



The Ethiopian Herald

Vol. LXXXI No 046 2 November 2024 - Tikimt 23, 2017

Saturday

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Keiredin Tezera (PhD)

Photo: Dagne Abera

Quest for Africa's rightful place in UNSC

- *Experts weigh on issues to consider to fully exercise power*

BY FIKADU BELAY

As the call for Africa's permanent representation in United Nations Security Council (UNSC) grows experts argue the

continent needs to take a bevy of measures to unlock its full potentials and assert its leverage in the world's highest security body.

Almost 80 years on, Africa has been

unrepresented and largely remained a missing entity in the UNSC even when its internal political and security matters are discussed and

See *Quest for Africa's ... Page 3*

Nation to showcase resilience at global interfaith forum

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA – Ethiopia is set to highlight the strength of its religious and social resilience

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Photo: Hadush Abriha

Ethiopia reclaims Emperor Tewodros II's armor after 156 years

- *Symbolizing nat'l unity, heritage*

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Ethiopia experiences promising agricultural dev't: Minister

- *Nation secures over 700 mln USD agri'l export earnings*
- *To harvest 300 mln quintals of wheat*

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA – Agricultural development works are gaining momentum stimulated by the 796 million USD export earnings achieved in the first quarter of this fiscal year, the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) said.

Briefing journalists yesterday on the first quarter performance of the ministry, Agriculture Minister Girma Amentie (PhD) said that his organization is putting efforts to improve agricultural productivity since the sector generated a 796 million USD export earnings in the first quarter of the 2024/25 fiscal year.



Girma Amentie (PhD)

See *Ethiopia experiences ... Page 3*

News

University conducting studies to revitalize endangered languages

BY MEKDES TAYE

ARBA MINCH – Several researches are being carried out to invigorating the purging of some languages and myriads of cultures in southern Ethiopia, Arba Minch University announced.

In an exclusive interview with *The Ethiopian Herald*, University's Institutes of Culture and Language Research Director, Seid Mohammed (PhD) said that a research team has been organized to conduct a study to revive languages, like Ongota, that have only five speakers.

According to Seid, the university is working in close collaboration with different institutes and stockholders and they have run activities in full swing.

"The extinction of a given language signifies the disappearance of the unique cultures and indigenous knowledge conveyed in using it. That is why the university has relentlessly



Photo: Hadush Abreha

Seid Mohammed (PhD)

taken the issue very seriously and acted accordingly. The institute is also conducting a research on Erborie peoples' language called Horr. Quegu languages, which do also have only few speakers, are also being researched," Seid added.

According to the Director, the university is

doing researches on languages that had very limited number of speakers or appears at the verge of distinction.

In due process of reviving these languages, the work of incorporating them in the curriculum of education has to come to the forefront, he suggested.

He further elucidated that apart from conducting researches on the aforesaid languages, revitalization of the cultures reflected by them need to receive due attention. As to him, as a research university, his institute has done a multitude of researches up on languages and cultures through a range of institutions under its supervision so as to get the nation benefited.

Seid exhorted his idea saying in order to augment cultural preservation of the nation, researches like the above listed ones have to be well strengthened as language is the key to knock the door of the peoples' culture and knowledge.



Ashenafi Mulugeta

Association pioneers professional growth, economic impact

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA – The Addis Ababa Hotel and Tourism Professional Association is driving lasting improvements in the metropolis' hotel and tourism industry, enhancing the city's economy and raising professionalism standards, the president said.

Association President Ashenafi Mulugeta told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the association aims to foster an environment conducive to growth, promote ethical practices, and elevate Addis Ababa's reputation as a world-class tourist destination. "We are committed to building a vibrant and sustainable hotel and tourism sector that not only fuels economic growth but also highlights our rich cultural heritage and delivers memorable experiences for visitors," he said.

Mulugeta emphasized that hotels in Addis should meet high standards to match the city's rapid development. To achieve this, the association offers ongoing training for hotel professionals, conducts site visits, and collaborates with hotel owners citywide. "By enhancing professionalism and competitiveness among our members, we aim to position Addis Ababa as a premier destination for both business and leisure travelers," he added.

Since its recent establishment with over 500 members, the association has consistently pushed for excellence, innovation, and sustainable growth within the industry. Mulugeta also noted that the association actively provides recommendations to the government and engages with hotel owners to address sector challenges. "Hotel services need further development to increase revenue and meet international expectations," he remarked.

In addition to professional advice and quality training, the association carries out research, works closely with the government, and offers scholarships abroad to broaden industry knowledge. The association collaborates with the Addis Ababa Art, Culture, and Tourism Bureau on initiatives like setting uniform standards for waitstaff, ensuring a polished and consistent appearance across the city's hospitality sector.

Thanks to the government's efforts, the number of star-rated hotels and lodges in Addis Ababa and other major cities has significantly increased, with progress in Ethiopia's hotel industry among the best in Africa.

Bureau emphasizes role of tourism to resolve conflicts

BY FIKADU BELAY

ADDIS ABABA – Apart from securing economic benefits, utilizing the indispensable role of tourism requires to foster mutual understanding among citizens, particularly in light of ongoing conflicts, Addis Ababa Culture, Arts, and Tourism Bureau suggested.

Bureau Head Hirut Kassaw (PhD) stated that the tourism sector serves as a bridge in enabling communities unknown each other to connect and embrace diversity. "Tourism not only represents our identity but also enhances communication among different communities, fostering tolerance and understanding," she said.

It's particularly relevant as the city is celebrating Tourism Week, which is designed to preserve historical sites and cultural heritage while promoting peace and solidarity among the public.

Key landmarks such as the Addis Ababa Museum, Adwa Victory Memorial, and Unity and Friendship Park are transforming the city into not just a tourist destination but a sanctuary for reflection hubs of tourists.

She highlighted the significance of these sites, urging for their renovation and the incorporation of modern technological tools to bolster tourism development.

On his part, Moges Balcha, the head of the Addis Ababa branch of the Prosperity Party stated that the ongoing infrastructural advancements in Addis, including the development of transport corridors, are expected to elevate the city's status on the international stage and enhance its appeal for conference



tourism.

However, he cautioned that infrastructure alone is insufficient for tourism growth. "While infrastructure plays a crucial role in beautifying the city and mitigating climate impacts, it must be complemented by high-quality hotels and efficient transport services," he stressed.

This year's theme, "Tourism for Peace: Peace for Tourism," underscores the bureau's commitment to leveraging tourism as a means to cultivate harmony and stability.

Deputy Head of Bureau stated the upcoming events during Tourism Week will showcase the rich cultural tapestry of Addis Ababa and its potential as a peaceful gathering place for both locals and international visitors. Through these initiatives, the bureau aims to highlight the interconnectedness of tourism and peace, advocating for a future where both can thrive together.

Besides, the Bureau is dedicated to harnessing the power of tourism to build bridges among communities, promote cultural heritage, and enhance the city's attractiveness as a peaceful destination.

News

Ethiopia reclaims Emperor Tewodros II's armor after 156 years

• *Symbolizing nat'l unity, heritage*

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA – After 156 years, Ethiopia has successfully reclaimed Emperor Tewodros II's armor, looted during the 1868 Magdala War with British troops.

In a press briefing yesterday, Ethiopian Heritage Authority Director-General, Abebaw Ayalew, announced the historic return, achieved after a year-long negotiation with the Anderson & Garland auction house in Newcastle.

The Ethiopian Heritage Authority, alongside the Ethiopian National Heritage Restitution Committee in North America and the Ethiopian Embassy in the UK, played key roles in securing the armor's return. "This armor holds immense significance for all Ethiopians, symbolizing the

sacrifices of our ancestors and embodying liberty, unity, and sovereignty," Abebaw emphasized.

To further protect Ethiopia's cultural heritage, Abebaw highlighted that the authority is working on a national inventory to reclaim other items looted over the years.

Social anthropologist Alula Pankhurst (PhD), a member of the Ethiopian Heritage Trustee Board, noted that the return of cultural artifacts marks a meaningful step for the country, as numerous Ethiopian heritage items remain abroad. He credited the return to the concerted efforts of individuals and organizations, including Prince Ermiyas Sahle-Selassie, the Ethiopian Heritage Authority, the Ethiopian Patriotic Association,

and media outlets like *The Guardian* and *The Telegraph*, which helped apply crucial pressure.

The auction was initially set to continue despite objections, but in a decisive turn, Prince Ermiyas Sahle-Selassie purchased the armor, which was later displayed at the Toledo Museum of Art in the United States before returning to Ethiopia. The prince has now gifted the armor back to the Ethiopian people.

Alula pointed out that numerous Ethiopian artifacts remain in 27 museums in the UK and nine other countries, urging the Ethiopian government and stakeholders to take concerted action to reclaim these invaluable heritage items.

