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Premier, UN Chief inaugurate iconic African Hall

ADDIS ABABA (ENA)- Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed(PhD) and UN Secretary General António Guterres inaugurated African hall, a landmark of liberation and a symbol of Pan-African unity yesterday.

Originally inaugurated in 1961 by Ethiopia's Emperor Haile Selassie, Africa Hall is the birthplace of the Organization of African Unity

(OAU), now the African Union (AU), and has witnessed numerous pivotal moments in Africa's history.

After years of intensive renovation, Africa Hall, the iconic birthplace of the Organization of African Unity was inaugurated yesterday reflecting on Africa's past, and present with a focus on a sustainable future.

The renovation amplifies its cultural significance as a heritage with tourism potential for Ethiopia, beyond one of the state-of-the-art conferencing venues with modern facilities, visitors centre, a permanent exhibition, and cinema room for

See Premier,UN chief... page 3

Ethiopia, Austria foresee stronger economic cooperation

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA - Ethiopia and Austria have aspired to see improved economic cooperation as an Austrian business delegation has expressed interest in investing in Ethiopia.

During a joint press briefing with Austrian Embassy yesterday, the Ethiopian Investment Commission Deputy Commissioner Zeleke Temesgen (PhD) stated that Austrian companies with experience in various countries will participate in a business forum scheduled for today.

See Ethiopia, Austria.. page 3



MoA launches new agriculture, rural dev't policy

• Presents first quarter performance

BY MESERET BEHAILU

BISHOFTU -The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) has unveiled a new "Agriculture and Rural Development Policy" aimed at enhancing the understanding of agricultural resources and modernizing the sector.

To introduce this policy and present the first-quarter performance for the current fiscal year, the MoA organized a two-day discussion forum for employees, stakeholders, and senior officials from state agriculture bureaus.

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CFA: A bold step toward Nile equity

BY HAILE DEMEKE

The Nile Basin Cooperative Framework Agreement (CFA) has recently come into force, marking a transformative leap toward the just and sustainable management of the Nile River. This seminal agreement aims to ensure that all riparian nations receive equitable benefits from the river, which has historically been dominated by downstream countries. It explicitly repudiates colonial-era accords that have favored these nations at the expense of upstream countries, particularly Ethiopia, which contributes the lion's share of the river's water flow.

In defiance of this progressive framework, Egypt and Sudan persist in their rejection of the CFA, clinging to antiquated colonial agreements from 1929 and 1959 that primarily serve their vested interests. For more

See CFA: A bold.. page 3

Corrigendum

In Sunday's edition, a news item that went with a headline: 'Toyo Solar Energy to invest 7 bln USD in Hawassa IP,' the currency was erroneously indicated as 'USD'. It should have been read as 7 bln Birr. The error is regrettable.

The Ethiopian Herald

News

Ethiopia's quest for sea access legitimate, justified: Congolese Scholar

ADDIS ABABA -Ethiopia's right to access direct maritime seaport is a legitimate call through legal frameworks to facilitate the country's overall economic development, a distinguished Congolese law professor at University of Lubumbashi said.

Speaking to ENA, Professor Joseph Yav who is also Pan African Lawyers Union (PALU) Life time member & Commercial Law Committee Co-Chair said Ethiopia's ongoing quest for having access to seaport is acceptable.

Given its geographical, historical, economic backgrounds, Ethiopia has initiated discussions to secure sea outlet based on the principle of mutual benefits and partnership that provide amicable opportunities to strengthen shared development.

Quest for coastal access to sea outlets is essentially considered as a legitimate right to Ethiopia with its sizable economy and population as well as the ever growing import-export trade.

Moreover, the country's direct coastal access is anticipated to increase physical economic growth of the people in the Horn of Africa(HoA), it was learned.

For professor Yav, the ongoing Ethiopia's endeavor to secure seaport is extremely important to expedite regional economic growth and collaboration with neighboring countries.

According to him, there are pathways to achieve this goal through peaceful negotiations and international legal frameworks.



Professor Joseph Yav

"Ethiopia deserves access to the seaport like any other nation," Yav noted, urging for discussions that respect international law and promote shared resources.

Noting that unlocking maritime opportunities lies in cooperation with neighboring nations, the law professor noted that advocating for agreements facilitate access to coastal waters.

Accordingly, Yav underscored Ethiopia's potential to leverage its membership in the African Union (AU) and foster dialogue on this critical issue.

He further elaborated that existing protocols and treaties could serve as foundations for negotiations aimed at sharing maritime resources, land, and other economic benefits.

"If there is any issue that concerns Ethiopia, we have to discuss that within the framework of the law and also in terms of collaboration and cooperation. It is easier for Ethiopia being the AU member plus others to discuss issues having access to the sea and so on within certain frameworks.

We have protocols; we have treaties that can be put in place to share some passages and so on. I think for me, Ethiopia deserves to have access to the sea; but, peacefully by agreeing with neighboring countries and so on. You do it within the regional economic community and it will be fine."

He also stressed the need for pursuing a pan-African approach to advocacy to amplify Ethiopia's voice on the international stage in addition to Ethiopian lawyers.

"If only lawyers from Ethiopia work themselves, they can't reach a good solution. But being a pan-Africans organization, as lawyers from each African country would Back Ethiopian case in this important question. I think the voice should be heard and it is time to start here and now."

PALU as it is a Pan African lawyers' union, he affirmed it will be lobbying and speak for Ethiopia to make the voice be heard and will work to ensure that Ethiopia's rights and needs are recognized and respected in the quest for sea access.

"PALU, it is a pan African organization of lawyer. As lawyers, we voice the needs of our people. We are in Ethiopia, if there is any issue; then within PALU will do lobbying for Ethiopia and we will speak for Ethiopia. Thus, we will be lobbying for Ethiopia, even drafting some treaties, some protocols for the AU to implement if needed."

The Congolese law professor finally urged African nations to promote regional collaboration in order to address their challenges. For him, Ethiopia's aspiration for maritime access needs to be met through diplomacy and mutual agreement.



EIH, Dodai Manufacturing team up for greener transportation

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA - Ethiopian Investment Holdings (EIH) and Dodai Manufacturing PLC launched a transformative partnership yesterday, aimed at advancing sustainable transportation across Ethiopia.

During the launch ceremony, EIH CEO Brook Taye (PhD) emphasized that this strategic collaboration aligns with the government's ambitious climate resilience agenda and its commitment to green economic development. "Our unwavering dedication to investing in initiatives that not only foster job creation but also advance Ethiopia's climate-resilient economy remains steadfast," Brook stated.

By diversifying its investment portfolio into alternative energy sources, EIH is positioning itself for sustainable, long-term financial gains, akin to the Ethiopian Electric Utility (EEU). He elaborated, "This approach ensures robust returns while establishing vital alternative energy infrastructure for EEU's distribution grid."

Furthermore, Brook highlighted EIH's commitment to nurturing innovative ventures like Dodai, which seeks to redefine urban transportation and enhance sustainable mobility nationwide. This partnership signifies a major commitment to developing electric mobility infrastructure tailored to Ethiopia's unique electrification challenges.

Dodai Founder and CEO Yuma Sasaki remarked that this collaboration marks a pivotal moment in transforming Ethiopia's transportation landscape. "As Ethiopia's leading electric mobility company, Dodai is poised to establish 100 battery swap stations within the next year, continually refining our services based on real-time usage data for optimal efficiency," Yuma declared.

The partnership aims to roll out 100 battery swap stations in the capital within the coming 12 months, with an ambitious plan to expand to 300 stations, including Sheger City, over the next three years. This initiative is expected to significantly reduce emissions, enhance urban mobility, and create 100,000 jobs for youth, positioning Ethiopia as a leader in green transportation.

In addition to improving access to clean mobility solutions, this partnership seeks to raise awareness about the benefits of electric vehicles among the Ethiopian public. By engaging local communities through educational campaigns, EIH and Dodai aim to foster a culture of sustainability and promote the adoption of eco-friendly transportation alternatives, ultimately contributing to a healthier environment and a more sustainable future for Ethiopia.

Commission to attract 8 bln Birr capital investment

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA -By providing advanced business services, Addis Ababa has planned to attract some 8 billion Birr capital in investment related activities in the current fiscal year,city's Investment Commission announced.

Addis Ababa Investment Commission, Plan and Budget Director Enatnesh Tamene told Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that her office has planned to register the aforesaid amount of investment capital in service and manufacturing sectors.

Enatnesh said that the commission's investment attraction activities mainly target manufacturing, service, urban agriculture and construction.

In order to achieve the designed investment revenue, the commission prepared to provide fast and efficient services to the investor, including providing investment information and other servicesonline, whilefacilitating service payments to be made either

through cash and POS machines, in addition to Telebirr and CBE Birr mobile payment services, she said.

"We are working to create better job opportunities by supporting and following up the projects, and in terms of technology, most of the services offered by the institution are provided with the help of technology," Enatnesh said.

In this fiscal year, the office is working to improve the availability of investment license and license related services online,while paying due attention to the digitalization of the registry office, according to the Director.

Mentioning the Commission's activities to response to queries raised by investors, she stated tha ther institution has supported those who faced shortage of foreign currency or other challenges to import products by paying their duties and taxes.

She further said that in order to provide the support that was frequently requested



Enatnesh Tamene

by investors regarding land provision and credit access in a fast and effective manner, the management has sett o work in collaboration with institutions to create conducive environs and resolve the problems after conducting the required investigation.

