market conditions, helping stakeholders understand the dynamics of the industry.

Art & Culture

Irreechaa for fraternity, Solidarity

BY NAOL GIRMA

Irreechaa is one of the cultural values of the Oromo people's Gada system and it is a celebration of gratitude to the Creator. It celebrates the "widespread" subordination of man to his creator as a natural law. In other words, it celebrates the renewal of connection or bond with nature. It is not a religion by itself. It primarily promotes reconciliation, forgiveness, union, love, and peace among the nations and nationalities of Ethiopia.

Irreechaa is held twice a year. *Irreechaa Malkaa* is the first one. This is a festival celebrated in September. It is a day of thanksgiving to *Waaqa Tokicha* (one Creator) for the lush grass so the natural law of *Malkaa* can be kept undisturbed and balanced in the future. The people of Oromo are grateful to the *Waaqa* (Creator) for the rain during the winter months. The people then plead with the Creator to keep the sprouts safe from any natural disaster. Then they enter the barn safely.

Irreechaa Tulluu is the second event or festival. This takes place when the summer months come to an end and autumn sets in. The Oromo people go climb a nearby mountain and ask the Creator to give them rain for the coming winter and make the months' abundant harvest time.

Irreechaa is celebrated for two big reasons. First, it is to give thanks for the good that the Creator has done for mankind, and second to plead for what is desired to happen in the future. In the meantime, the people of Oromo are grateful to the *Waaqa*/Creator who allowed them to endure the harsh winter months. They also ask for forgiveness, for mankind is always not right. God is the one to be praised for creating all things and making it possible for mankind to survive the hardships of winter. Thus, the Oromo people bless the year by saying, "May the year be one of peace, love, success, and prosperity."

The women also sing the following melody and go to give thanks.

Mareehoo, mareehoo, mareehoo; it turned around and came back

Alaa mana nuuf toli yaa ayyoleehoo; All the best inside and out

Mareehoo, mareehoo, mareehoo; It turnaround and came back (3)

Mee nutti araarami yaa ayyoleehoo; Oh almighty lord please forgive us

When the men return from *Irreechaa*, they will return to *Gabbisayhoo*.

Gabbisayyoo hoo... hoo... roobee biyya gabbisee

Gabbisayyoo hoo.. hoo... roobee biyya gabbisee

Gabbisayyoo hoo... hoo roobii lafa nuuf ga'i,

Gabbisayyoo hoo... hoo yaa Waaqi ati nuuf nahi... They say "This is a message that we have succeeded and that we will be back in peace".



In the *Irreechaa* Tradition and during its ceremonials, it is forbidden to go out for Thanksgiving with resentment and hatred as well as to enter the place of *Irreechaa* before the appearance of *Abbaa Gadaa*. The place of *Irreechaa* is noble so it is strictly prohibited to dump dirt on or near it. It is also not allowed to go out at night to celebrate *Irreechaa* for it is out of tradition and is not customary. The tradition still prohibits going out in the winter to celebrate, where the rivers are still muddy-yellow. In addition, men are not allowed to wear jewelries made from seashells, and girls are not to carry *Sinqee*, it's forbidden. Finally, one cannot go to celebrate *Irreechaa* without lush grasses.

The traditional practices of the Oromo people are of great importance for solidarity and brotherhood. Through tradition and adoption, the Oromo people have long lived together by inheriting their cultural values, sharing their wealth and possessions with others, and strengthening relationships. It is customary for the people of Oromo that little ones must respect and obey the elderly and live together in brotherhood.

The festival of *Irreechaa* encourages those who have gone out for a cause to return with a pure heart and mind to thank their Creator and strengthen their unity and brotherhood. Participants from different places for the ritual of *Irreechaa* are welcomed without exception but with love and unity. Thanking each other and participating together, having fun and spending time, getting to know each other all throughout the festival,

help to exchange culture and strengthen brotherhood and unity.

The *Irreechaa* festival is a celebration of joy that people come out and celebrate together regardless of age, gender, religion, opinion or standard of living. Therefore, *Irreechaa* is a platform to express and renew unity, brotherhood, love, national pride, history and culture. For the Oromo, religious and cultural diversity is a classic demonstration of its beauty and unity. That is why it is said, the *Irreechaa* festival is becoming an ideal platform in terms of strengthening the unity of the Oromo people and its brotherhood with other ethnicities.

Furthermore, *Irreechaa* is a forum for reconciliation and solidarity. Its values are primarily linked to peace and reconciliation. Before the *Irreechaa* festival, the *Abbaa Gadaa's* and the elders of the country go to the local areas to resolve grievances and disagreements among the community, ask for forgiveness, and decide compensation if there is bloodshed. As mentioned earlier, it is morally sanctioned to go to *Irreechaa* with resentment and without reconciliation. *Irreechaa* is preached with a clear heart and a clear mind, without resentment or grudges.