The Ethiopian Patriots Association President Lej Daniel Jote Mesfin praised the armor's return

as an inspiration for the current generation, symbolizing past sacrifices made to protect the nation. He expressed gratitude for the return, reminding the younger generation to resist modern forms of colonialism and focus on building a stronger Ethiopia for future generations.

The 1868 Magdala War, also known as the Second Abyssinian War, was a military conflict between the British Empire and the Ethiopian Empire, primarily involving the forces of Emperor Tewodros II. After Tewodros's death, British troops looted Magdala, seizing numerous artifacts and cultural treasures, including the emperor's armor and church relics, as war trophies.

Quest for Africa's rightful ...

decisions passed.

The absence of the populous and biggest continent from the international bloc made the path to peace and conflict resolution elusive. The resolutions that the UNSC passes and the directions it sets mostly go unheeded and unyielding due to the continent's exclusion in the process.

Since recently, the exclusion of the continent of 1.5 billion people from the security bloc raises serious concerns about the fairness and efficacy of the global governing system. This concern gained traction and intensity lately with African countries like Ethiopia setting the tone and spearheading the efforts.

Many see the persistent challenges such as security threats, famine, drought, and terrorism as product of systemic inequities faced by the continent of 55 nations. The absence of a permanent seat in the UNSC has become a focal point for many advocating for reform of international system.

While the question of representation takes roots, experts have been signaling the need to elevate Africa's positions in different spheres for the continent to exercise its deserved places to the fullest.

However, achieving this goal according to experts will require more than diplomatic efforts; it necessitates a concerted push to harness technological advancements and improve governance structures within African nations.

Moreover, some experts argue that instead of focusing solely on securing permanent seats at the UN, African nations should pursue the right to vote powers. This strategy could provide a more effective means of influencing decisions that impact the continent, ensuring that African voices are heard and considered in global governance.

In August 2024, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres reignited this long-standing issue,

asserting the necessity for African representation in the UNSC. He argued that the Council's current membership does not reflect global dynamics and that Africa's exclusion is increasingly untenable.

The lack of African voices in critical discussions hampers effective solutions to the continent's unique problems.

With a population growing alarmingly, many experts contend that Africa's absence not only undermines the continent's interests but also hampers global efforts toward peace and security.

Experts agree that securing a permanent seat for Africa in the UNSC could significantly enhance the continent's ability to address its unique challenges.

Guterres has reiterated that these issues require resolute actions and renewed cooperation. He expressed hope for reforms that would see Africa represented in the UNSC, stating, "Let this be corrected soon."

The call for a permanent seat is about reshaping the narrative surrounding Africa's role in the global arena. By participating in the UNSC, African nations could articulate their needs, set agendas, and amplify their voices. This shift would transform perceptions of Africa from a continent in crisis to one of potential and leadership.

The implications of such a shift are profound. With a permanent seat, Africa could better advocate for pressing issues like climate change, economic inequality, and conflict resolution all of which disproportionately affect its nations. The continent's unique perspective is essential for crafting solutions that are not only effective but also equitable and just.

Worku Yakob (PhD), General Director of African Change for Interaction and Think Tank, emphasized that securing a permanent seat requires significant groundwork and collaboration at the country level.

He noted that many African countries have

drifted away from a culture of collective development and mutual agreement, fostering conflict and eroding trust. This lack of unity undermines confidence in any single country chosen to represent the continent. Often, the elected country finds itself constrained by Western influences, which can impede its ability to advocate effectively for African interests.

Worku suggested that rather than pursuing individual representation at the UN, Africa should present a united front through the African Union. The approach could enhance collective bargaining power and ensure that Africa's interests are more effectively represented.

Tesfaye Abate (PhD) is a law professor and legal advisor at the Ethiopian Civil Service University. He asserted that such representation would empower Africa to tackle its challenges more effectively. "The continent's contributions to global peacekeeping and conflict resolution are often overlooked, leaving Africa vulnerable to decisions made without its input."

The absence of a permanent UNSC seat has detrimental effects on Africa's developmental aspirations. Developing countries striving for growth and stability find their progress stifled by a lack of voice in critical international discussions. A permanent seat would enable African nations to vote on issues affecting their futures, fostering an environment conducive to sustainable development.

The flight toward securing a permanent seat for Africa in the UNSC is fraught with challenges, yet it is a goal that can and must be achieved. Africa's voice should not only be heard but also influential in shaping the future of global governance.

The time has come for the United Nations to acknowledge Africa's rightful place on the global stage, reflecting its demographic and geopolitical significance while enhancing the effectiveness of the Council in promoting peace and security worldwide.

Nation to showcase ...

through a vibrant showcase of interfaith unity, the Ministry of Peace (MoP) announced.

This groundbreaking inter-religious forum, the first of its kind, will gather 300 prominent religious leaders and participants from 13 countries across Europe, Asia, and Africa. The event, taking place from November 4-5, 2024, at the Haile Grand Hotel in Addis Ababa, will spotlight the role of global religious institutions in promoting peace and nation-building.

At a media briefing, Peace Building and National Reconciliation State Minister Keiredin Tezera (PhD) emphasized that the ministry has been working closely with various religious institutions to foster peace and unity, instilling a patriotic spirit and commitment to a shared future among Ethiopians. He noted Ethiopia's unique legacy as a "living museum" for ancient religions, particularly Christianity and Islam, as well as its preservation of historical monuments that stand as symbols of international heritage.

The forum will welcome an array of religious leaders, councils, and influential figures from the Russian Orthodox Church, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Lebanon, the United States, and multiple African nations, including Kenya, Burundi, Rwanda, South Sudan, and South Africa. According to Keiredin, "Ethiopian religious institutions, built on strong foundations, have long served as a buffer against challenges, promoting resilience and stability."

Religious leaders and scholars from the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, the Ethiopian Islamic Affairs Supreme Council, the Ethiopian Evangelical Church, the Catholic Church, and the Adventist Church will join security officials and scholars from 15 universities dedicated to social and religious cohesion, making it a robust platform for interfaith dialogue. The forum will feature addresses from religious leaders and an exhibition celebrating the historic cooperation between Christianity and Islam in Ethiopia.

As part of the event, representatives from the UAE, Kenya, and South Africa will share their experiences in religious collaboration, nation-building, and managing religious diversity. Participants will also visit Ethiopia's significant religious sites, mega projects, and parks, showcasing the country's ongoing growth and development efforts, Keiredin added.

Ethiopia experiences promising ...

Accordingly, the ministry is striving to boost production through purchasing some 24 million quintals of fertilizers, in which, the first cargo would arrive Djibouti port within a week, he said, adding that his organization is also working on replacing the existing fertilizers with most suitable varieties.

Likewise, the ministry is exerting efforts to distribute two million improved seed varieties to farmers, while offering training to agricultural extension workers regarding capacity building activities, according to Girma.

Furthermore, it has been facilitating cluster and

mechanized farming among others, to boost productivity. As a result, the commercialization of farming reached five million hectares of land, though it requires purchasing additional agricultural machinery and equipment, he added.

The country has managed to harvest some 83 million quintals of crop covering some 3.4 million hectares of land during the last spring season, he recalled.

The government is working to harvest 1.4 billion quintals of crop product by cultivating 30 million hectares of land in this fiscal year. The agriculture

sector is expected to register 6.1% growth. To achieve this goal, necessary preparations are underway, the Minister underscored.

The irrigation farming preparation is underway combining crops with horticulture. The plan is to harvest 173 million quintals of wheat through covering 4.2 hectares of land with irrigated wheat. So far, over 850,000 hectares of land have been prepared for this purpose, of which, 505,113 hectares of land is covered with irrigated wheat. The ministry foresees harvesting 300 million quintals of wheat, Girma expressed.

Opinion

Unwavering stance of Ethiopian defense force for world peace

BY ABEBE WOLDEGIORGIS

The Ethiopian National Defense Forces (ENDF) commemorated the 117th National Defense Day on October 25, 2024 in Addis Ababa with various events that demonstrate the occasion, FBC reported.

The event was attended by the FDRE President, Taye Atske-Selassie, the Chief of Staff of the National Defense Forces, Field Marshal Berhanu Jula, Minister of Defense, Aisha Mohamed, ENDF senior officials, members of the defense forces, elders, veterans, former members of the armed forces, members of the Federal Police, families of the armed forces, and invited guests.

The event marked the 117th anniversary of the establishment of the modern Ethiopian army and to honor the sacrifices of security forces for the nation's sovereignty.

Though its foundation dates back 117 years, the army was modernized under the regency of Teferi Mekonnen. The army that defeated the Italian invaders at the battle of Adwa in 1896 was totally traditional. The then army was led by regional kings and lords while the commander in chief was emperor Minelik II.