News

Over 1,000 women graduate from the STEmpower-IBM program

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA - In a significant milestone for women in technology, 1,069 Ethiopian women have graduated from the STEmpower-IBM Skills Build Program, a collaborative initiative between STEmpower, IBM, and the Embassy of Finland.

The program aims to empower women with essential digital skills, positioning them to contribute to Ethiopia's technological innovation.

Speaking at the graduation event, Labor and Skill State Minister Solomon Soka commended the graduates, stating, "This is a remarkable achievement, but the future holds even greater possibilities. Continue to learn and evolve. Congratulations!"

Among the graduates was Dagmawit Hailu, a 21-year-old law student from Assela, who



completed courses in Artificial Intelligence, Project Management, and Information Technology. She expressed gratitude for the program, noting, "Although AI initially seemed challenging, it became more

engaging thanks to the continuous support from the STEmpower team."

Usra Mohammed said, another graduate, praised the program's structure, adding,

"The structured deadlines helped maintain focus in a self-paced environment. The training was excellent, and I extend my thanks to STEmpower and IBM for this opportunity"

The STEmpower-IBM Skills Build program continues to open doors for women across Ethiopia, providing them with skills essential for thriving in the rapidly evolving tech landscape. These graduates are now well-equipped to play a crucial role in Ethiopia's digital transformation and enhance the country's global competitiveness.

STEmpower expressed its gratitude to its partners, especially the Embassy of Finland and IBM, for their support in making the program a success. The achievements of this cohort mark the beginning of their journey in driving technological impact and growth in Ethiopia, it was stated.

Ethiopia, Austria...

"The forum, similar to previous ones hosted by Ethiopia with other countries' embassies, will serve as a platform for investors to explore opportunities in Ethiopia," he explained. Diplomatically, Ethiopia and Austria have had official relations for 60-70 years, but there is a need to strengthen economic cooperation," Zeleke noted.

He added that Austrian businesses are exploring opportunities in the pharmaceutical and plastic recycling sectors.

The Ethiopian government is committed to supporting investors, particularly those interested in untapped industries like pharmaceuticals, he said.

Ethiopia has been receiving more foreign direct investment (FDI) than in previous years as the government continues to reform the economy and improve industrial park management. For example, three industrial parks are upgraded to special economic zones last week, according to Zeleke.

He highlighted that these reforms will continue to attract more FDI and invited Austrian investors to explore these initiatives and opportunities.

Austrian Ambassador to Ethiopia, Simone Knapp, remarked that the forum would bring together Austrian and Ethiopian companies.

Seven Austrian businesses involved in the plastic recycling, pharmaceutical, and construction sectors will participate in the bilateral forum, with a keen interest in expanding their operations into Ethiopia, the ambassador added.

Premier, UN Chief...

screenings and public events, while respecting the architectural and artistic vision of the '60s.

The new visitor's centre will welcome the public to learn about Africa's history, the African Union and the United Nations.

The renovation offers a 360° upgrade: from updating conferencing equipment to complying with current fire hazard requirements and building codes.

It also includes accessibility for people with disabilities, lighting, waterproofing ceilings and restoring original furnishing.

Africa hall is a prestigious landmark where the continent's history shaped and returns.

MoA launches new agriculture, rura...

During the launch, Agriculture Minister Girma Amente (PhD) noted that the primary objectives of the new policy include boosting and modernizing the agricultural sector through effective resource management. He indicated the previous policy, which had been in place for over two decades, no longer aligns with the current agricultural landscape, highlighting the need for a new approach.

The minister reported notable progress in the agricultural sector, including increased production and productivity, enhanced agricultural exports, and an expansion of cultivated land. He stressed that prioritizing agricultural finance is crucial for ensuring national food security through effective resource management. In this context, the new policy will facilitate the establishment of an agricultural bank to provide sustainable benefits for farmers in the future.

"In the past three months of this fiscal year alone, approximately 20 million hectares of

land were cultivated, marking a significant increase of 2.5 million hectares compared to the same period last year. Additionally, we plan to distribute 24 million quintals of fertilizer this fiscal year," he stated.

Ethiopia earned 796 million USD from agricultural exports, achieving 103% of the planned target for the quarter. To bolster livestock production, 20 million chickens were distributed in a single day, with a total of 150 million chickens planned for distribution. The inauguration of Grand Parent stock this Thursday is expected to significantly contribute to these goals. The minister also emphasized the importance of managing livestock resources and combating illegal activities, such as contraband.

While focusing on agricultural modernization, Girma underscored that enhancing the capabilities of civil servants is vital for achieving comprehensive agricultural development.

In a presentation, Agricultural Transformation Institute (ATI) Policy Advisor Mandefro Nigussie (PhD) said that the new policy will decisively address agricultural challenges through collaborative efforts. He pointed out that the policy offers alternative approaches to enhance production and productivity, assist with extension services, and promote mechanization.

Modernizing agriculture requires cooperative engagement across various areas, including cereal production, livestock management, and environmental protection. The new policy also lays the groundwork for transformation through the utilization of specialized seeds and technology, development of rural human capital, protection of cultivated lands, securing land rights, fostering collaboration between the private sector and government, and promoting technology adaptation and digital markets.

CFA: A bold step toward...

than half a century, Egypt has endeavored to maintain its preferential access to the Nile's waters while contributing nothing to the river's flow.

In response, Ethiopia and other upstream nations have steadfastly implored their downstream counterparts to embrace the CFA, underscoring the imperative for constructive dialogue to bridge divisions and facilitate shared benefits among all member states. The enactment of the CFA establishes a robust legal framework designed to promote collaboration and mutual advantage.

Water and Energy Minister Habtamu Itefa (PhD-Ing.) characterized the ratification of the agreement as a historic milestone for fostering collective benefits among the Nile Basin countries. He emphasized that the CFA, initiated 14 years ago, aims to cultivate an equitable distribution of the river's resources. Its ratification on October

13, 2024, signifies monumental progress in the collaborative efforts of the basin nations.

Ethiopia, contributing over 85 percent of the Nile's flow, has long been marginalized in its capacity to harness this vital resource. The CFA is essential for Ethiopia and its neighboring countries to achieve equitable access to these resources. "We must utilize the river equitably without inflicting significant harm on downstream nations, particularly in light of our substantial contribution compared to other Nile Basin countries," Habtamu asserted. After enduring years of marginalization, Ethiopia is now poised to capitalize on its own resources.

The CFA epitomizes a monumental achievement for Ethiopia, with its primary objective being to ensure collective benefits as delineated in the agreement. It lays the groundwork for future collaboration and plays a pivotal role in safeguarding water resources while fostering mutual

advantages.

Fekahmed Negash, a former negotiator for the Abbay Dam and a respected water resources researcher, commended the CFA's enactment, asserting that Ethiopia must actively engage in its implementation to secure equitable benefits. He cautioned that Egypt and Sudan's ongoing rejection of the CFA undermines the equitable distribution of resources. The CFA is instrumental in safeguarding the interests of all basin nations and fostering collaboration.

This agreement severs ties with colonial-era frameworks, instilling confidence that its implementation will enhance sustainable water management and regional cooperation. By fostering collaboration among riparian countries, the CFA is set to stimulate economic growth in the region. Ultimately, it embodies the resolve of upper basin nations to reject inequitable arrangements while reinforcing regional ties and prioritizing fair resource distribution.

Opinion

Access to sea: An integral part of Ethiopia's economic endeavor

BY ABEBE WOLDEGIORGIS

Ethiopia is one of the ancient countries in the world with its own administration system and governance. Located in the Horn of Africa flanked by the red sea and Indian Ocean, it had an exposure to sea outlet and utilized sea route for various purposes including trade, monitoring the trade security and to keep contact the outside world for millennia.

According to the Historian Richard Pankhurst, during the Axum kingdom before the birth of Christ, the kingdom had traded with India, Persia and Mesopotamia. It had exported slaves, elephant's horn and spices to these countries and in the return, aesthetic materials including jewelry were imported and that time port of Adulis, located in the suburb of the red sea, had played pivotal role in facilitating trade.

In the 6th century, King Kaleb of Ethiopia conquered the other side of the red sea and managed to govern South Arabia and the local communities. However, after the devastating war on the port of Adulis exerted by the Arab forces in 7th century, the trade and the wealth generated from it had declined which again critically affected the kingdom's capacity to govern the region and its influence also declined.

In the later century, the kingdom changed its expansion policy from across the red sea towards in the hinter land of the country.

The down fall of the Axum kingdom in the 11th century paved way for the accenting of the Zague dynasty. That time the kings side by side with engaging in expanding Christianity, they kept contact with sea outlet and trading with the Middle East Countries had continued. Trade had been their economic and power base and sustained the statuesque through subjugating their subjects.

The Solomonic Dynasty which succeeded the Zague also continued to have access to sea for their trade engagement. Kings vigorously continued their expansion towards the south and east to enhance their economic base by conquering the indigenous population.

According to the Faqi al-habesha an Egyptian historian, the Solomonic kings had expanded their territories towards the east and had managed to control the port of Zeyla located in the suburb of the Gulf of Aden. Foreign intruders also had used sea routes to invade the hinter land of the country but rebuffed by the kings' armies.