Wherever the *Irreechaa* takes place, it is a place of peace and reconciliation. Have you ever forgiven one another for the sake of gratitude? Are you at peace with each other? Have you ever had a relationship with the Creator? The elderly or *Abbaa Gadaa's* ask during the ritual. Even if there

is a lack of reconciliation in the area, people will apologize and forgive one another at this time. Therefore, whoever comes out with green grass for thanksgiving will put away resentment and hatred and preach and proclaim peace, brotherhood, love, unity, hope, prosperity as well as extend good wishes.

During the festival, people sing, praise, and pray to the lord for the peace and love of their family, neighbors, and humanity in general. This indicates that *Irreechaa* is a symbol of reconciliation.

Festivals such as *Irreechaa* play an important role in bringing about a cultural renaissance. *Irreechaa* plays a role in the cultural renaissance movement, being an outdoor festival attended by many participants, who are decorated with various costumes and ornaments.

The costumes are worn on the day of the festival, the ornaments are to be adorned, and the objects of honor to be held, the line-up and manner of the participants, and the songs and dances are all attractive. It is enticing to watch women walk in front of *Abbaa Gadaa's* and other participants, chanting, holding lush grasses, adorned with traditional costumes and ornaments. Culture and beauty are seen together, creating motivation to express one's own culture and identity. Especially recently, the celebration of the *Irreechaa* festival has encouraged young people to know and celebrate their culture, to be proud of who they are.

Indepth

Will the UN's pact of the future modernize the world's outdated multilateral systems?

While most world leaders who attended the United Nations inaugural summit of the future—a two-day high-level event at UN headquarters in New York meant to address the most pressing global challenges of the 21st century—agree that the world's aging multilateral system needs modernizing, not all agree on how to get there.

“We will not succeed in overcoming our existential challenges if we are not prepared to change the global governance structures that are rooted in the outcome of World War II and have become unsuited to today's world,” said Mia Mottley, the prime minister of Barbados, at the summit on September 22. “What the world needs now is a reset.”

For the countries that make up the global South—while not a monolith—the path to reform begins with overhauling the current international financial architecture that has trapped developing countries in an untenable cycle of debt. Still, there is doubt that the blueprint for reform presented in the summit's non-binding outcome document, the Pact for the Future, goes far enough to rally the political will needed for change.

Despite months of fraught negotiations and a last-minute amendment tabled by Russia that was rejected, the pact was adopted by consensus on the first day of the summit.

“The pact for the future designed an excellent building, but it didn't leave that many instructions for the construction of the building,” said Tim Hirschel-Burns, policy liaison for the Boston University Global Development Policy Center.

With its 56 action items, the pact, a 42-page document, addresses five areas of global concern: sustainable development and financing, international peace and security, digital cooperation, youth and future generations, and global governance. It also includes two separate annexes, a Global Digital Compact and a Declaration on Future Generations.

But while Hirschel-Burns describes the language in the pact as “weak” and “fairly vague,” he told IPS there is still room for some optimism considering that “the pact is signed from leaders [and] heads of states representing the peoples of the world,” and so “you have a really high mandate” for action, he added. Notably, no leaders from the P5 countries—the United States, United Kingdom, France, China and Russia—spoke at the summit.

One promising action item in the pact calls on signees to close the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) financing gap—estimated at 4.2 trillion annually—in developing countries. Established in 2015, the SDGs act as a blueprint to eliminate a wide range of global challenges, including poverty, hunger and inequality, by 2030.

However, progress on the SDGs has fluctuated for countries drowning in debt and who are without sustainable options for affordable financing. The most recent SDG report estimates that “only 17 percent of the SDG targets are on track,” in some cases,



A wide view of the General Assembly Hall during the opening of the summit of the future

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progress has stalled or even regressed.

Still, Hirschel-Burns told IPS, “Even if the Pact for the Future doesn't have a clear roadmap for addressing unsustainable debt, the bigger outcomes pledged in the pact [including SDG funding] won't happen unless there is meaningful action on debt relief.”

When accessing financing, global south countries are traditionally met with much higher interest rates than their neighbors in the West. According to the latest UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) report, “developing regions—in Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean and Africa—borrow at rates that are 2 to 4 times higher than those of the United States and 6 to 12 times higher than those of Germany.”

This dynamic has led to developing nations racking up USD 365 billion in external debt—money owed to foreign investors, governments and multilateral institutions in 2022.” The report found that 3.3 billion people “live in countries that spend more on interest payments than education or health.” That is nearly 40 percent of the total global population of 8 billion.

A separate 2023 report published by Debt Justice, an organization based in London that aims to end unjust debt practices, found that “lower-income country debt payments in 2023 hit their highest level since 1998.” And external debt payments “for 91 countries will average at least 16.3 percent of government revenue in 2023, rising to 16.7 percent in 2024, an increase of over 150 percent since 2011.”

In addition to high interest rates and lack of political will, however, there are additional structural causes for developing countries' high debt levels, said Iolanda Fresnillo, policy and advocacy manager for the European Network on Debt and Development (EURODAD), such as unfair trade relations, technology dependence on

China and the global north, along with the impact of exogenous shocks such as major climate events, pandemics and war.