Forty years later, when the army marched to Maichew to defend the country from fascists in a similar way, it was somehow organized under ministerial governance. However, most of the soldiers were bare footed and with no uniform and modern communication equipment.

In 1935, the first military training center was established by the support of the Sweden government at Holeta town 40 kilo meters west of the capital. Right after the graduation of the first contemporarily trained army, the fascists entered to the capital in 1936 as they invaded the country for the second time. Sooner, the army members joined the patriots by establishing the black lion liberation army.

After the defeat of fascists in 1941, emperor Hailasilasie I came back from exile and reorganized the army in a better way. This time, various army divisions were established and the air force was also reinvigorated. Modern uniforms, shoes and ranking levels had been introduced similar to the western armies and for the first time, salaried soldiers began to be recruited.

The army obtained logistics and weaponry support first from the British and later from the United States governments. Later, occupational divisions were deployed in various parts of the country including various parts of the country's provinces of that time such as Ogaden, Gonder, Bale and Sidamo to keep the nation's security from foreign intruders came from neighboring countries.

Army officers also were sent to USA and Britain for training and education programs.

That time, the country was free of conflict and taking this as a good opportunity, the army members took various trainings consecutively and equipped with modern weapons. Infantry, motorized, mechanized, artillery and tanks' brigades were established.

The first place that the Ethiopian army dispatched to foreign territories was Korean peninsula for peace keeping mission in 1953. That time, because of the ideological difference, Koreans were subdued in civil war. The Socialist in the north backed by the former Soviet Union waged war against the government in Seoul. The United Nations, to halt the conflict between the socialists and non socialists, dispatched peace keeping troops in the Korean Peninsula from 16 countries that included Ethiopia.

According to historians, the Ethiopian troops drawn from three successive battalions from the 1st Division, Imperial Bodyguard between June 1951 and April 1954 participated in 253 battle fields; 122 men were killed in action and 536 men were wounded in action but no one was reported as captive.

The Greek war correspondent Kimon Skordiles covered the first armed clash of the Cold War – the Korean War of 1950-1953. He wrote about a group of Ethiopian soldiers he previously knew nothing about. As to him, they were volunteers recruited from Ethiopia's elite Imperial Bodyguard known as the Kagnev Battalion. They were part of the 1.94 million troops from 16 nations who participated in the Korean War and 21 nations under the United Nations' (UN) flag who pledged support by sending combat and medical troops, and provided South Korea postwar reconstruction aid.

According to the *Story of Ethiopian Fighters in Korea*, the Ethiopians won their battles against North Korean forces in the vicinity of Ch'orwon, Kumhwa, and Mundungni. None of the 6,037 Ethiopians went missing or became prisoner of war.

The Ethiopian army for the second time was dispatched to Congo Democratic Republic after civil war broke out following the overthrow of the then Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba. Ethiopia contributed troops for the United Nations operation in the Congo from July 1960 to 1962. By 20 July 1960, 3,500 troops for ONUC had arrived in the Congo. Ethiopian Emperor Haileselassie raised some 3,000 Imperial Bodyguard personnel- about 10% of the Ethiopian army's entire number at that time- and made it part of the UN peacekeeping force in the Congo, along with an air force squadron. The volunteer battalion from the Imperial Bodyguard was commanded by the Emperor.

Both in the Korean and in DRC missions the Ethiopian army enhanced its pride and testified its brave combating skill to the world and the United Nations recognized its achievements.

In 1974 when the Ethiopian revolution broke out in the earlier time, the central role was played by civilians in a disorganized manner. Later, the army which was well organized and armed involved in the revolution under the leadership of Derg; arrested the imperial regime's Ministers and officials and ultimately it had been instrumental to dethrone the old imperial regime led by emperor Hailasilasie I.

As a dictator regime, Derg dragged the nation in to protracted civil war and after 17 years of harsh rule, it was overthrown by the EPRDF regime. In the Derg era, no combatant troops were dispatched outside Ethiopia. The army spent its time and energy in the civil war in the northern part of Ethiopia which lasted for thirty years.

Two years later after TPLF led EPRDF assumed power in 1993, the Ethiopian army was dispatched to Rwanda under the United Nation Peace Keeping Mission following the genocide took place in that country to stabilize and bring peace there. The Rwandan genocide, also known as the genocide against the Tutsi, occurred from 7 April to 19 July 1994 during the Rwandan Civil War. Over a span of around 100 days, some 800,000 of the Tutsi ethnic group, as well as some moderate Hutu and Twa, were systematically killed by Hutu militias.

The arrival of Ethiopian army saved the nation from further atrocities. The army stayed there for years and after peace was restored, trial was conducted and put the culprits in to accountable for their crime. The army accomplished its mission and left Rwanda. The mission accomplishment again raises the Ethiopian army pride and reputation. It also boosted the country's vitality in ensuring peace and security in the continent.

The United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) was established by the Security Council's resolution 1509 (2003) of 19 September 2003 to support the implementation of the ceasefire agreement and the peace process; protect United Nations staff, facilities and civilians; support humanitarian and human rights activities and the Ethiopian Army was one of the peace keeping force.

In the late 2003, conflict was occurred among political rivals in Liberia and civilian casualties were mounting and the Ethiopian government engaged in the peace keeping mission there. With the coordination with other countries, the armed forces stayed there for five years and left after fulfilling its mission by stabilizing the country.

In the early 2003, when civil war broke out in Sudan Darfur, civilians became victims of the conflict. Under the UN peace keeping mission, the Ethiopian army was dispatched there and still stationed there and continued its peace keeping mission and pay sacrifice for the wellbeing of the Sudan's people. Ethiopia is the largest contributor to the UN peace keeping mission with over 8300 uniformed personnel, the vast majority of

them served in Darfur, Abiye and South Sudan.

In January 2011, southern Sudan voted for independence through a referendum. After few years, boarder conflict broke out between the two countries in the place known as Abiye. Under the UN auspicious, the Ethiopian army deployed there for peace keeping mission and still now it continued its mission there.

Ethiopia is located in the Horn of Africa, flanked by the Red Sea and Indian Ocean and the region is one of the politically volatile. After the down fall of the Somalia's Siad Barre regime in 1991, Somalia had been the breeding ground for terrorist organizations. Ethiopia shares more than 1500 kilo meter border with Somalia and this left it vulnerable to the incursion of terrorists across its borders. In 1990s the terrorist group known as Al-Itihad Al-Islamiya in various occasion made cross border clash with Ethiopia but it was repeatedly bitten by the Ethiopian defense forces.

As it is known, the down fall of the Siad Bare regime created power vacuum in Somalia and the country had been under the rule of warlords from various clans with continuous civil war. Taking this anarchical situation as good opportunity, the most notorious terrorist organization known as Alshabaab was established in 2007 backed by the Middle East terrorist organizations and announced that it had an objective to annex territories where Somali speaking population inhabited in the Horn of Africa including Ethiopia. To response to the Alshabaab's threat, the Ethiopian army took preemptive measure and deployed inside Somalia.

Currently, the Ethiopian army actively engaged in AMISOM mission. The African Union Mission in Somalia is an active, regional peacekeeping mission operated by the African Union with the approval of the United Nations. It was created by the African Union's Peace and Security Council on 19th January, 2007 with an initial six month mandate.

AMISOM replaced and subsumed the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Peace Support Mission to Somalia or IGASOM, which was a proposed Inter-Governmental Authority on Development protection and training mission in Somalia approved by the African Union in September 2006. IGASOM was also approved by the United Nations Security Council.

In sum, the Ethiopian army engagement in peace keeping missions in various parts of the world indicates how Ethiopia is committed for the prevailing of peace and active participant in the UN peace keeping mission.

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

Editorial

Bounties of the reform are tangible and visible

“If everyone who wants to see with open eyes looks, the bounties of the national reform are vividly seen,” Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) said while responding to questions raised by members of parliament last Thursday.

Indeed, indicating the government’s efforts in collaboration with the people, the private sector, and other stakeholders, remarkable successes have been registered during the past reform years. The reform period has served to address the nation’s political, economic, and social issues. Now is the time to commence revival in all spheres. In fact, concerted effort and commitment are needed from all actors in the country in this regard.

The successes of recent years showcase that the country has great potential for change. An ambitious plan has been made to achieve 8.4% growth this year, which would be the largest increase over the past year. There is no doubt that this ambitious plan will come true and may even lead to further progress, as evidenced by activities in many sectors over the past three months.

Agriculture has been greatly stimulated in recent years, and it is expected to bring 6.1% growth this year. Combining crops, cotton, and horticulture results in a high probability of harvesting 1.4 billion quintals by plowing thirty million hectares of land in both winter and summer.