That time, caravan trade to the Middle East was expanded. Historians proved that, in the last quarter of the 18th century when Ethiopia found itself in the Era of princes, it could manage getting access to sea and the then Gonderian kings traded with the Middle East through port of Massawa which was part of the province of Bahire-

Negash. Slaves were the major export items while weapons and house hold utensils were imported items.

The construction of Suez Canal by the Egyptian leader Kehdive Ismael in 1869 brought new development in trade and politics of the world.

The canal shortened trade distance between Europe and Asia and reduced transaction cost. In addition, it created good opportunities to European colonizers to realize their colonial ambition and conquer people in both sides of the red sea and Horn of Africa at large.

In 1888, colonial powers convened in Berlin which paved the way for the scramble for Africa. Germany, Britain and France mapped Africa and created territories which would be subjugated under their yoke. The Horn of Africa's fate was similar to other parts of Africa and accordingly British and France carved it and Italy as late comer also annexed parts of the Horn.

History proved that there was no indigenous government in the Horn of Africa except Ethiopia before the advent of colonialism in the region and Ethiopia had been influential country over the Red Sea and the suburb of Indian Ocean in East Africa. Countries such as Sudan, Eritrea (created by colonial powers through annexed from the northern most point of Ethiopia), Djibouti and Somalia were created by colonial powers in the last quarter of the 19th century and consequently the situation barred Ethiopia from sea outlet.

After the end of the World War II, when the United Nation determined with regard to the fate of countries colonized by Italy the issue of Eritrea was among the agenda. Considering its historic, cultural, linguistic and territorial attachment to Eritrea more over to get access to the sea, Ethiopia staged it's diplomatic battle in the United Nation platform.

After cautiously dealt with the matter, the UN decided to conduct referendum to decide the fate of Eritrea. As a result, the people of Eritrea was given choices including to be unified with Ethiopia, to be federated with Ethiopia or to attain sovereignty but the outcome of the referendum showed that the country to be federated with Ethiopia. After 60 years of staying under the yolk of colonialism, Eritrea became federated with Ethiopia in 1955 and Ethiopia in its modern history got access to sea formally.

The three decades of war between the secessionists and the government sent the Eritrean issue to the UN. Once again after the EPRDF regime took power in 1993 the so called referendum took place and Eritrea seceded from Ethiopia. Since then, Ethiopia is denied its access to sea outlet. Thus, Ethiopia, the second most populous country in Africa next to Nigeria with more than 125 million people has become landlocked.

Though agriculture is the main stay of the country, the economy is growing steady fast and the manufacturing sector is growing from time to time. Currently, its import and export trade is increasing. As a land locked country, it is coerced to use ports located in the Neighboring countries such as Djibouti, Berbera, Lamu and Port Sudan.

Using other country's port has its own impact on the nation's economy for instance, Ethiopia annually pays about 2 billion US Dollars for port service to Djibouti and for the developing country like ours, paying such amount of money is unbearable and unsustainable.

Utilizing the port of Djibouti is also logistically disadvantageous. About 100 kilo meter high way inside Djibouti territory is dilapidated and the road in addition to delaying truck movements, it critically damages vehicles; that is why drivers are complaining repeatedly. Hence, finding other ways to get our own port is essential.

According to the World Trade Organization, trade is one of the fundamental components of economic growth and poverty reduction. Therefore, it is difficult to a land locked country to manage both to achieve and sustain economic growth and seizing the opportunities offered by open world markets.

However, many nations of the world have not yet managed to realize the benefits of trade, some of the worst-off countries regarding trade are landlocked developing countries. The level of development in these countries is on average about 20% lower than it would have been if they were not landlocked.

Sub-Saharan Africa is a region with 16 landlocked countries, 13 of them are among the least developed countries while the remaining three are considered developing countries. The reasoning for why being a landlocked country can have negative implications regarding trade has its foundation in the lack of domestic access to ports.

The majority of international freight is delivered through sea transport as sea transport is significantly cheaper than other modes of transportation. It is typically 6-7 times less costly than road transport and 12-16 times less costly than air freight.

In the Sub-Saharan African region goods need to pass through long distances of land transport to access ports, which is not only costly but also time consuming due to lack of adequate transport infrastructure in the region. Furthermore, for landlocked countries to access the cost-effective sea transport, they need access to the neighboring transit countries territory.

Accessing an additional countries territory means dealing with additional border

measures, which in the Sub-Saharan African region takes time and is related to high costs. A case study from the World Bank's doing business project concluded that the estimated time it takes for an exported goods to pass a border in Sub-Saharan Africa is 97 hours, which is the highest average score of all regions in the world. It is nearly the double amount of time it takes in the Middle East, North Africa, South Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean. At the same time, the time to cross a border in Europe and Central Asia is shorter by over six times.

The cost created by the long transport routes along with the need to pass a border to access maritime transport erodes the landlocked countries' international competitiveness. Studies have already determined the trade disadvantage of landlocked countries and estimated the impact of variables such as the level of infrastructure and comparing the transport costs of landlocked countries with maritime countries.

Along with an estimation of the impact on trade of the two main distinctions of landlocked countries compared to countries with coastal locations; transportation cost of the earlier would be high because of distance to ports and their need to pass borders to access the sea.

According to the study conducted by the United Nations specifically focusing on the Sub Saharan Africa region of the 46 countries of the world that are considered the least developed, 33 of them are situated in SSA being a landlocked in the region which already are suffering from poverty and economic vulnerability constitute an additional layer of issues.

Ethiopia, as one of the developing countries in the world, has to boost and diversify its export trade and utilize various ports in order to eradicate poverty and attain development. The government's agreement with the Somaliland to own port is a remarkable venture. Because owning the port boosts import and export trades with minimum cost and with no congestion and reduced transaction cost. Therefore, to put the agreement on the ground, all stakeholders should exert their maximum effort.

By the same token, the international community should recognize that Ethiopia needs sea access as it is a large country with its highest population in the continent next to Nigeria and stand by it for the realization of its quest peacefully. Access to the sea benefits not only Ethiopia, but also the countries in the region and the entire world since Ethiopia's contribution for peace and security of the region is remarkable.

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

Editorial

Ethiopia's prime role in Horn peace, stability

Needless to state, any nation should have military organization as the latter is the ultimate shield of that specific country. When this military entity has set up firm ties with counterparts from other countries and exchange military expertise, the way the system works in tune with the contemporary world demand, the military sect of a given nation would have ample opportunity to get further beefed up. Taking all this into account, African defense ministers convened and thoroughly discussed a number of aspects revolving around military integration, cooperation and the means how to attain common vision—creating stable, thriving, affluent and appealing Africa.

Since the conference can be a milestone for addressing peace and security concerns and expediting Africa's prosperous future via vibrant African military collaborative efforts, all states of the continent are expected to develop unity and fraternity following Ethiopia's relentless effort to contribute a lot to the effort geared towards creating resilient Africa. Yes, as the continent has been baffled with a range of security concerns following its geopolitically strategic importance, establishing firm defense alliance has to be the call of the day. Ethiopia has, along ensuring Horn peace and stability, come to the forefront because the country has had firm commitment to ensure peace and serenity. It will continue doing so, in fact. Unequivocally, military is employed in averting internal security threats, promoting healthy socio-economic and even political agendas. It has also provided respective nations with emergency services, and duty bound to protect corporate economic interests, social ceremonies, and national honor beyond warfare. A good example for this is Ethiopia's defense as their move to ensure peace and security within its territory, in Africa and beyond has been an exemplary one.

The role Ethiopia has been playing regarding ensuring peace and stability in East Africa, entire continent and beyond is untold, indeed! Besides, the cooperation of such prestigious to be further consolidated and the states need to move in unison with a view to coming up with stable and respected nations in particular and well esteemed Africa in general. The secret behind commencing African nations' military cooperation is this one. Military/defense cooperation is thus an essential component of military diplomacy and helps build close ties with other nations. Such cooperation also helps strengthen strategic security relationships and address common security concerns. It is quite important to maintain positive feelings via developing teamwork and shared decision making, openness, trust and safety, well being among others to have confident military muscle and unwavering national sovereignty.

Sure, military cooperation is a joint function that integrates the understanding of various factors. The obvious motivation in states engaging in military alliances is to protect themselves against threats from other countries. As it has been doing so far, Ethiopia will continue to ensure peace and stability in the Horn and beyond. The duty of fulfilling continental commitments and engaging military expertise are keys to ensure peaceful, prosperous and resilient Africa lies on African countries predominantly on Ethiopia as it has been a pioneer and influential nation in the Horn of Africa. Undeniably, Africa does not exist in isolation, so it is highly critical to deepen regional and continental engagements to smash the existing bounded threats out and ensure the common security and economic issues across the continent. Besides, Ethiopia is willing to, and capable of, buttressing the coordination and firm commitment to ensure Horn Peace and even beyond. Thus, Africa badly needs to unite in peace and get stronger in security to come up with a stable, prosperous and suitable continent. It is really high time to reinvigorate continental security via promoting military cooperation across the continent, too. African defense ministers, military attachés, senior military officers, higher government officials, among others are expected to continue discussing how the continent would make a difference in ensuring peace and security thereby making Africa's future bright and utterly devoid of chaos, turmoil and instability, which in turn contributes a lot to continental economic sovereignty.