When countries already drowning in debt do not have the tools to deal with the consequences of a hurricane, an earthquake or a change in oil or other commodity prices, they have to borrow more, Fresnillo told IPS. So, to repay their growing debt, countries cut health and education expenditures and investments in climate adaptation and mitigation, leaving them unprepared for the next major climate event. “We call it the debt and climate vicious cycle,” she said.

Notably, it is the countries of the global north that emit an excess of the emissions that drive climate change, but it is the underdeveloped nations of the global South that suffer consequences that compound the debt cycle.

“The international community [must take] much more ambitious action to address this climate crisis,” said Ralph Gonsalves, prime minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, at the Summit of the Future on Sept. 22. “Otherwise, all of us here—we are going to go to hell in a hand basket. You know it, and I know it.”

Meanwhile, Fresnillo told IPS that before any multilateral system or blueprint for the future can tackle the issue of debt reform, a “common framework” must be established. “So when we say that the debt architecture needs a reform, what we mean is that we need a debt architecture,” as there are no rules when developing countries face a crisis and need to restructure their debt.

“It's crazy,” Fresnillo said. “When a company goes bankrupt, there are rules that the company has to follow in order to address that bankruptcy,” but that doesn't exist for countries. “It's terribly unfair because then who bears the burden is the people in the country.”

SOURCE: INTER PRESS SERVICE

Law & Politics

From the League to the UN: Ethiopia's legacy of global leadership

BY ELIAS GETNET

It would be difficult to overlook Ethiopia's significant contribution to the United Nations (UN) founding. Ethiopia stood as a proud representative of the African continent and the black people during a period when many African nations were subject to colonial persecution. By sending a delegation to the 1945 United Nations Conference in San Francisco, Ethiopia helped set the groundwork for the UN's establishment.

At the San Francisco Conference, Ethiopian delegates not only contributed to the drafting of the UN Charter but also acted as the voice of African nations, ensuring that African perspectives were included. Ethiopia's pivotal involvement in shaping the United Nations from its inception also laid the groundwork for its later role in the formation of the Organization of African Union (OAU).

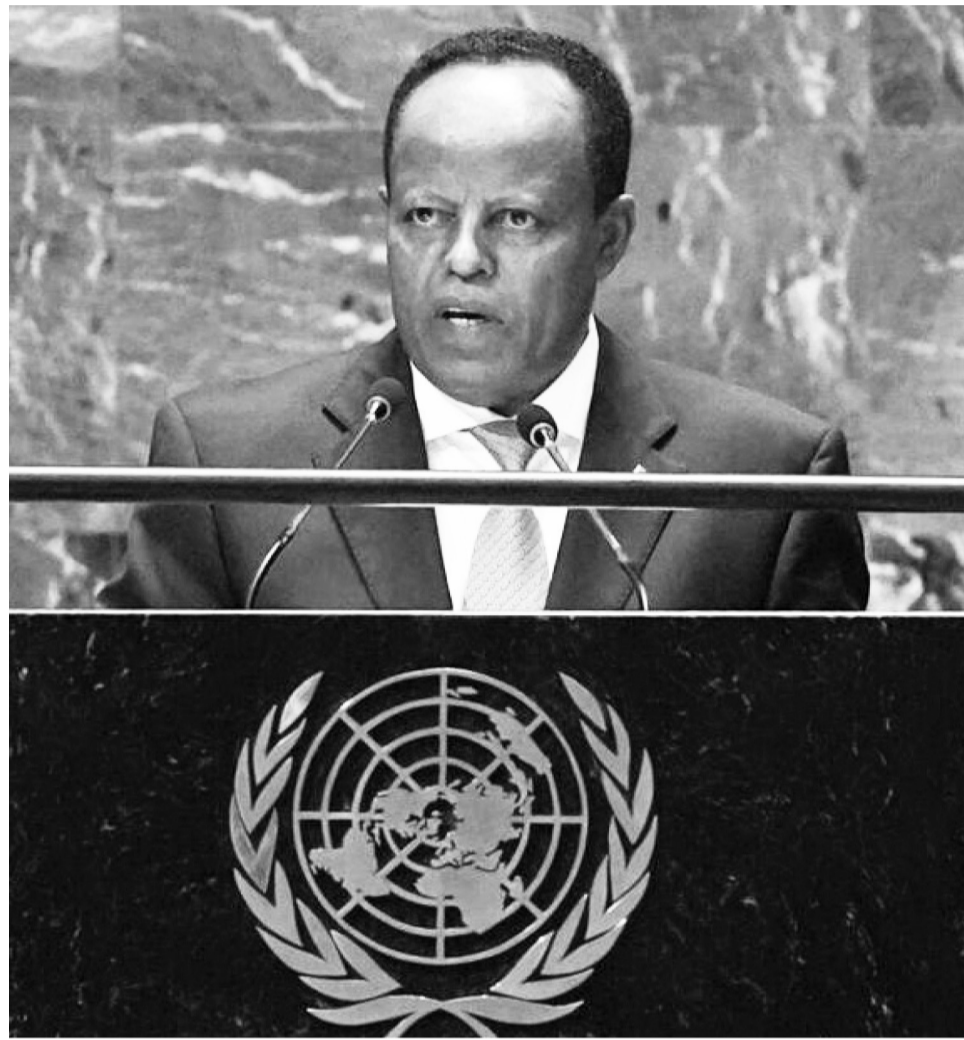
Ethiopia's global engagement precedes the UN, having been a member of the League of Nations, which many viewed as weak from its inception. When Ethiopia was invaded by fascist Italy in 1935, the League of Nations failed to respond effectively. This lack of action, especially from powerful countries that were meant to safeguard world peace, is often seen as one of the key reasons for the League's eventual ending.