The Yelemat Tirufat initiative, among the sub-sectors of agriculture, is promising. It is planned to produce 12 billion liters of milk, 218 thousand tons of chicken meat, 8 billion eggs, and 297 thousand tons of honey this year. Additionally, 2.28 thousand tons of fish production is anticipated. This sub-sector is expected to achieve a total growth of 5.4%.

Last year, the country secured 1.4 billion USD from coffee exports. About two billion dollars is expected this year. Being a highland country, Ethiopia has great opportunities in tea production. By increasing the number of factories and continuing plantation efforts, it will join the ranks of prominent tea-producing countries.

The industrial sector is also expected to yield tangible results. The main reason for this is the Ethiopia Tamirt movement, which started in the last two or three years. As a result, a growth rate of 12.8% is expected from this sector.

The service sector is projected to grow by 7.1% this year. If we look at services in key areas, for example, Ethiopian Airlines has ordered 124 new planes. Studies have been completed to build an airport capable of handling 100 to 130 million passengers.

Ethiopia has invested a significant amount of finance, knowledge, and labor in tourist attraction projects. Now, many visitors are encouraged to spend more time here to visit the eye-catching sites. The sector needs continuous effort to expand, particularly from the private sector and regional states.

For a country’s economy to grow meaningfully, inflow of foreign direct investment is essential. In the last three months, this sector has increased by 6.4%. There is hardly any country as favorable for investment as Ethiopia. Since land in Ethiopia is public and government property, investors can make convincing investments by paying a small lease. No other African country can offer this since land is privately owned.

Stabilizing inflation, providing housing for poor people, and creating job opportunities for citizens locally and abroad—including remote jobs such as coding and data analysis—are among the achievements.

Amazingly, the government has built 249,000 new houses at the national level in the last few years and freely transferred them to those in need. To combat inflation and assist those who do not have enough income, it has subsidized 300 to 400 billion Birr. This demonstrates the great responsibility of the government toward its citizens.

All these tangible deeds, including efforts to enhance peace in the country and maintain smooth diplomatic relations with countries across the globe, showcase the government’s commitment to transforming the nation. Although these are significant accomplishments, more is expected from everyone to ensure the nation’s prosperity.



The Ethiopian Herald

Established in 1943

Published daily except Mondays
By The Ethiopian Press Agency

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The Ethiopian Herald

Opinion

Who is the real culprit for the resurgence of terrorists in East Africa?

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

In the most appalling unethical diplomatic move, recently the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Government of Somalia released a hoax presser in which it blamed Ethiopia for the resurgence of Al-Shabab in Somalia with no reasonable sense of the truth. The whole world knows and has witnessed the sacrifices that Ethiopia has paid in good faith and with serious commitment on the reestablishment of the Republic of Somalia through a combination of diplomatic support, capacity building, and full peace keeping mission for 17 years under AMISOM and ATMIS.

At the pretext of the Agreement Ethiopia inked with Somaliland based on her legal right for for access to port under lease 50 for years, Somalia unleashed a destabilization program in the Horn of Africa by forming an alliance of containment on the country in cooperation with Egypt and Eritrea. Despite the open fact that Ethiopian defense forces have paid in blood and flesh, Somalia is officially requesting the withdrawal of Ethiopian peace keeping forces and their replacement by Egyptian troops which were nowhere in Somalia for the last two decades. While Somalia has allowed the regrouping of the terrorist forces in the country including ISIS, There is no ground in which the leadership of the country could engage in blame shifting. Who is Al-Shabab and how was it formed?

Al-Shabab is an offshoot of the Islamic Courts which declared Jihad on Ethiopia and which was ousted from power in 2011. Both IC and Al-Shabab have been operating in Somalia for the last 16 years with the objective of forming Islamic Greater Somalia by incorporating parts of the Ogaden area of Ethiopia, North Frontier District of Kenya and Djibouti picking up the old wish of the defunct government of the late President Ziad Bare of Somalia. It is interesting to note that the same propaganda is being trumpeted by the President of Somalia against Ethiopia and Kenya today.

Over the last several Years, Al-Shabab continued to launch attacks on Kenya and AMISOM forces in peace keeping mission in Somalia. A couple of years back Al-Shabab started to operate in Somalia in full cooperation with Al-Qaida and has been conducting sporadic operations against the Somalia Federal Government.

The Ethiopian, Security and Joint Intelligence Force over the years reported that it has swatted a terrorist action plan

that was organized to conduct terror attacks in Addis Ababa. The task forced disclosed that 31 members of Al-Shabab and ISIS were successfully rounded up before they were able to conduct the terrorist attack in the city.

On the evening of July 21, 2022, a contingent of terrorist Al-Shabab militants launched a planned attack on the Ethio-Somali border in Afder Zone of Ethiopia Somali Region. The group reportedly launched an attack on the Somali Special Police force stationed in three villages in Bokol area in the villages of Washaaqom, Aatoo and Yeed.

According to a press release from Somali State Communication Bureau, as the result of the defensive action taken by the Somali State Special Force to repulse the attack resulted in the death of more than 100 Al-Shabab fighters. The report indicated that Al-Shabab’s forces were encircled at Hul Hul district and all the militants in the area were completely destroyed. The regional Special Forces destroyed 13 vehicles used by the terrorist organization and logistics supplies from the terrorists were also confiscated.

This was the first cross border attack ever to be conducted on Ethiopian territory by Al-Shabab. Why did Al-Shabab dared to conduct this attack? Although the organization has not disclosed any information except for scanty information of its attack 100 kms. Into Ethiopian border, there are several speculations and estimates that are made by politicians familiar with the attacks of the terrorist group. Some say it is retaliation for the death of a military leader killed by Somali Special Forces while others speculated that it was due to the confiscation of a huge depot of arms the organization had stowed away in deep holes in the region.

A more profound reason for the attack was also formulated by some analysts shows that Al-Shabab launched the attack in a bid to establish terrorist cells in Ethiopia and to use these cells as jump seats to launch further attacks in mainland Ethiopia. Ethiopian peace keeping forces are in Somalia with a double mission of ascertaining stability in Somalia and also to keep at bay the terrorist organization from intruding into the territorial integrity of Ethiopia.

By attacking restive villages in the Somali region, Al-Shabab has tried to test its strategy of further stretching into the areas to be covered by the ENDF and thereby weaken the defense forces of the country in a vast expanse of the Ethiopia Somali Region.

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

Art & Culture

Gamo and Shona peoples' insinuation of cultural dowry, marriage

BY MEKDES TAYE (PhD)

Africa is characterized by heterosexual marriage and family-based interrelation in the world. As many of its issues are coined by the Indigenous knowledge and culture of the region, the notion and manner of marriage vary among also the outcome of culture and socialization. Ethiopia, a homeland of more than 85 nations and nationalities, has admirable and unique cultural performances across these ethnic groups. The cultural perception and the magnitude of marriage celebrations vary among people. Dowry or gift is almost the common practice undertaken in the continent. For this article the meaning and implication of it in Ethiopia and a certain African countries is presented below; from which Gamo and Shona people are taken as samples respectively.

In Gamo zone which is located in the southern part of the country, marriage could be made most of the time with the consent of the families of the couples. It is the man who selects his mate. In the process of picking up his mate, Kawo Tadesse told to *The Ethiopian Herald*, that the basic criteria are the following. The first thing is the girl should be from another clan or tribe because similar clans are considered as relatives and blood-tied ones. The second thing is the physical appearance and beauty of the girl. The trait and merit of the girl is also relevant in the process of arranging marriage in the eyes of the man.

After the girl is chosen by the man, he could disclose the issue to his family. Then elders could be designated and sent to the house of the girl. Then a dowry that can unanimously satisfy the family and relatives of the woman is served by the family of the man.

As Dr. Addisu Adamu, CEO of Gamo TV, said the family of the man is going to send lots of gifts. But these all gifts are supposed to be used for consumption purpose. The woman's family is not allowed to use gifts that could include butter, money, or any other items as sources of any form of wealth. If they use it, it is going to be considered as an exchange of the woman with the mentioned materials, which is a type of sin or *Gomie* in the community culture. This culture is the direct opposite of the culture of Shona. The dowry in Shona is simply used as a tool to take the woman in exchange for the material. But Gamo people give the dowry to the woman's family to let them enjoy and make fun of it for the time. If it is used as a source of wealth, it could be considered a means of exchange. Thus, to prevent that perception, the elders dictate the people to use it for the said purpose if they don't do that it becomes a sin or *Gomie*.

After the marriage is conducted the family of the man will send a gift to the family of the



Photo: Hadush Abreha

woman if she is a virgin. Since she is honest and decent, she will be called perfect or Mulu. As Addisu explained to show respect and appreciation since it is her family that shapes her to be decent a gift is served to convey this meaning. The implication of this gift in the eyes of the community is highly needed by any family. The woman's family is going to receive the admiration, gratitude, and respect of the community. Since the community is administered by cultural laws and regulations, families that receive such adorations will be considered in the process of appointing any form of leader.