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The Ethiopian Herald

Opinion

Republic Day of Kazakhstan: Historical legacy, achievements, and future prosperity

BY B. SADYKOV

On 25 October, Kazakhstan celebrates one of the key dates in its history – Republic Day. This is more than just a national holiday; it symbolises the nation's aspiration for independence, marking the moment when Kazakhstan embarked on its path to sovereignty, laying the foundation for the country's development as an independent and prosperous state. On this day in 1990, the Declaration of State Sovereignty was adopted, marking the beginning of Kazakhstan's emergence as independent nation.

On the international stage, Kazakhstan actively promotes the ideas of peace and security, resolving conflicts through negotiations. On 17 October 2024, speaking at the plenary session of the Astana Think Tank Forum, President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev emphasised that “the key elements of our foreign policy are independence, multilateralism, regional stability, and diplomacy. Therefore, we strongly support the role of the United Nations as the only universal organisation driving global cooperation and progress. We are convinced that the modern world and the world of the future must be universal, based above all on the principles set out in the UN Charter. We need to adhere to the UN Charter. No one has the right to violate it, as there are no alternatives. The UN Charter is the foundation of the modern international order,” noted the Head of State.

Our country voluntarily renounced its nuclear arsenal and continues to actively pursue a policy aimed at achieving a world free of nuclear weapons. Astana's initiative to establish an International Agency for Biological Safety is highly relevant and meets the interests of the international community in countering global security threats.

Kazakhstan provided the platform for the signing of the nuclear deal with Iran, the negotiations on Syria, and the recent meeting between Armenia and Azerbaijan, and is ready to continue working closely with interested parties to resolve conflicts.

Kazakhstan's initiative to hold the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions serves as a platform for interfaith dialogue. In 2025, the VIII Congress will take place, and Kazakhstan will continue to support the development of mutual understanding and cooperation between religious leaders from around the world.

In 2024, Kazakhstan is simultaneously chairing the CICA, the Organisation of Turkic States, the Consultative Meetings of Central Asian States, the Collective Security Treaty Organisation, the Islamic Organisation for Food Security, and the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea. In July 2024, Kazakhstan completed its chairmanship of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

Since gaining independence, Kazakhstan has become one of the leaders in Central Asia in terms of economic development. The attraction of \$441 billion in foreign direct investment since 1993 is a testament to the confidence of the global business community in Kazakhstan's economy. The country has managed to create favourable conditions for investors, establish foreign trade, and develop economic ties with leading global powers.

However, Kazakhstan's economic growth is not solely driven by foreign investment. In recent years, the country has been actively developing its domestic resources, embracing innovation, and focusing on sustainable development. The recently launched economic campaign “Born



(Photo Embassy of Kazakhstan)

President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev

“Born Bold” highlights Kazakhstan's ambition to become one of the leading centres of economic and innovative growth on the Eurasian continent.

Kazakhstan continues to implement internal reforms aimed at developing democratic institutions, strengthening human rights, and increasing transparency. One striking example of this democratic approach is the government's decision to hold a referendum on the construction of a nuclear power plant. This move reaffirms the country's commitment to taking into account the will of the people in making key national-level decisions.

Kazakhstan and Ethiopia are actively cooperating bilaterally and within international organisations, and Kazakhstan is keen to further deepen bilateral relations with Addis Ababa. As President Tokayev noted in his congratulatory letter to Ethiopian President Taye Atske-Selassie on his election to this important state post, “the friendship and mutually beneficial cooperation between Kazakhstan and Ethiopia, based on trust and mutual understanding, will continue to strengthen, and Kazakhstan is committed to close cooperation to elevate our partnership to a new level.”

We are pleased to note the steady progress in cooperation between our countries. Political consultations have already taken place between the foreign ministries at the level of deputy ministers, and a roadmap for expanding bilateral cooperation for 2024-2025 has been adopted. A meeting of parliamentary friendship groups from Kazakhstan and Ethiopia has been held. A delegation of Ethiopian businesspeople visited Kazakhstan to participate in the Astana International Forum, and in November 2024, Ethiopian businesspeople will take part in the Kazakhstan Global Investment Roundtable (KGIR-2024).

Kazakhstan will continue to strengthen its cooperation with Ethiopia as one of its friendly and reliable partners in Africa. Kazakhstan and Ethiopia worked closely together as non-permanent members of the UN Security Council in 2017-2018, and we are convinced that in modern conditions, it is middle powers that can contribute to strengthening peace and security on the planet by uniting efforts at international forums, including within the UN.

Kazakhstan, with its unique history and rich cultural heritage, continues to move forward, implementing its programme for building a Just Kazakhstan. Republic Day is not only a time to reflect on the path travelled but also an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to national unity and solidarity. We are full of optimism and believe in building a more just, inclusive, and prosperous society.

Editor's Note: The Author is Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Ethiopia

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

Business & Economy

Feasible step for bolstering livestock sector

BY MENGESHA AMARE

Being first and fifth in possessing livestock population in the African continent and globally respectively, Ethiopia has not yet benefited out of the resource so far. Cognizant of the fact that a number of factors have to be cited along this line, *The Ethiopian Herald* had a stay with Dawud Tafa, an agriculturalist graduated from Haramaya University, specialized in animal husbandry, to have ample information about the contribution of livestock resource and the factors affecting the sector not to be as productive as expected to help the nation register growth.

He said, "Livestock in Ethiopia has made a major, although largely underestimated, contribution to economic development in Ethiopia especially in the rural part of the country. The sector produces food, enhances crop production and provides people with additional economic goods and services as well as cash income. The inclusion of livestock diversifies provides year-round employment, and fosters farm investments."

However, he said, a range of factors like animal exporting, illegal cattle sale/cross-border transportation, contraband better to say, and low level of awareness about the significance of running activities through legal channel are seriously affecting the nation not to harvest gain out of the sector.

If such an illegal move is reined somewhere and the cattle have been transported through train, there is a good start of course, and the country would be in a position to well exploit the livestock resource as effectively as possible.

He said, "If well established regulatory bodies are set, the security in the country is given due emphasis and awareness raising activities are widely done, Ethiopia can gain advantage out of the livestock sector as it deserves."

As to him, livestock often form the major capital reserve of farming households and, in general, enhance the economic viability and sustainability of a farming system. Since the sector has played a significant role in the country's economy, accounting for 40% of the GDP and 80% of exports and employs 75% of the country's workforce, the livestock subsector needs to be well tied with livestock production, and even country's Ten-Year Strategic Development Plan appreciates it.

By the way, he opined, being the first for Ethiopia in the continent and fifth in the world is not an easy matter, instead it is a great opportunity to help the nation work more to make a remarkable difference regarding the sector. Additionally, the livestock sector is believed to provide a number of citizens with employment. It also provides food in the form of meat, milk, eggs, and honey, among others.

He further stated that, livestock also serves as an input for agro-processing industries and provides manure for crop cultivation and cooking fuel. However, despite having a significant livestock population, the productivity per animal in the country is relatively low compared to other East African countries.



Livestock wealth in Ethiopia has to be well taken care of

In Ethiopia, the agricultural sector is a cornerstone of the economic and social life of the people, it is obvious. The Livestock economic and social importance both at the household and national levels, is quite lucrative if managed and regulate properly and legally



"However, the sector faces various challenges, including the dominance of small-scale farmers practicing traditional methods, low-productive technology, low input and output production systems, and a lack of supportive development policies, strategies, and institutional arrangements and even the worst animal contraband. As these challenges have resulted in a decline in productivity, and production, and slow progress in the sector, the government and the farming community have to attach due emphasis to it," he added.

As to him, it is essential to leverage the country's vast livestock resources and improve livestock productivity to address the future crisis, too. In terms of production systems, there is limited knowledge of improved livestock husbandry practices, and the majority of farmers operate in subsistence and smallholder production systems. The sector is also affected by recurrent droughts, which lead to emaciation and death of livestock. Moreover, the livestock market faces challenges such as inadequate market infrastructure, lack of grades and standards, and limited access to timely and reliable market information.

Other constraints include, he said, breeding-

related problems, lack of finance and credit services, inappropriate institutional arrangements, poor extension services, and inadequate infrastructure for slaughterhouses and animal welfare. These challenges have to be well addressed to help the country gain benefit as it deserves.

Addressing these constraints and promoting sustainable livestock development is crucial to meet the growing demand for livestock products, optimize social, economic, and environmental benefits, and ensure the well-being of livestock farmers in the country, Dawud underscored.

The sector is of utmost importance to the community's livelihood. This shortage of experts, coupled with a lack of budget and working facilities, hampers the livestock sector's ability to fulfill its mandate effectively, as to him.

Some policies, such as the national poultry development, national animal breeding for genetic improvement, and national animal feed resources development, have to be put into effect, indeed!

Livestock, because of their linkages with the overall farming system, make valuable entry points for wider agricultural development programs. To exploit these opportunities, an integrated approach that combines both technical and institutional interventions is required, Dawud said.

As to him, in Ethiopia, the agricultural sector is a cornerstone of the economic and social life of the people, it is obvious. The Livestock economic and social importance both at the household and national levels, is quite lucrative if managed and regulate properly and legally. As Ethiopia has the largest livestock population in Africa, but minimal economic contribution, the country should work hard to well exploit the subsector.

True, a livestock sector serves as a strategic reserve that adds stability to the overall farming system. In this respect, a mix of species increases stability; for example, cattle represent a long-term investment whereas sheep, goats and poultry are primarily shorter-term investments and sources of petty cash, he opined.