Emperor Haile Selassie I of Ethiopia addressed the League of Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, where he condemned the inaction of the international community and decried the brutal invasion of Ethiopia by fascist forces. This powerful speech not only drew attention to Ethiopia's plight but also highlighted the broader weaknesses of the League of Nations.

Despite this history, Ethiopia continued to play an active role in promoting peace and security globally. From sending peacekeeping forces to Korea, Congo, Rwanda, and Darfur, Ethiopia has made indelible contributions to global peace and security, leaving a legacy that cannot be erased.

Ethiopia's involvement in the UN has not been limited to peacekeeping. The country has been a consistent advocate for collective security and global equality within the organization. Over the years, criticisms have emerged that the UN is dominated by the interests of powerful nations, particularly through the Security Council, where the United States, Russia, China, France, and the United Kingdom hold veto power. These countries have been accused of prioritizing their national interests at the expense of fair representation for other regions, especially Africa and Latin America.

The Security Council, tasked with maintaining international peace and



Ambassador Teye Atske Selassie in the UN Assembly

security, has faced growing criticism for its lack of inclusivity and slow responses to crises, particularly in Africa. For example, the Council's delayed and inadequate response to the Rwandan genocide and the Darfur conflict exposed significant shortcomings. Many African nations have since called for reforms to make the Council more representative, including adding permanent seats for African, Asian, and Latin American nations.

One of the most pressing concerns for Africa is its lack of permanent representation on the Security Council. Decisions made by the Council have often had a profound impact on African nations, yet the continent remains excluded from the decision-making process. This exclusion is particularly concerning given that the current structure of the Security Council reflects the power dynamics of a time when much of Africa was under colonial rule.

In light of these challenges, African nations have increasingly called for reforms to the Security Council. Proposals have been made to expand the number of permanent members to include representatives from Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Additionally, there have been calls to improve the decision-making processes within the Council to ensure more fair and effective responses to global challenges.

For Africa, the reform of the Security Council is not just about representation but about ensuring that the UN is equipped to

address the challenges of the 21st century. As the second-most populous continent in the world, Africa's voices must be heard in shaping the future global order.

A key question in these discussions is which African country would represent the continent on the Security Council. Ethiopia has a strong case for this role. As a founding member of both the United Nations and the African Union the former OAU, Ethiopia has consistently contributed to the liberation of African nations from colonialism and has played a leadership role in the Pan-African movement.

Ethiopia's role in the formation of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), which later became the African Union, further cements its legacy as a champion of African unity and solidarity.

Ethiopia's contributions to peacekeeping and conflict mediation in Africa and beyond also bolster its credentials. Furthermore, as one of Africa's five largest economies, Ethiopia's growing economic power enhances its bargaining position for a permanent seat on the Security Council.

However, Ethiopia is not the only nation vying for this role. Other potential candidates include South Africa, Egypt, Nigeria, and Algeria. While the competition for Africa's seat on the Security Council will likely remain a contentious issue, Ethiopia's history and continued active participation in global affairs make it a strong nominee.

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As Ethiopia looks to secure a permanent seat on the Security Council, it must engage in comprehensive diplomatic efforts to gain the support of African nations. This is not just about securing a seat at the table; it is about ensuring that Ethiopia remains an active participant on the global stage and continues to contribute to the future of international peace and security.

In summary, it is important to recognize the significant potential for Ethiopia to attain a permanent seat on the UN Security Council, which would provide the country with a valuable opportunity to expand its influence and impact on global affairs.

By consistently demonstrating proactive diplomatic efforts and strategic engagement, Ethiopia can effectively enhance its presence and leadership on the world stage, ultimately contributing to a more equitable and inclusive international framework.

Women in Focus

Vital role of Women among the Oromo people

BY LEULSEGED WORKU

The role of women in the Oromo society is huge and multidimensional. Aside from their role as mothers and wives, and shaping the family and society, their contributions to the community are enormous; felt across all aspects. From custodians of culture to contributors to the economy through engaging in various activities, including agriculture and trade, from peace brokers and promoters of group solidarity to advocates of women's rights, their duties and responsibilities are enormous.

Many Oromo women are actively involved in farming, cultivating crops that are essential for family sustenance and community food security. Their entrepreneurial spirit is also another blessing that Oromo women are well known and contributing significantly to local economies.

These economic roles not only support their families but also empower women to be financially independent and self-sufficient.