In Zimbabwe marriage which had been done since the pre-colonial period in Shona people is made culturally. The man's family sends a dowry called *roora* to the woman's family for a marriage proposal. But the implication of the dowry in the eyes of the people is quite different from that of the Gamo people. Beach noted that *roora* was paid to compensate the woman's clan for the loss of productive labor which also served as enough reason to exclude women from direct control of the means of production" (1980, p. 342). This means that women were used as objects of exchange, an exchange that is perceived as implying equality. Once the family members of the woman receive this gift, they do not bother about the safety or situation of their daughter. It is up to the will of the man who gave that dowry to decide about the fate of woman. The gift entitle husbands legal control over wives and children and their labor.

Here the dowry itself is made at different timing and implications. In Gamo culture, the gift is served after the assurance of the

woman's virginity. And the implication of the gift is respecting her family. But in Shona people, the gift is served before marriage. The implication is to use the present as compensation for the loss of the power of the woman. The mean of this dowry is very huge. Moss and Lorraine also confirmed that "the *roora* legitimizes the husband's right to his wife's labor and to physical intimacy to her. He also gains legal authority over her reproductive organs. He had the right to possess all children born to her" (1999, p. 298).

In Gamo people, the married woman is taken into the house that is constructed by her father in law in the same compound. In this house, she is going to be cared for and fed well by her mother-in-law and sister-in-laws. She is not expected to handle any type of domestic chores or any other field work. She is simply kept secure till the day of her show up called *Sophie*. Her beauty and comfort is needed by the family of her husband since the community is going to judge this family as good, generous or the opposite just by detecting the appearance of the woman. Thus, the woman is not allowed to get out of her house before the program of *Sophie*.

But in Shona people, the woman is expected to take over the household chores. As scholars stated Shona women especially married ones were supposed to overcome household errands. This subordination was visible on a daily basis. Cooking food culturally is allotted for the woman. The life that she could have with her husband is up to her to continue leading it in whatever matter and situation she is in. No one is expected

to worry for her once the gift is served. But Gamo woman is kept restfully at least till the day of *Sophie*.

Though the women in the two nations are supposed to take care of the household work, the magnitude and severity of patriarchy in the people across the region is not the same. In Gamo culture, though women are supposed to work on the household chores, but the arrangement of the seats made for men and women is the same. As Ato Womdifraw, the communication officer of Gamo Zone told to *The Ethiopian Herald*, there is no varied sitting placement for the two sexes, but women most of the time prefer to sit away from men. But in Shona culture, as Beach (1994) stated, in the gathering of both men and women, the women are supposed to sit on the mats, and men sit on top of them on the mud ledge. It was necessary to arrange Shona's home in the style of mats on the ground and top of it, the raised mud ledge where males could sit on.

Thus, in the two communities, the meaning and implication given to marriage and dowry is different in line with the intensity and severity of patriarchy. Such indigenous cultures are very relevant to be examined and modified progressively to bring change in gender equality and shared societal harmony. I believe sustainable development and equal satisfaction are possible when every situation is equally addressed and accessed by females and males. Thus, Gamo culture which had a platform for modification is quite relevant for intruding on the issue through indigenous knowledge and culture.

Law & Politics

Unflinching stance, peaceful means



BY STAFF REPORTER

Ethiopia has played a significant role in promoting peace and stability in the Horn of Africa. Historically, the country has taken on the role of mediator in regional conflicts, supporting peacekeeping operations and diplomatic engagements through the African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). Suffice it to mention its support in mediating peace in Sudan, South Sudan and its engagement in Somalia, where it has supported anti-terrorism fight against insurgent groups like Al-Shabaab.

Sticking to the principles of neutral foreign policy and amicability, the country tried to resolve some disagreements with neighboring nations cool-headedly and diplomatically. Its efforts have been very much witnessed in its border disagreement with Sudan and now with Somalia over its agreement with Somaliland.

Contrary to what conflict brewers narratives who try to sow discords between countries, Ethiopia has supported peace processes in South Sudan and Somalia, and, as one of the largest contributors to UN peacekeeping missions, Ethiopia has consistently demonstrated a commitment to regional peace.

The government's commitment to dialogue and regional cooperation reflects its understanding that peace and development are mutually reinforcing. Despite ongoing challenges, Ethiopia's diplomatic efforts illustrate a broader goal of regional integration, with the belief that cooperation on issues like energy, trade, and water can promote long-term stability in both the Nile Basin and the Horn of Africa.

Ethiopia has supported stabilization efforts, focusing on security cooperation to counter threats from al-Shabaab and other groups that destabilize the region. Although relations are complex, Ethiopia has maintained an active diplomatic

presence in Somalia, seeking stability along its borders. However, competing interests, such as Egypt's influence in the Arab League and Somalia's complex internal dynamics, continue to pose challenges. Ethiopia's approach often relies on a balance of diplomacy and coalition-building with key regional players, aiming to promote mutual benefits and avert potential conflicts.

The effort to stir conflict in the Horn has intensified following Ethiopia's genuine quest for a sea outlet in the Red Sea.

Appearing before lawmakers yesterday, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed once again declared Ethiopia's unshakable position to secure access to the Red Sea peacefully and diplomatically. "Our stand towards having sea outlet in the Red Sea is unshakable," Abiy told the parliament while addressing regional and diplomacy affairs.

"The MoU is a mutually beneficial agreement, not an act of aggression," he emphasized, adding that Ethiopia's goal is peaceful cooperation, not conflict.

The Prime Minister mentioned Ethiopia's significant Somali community and stressed the importance of regional development over conflict. "The seashore from Massawa to Somalia spans over 5,000 kilometers, yet it is underutilized for regional development. Meanwhile, foreign powers profit greatly from these coastal areas," he said, underscoring Ethiopia's peaceful intentions.

He underscored the importance of access to the resource-rich Red Sea, noting its potential to yield mutual benefits for all involved nations, particularly for Ethiopia, home to a population of 120 million.

While some nations have supported Ethiopia's right to sea access, others have resisted. Abiy clarified that Ethiopia harbors no military ambitions. "We seek peaceful sea access and aim to foster sustainable peace with Somalia, Eritrea,

Kenya, and neighboring nations," he stated while warning that meddling in Ethiopia's internal affairs would not be tolerated.

The prime minister also described his country's desire for direct and peaceful access to the Red Sea as rooted not only in economic pragmatism but also in its historical ties to the coastline.

The Premier also vowed to pursue strong diplomacy to maintain peace and stability in the region. "Ethiopia will not shy and falter to express its clear interest in accessing the Red Sea. And, Ethiopia does not initiate any war and go to conflict with no country."

"There are accusations that Ethiopia is violating Somalia's sovereignty. Our demand is about fostering shared development. No country can plunder Ethiopia's resources forcefully. We are not mercenaries and we will not serve as agents of other entities, Abiy told the lawmakers. We have big and enough manpower bravery and all the means to repel any external forces."

True to the prime minister's words, Ethiopia has been unflattering in maintaining a peaceful path to resolve any disagreement and ensure stability in the region.

Ethiopia's diplomatic approach in the Horn of Africa has been centered on fostering cooperation, stability, and sustainable resource management among its neighbors.

The country's unwavering ambition to secure access to the Red Sea highlights its strategic aspirations and the need for regional cooperation in the Horn of Africa. Following the Memorandum of Understanding signed with Somaliland, Ethiopia has consistently advocated for a peaceful and cooperative approach to gaining Red Sea access, emphasizing that such an arrangement would be mutually beneficial to neighboring countries. This approach

aligns with Ethiopia's broader policy of regional integration and collective security.

Rather than forceful acquisition or confrontation, Ethiopia has advocated for multilateral discussions and frameworks that respect the sovereignty of all involved nations, recognizing that prosperity in the Horn of Africa hinges on collaboration rather than conflict. This stance reflects a mature perspective, prioritizing long-term stability over short-term geopolitical gains.

Ethiopia has consistently advocated for a peaceful and cooperative approach to gaining Red Sea access, emphasizing that such an arrangement would be mutually beneficial to neighboring countries, especially Djibouti, Eritrea, and Somalia. This approach aligns with Ethiopia's broader policy of regional integration and collective security.

Ethiopia's unwavering ambition to secure access to the Red Sea highlights its strategic aspirations and the need for regional cooperation in the Horn of Africa. Africa's fastest-growing population and economy, Ethiopia relies heavily on the port of Djibouti, which handles nearly 95% of its imports and exports. However, Ethiopia's desire for direct and peaceful access to the Red Sea is rooted not only in economic pragmatism but also in its historical ties to the coastline.