Typically, livestock products also have a high elasticity of demand but a low elasticity of supply, particularly in land-based smallholder production, and major environmental issues have recently arisen over the provision of new water sources, however, particularly

perennial boreholes.

"A number of macroeconomic policies also have direct and indirect impacts on livestock production. Institutional structures have a bearing on a wide range of support services that affect livestock production, such as marketing boards, quality and hygiene standards, extension and research, and agricultural education," he added.

The breakdown of a livestock subsector into various production systems is justified given the differences that exist in available resources and applied technologies, as well as in primary products and their uses. Livestock production has grown faster than agricultural production in most developing countries like ours, and growth has come primarily from the expansion of livestock numbers rather than an increase in productivity, he opined.

As to Dawud, increased livestock production will depend ultimately on the adoption of appropriate technology, improved support services, market access and infrastructural development to stimulate increased productivity. However, there must be a framework of coherent policies and development strategies that facilitate such development and ensure that the full potential of livestock across the nation has to be well exploited. To this end, the country and its government are working hard via organizing conditions.

The majority of livestock are held in the small-holder sector, small but widespread increases in productivity could, overall, make a considerable impact he said adding that the problems are that in risk-adverse communities where animals are kept for many purposes the system of promoting livestock wealth must be reinvigorated. Though to change the unfavorable systems is not easy, the government along with development partners is expected to work more to make a difference.

Yes, he added, several measures need to be taken so as to address these challenges. It is crucial to recognize and appreciate the contribution of the livestock sector and acknowledge the existing productivity gap especially in relation to contraband and illegal cattle sale. Besides, efforts should be made to change the behavior, attitudes, and beliefs of livestock keepers to boost production and productivity. The strategies that enhance livestock extension services and improve access to input and output markets for producers should also be developed.

In the Sphere of Diplomacy

Countering regional threats via military cooperation

BY STAFF REPORTER

The Horn of Africa remains one of the most conflict-prone regions on the continent, with a myriad of security issues that are often interlinked. Al-Shabaab, an Islamist militant group based in Somalia, continues to pose a significant threat not only to Somalia but to neighboring countries, including Ethiopia, Kenya, and Djibouti. The group's attacks destabilize local governments, disrupt economic activity, and increase the need for coordinated regional counterterrorism efforts.

The region is a geopolitically strategic region due to its proximity to the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, key global shipping routes. This has attracted interest from global powers leading to competition over influence in the region. The presence of foreign military bases and the growing involvement of actors like China, the United States, and the Gulf states add complexity to the region's security dynamics.

This strategic location is also home to numerous ethnic groups with historic grievances, often exacerbated by political and economic marginalization. The conflicts in the region have resulted in large flows of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), which strain resources and create security vulnerabilities. Countries like Chad and Ethiopia host millions of refugees, many of whom flee violence and persecution.

In a significant step toward strengthening regional security and diplomatic relations, African defense ministers convened in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, for a high-level meeting aimed at addressing the pressing security challenges facing Ethiopia and the broader Horn of Africa. The meeting reflects the importance of regional cooperation in addressing threats such as terrorism, armed insurgencies, cross-border conflicts, and the increasing impact of climate change on security dynamics in the region.

Ethiopia, the second-most populous nation in Africa and a key regional power, has long played a critical role in maintaining peace and stability in the Horn of Africa. The country has been a major contributor to peacekeeping missions across the continent, particularly in conflict zones like Somalia and South Sudan. Its diplomatic influence, military strength, and strategic position make it a central player in regional security.

The recent meeting of African defense ministers in Ethiopia was organized by the African Union (AU) and aimed at fostering collaboration on the continent's security issues. Key items on the agenda included: The defense ministers discussed ways to improve the coordination and effectiveness of these missions, including resource allocation and training.

The ministers emphasized the need for more robust intelligence-sharing, joint military operations, and capacity-building to combat the threat of terrorism,

The African defense ministers' meeting in Ethiopia underscored the need for greater cooperation to tackle the complex and multifaceted security challenges facing the Horn of Africa

particularly from groups like Al-Shabaab. Enhancing cooperation with international partners was also highlighted as a priority.

The meeting called for increased diplomatic efforts and conflict resolution initiatives to address ongoing internal conflicts in countries like Ethiopia, Somalia, and South Sudan. Support for peace processes and post-conflict reconstruction was seen as vital to ensuring long-term stability.

Ensuring the security of borders, which are often porous and exploited by insurgent groups, was identified as crucial. The ministers discussed the need for joint patrols and better surveillance technologies to monitor and secure borders effectively.

The meeting acknowledged the growing link between climate change and security, with droughts, desertification, and resource scarcity increasingly driving conflict in the Horn of Africa. The ministers recognized the importance of addressing environmental challenges as part of broader security strategies.

Ethiopia has played an active diplomatic role in mediating peace talks and fostering cooperation among its neighbors. In 2018, Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) was instrumental in brokering peace with Eritrea, ending decades of hostility. Abiy's administration has also been involved in mediating conflicts in South Sudan and attempting to stabilize the situation in Somalia.

Ethiopia's peace diplomacy extends beyond traditional conflict resolution. The country has worked to enhance economic integration and infrastructure development with neighboring countries, such as Kenya and Djibouti, through

projects like the Lamu Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia-Transport (LAPSSET) Corridor, which aims to improve regional trade and connectivity.

The African defense ministers' meeting in Ethiopia underscored the need for greater cooperation to tackle the complex and multifaceted security challenges facing the Horn of Africa.

High ranking military officials, who attended the First African Defense Ministers Conference in Addis Ababa hailed Ethiopia for its commitment to support Africa, tackle its challenges by fostering peace and stability of the continent, ENA reported.

Ethiopia hosted the First African Defense Ministers Conference that attracted Defense Ministers; high ranking military officials are researchers from across the continent.

The participants of the conference visited the Information Network Security Administration (INSA), the Artificial Intelligence Institute, the Ethiopian Federal Police Commission, and the National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS).

Major General Henry Masiko, Chief Political Commissar, at Uganda Peoples' Defense Forces stated that Ethiopia is a country of which Africa is proud. Not only is it the seat of the African Union, but it is also one of the few countries that resisted colonialism.

We are delighted by the initiatives aimed at uniting Africa to tackle its challenges, especially in protecting the continent's sovereignty and fostering peace and stability.

He also impressed by Ethiopia's open-door

policy during this event, which facilitated the exchange of experiences in technology and defense capabilities.

Ethiopia is open to cooperation, he said, adding that Uganda already has very strategic linkages with Ethiopia.

"My impression of these security institutions is really very motivating. We were very impressed first with the capabilities of the Ethiopian Federal Police. Now here we are also sharing the growth of the national intelligence and security system. We are impressed with the open sharing of the growth and the reforms which are occurring, quite impressed and shows brotherly African relationship."

Major General Ndegeya Diomedee, Senior Advisor of the Burundian Ministry of Defense for his part, emphasized that Ethiopia's role in fostering strength and peace in Africa, particularly in the Horn of Africa is crucial.

Ndegeya, who is also former AMISOM and ATMIS Force Commander, said Ethiopia is more developed than other forces and must take the lead, noting that it is essential for Ethiopia to continue assisting countries in East Africa such as Sudan and Somalia, in their pursuit of peace.

"First of all may I congratulate Ethiopia for what they are doing. They are now very much advanced in the artificial intelligence which certainly may benefit other African nations. We as African, within African solidarity we are ready to get to you and ask you to help us, to go forward in advancing artificial intelligence. I was very impressed by what you are doing in medicine, in agriculture and in other domains."

Brigadier Paul Njema, Director of the Eastern Africa Standby Force (EASF), stated that Ethiopia has been playing a crucial role in ensuring peace and stability in the East Africa region, including Somalia.

He emphasized that Ethiopia continues to play a significant role, undertaking a mission that has involved substantial sacrifices to maintain peace and security in the region.

"Today understanding one of our member states has really advanced in the area of artificial intelligence, this is very important; we have noted some areas that can be shared, especially in telemedicine and agriculture, because we are agricultural region. This will allow a way to improving food security in the region."

Ethiopia's pivotal role in regional security, its ongoing diplomatic efforts, and its own internal challenges make it a central actor in shaping the future stability of the region. The meeting not only provided a platform for dialogue but also a critical step toward more coordinated and effective security policies across the continent. The outcomes of these discussions will likely play a significant role in the future of peace and security in the Horn of Africa.

Law & Politics

CFA debunks colonial conspiracies on utilization of the waters of the Nile

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

Despite immediate opposition from Egypt and Sudan Cooperative Framework Agreement enters into force a couple of days back. This is partially a result of Ethiopia's highly skilled diplomatic efforts to ensure that the waters of the Nile be used in an equitable manner redetecting the credo of African resources for Africans.

Ever since the establishment of the AU and its predecessor OAU the issue of utilizing the natural resources of the newly independent countries was always on the agenda of almost all meetings of the general assemblies of Heads OF States and Government of African countries. Economic cooperation and integration in the spirit of pan Africanism was repeatedly expressed in the resolutions of numerous meetings conducted both by former OAU and AU.

Colonial forces who were engaged in the pillage of Africa as their raw material sources used all kinds of malicious treaties not only to rob African countries of their own resources but were busy trying to perpetrate their neo-colonial rule by crafting all kinds of agreements that were in favor of their own economic interests. In countries where they face some level of opposition, they triggered internal conflicts only to appear as mediators at later stage.