Besides their economic and cultural roles, the Oromo women also have a significant role in leadership and social stability in the form of mediators and decision-makers. Women in Oromo society often take on leadership roles within their families and community and they are frequently involved in conflict resolution, using their wisdom and insight to promote peace and harmony within their communities. What is more, in many cases, women participate in community decision-making processes, advocating for the needs and rights of their families and communities. Oromo women have increasingly become advocates for their rights and the rights of others. They are at the forefront of movements promoting gender equality, education, and social justice.

As it is mentioned in several pieces of literature, women have long been the backbone of Oromo society, playing a crucial role that transcends beyond traditional boundaries. Their contributions are woven into the fabric of cultural, social, economic, and political life, making them indispensable to the Oromo community.

The Oromo women are considered the keepers of culture and tradition. From storytelling to young ones to teaching traditional practices, passing down the knowledge, values, and customs of the Oromo people to the next generation as well as ensuring that the rich heritage of the Oromo people is well preserved, women always stand in the front line.

Their roles in ceremonies and cultural festivals, such as the *Irreechaa*, underscore their importance in maintaining cultural identity and promoting unity, solidarity, and peace not only among the Oromo people but also beyond.

Oromo women have a significant role in the *Irreechaa* Festival, which is one of the most important cultural celebrations of the Oromo people, marking a time of thanksgiving and renewal.



This vibrant event, marked annually at the end of the rainy season, draws thousands of participants to express gratitude for *Waaqa* (the Creator) for the bountiful harvest and other blessings of the past year.

During the festival, women actively participate in various activities, from organizing cultural performances to preparing traditional foods and drinks for the gatherings. Their contributions ensure that the festival is a true reflection of Oromo culture. Central to this celebration is the pivotal role of Oromo women, particularly the powerful symbol of *Hade Siinqee*.

Hade Siinqee encapsulates the strength, resilience, and unwavering spirit of Oromo women. Throughout history, these women have been the backbone of their communities, balancing family responsibilities while actively participating in cultural and social affairs.

Hade Siinqee embodies the values of nurturing, sacrifice, and community solidarity. Their roles extend beyond domestic duties; they are custodians of culture, passing down traditions, songs, and stories to future generations. In this regard, the presence of *Hade Siinqee* during the festival signifies the importance of women

in preserving and promoting Oromo cultural heritage.

Hade Siinqee represents a collective identity, where women get together to support one another, share their experiences, and empower each other. This unity is vital, especially in the face of challenges such as gender inequity and societal pressures.

In Oromo culture, *Siinqee* is a special ritual stick (*Ulee*). *Siinqee* is an Afan Oromo word that symbolizes the thin stick females hold after marriage. It is one of the material cultures that has a social and religious power in the Gadaa System. Mothers give '*Siinqee*' to their daughters during marriage so that they can ensure their rights by using it and play cultural, economic, political, and religious roles in their society.

According to studies conducted on this material culture, if a woman has a *Siinqee*, she has to be respected, and nobody should fight with her. Here, it is very important to note that *Siinqee* applies to women who have been married in accordance with the Gadaa system. If the marriage is concluded outside the rules and regulations of *Siinqee*, like the case of marriage by force (*butta*), the woman does not enjoy the protection accorded

by *Siinqee*. On the other hand, if a woman is married based on *Siinqee*, like in the case of *kadhacha* (marriage based on agreement between two families), she has the full rights to enjoy her privileges under *Siinqee*.

The *Irreechaa* Festival is also one platform for Oromo women to showcase their talents, strength, and unity. The festival often features traditional dances, songs, and poetry recitals that celebrate the contributions of *Hade Siinqee*. Women dressed in vibrant, colorful traditional attires and adorned with magnificent jewelry, embodied the beauty and richness of Oromo culture.

The festival serves as a reminder of the importance of solidarity among women.

Scholars believe that the presence of strong Oromo women during the *Irreechaa* Festival inspires younger generations to embrace their cultural roots and take pride in their identity. By witnessing the active participation of women in the festival, young girls would be encouraged to pursue education, leadership roles, and community involvement, fostering a sense of empowerment.

And while marking the *Irreechaa* Festival, it is important to recognize and celebrate the role of Oromo women and the significance of *Hade Siinqee* in the social, cultural, economic, and political aspirations of their community. Their resilience and commitment to community development shore up the spirit of the festival. By honoring these women, we not only celebrate the vibrant culture of the Oromo people but also build a society that respects the social and cultural values of its forefathers and paves the way for women to continue to thrive and be inspired in all aspects of life.

Equally, recognizing and supporting the contributions of Oromo women is essential for fostering a more equitable and prosperous future for all. As they continue to overcome barriers and challenges they have encountered in their paces, their strength and resilience undoubtedly shape the future of the Oromo community for generations to come.

Society

'*Irreechaa*' cements togetherness, fraternity, peace

BY MENGISTEAB TESHOME

In an increasingly interconnected world, the significance of preserving and promoting traditional practices and cultural heritages is crucial to learning about the past and understanding where we came from, reflecting a certain community's cultural values, preserving indigenous knowledge and wisdom and promoting a stronger sense of community as well.