This peaceful pursuit of Red Sea access illustrates the country's dedication to development and regional harmony. By seeking a collaborative solution, Ethiopia not only reaffirms its sovereignty but also positions itself as a leader in advocating for sustainable and cooperative solutions in Africa. It is a vision that deserves the support and engagement of regional neighbors and global partners alike.

All in all, Ethiopia has been consistent in its principled diplomacy in cultivating solid partnerships with nations of the world.



We encourage governments to invest a little more in data and statistics

- Oliver Chinganya

BY ZEKARIAS WOLDEMARIAM

Today's Herald Guest is Oliver Chinganya, Chief statistician of the UN economic commission for Africa, but also the director of the Africa Center for statistics at ECA. The Ethiopia Herald has had a brief stay with Chinganya recently to discuss current situation of statistical development and related activities in the continent. Have a nice read!

So, how do you describe the current state of Statistics?

The current state of statistical continent, There is a mixed feeling, in the sense that, we are making progress in some areas, but we also not making progress in many areas. The countries that are really doing very well, but not so well, that there are no so well but also there are countries that are not doing very well at all. So as you know, we are in the era of looking at the SDGs 2030 and our countries are supposed to be providing information towards the SDGs and we see a lot of gaps in many areas that our countries are not able to meet the global agenda, which is on this, uh, sustainable developing goals including our own agenda, on the region, which is agenda, 2063.

And I'll give you an example, for instance, we are in the round what we call the 2020 round of population census. We have only 39 countries that have undertaken their senses and that round is coming to an end in the end of December. I don't expect the rest of the country will be able to through the census and some of those countries that have not been able to do their senses. There are 3 big countries; it means that, by the end of this round, if we don't do these census, in these countries 1 in 3, people will not be counted. In other words, one third of the population will not be counted on this continent and what it actually is you will not be able to report. So that is one big problem with our statistics and particularly one of the things also It's because with the issue is about technology. So now we are moving from traditional data collection to using modern methods, and the problem we're having now is that not all our countries, have the capacity to create the data using modern approaches. Why? Because in some cases energy is an issue. If you don't have energy, you cannot have technology. That's the bigger problem. The technology requires that you have electricity. You have

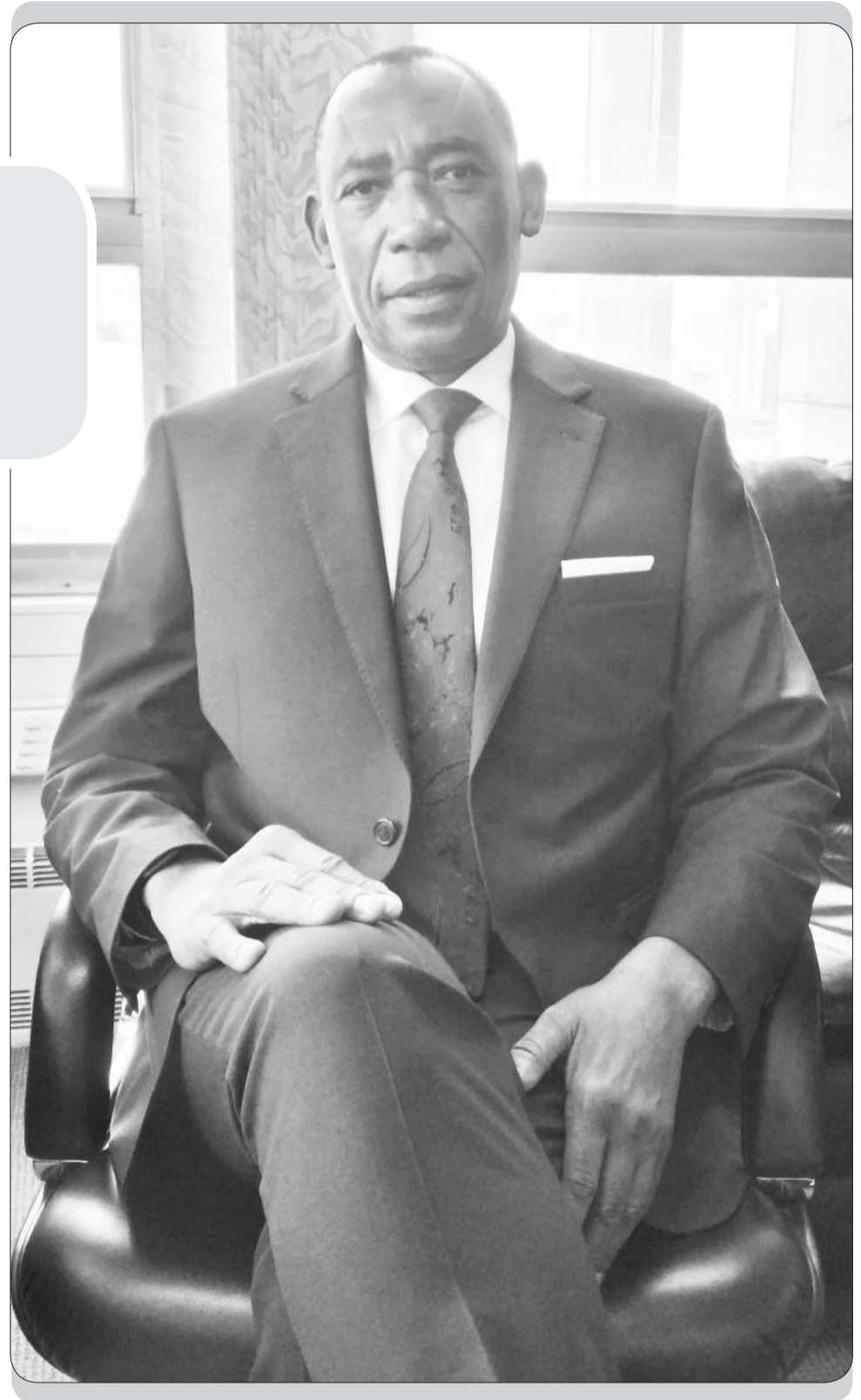
the energy that is required to be able to drive. So that's it's a mixed feeling. We are making progress but it's not good progress. And some countries are not investing enough in data. And so we're encouraging governments to put a little bit more in data and statistics. And the capacity that's required to do this.

How are African countries contributing data to the SDGS?

The contribution of Africa to the global agenda SDGs is, it's equally not in a very good state in the sense that Africa is lagging. We will not be able to achieve all this disease by 2030. That is the truth. We cannot lie from that is the truth will not be able to attain our digits to the global agenda. And I think what is now required is to see where countries have made progress in the agenda 20 30 is to see how they can be helped, at least in those areas to make full progress by 2030. So the contribution is it's there but it's not good enough for us to be able to achieve the SDGs. So the acceleration is required in areas where we are making progress in life.

So the countries that contributing mainly through the support that they receive from developing Partners including from ourselves at the Africa Center for Statistics at ECA. and by giving the technical assistance that they require in those areas and that um uh when they collect that data, then it begins to inform their own National development plans when they inform the national Development plans indirectly they also informing the SDGs so they're making that contribution, but we need to do a lot more and that uh, you know, the countries themselves should not rely on, developing partners for support because all countries including the head of State. They say, statistics is important but we don't see them putting money in where they are saying it is important.

So, part of that contribution requires that, these people put them a little bit more



money and to develop the statistics required when the investor comes, they are looking at the figures you have. It's like when you go to the bank, you want to get to a credit from the bank. They are going to look at your status whether you are capable of paying back and how long it's going to be things like that, it's the same thing to a country. The donors want to look at 'is this person able to pay back this money. So they look at your numbers. GDP. How good are you in the production sector? How good are you in these areas and so forth and so forth and they can see weaknesses, they will say this person will not be able to buy what happens. They'll probably increase the interest rate because they know you cannot pay. So they increase in interest rate goes over a long period of time. So it's necessary that we

produce figures which are credible and put them in public so that people can actually see uh what kind of people you have of your country.

Do African countries have consistent or compatible system of statistics?

To clarify, countries develop, or collect information using international accepted Concepts and standards. So they are able to harmonize. So, no country would have a, measure of statistic, which is different from the way another country measures, the measures are similar and the documents what we come metadata. If you talk about measuring of consumer, price index or inflation, they will give you how the

Continued to page 9

We encourage governments to invest ...

Continued from page 8

computed that. So you can compare with another country, how they compute that. So, all of them countries in Africa, they use international methods and this is our responsibility as the African Center For statistics to help these countries to make sure that they abide by internationally agreed principles. We have what we call the principles. The fundamental principles of official statistics which all countries have signed up to In Africa, we have the statist chart where all countries have sent to so no country would have their own statistics out of their mind. So whatever they produce is based on Manuals and guidelines that are produced internationally.

we have good systems, we have good system. The question is how to implement those by the ways. They all countries have good systems, what they call the national strategies for the development of Statistics in almost all the countries they have that strategy.