Africa is rich in a variety of natural resources, which contribute significantly to the continent's economic growth. Africa's natural resources, among other things include minerals and metals particularly gold from South Africa, Ethiopia Ghana, Mali, and Tanzania are among the world's leading gold producers. Africa has rich diamond resources in Botswana, South Africa, Angola, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Zambia and the DRC have vast copper reserves, with mining being a major industry in both countries. South Africa has the largest reserves of platinum-group metals.

Colten and cobalt found mainly in the DRC, these minerals are essential for electronics and battery production. Africa has significant oil reserves, with countries like Nigeria, Angola, Algeria, and Libya being key oil exporters. Mozambique, Tanzania, Egypt, and Algeria have substantial natural gas reserves. Recent gas discoveries in East Africa, particularly Ethiopia have bolstered the region's energy prospects.

Africa is a major producer of cocoa (Ivory Coast, Ghana), coffee (Ethiopia, Uganda), tea (Kenya), and cotton (Egypt, Sudan, Burkina Faso). Central African nations like Gabon and the Congo Basin are known for their timber resources. Countries like Kenya, South Africa, and Morocco produce large amounts of fruits such as bananas, avocados, and citrus. Africa's vast forests, especially in the Congo Basin, are rich in biodiversity and timber resources. Coastal countries like Namibia, Senegal, and Morocco have significant fishing industries.

Africa has abundant resources of renewable energy. The continent receives abundant sunlight, making solar energy a significant untapped resource. Africa has enormous hydropower potential, particularly in Ethiopia, the DRC (Inga Dam), and Zambia. Countries like South Africa and Kenya have begun

Ethiopia's role in the Cooperative Framework Agreement is crucial for reshaping Nile water governance, promoting regional cooperation, and ensuring its own water security and development needs

developing wind energy projects. Africa holds around 60% of the world's uncultivated arable land, making it a potential agricultural powerhouse. Major rivers like the Nile, Congo, and Niger provide water for agriculture, hydropower, and transportation.

These resources position Africa as a key player in global markets, especially in minerals, energy, and agriculture. However, many countries face challenges in managing these resources sustainably and equitably.

Launching of CFA is the first major attempt in the history of Africa and more particularly Nile riparian countries to resolve in using their water resources from the Nile which was a prerogative of Sudan and Egypt for thousands of years. The Agreement effectively resolved the gross miscarriage of justice on Nile Riparian Countries who were prevented from using their own resources in their respective countries by colonial agreements of 1929 and 1959 entered between Britain and Egypt and later between Sudan and Egypt deliberately ignoring other riparian countries.

The preamble of the Agreement states that "A framework agreement governing their relations with regard to the Nile Basin River will promote integrated management, sustainable development, and harmonious utilization of the water resources of the basin as well as their conservation and protection for the benefit of the present and future generation"

Moreover, Article 1 of the Agreement clearly indicates the scope of application of the Agreement stating that "The present framework applies to the use, development and protection, conservation and management of the Nile River Basin and its resources and establishes an institutional mechanism for cooperation among Nile Basin States"

The Agreement incorporates general principles enumerated in the utilization of Transboundary Rivers as provided in a number of international conventions. These principles include cooperation, sustainable development, subsidiary planned development at lower level, equitable and reasonable utilization, prevention of causing significant harm, right to use the waters of the Nile within their territories, protection and conservation,

sharing information concerning planned measures, upholding community of common interest, exchange of data and information, environmental impact assessment, audit, peaceful resolution of disputes, water as socio-economic value and water security. Article 4 expounds on equitable and reasonable utilization of the waters of the Nile River.

In terms of organizational structure, the Agreement provided the establishment of four levels of structure which included Conference of Heads of States and Government, Council of Ministers, Technical Advisory Committee, Sectoral Advisory Committee and Secretariat. The headquarters of CFA will be located at Entebbe, Uganda.

Ethiopia plays a central role in the Cooperative Framework Agreement (CFA), particularly in relation to the Nile River Basin. Ethiopia can contribute a lot to the promotion and development of CFA in several ways.

Ethiopia has been a leading proponent of the CFA, advocating for a more equitable distribution of the Nile's water resources. This contrasts with historical agreements that heavily favored downstream countries like Egypt and Sudan. Ethiopia seeks to ensure that upstream nations, particularly those contributing to the Nile's flow, also benefit from its waters.

Construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) has been a major point of negotiation and contention within the CFA framework. The dam highlights Ethiopia's need for water for its own development, particularly for electricity generation, without significantly affecting downstream countries. Ethiopia views the CFA as a legal basis to negotiate water usage with other Nile Basin countries on more equal terms.

By supporting the CFA, Ethiopia promotes regional integration and cooperation in the Nile Basin. The agreement encourages joint projects and sustainable development, fostering economic and diplomatic ties with other Nile Basin nations.

Ethiopia is an active participant in the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI), which is closely tied to the CFA. The NBI aims to provide a platform for dialogue, mutual trust, and cooperation among the 11 Nile Basin countries. Ethiopia's leadership in the NBI reinforces its commitment to a cooperative approach to managing Nile water resources.

The country seeks to balance its own water security needs while addressing the concerns of downstream countries like Egypt and Sudan. The CFA provides a framework for negotiating water-sharing arrangements that benefit all Nile Basin countries and mitigate potential conflicts over water resources.

In summary, Ethiopia's role in the Cooperative Framework Agreement is crucial for reshaping Nile water governance, promoting regional cooperation, and ensuring its own water security and development needs.

In terms of protecting and conserving the water resources of the Nile Basin, Ethiopia can identify and promote projects aligned with its green economy initiatives, such as afforestation (Green Legacy Initiative), renewable energy, and sustainable agriculture.

Ethiopia has shown leadership in climate

diplomacy, particularly in the African Union (AU) and international forums. By advocating for increased climate financing and technology transfer, Ethiopia can help ensure that funding and similar climate funds prioritize Africa, including Ethiopia, for investment.

To promote financing of Cooperative Framework Agreement (CFA) projects on the Nile River, Ethiopia can take several strategic approaches:

Ethiopia can engage institutions such as the World Bank, African Development Bank (AfDB), and other multilateral development banks to secure funding. These institutions are often keen to support transboundary water management and regional development projects, especially in water-scarce regions like the Nile Basin. Ethiopia can highlight the socio-economic and environmental benefits of equitable Nile water use to attract funding for CFA-based initiatives.

Through CFA, Ethiopia can work with other Nile Basin countries to form a unified front when seeking regional or international financial support. A cooperative approach can attract greater financial backing, especially when projects are framed as benefiting multiple countries, promoting sustainable development, and preventing water-related conflicts.

Ethiopia can encourage private sector involvement by establishing public-private partnerships for Nile water infrastructure projects. By offering incentives, tax breaks, or shared risk mechanisms, the Ethiopian government can attract private investments to build water management systems, irrigation projects, and hydropower plants, which align with the goals of the CFA.

Moreover, Ethiopia can tap into green climate funds and other global financing mechanisms aimed at supporting climate resilience. Projects focused on sustainable water management, clean energy (such as hydropower from the GERD), and environmental conservation can attract financing from climate funds like the Green Climate Fund (GCF) or the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

In addition, Ethiopia can seek direct development aid from countries that have strategic interests in African development, such as China, the European Union, and Gulf countries. By aligning the goals of the CFA with broader development objectives, Ethiopia can position these projects as key drivers of economic growth, poverty reduction, and regional stability, which may attract external aid and development assistance.

Exploring innovative financing mechanisms like issuing infrastructure bonds specifically targeted for water-related projects within the CFA framework. These bonds can attract local, regional, and international investors who are interested in supporting sustainable infrastructure in developing economies.

By positioning water infrastructure projects as key to enhancing regional trade and economic integration, Ethiopia can attract investment from regional organizations like the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) or the African Union. Such projects can be aligned with regional economic development plans that facilitate trade, energy sharing, and agricultural productivity.

Society



The human centered values, prospects of the corridor project

BY WONDWOSSEN HAILE

What constructive values does the ongoing Addis Ababa corridor development project entail for the society? What besetting challenges of the city are expected to be addressed? What prospects does the project hold for its residents? These are some of the prime questions this article desires to entertain as much as possible. The article also makes every possible effort to cover the essential components that should be considered for the better bright future of the capital.

In historical terms, Addis Ababa is said to have made progressive social and economic changes through ages owing to myriads of reasons that could be attributed to it. The city came through steady transformation in its development of various facets through all the systems since its inception 130 years ago. The political capital and the diplomatic hub of Africa is undergoing numerous aspiring changes in the recent days than ever before. Especially, the current corridor development project which is underway with the government taking robust leadership for its successful completion is expected to come up with the audacity of hope for social and economic prosperity.

The corridor project is mainly aimed at improving the well-being of the people. It is a project with the far-reaching vision of approaching the social challenges besetting in the society. The continual stance of population booming urges for a better way of insight to handle. The drastic increase in population alongside with the poor housing conditions came to intensify innumerable challenges in the city. Consequently, the government came up with the steadfast policy to



address the housing challenges in the city by formulating various strategies in alignment with the affordability. Improving the uneven housing conditions of the city is one of the city administration's objectives to address.

Further to addressing the housing challenges of the city, preparing sufficient playing grounds for children and recreational space for the elderly are some of the strategies the urban planning project foresee to deal with. The project in its second phase is relentlessly responding to the demands of the youth and the elderly. It tirelessly responds to the society's demand for pastime areas for better psychological and cognitive wellbeing.