Cultural values also serve as the foundation to promote societal norms, nurture fraternity and peace among different groups and bind communities together.

Sociologists emphasize that embracing cultural values plays a crucial role in building harmonious relationships among individuals and communities.

With this same end, global communities promote and celebrate their unique and distinctive cultural values on various occasions in a manner portraying their self-identity, (uniqueness) their heritage, traditions, and the like values.

Ethiopia, as a multi-ethnic country where over 80 different ethnic groups live together, is rich in cultural diversity that makes the country unique at national, regional, and global levels. This cultural diversity is also entertained freely and cherished widely. Among such religious and cultural values *Irreecha*, the annual Thanksgiving celebration of the Oromo people, which is celebrated in the last week of the first Ethiopian month, *Meskerem* (September), is one.

According to documents, "*Irreechaa*" means 'green and fresh grass.' It symbolizes fertility and flourishing life due to the blessing and guidance of the Creator, *Waaqaa*. The *Irreechaa* festival is marked at the end of September or the beginning of October, in the presence of hundreds and thousands of Oromo people and non-Oromos at designated locations, mostly near riverbanks or mountains.

In relation to the sociocultural significance of the of the *Irreechaa* festival and to shed light on the values it embodies, *The Ethiopia Herald* approached Abbaa Gadaa Negese Negaso. According to him, *Irreecha* is akin to a Thanksgiving Day that starts with family members and extends to neighbors, villages, and communities, where people come together at riverbanks holding green grass.

According to the traditional religion of the Oromos, the spirit responsible for *Waaqaa's* governance all resides in the sea and rivers. Additionally, mountains are viewed as sacred and believed to host the spirit of *Waaqaa*. Consequently, Oromo religious ceremonies often take place near these natural elements.

The Oromo people celebrate *Irreechaa* to express gratitude to *Waaqaa* for the blessings received throughout the previous year. Festivities are observed at various lakes across the Oromia State, such as



No one can fully celebrate *Irreechaa* without reconciling with family and friends. The event promotes peace and fraternity, inviting people from all walks of life religions, and ethnic backgrounds to participate in the fiestas

Hora Finfinne in the capital Addis Ababa, and Hora Harsadi in Bishoftu. Attendees immerse freshly cut green grass and flowers in the water, symbolizing their thanks.

Before participating, individuals are encouraged to seek personal repentance, forgive any grievances, and reconcile with estranged family members. No one can fully celebrate *Irreechaa* without reconciling with family and friends. The event promotes peace and fraternity, inviting people from all walks of life religions, and ethnic backgrounds to participate in the fiestas. During the celebration, youth sing, chant, and ride horses, adorned with colorful and beautiful cultural attires.

Abbaa Gadaa Negaso emphasized that preparations are underway to welcome participants from across Africa, the USA, Europe, Asia, and the Arab world,

Irreechaa embodies high cultural values, encompassing beliefs, customs, traditions, and practices that shape how individuals perceive the world. These values influence interpersonal relationships, social structures, and community dynamics. By fostering a sense of belonging and identity, cultural values, such as *Irreechaa*, play a pivotal role in promoting fraternity and unity.

Irreechaa is more than just a seasonal celebration; it is a profound expression of Oromo identity, resilience, and community spirit. As its significance continues to grow, socially, culturally, and politically, *Irreechaa* remains a vital part of Ethiopia's diverse tapestry, fostering a strong sense of identity and uniting people to extend gratitude to the creator; and to hope for a better future.

This celebration does not only honors the past but also inspires the Oromo people to embrace their identity and strive for a brighter tomorrow.

One of the central practices of *Irreechaa* involves gathering near lakes, rivers, or other water bodies. The most notable gathering occurs at *Hora Arsadi* Lake in Bishoftu, where hundreds of thousands come together

to express their gratitude, he added.

According to him, the connection to water bodies emphasizes the Oromo people's deep bond with nature. Water is viewed as a source of life and prosperity, and rituals often include offerings to honor these natural elements. The communal aspect of these rituals fosters unity and solidarity, strengthening social bonds and cultural identity.

The dances performed during *Irreechaa* often mimic movements found in nature, such as flowing water or swaying trees, highlighting the community's interconnectedness with the environment. Communal prayers are offered not only for personal blessings but also for the health of the land and its resources, ensuring soil fertility, clean water, and thriving wildlife.

Some communities engage in cleansing rituals, where participants wash their hands or faces in water, symbolizing renewal and a fresh start. This act connects individuals to the natural world and signifies their respect for it.

These rituals collectively honor the environment, reinforcing the Oromo belief in the interconnectedness of life, nature, and community. Elders lead prayers and blessings during the ceremonies, their spiritual authority is respected and their words are believed to invoke blessings from *Waaqaa* for the community and the environment.

As custodians of tradition, elders pass down knowledge about the rituals, songs, and dances associated with *Irreechaa*, ensuring cultural heritage is preserved for future generations. Participants may also light fires as part of the celebration, symbolizing purification and renewal, representing the warmth and sustenance that nature provides, while serving as a focal point for community bonding.