Could you tell me about the major actors or sources of statistical data and how they are contributing to the statistics?

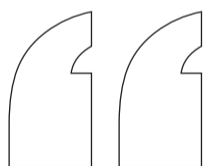
The major contributors, first of all in this African continent, there are 3 sister organization The African Union, the Africa Development Bank, and the ECA. So these 3 institutions, they work with what the regional economic communities, the Rex ,IGAD, ECOWAS they work with them very closely to produce the data. So these are the major for but of course, they work with countries. Yes, they don't produce the test, they have. So they need to the countries to be able to give them the data and we here at Africa Center for that we have created a query.

What we call a data, have the idea was to get the data that comes from the countries into the Hub. But we have challenges because some of the countries don't do their data on the on the website and it's difficult to get that data. Some of them they put, then we able to get from their website. So there are some data gaps in that area but we have this big institution that is supporting and the contribution of this to development in Africa.

What does it take Africa from now on to establish a well-functioning system of statistics?

I think what it takes for Africa now is to modernize and transform the national statistical system. If we can National statistics have to modernize because the global is moving with the technology. Now, people are talking about data being collected on a regular basis. Everyone has become a data collector and we are also providing data as we see here. We are collecting data, so everyone is doing that.

So, the Way Forward is to transform digitalize the statistical systems is the way forward so that we can be at time with other countries, we should not be going to



We know that because these are young statisticians coming from the national statistical offices, from the Civil Society, from the private sector, and but we know very well at the moment. Most of them come from the national schools, but if you include those come from Academia, the numbers far, far exceeds that and they are busy recruiting

households every day to collect the data. We can create data from the satellites, we can create data from the website. We can create a data from the newspapers we can collect data from administrative records without having to go that. So that is the way to go is to transform and modernize, but of course, like I said, they are on this requires, you know, building capacity around taking the technology to build capacity technology also need energy. Without energy technology cannot work. It cannot work. So the way forward is, is transforming and modernizing the systems on the way forward.

Why is ECA bringing young African Statisticians to form networks and share experiences?

The ECA has created what is called Takwimu, which in Swahili means Mathematics or statistics. We have created a young statisticians program, which is part of the statistical commission. It's a network of young statisticians across the continent. So, right now, they have a registered over, 500 young statisticians across the continent. And the purpose for these young statisticians is 2 fold. One, we know that the young statisticians are the future and they are the ones who can help us to transform and modernize our school system. So we want them to be involved in the statistical development. Their technological savvy, they know more in terms of how they can use artificial intelligence more than we can do, some of us have a traditionally trained.

So we want them to be injected in that process. But also we want to create a bridge between the statistical Elders. Those that are facing us with these people, the generational Gap has to be filled in so that this Elders can tell them where they came from and what their aspirations are. But also the young

people can tell them what they're thinking about them, but also, what they think about the future. It has to be the access that, that kind of job. So there's a big, uh, uh, capacity development, that's taking place there. We are opening doors for them to come. You can see some of them. They've come for this meeting to network. So they can grow in their career in that and developing in in the areas that they work, but also giving them opportunities to see if they can have a better jobs or better places to go to or things that they can actually do. For ECA here we are trying to develop projects which will involve young statisticians to be implemented by young statisticians. So there is that career. ECA also we are supporting countries a training of Master's program in 2 institutions, 1 in Abidjan and 1 in Tanzania. From 2002 to now we've had 48 of them have graduated with a Masters Degree supported by this Africa Center for Statistics working with other partners.

The ones that are fully registered, we know that they are over 500. We know that the number is much higher than that. We know that because these are young statisticians coming from the national statistical offices, from the Civil Society, from the private sector, and but we know very well at the moment. Most of them come from the national schools, but if you include those come from Academia, the numbers far, far exceeds that and they are busy recruiting.

What was the significance of the 9th Statistical Commissions Conference that took place recently?

So we have now what's called the ninth statistical commission that is taking place which brings all heads of national statistical offices, here and their experts from the national statistical offices. It also peoples from the, GIS the geographical management agencies that are here we have in excess of 400 people that have come for this conference. I think one of the biggest conferences. So, the statistical commission is the Apex institution that discusses about the development of Statistics in Africa. So they talk about, where do we want us to take our statistics, how do you want to develop? And so forth. So the conversation that is here really is around modernizing. That is the main thing. If you look at the things and listen, that Innovative process of modernizing. The capacity they've been here since Monday, we started with 2 days of pre meetings. The first meeting was about development partners and, The Forum for Statistical Development and then we had another meeting which is on the disaster related statistics. As you know the continent has a lot of problems around disaster related statistics. There as I mentioned earlier, the people that deal with GIS, also here. So it's a very, very important meeting.

Thank you very much for allowing me your time!

Thank you!

Society

Eliminating cervical cancer by 2030

BY TEWODROS KASSA

In 2020, the WHO set the 90-70-90 targets aiming to eliminate cervical cancer by 2030. By 2030, each country should meet the 90-70-90 targets – to fully vaccinate 90 percent of girls with HPV by age 15 years, screen 70 percent of women with a high-performance test by 35 years of age, and again by 45 years, and provide treatment to 90 percent of women diagnosed with cervical disease.

According to the WHO, cervical cancer is one of the most preventable and successfully treatable forms of cancer, as long as it is detected and diagnosed early and managed effectively.

Yet it is the 4th most common form of cancer among women worldwide, with the disease claiming the lives of almost 350,000 women in 2022. This number is likely to continue to grow, particularly in underprivileged and vulnerable communities. Current data suggests that 90 percent of all cases occur in low- and middle-income countries, due largely to poor access to screening and early detection and treatment of both pre-cancer and cancer. Like many cancers, the earlier cervical cancer is detected, the higher the chances of survival.

Few diseases reflect global inequities as much as cancer of the cervix. Nearly 94 percent of the deaths in 2022 occurred in low- and middle-income countries. This is where the burden of cervical cancer is greatest because access to public health services is limited and screening and treatment for the disease have not been widely implemented. Thus, an ambitious, concerted and inclusive strategy has been developed to guide the elimination of cervical cancer as a public health problem. Accordingly, to eliminate cervical cancer, all countries must reach and maintain an incidence rate of below 4 per 100,000 women.