The strive for clean environment is the other picture the project is envisioning to achieve. The access for well-organized disposal of waste and sewerage facilities is the other the project strides to realize.

The corridor development project in the capital is comprising of expanding opportunities for people in the business sector. It caters conducive and accessible areas for merchandizers providing commodities. It gives more attention to the business involving

in the hospitality sector. Such a monumental project in the country will have the prospect to meet the ever-growing demands on tourism and hospitality industry. The expansion of the project will bring further economic opportunities scaling up the living standard of the society.

The capital-intensive urban development project is being underway with the grand plan of effective land utilization. The project will give the chance to control the plot of land which has been dispersedly available in parts of the city. The residential areas which are not build in accordance with the city plan will be considered to be restructured in line with the city plan.

The corridor project is thought to tackle needs and aspirations of the residents of Addis Ababa. It mainly focuses on the wellbeing of its residents' expanding opportunities for their future progress. The African term for referring to human centeredness is Ubuntu. Hence, the project is the ubuntu-looking at the humanity in mind. The human-centered corridor project of Addis Ababa is not imposed by anyone else but it is a home-grown indigenous need for the better future. It is a project that emanates from

the society to satisfy their short- and long-term needs and aspirations of the past present and future for the process towards development.

The project is primarily aimed at meeting the tangible and intangible needs of human aspirations. The tangible needs of the society such as the better housing, transport and utilities are given prime attention. It also endeavors to satisfy the intangible needs and aspirations of the society such as the essence of equal opportunity and inclusiveness.

Addis Ababa is a hub for different international organizations. It is a headquarter for the African Union and a place for the world Bank and United Nation's institutions and so much more. Hence, the headquarter for different international institutions should align itself with the technological advancement of the 21th century. The infrastructure mainly the roads should be in parallel with the demands of the global institutions. The corridor project will do all its best to make the facilities convenient for tourists coming into the country. The expansion of the corridor project will give the opportunity for the city to attract foreign investment.

In Conclusion, the corridor project will come up with various opportunities for the improvement of the city. The city which had been stagnant for a number of years is up for readjustment for the better provision of facilities for its residents alongside with the diasporas and all the nationals making their way to the city. This grand development project will open up immense extent of tourism and market opportunity for city realizing its insatiable hope for advancement.

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International News

On climate finance to developing nations | Explained

The story so far: The 29th Conference of the Parties (COP29) of the UNFCCC to be held in Baku, Azerbaijan, from November 11 to 22 is expected to be a “finance COP” as key climate finance issues feature at the top of its agenda.

Are developing countries more at risk?

Economically developing countries are among the most vulnerable to climate change’s effects. This is because of geographical factors and, because their economies rely more on sectors like agriculture, which are particularly sensitive to climate change. With limited financial and specialised human resources, these countries also have more limited capacities to adapt to a changing climate and/or recover from the resulting damage.

Despite being among the most vulnerable, developing countries have contributed relatively little to the cumulative emissions that cause climate change. According to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, developed countries account for 57% of cumulative global emissions since 1850 despite hosting smaller populations than the developing world. Developing countries also face competing developmental needs, vexing their ability to take climate action by themselves. The 2009 Copenhagen Accord had developed countries commit to providing \$100 billion a year in climate finance to developing countries

by 2020, later also made applicable through 2025. A new mobilisation target for the post-2025 period is on the agenda at COP29.

What is climate finance?

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) defines climate finance as “local, national, or transnational financing — drawn from public, private, and alternative sources — that seeks to support mitigation and adaptation actions addressing climate change.” This specifies two aspects of climate finance: sources (public or private, and flowing either domestically or across borders) and end-uses (climate mitigation or adaptation). The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) publishes reports on climate finance flows from developed to developing countries. They cover flows from four sources, including international public finance and the private finance mobilised by it. International public climate finance is composed of commercial and concessional loans, grants, equity and other instruments. Loans typically constitute the largest share (69.4% in 2022), followed by grants (28%). However, developing countries and observers such as Oxfam have noted several shortcomings with the OECD’s reports. They have argued they should represent actual disbursements and not simply commitments to provide

climate finance; that a flow should be new and additional and not simply a reclassification of existing aid; and that only grants, or grant-equivalents of concessional finance, should be counted, not finance provided on a commercial basis.

Who needs climate finance?

Developing countries require external financing for climate action. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), 675 million people in the developing world didn’t have access to electric power in 2021. Developing countries need to universalise access and increase electricity consumption.

Developing countries also have smaller domestic financial systems relative to their GDPs and face higher costs of capital. For instance, the cost of capital for solar photovoltaic and storage technologies is about twice as high in developing economies than in developed ones, according to the IEA. Therefore, if developing countries are to balance development and climate action, external finance should be made available.

How much does India need?

India has both short-term and long-term climate targets. By 2030, India aims to install 500 GW of generating capacity from non-fossil-fuel sources; five million metric tonnes per annum of green hydrogen (GH2) production capacity; and differentiated levels

of penetration for various Electric Vehicle (EV) categories. The authors have estimated (as part of a co-authored report) that achieving 450 GW of renewable energy by 2030 will require an additional ₹16.8 lakh crore investment. Per the National Green Hydrogen Mission, India’s GH2 target will need ₹8 lakh crore. Consumers will also need to spend around ₹16 lakh crore to purchase EVs to achieve the aforementioned vision. A long-term perspective reveals a greater requirement: ₹850 lakh crore in investments between 2020 and 2070 to achieve net-zero emissions.

What should the NCQG quantum be?

Determining a new annual climate finance mobilisation target — called the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) — is a top priority. The NCQG should include flows that are (i) actual disbursements, not just commitments; (ii) new and additional (iii) public capital in the form of direct grants; and (iv) private capital that is mobilised by public capital. However, organically flowing private finance to developing countries should not be counted. An independent high-level expert group constituted by the presidencies of COP26 and COP27 has already determined that developing countries (excluding China) will require around \$1 trillion in external finance by 2030.

Source: *The Hindu.com*

Chinese investors boost Ethiopia’s economic development with over US\$8.5 billion in investment

Chinese investors have significantly contributed to Ethiopia’s economic growth, injecting over US\$8.5 billion into the country and creating thousands of jobs, according to the Ethiopian Investment Commission (EIC).

The EIC reports that 3,309 Chinese-led projects have played a key role in supporting Ethiopia’s socio-economic development goals, enhancing both its infrastructure and industry sectors, reports Xinhua News Agency, a partner of TV BRICS.

These projects have created more than 325,400 permanent and temporary jobs for Ethiopians in recent years, greatly benefiting the local workforce.

Ethiopia also recorded a 14 per cent increase in foreign direct investment during the 2023/2024 fiscal year, securing US\$3.9 billion. The EIC credits this growth to increased Chinese involvement, as the nation continues to attract foreign capital for its economic expansion.

Source: *BRICS Tv*

Morocco Considering Real Estate Wealth Tax to Fund Universal Social Protection

Property taxes remain an untapped resource for funding universal social protection in Morocco, a report reveals.

Doha - Morocco is considering implementing a tax on real estate wealth to help finance its ambitious universal social protection program, according to a report titled “Property Taxes: Missed Opportunities for Funding Universal Social Protection in Lebanon, Morocco, and Jordan?” published this week by the Arab Reform Initiative.

The report, authored by Abdelhak Kamal, delves into the fiscal challenges and potential solutions for sustainably funding the expansion of social security in the North African nation.

Morocco’s social protection reform aims to provide universal coverage, including extending Compulsory Health Insurance (AMO) to 22 million beneficiaries, expanding family allowances to 7 million school-age children, and including 5 million self-employed and informal workers in pension schemes by 2025.

The reform is taking place in a context characterized by the exacerbation of inequalities and poverty, with the number of those “vulnerable to poverty” and/or “poor” people increasing from 17.1% in 2019 to 19.87% of the population in 2020, according to the World Bank.

The total cost of this non-contributory solidarity

funding is estimated at MAD 50 billion (\$5 billion) annually.

The report highlights that while Morocco’s tax revenues have increased from 19.4% of GDP in 2015 to 21.1% in 2022, the current financing structure heavily relies on state budgets (54%) and earmarked taxes (24%), raising questions about long-term sustainability and fairness.

The author suggests that a more equitable approach would involve higher taxation on capital, such as introducing a real estate wealth tax inspired by France’s “impôt sur la fortune immobilière” (tax on real estate wealth).

As the report notes, “The prevailing tax structure may favor capital income. The tax base is relatively narrow, with middle-class citizens often contributing the most.”

Kamal estimates that a progressive IFI targeting the top 5% of properties by value, with rates ranging from 0.5% to 1.5%, could generate approximately MAD 8.37 billion per year.

This would represent 26% of the 2021 budget for the solidarity portion of the reform and 14-17% of the total annual funding needs.

The tax would focus on high-value properties worth over MAD 10 million, affecting an estimated 36,000 out of 8 million properties in Morocco.

The report argues that an IFI would promote a more balanced tax base, reduce reliance on labor income, and incentivize productive investments.

It states, “The establishment of a real estate wealth tax in Morocco, similar to that in France, represents a more optimal compromise than the aforementioned proposals. It could be considered to diversify sources of tax revenue and improve tax fairness.”