Participants often bring colorful flowers, banana leaves, and traditional attire, which add more color to the celebration.

International News

New Report Offers Guidance to Truth-Seeking Bodies on Producing Transformative Final Reports

BY ZEKARIAS WOLDEMARIAM

NEW YORK - In societies grappling with legacies of mass atrocities, truth-seeking bodies and the reports they produce can be instrumental in exposing culpability, revealing root causes, and preventing a recurrence of violence or repression, according to a Press Release from the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ).

The center which is based in New York, USA disclosed that it has released a new research report yesterday that serves as a practical guide for those working in truth commissions and fact-finding bodies on how to convert large amounts of data and information into credible reports.

When fact-finding reports are the products of rigorous inquiry and are presented coherently and persuasively, they can become catalysts for change. Moreover, such reports can powerfully acknowledge the harm suffered by victims. In so doing, they begin the process of restoring victims' human dignity as well as societal healing.

"Reports That Transform: Reporting Truth and Making Impact" draws on real-life experiences from multiple truth commissions and includes extracts and examples from operational documents. "The report will be an indispensable guide to investigators, researchers, and report writers working in large inquiries," says Anna Myriam Roccatello, ICTJ's director of programs and deputy executive director.



Transforming data collected from various sources is a challenging exercise for any truth commission or fact-finding body. "Virtually all big inquiries underestimate the effort and time needed to collate and analyze information and write the final report," notes Howard Varney, the report's author and a senior ICTJ expert.

This new research explains how to make

sense of a mountain of data collected, what key questions to ask and resolve, and how to convert data into a readable and useful final report. It covers how to write reports, develop findings and recommendations, and deal with political interference. It also provides examples of typical report formats.

A good fact-finding report "should do more than set out a record of what happened,

it should inspire people to do better, to ascribe to new values, and to build a new humane and caring society," Varney writes in the introduction. "This guide will assist practitioners to produce impactful reports," stresses ICTJ Executive Director Fernando Travesí, "reports that deliver answers to help transform society."

Source: ICTJ

UNHRC establishes advisory council on gender equality at Morocco's initiative

The UN Human Rights Council (HRC) launched, at the initiative of the Moroccan presidency of this UN body, an Advisory Council on Gender Equality, aimed at providing advice and suggestions on promoting gender equality and parity and helping to mainstream a gender perspective during Morocco's presidency.

This body, the first of its kind, was set up on the sidelines of the 57th session of the Geneva-based UN HRC. It is endowed with both normative and operational expertise.

The Advisory Council will provide an informal space for critical thought, analysis, and advice to assist the President of the HRC in mainstreaming gender equality, parity, and women's empowerment within the Council, with a view to speeding up tangible progress on the agenda and improving the lives of women and girls worldwide.

The body will also provide an opportunity for Geneva-based UN agencies and international organizations to share best

practices, achievements, and challenges in gender equality and parity within their own institutions.

Speaking on the advisory council's launch on Monday, Morocco's Permanent Representative to the UN Office at Geneva and current president of the HRC, Omar Zniber, hailed the creation of this body as a historic first, and stressed the need to put in place concrete measures to ensure that women are represented at the highest levels of decision-making. It is time to "move beyond the stage of celebrating the first woman to head a UN agency and ensure that women's presence at the head of an agency becomes a normal phenomenon," he argued.

To achieve this, mentalities and policies need to change at all levels: international, regional, national, and local, which is why the first Human Rights Council President's Advisory Council on Gender Equality has been set up in Geneva, he said.

"The aim is to foster transformative change in dialogue, governance and

inclusiveness," stressed the diplomat.

For her part, UN Women's Deputy Executive Director, Resource Management, Sustainability, and Partnerships, Kirsi Madi, expressed the UN agency's pride in being part of this Advisory Council in the person of its Executive Director, Sima Bahous, emphasizing the importance of this initiative, given the daunting challenges facing the march towards gender equality.

"Without accelerating progress towards gender equality, the international community will not be able to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 5 on gender equality, but also the entire 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development," she warned.

The launch of this Advisory Council at a ceremony at the Palais des Nations, which is attended by a host of personalities and diplomats, is an opportunity to celebrate the participation of all regional groups and major UN entities in efforts to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, said Ms. Madi, who

expressed her confidence that this body will provide a solid platform for achieving the Beijing commitments, the 2030 Agenda, and the goals of the UNHRC.

The Advisory Council will include representatives of member states at the UN Office in Geneva, the UN system, and other key stakeholders. The first members invited to join this body are recognized for their extensive experience and expertise in issues relating to gender equality, parity, and women's empowerment in the multilateral system. The council members will meet periodically to examine suggestions and proposals for strengthening the gender approach in the work of the Human Rights Council and more broadly in the spectrum of activities of international organizations in the multilateral system, with the aim of disseminating these suggestions and recommendations at local level in countries with programs in this field.