However, the author acknowledges the need for further studies to refine revenue estimates and develop a robust legal and administrative framework.

As Morocco grapples with the challenges of financing its universal social protection program, the real estate wealth tax emerges as a potential tool for promoting fiscal sustainability and social justice.

The Arab Reform Initiative’s report offers valuable insights into the ongoing debate on how to best fund this ambitious reform while ensuring a fair distribution of the tax burden.

The author concludes, “To guarantee the success of this initiative, it is vital to conduct a comprehensive study to refine revenue estimates, develop a robust legal and administrative framework, and raise public awareness of the advantages of this tax.”

Source: *Morocco World News*

Planet Earth

Synchronizing Green Legacy Initiative, biodiversity, ecotourism and DRM

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

Ethiopia's Green Legacy Initiative is closely tied to the country's efforts to protect and enhance its rich biodiversity resources and capacity in disaster risk management. The initiative, launched in 2019 by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, aims to address the environmental challenges the country faces, such as deforestation, land degradation, and the loss of biodiversity as well as the resultant effects of drought and challenges in disaster risk management. How can these three strategies reciprocate each other and what are the possible positive results thereof? The author of this article intends to analyze the relationship between the four in the Ethiopian context.

The Green Legacy Initiative focuses on planting billions of trees across Ethiopia, contributing to the restoration of degraded ecosystems. By rehabilitating forests and planting indigenous tree species, the initiative helps restore natural habitats for a variety of species, promoting biodiversity while helping to fight off drought and flood disasters in the country and reduce the risks they pose on populations affected.

Deforestation and soil erosion are significant threats to Ethiopia's biodiversity. The massive tree-planting campaign not only prevents soil erosion but also restores ecosystems, improving conditions for flora and fauna that rely on these habitats. Recent reports indicate that an estimated 1.5 billion tons of topsoil is washed away every year in Ethiopia, and this significantly affects the income and food security of smallholder farmers.

A critical aspect of the initiative is the focus on planting indigenous tree species, which are better suited to local ecosystems. These native species provide essential resources such as food, shelter, and breeding grounds for wildlife, ensuring the protection of Ethiopia's unique biodiversity thus rolling back a huge level climate change induced drought and other natural disasters in the country.

By planting trees, the initiative helps improve water retention in the soil and increases precipitation in some areas. Forests play a crucial role in the water cycle, and by conserving water sources, the initiative indirectly supports aquatic ecosystems and species dependent on freshwater resources. It promotes food forests as well.

Ethiopia is home to an estimated 6,000 species of higher plants of which 10% are endemic. The country has 284 species of wild mammals and 861 species of birds. Data on other wild animals are scanty; and the number of reptile, fish, amphibian and arthropod species identified so far are 201, 200, 63 and 1,225, respectively. Of these faunal resources, 29 wild mammal, 18 bird, 10 reptile, 40 fish, 25 amphibian and seven arthropod species are endemic to Ethiopia, such as the Ethiopian wolf (*Canis simensis*). Ethiopia also has a wide diversity of microbial biodiversity, which is hardly explored.

The nation is home to various endemic and endangered species. As forests and ecosystems recover, these species have a better chance of survival. The initiative contributes to expanding their habitats and ensuring a healthier environment for wildlife to thrive and a possible threat that they can face due to drought. This indicates that both green legacy

imitative and protection of biodiversity promote disaster risk management.

The initiative also helps Ethiopia combat climate change, which poses a threat to biodiversity worldwide. By sequestering carbon through large-scale tree planting, the initiative enhances the resilience of ecosystems, making them less vulnerable to climate impacts.

Ethiopia's Afromontane forests are known for their high levels of biodiversity. The Green Legacy helps restore these forests, benefiting species like the Ethiopian wolf and the Gelada baboon, both of which are endemic to the country. As trees are planted, they provide shelter and food for birds, insects, and mammals, contributing to the overall health of ecosystems and as spots for tourist attraction.

By aligning its tree-planting efforts with the protection of local ecosystems and species, Ethiopia is making significant strides in biodiversity conservation through the Green Legacy Initiative. The long-term ecological benefits include healthier environments for humans, wildlife, and ecosystems alike.

Ethiopia has a very diverse set of ecosystems ranging from humid forests and extensive wetlands to deserts. The country is biologically rich, with more than 6500 vascular plant species of which 12% are endemic mainly due to geographical isolation and unique climatic conditions. The country has 284 species of wild mammals and 861 species of birds. Though data on other wild animals are scanty, the number of reptiles, fish, amphibian and arthropod species identified so far are 201, 200, 63 and 1,225, respectively. Of these faunal resources, 29 wild mammal, 18 bird, 10 reptile, 40 fish, 25 amphibian and seven arthropod species are endemic to Ethiopia.

Ethiopia is not only the origin of human species but also a cradle for cultivated crops such as coffee, teff, enset, and a center of diversity for many crop species such as durum wheat, barley and sorghum. Research indicate that the country has rich resource of indigenous farm animals, which are comprised of 28 cattle, 9 sheep, 8 goat, 7 camel, 6 donkey, 8 horse, 2 mule and 7 chicken breeds. Despite the rich biodiversity in the country, threats to biodiversity and endemism are among the critical environmental issues in the country.

The country has been working towards integrated implementation of National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan with a vision that Ethiopia's biodiversity and ecosystems are conserved and sustainably utilized by all sectors providing food security and contributing to poverty eradication and improved quality of life of the Ethiopian people.

Ethiopia has set a number of institutional and policy frameworks that govern the conservation, sustainable use and access and sharing of benefits arising from the use of the country's biodiversity and related community knowledge.

Ethiopia is one of the top 25 biodiversity-rich countries in the world, and hosts two of the world's 34 biodiversity hotspots, namely: the Eastern Afromontane and the Horn of Africa hotspots. It is also among the countries in the Horn of Africa regarded as major center



of diversity and endemism for several plant species. The Ethiopian flora is estimated at 6,000 species of higher plants of which 10% are considered to be endemic.

A major challenge in Ethiopia is that most protected areas do not have legal status. The Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority created in 2008 only manages 13 National Parks, wildlife reserves and sanctuaries. The rests are under the regional authorities, rural communities and the private sector and are inadequately protected, particularly wetland and freshwater ecosystems. There is a need to increase the coverage of protected areas, with due attention to their ecosystem representation as well as effectiveness in terms of management.

The main direct threats to Ethiopia's biodiversity include: habitat loss and degradation due to expansion of agriculture and settlements and encroachment of invasive species; unsustainable utilization of biodiversity from overgrazing, overharvesting, and unregulated hunting; proliferation of invasive species; and pollution. Indirect causes of biodiversity loss in the country are demographic change, poverty, and lack of awareness and coordination. Long-term, climate change represents challenges, particularly by shifting growing seasons.

The expansion of green legacy initiative and conservation and development of bio-diversity institute of the country is instrumental in markedly reducing disaster risk in the country caused by natural calamities like landslides and other natural calamities that were observed in Ethiopia during the rainy season.

In addition to the green legacy initiative that is globally acclaimed, Ethiopia has developed ecotourism projects and resorts across the country.

Ethiopia's ecotourism parks are part of the country's broader efforts to promote sustainable tourism while conserving its rich natural and cultural heritage. With diverse ecosystems, unique wildlife, and stunning landscapes, Ethiopia has significant potential to develop ecotourism and attract environmentally conscious travelers.

Semien Mountain National Park: UNESCO World Heritage Site, this park is one of Ethiopia's premier ecotourism destinations. It is home to endangered species like the Walia Ibex, Ethiopian wolf, and Gelada baboon. Ecotourism in the Simien Mountains focuses on nature conservation guided trekking,

and supporting local communities through tourism revenue.

Bale Mountain National Park: Located in the Oromia Region, the Bale Mountains are renowned for their biodiversity, including several endemic species. Ecotourism activities such as hiking, bird-watching, and wildlife observation are promoted, while initiatives aim to involve local communities in conservation efforts and provide economic benefits.

Lake Tana: Ethiopia's largest lake, is an ecotourism hub due to its rich biodiversity and cultural heritage, including the historic island monasteries. The biosphere reserve promotes sustainable tourism practices, protecting the lake's ecosystem while benefiting local communities.

Ecotourism in the Omo Valley revolves around the rich cultural heritage of the indigenous tribes living in the area. Visitors are encouraged to engage in respectful cultural exchanges, and the revenue generated from ecotourism helps improve the livelihoods of the local people while preserving their traditions.

The lakes of the Ethiopian Rift Valley, such as Lake Langano, Lake Hawassa, and Lake Abaya, are being developed for ecotourism. These lakes offer opportunities for bird-watching, fishing, and nature walks, contributing to both environmental conservation and community-based tourism.

Recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Konso Cultural Landscape combines cultural heritage and environmental sustainability. The area is known for its terraced agriculture and unique stone structures, and ecotourism helps support the preservation of both the environment and the indigenous culture.

The linkage between NGLI, biodiversity and tourism reflects the core of Ethiopia's Climate Change Resilient Green Economy Policy and Strategy which sets an example for the rest of Africa.

Moreover, the corridor development projects that are being conducted in the major cities of the country including Addis Ababa will not only promote healthy life for the urban population but will also effectively supplement to the entire green economy development in the country, the future of Ethiopia certainly depends on biodiversity resources, green legacy projects and tourism as well as mitigating the effects of climate change through disaster risk management programs.