Source: North Africa Post



Published Weekly in Collaboration with Haramaya University

HU Poultry Farm addresses a gap in chicken products

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

Haramaya University (HU) has been working on a poultry farm to ensure food security for the local community by producing chicken products at a reasonable cost. It is also believed that supporting HU's agricultural research initiatives could help close a huge gap in the market for chicken products.

HU College of Agriculture Lecturer and Poultry Farm Coordinator Seid Aragaw said that the University's poultry farm started in 1950 and has been carrying out different activities in teaching, research, and community service. Besides, for more than a half-century, HU has successfully preserved, sustained, and improved chicken breeds, which is vital not only for the local population but also for the government's recently launched *Ye Limat Tirufat* program.

He added that HU not only teaches from the first degree to the PhD level, but it also conducts research and gives improved chicken breeds to the



Seid Aragaw

community. Besides, HU incorporates activities and hands-on training from primary school students to higher education institutions across the country into its teaching and learning process. As a result, the student receives practical training and experience.

HU's poultry research improves the performance of laying hens and chicken meat output. It also assists researchers in ensuring that their research is not inhibited

by a lack of funds. It is also creating job opportunities for various segments of the population through the poultry farm projects, he explained.

In community service, HU provides low-cost chicken products, especially eggs, to the community. It also gives the community organic fertilizer made from chicken broth. HU is also fulfilling its responsibilities by offering 10 chicks and 10 kilos of fodder, as well as comprehensive training, to those people who need support.

He mentioned that HU keeps White Leghorn, Fayoumi, and Bovan Brown laying hens, as well as Hohmann and Sasso broiler chicken species for a long time. These chicks are well-known across the community since HU has done and continues to do a variety of initiatives to conserve and improve the performance of these chicken species.

According to him, poultry farming is very profitable and can provide multiple benefits to the community and the country. Hence, the government has set various directions,

including *Ye Limat Tirfat* to ensure food security. Accordingly, HU provides hands-on training not only to students, but also to researchers, professionals, and local leaders of private and public institutions that move from laboratory methods to production.

Poultry farming is profitable and can bring benefits to the community and the country. Hence, the government has set different directions, including *Ye Limat Tirfat*, to ensure food security across the country.

To further develop the sector, the government and related bodies should encourage poultry farming at universities. In particular, it is important to avoid using human food items for chickens, importing medications that are necessary for poultry farming, and so on. This in turn contributes significantly to bridging the gaps in the supply of animal products, particularly chicken products, in Ethiopia and throughout sub-Saharan Africa, he noted.



Published Weekly in Cooperation with Dambi Dollo University

"Ethiopia's Challenges: Navigating Internal Conflict and Geopolitical Pressures for a Sustainable Future" Panel Discussion held at DaDU

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

Ethiopia, a country in the Horn of Africa, faces several challenges that hinder its progress towards a sustainable future. These challenges include internal conflict and geopolitical pressures. Internal conflict refers to conflicts that occur within a country, often between different ethnic, religious, or political groups. In Ethiopia, these conflicts can arise due to factors such as competition for resources, political power, or cultural identity. These conflicts can lead to violence, displacement, and instability, making it difficult for the country to achieve its development goals. Geopolitical pressures can influence and impact external factors on a country's internal affairs.

DaDU initiated the Panel discussions which can help to address Ethiopian internal conflicts and geopolitical pressure by facilitating open and honest discussions,



allowing for the exchange of ideas. The university has initiated this panel discussion to actively promote dialogue, bringing together a multidisciplinary discussion titled "*Ethiopia's Challenges: Navigating Internal Conflict and Geopolitical Pressures for a Sustainable Future.*"

Mr. Debela Tola, the Director of the President's Office, addressed his opening speech by emphasizing that the topic under discussion holds significant importance, as it pertains to a matter of national concerns. He highlighted

the benefits of the value of organizing events such as research forums, panel discussions, and symposiums within the university setting.

This panel discussion is led by Mr. Eshetu Andasha, who provided an in-depth explanation of the panel's title to the audience. He highlighted several key topics, including Historical Grievances, Government Policies and Strategies towards these Issues (Both Past and Present), Ethnic Tensions, Economic Reforms, Geopolitical Pressures, and Geopolitical Dynamics leading to Tensions, the Challenges of Ethiopia's Foreign Policy, and the impacts of Geopolitical Dynamics on Ethiopia.

The panel discussion brought together a diverse group of experts and middle leaders, including directors, executives, and deans, to emphasize the critical themes surrounding the understanding of internal conflicts, external pressures, and geopolitical influences.

During the panel discussion, participants

emphasized the importance of the topic as a national issue that necessitates research support and should be transmitted to future generations. They stressed that this matter affects the entire nation and all its citizens, calling for a united effort in the development and safeguarding of our country. It was observed that meaningful change is not easily attained, underlining the importance of unity and moral integrity in the process of nation-building.

Promoting a mutual understanding among all citizens is essential for effectively addressing the challenges currently confronting Ethiopia. Specifically to formulate targeted strategies aimed at resolving internal conflicts and managing external pressures. In conclusion, fostering unity and integrity is essential for building a nation that is both economically and politically stable.

(Source- DaDU Public and International Relations Directorate)



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