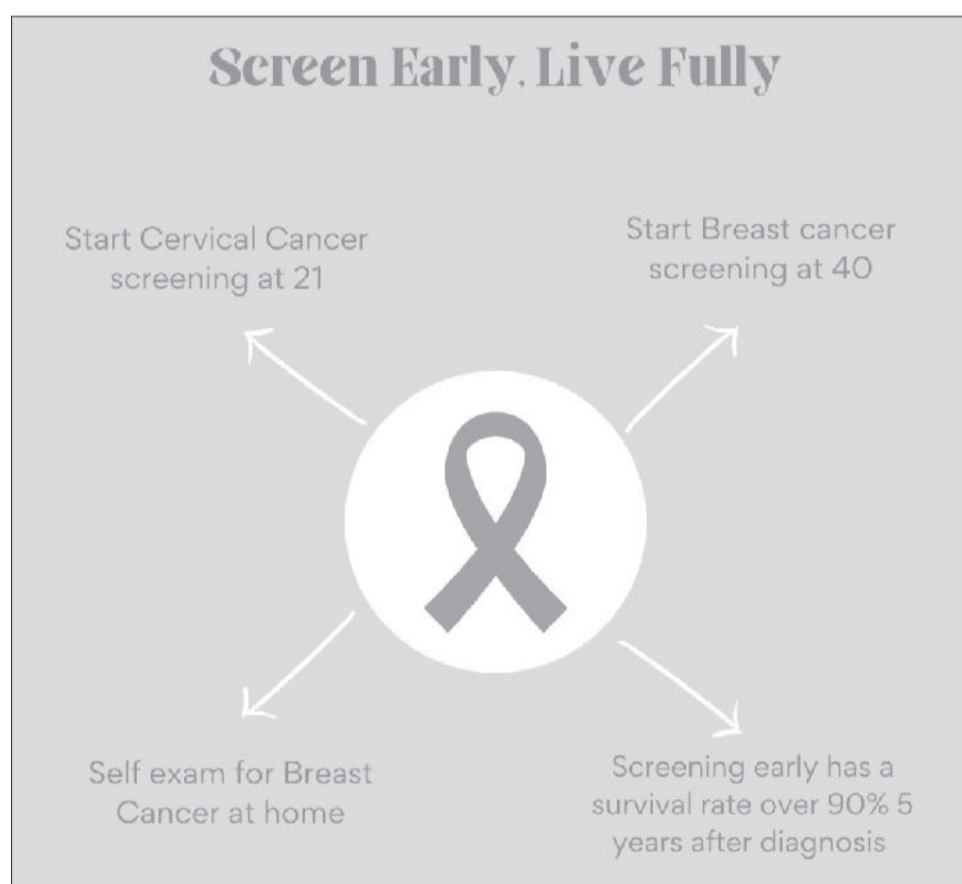
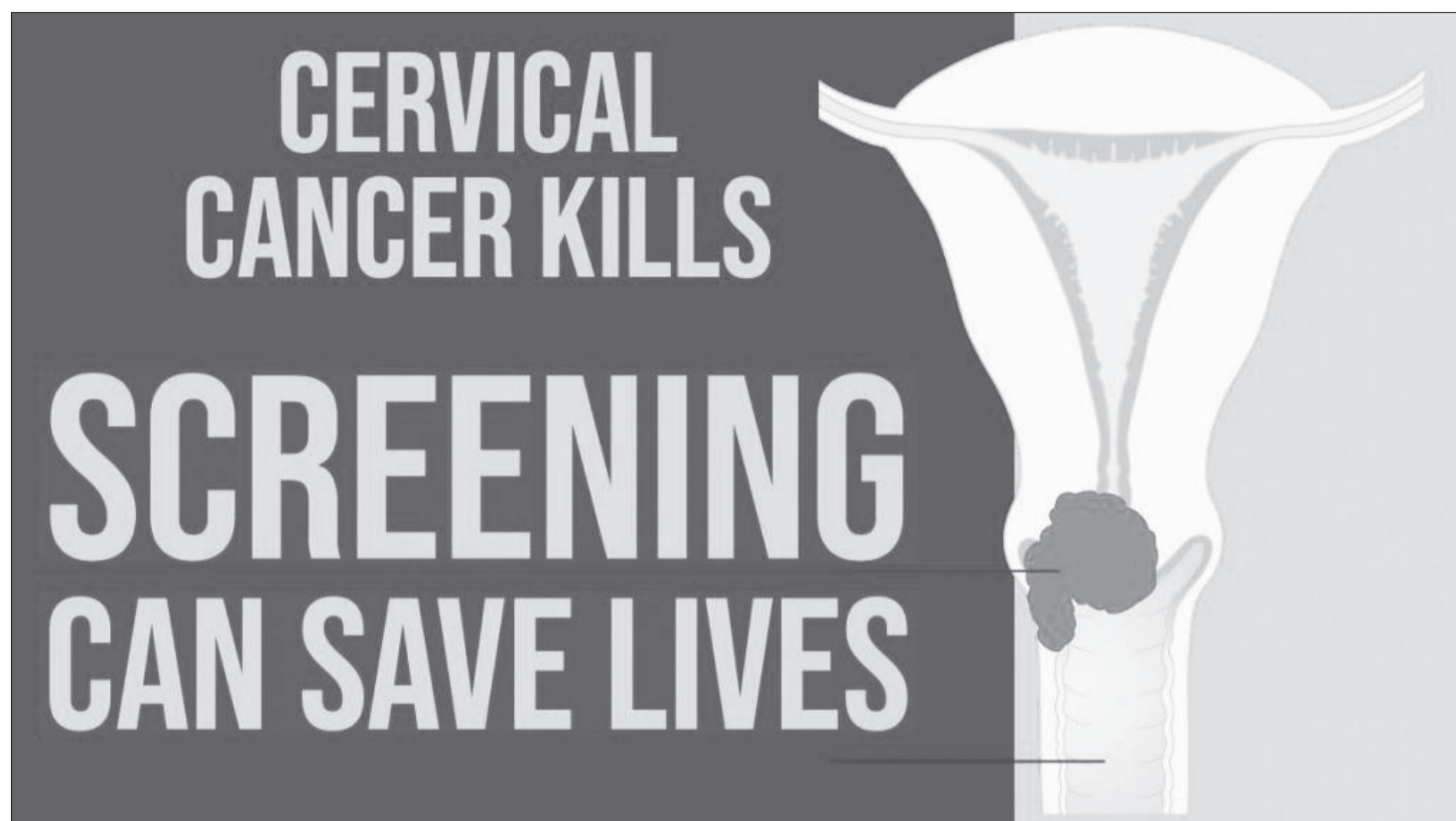
Moreover, each country should meet the 90-70-90 targets by 2030 to get on the path to eliminate cervical cancer within the next century.

Experts from the Ministry of Health explain that the case is among the top four priority areas given due attention by the Ministry; and the need to effectively work on early cervical cancer screening through active public mobilization. In doing so, creating more awareness about cervical cancer is the major assignment left ahead.

Last week, the Ministry held a day-long awareness creation workshop for media and communication experts aiming at bringing about a tangible change regarding cervical cancer in the country. Following this, it was underscored the media to fulfill its social responsibility of keeping public health through disseminating timely and succeeding health stories.

Technical Advisor for Prevention and Control of Cancer with the Ministry Kunuz Abdella (MD) said that lack of awareness regarding cervical cancer among the population and healthcare providers remains the major factor impeding the Ministry's endeavors to curb the impact of cervical cancer on women.

In addition, inadequate resource allocation, lack of quality assurance of cervical cancer



screening, lack of functional referral system, and limited diagnostic facilities are also the other reasons for the high incidence of and mortality for cervical cancer in developing countries, he said.

As to him, it is high time to work jointly towards easing the challenges women face in rural Ethiopia through undertaking massive awareness creation to take cervical cancer screening. The early screening of cervical cancer is important to prevent the disease before getting worse.

“The media have greater role in bringing about a tangible behavioral change and improving public awareness about the disease. Everyone should also understand that cancer is a Non-Communicable Disease (NCD). Thus, the media professionals should first understand cervical cancer and promote the society towards periodic cervical cancer screening,” he noted.

Though, the country is registering a remarkable progress regarding countering numerous diseases, yet more assignments are left ahead to effectively mobilize cervical cancer screening in the rural part of the country due to various reasons, he added.

Moreover, the dissemination of fake information on the social media these days is wrongly affecting peoples' decision-making regarding vaccination and medical treatments even in the urban areas.

Therefore, the Ministry closely follows up and provides timely information through the mainstream and digital media to the public aiming at ensuring a common understanding on different health issues.

Accordingly, cervical cancer has become a significant health issue in Ethiopia, affecting thousands of women each year. However, with proper planning and implementation of effective strategies, there is hope that cervical

cancer can be eliminated from Ethiopia by 2030.

In Ethiopia, cervical cancer is the second most common cancer among women, with a high mortality rate due to late diagnosis and lack of access to proper treatment. Many women in rural areas do not have access to regular screenings or Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccines, which are essential in preventing cervical cancer.

One of the main challenges in eliminating cervical cancer from Ethiopia is the lack of awareness among women about the importance of regular screenings and vaccinations. There is also a shortage of trained healthcare professionals and limited resources for cancer treatment in the country.

Therefore, a multi-faceted approach is needed to achieve the goal of eliminating cervical cancer from Ethiopia by 2030. Achieving this target is possible through increasing awareness, improving access to screening, strengthening treatment facilities, and active collaboration with stakeholders and international organizations, among others.

In terms of developing the capacity of professionals, continuous trainings have been provided by the Ministry of Health and other partners so as to expand quality healthcare access and meet the public need.

On his part, Cervical Cancer Advisor Hizkeal Petros (MD) said that there are various cervical cancer treatment mechanisms in the country.

The treatment options include chemotherapy, surgical resection, radiotherapy, or a combination of these treatments; however, relapse and recurrence may occur, and the outcome may not be favorable, he added.

In sum, eliminating cervical cancer from Ethiopia by 2030 is an ambitious goal, but with the right strategies and commitment, it is achievable. By working together with government agencies, healthcare providers, and international organizations, it is possible to make a significant impact in reducing the burden of the case on Ethiopian women.

International

Africa: At COP16, Guterres Urges World to 'Choose Wisely...Make Peace with Nature'

UN Secretary-General António Guterres on Tuesday called for decisive action to restore harmony with nature, warning that environmental crises are pushing humanity toward tipping points that threaten ecosystems, livelihoods and global stability.

Speaking at the opening of the 16th Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (COP16), he emphasized that **"making peace with nature is the defining task of the 21st century."**

"Nature is life. And yet we are waging a war against it - a war in which there can be no winner," he declared.

"Every year, we see temperatures climbing higher. Every day, we lose more species. Every minute, we dump a garbage truck of plastic waste into our oceans, rivers and lakes. Make no mistake - this is what an existential crisis looks like."

The theme for the conference in Cali, Colombia, is "la COP de la gente" (a COP of the people). It continues until 1 November with discussions focused on biodiversity conservation, environmental justice and the role of indigenous and local communities in shaping sustainable futures.

It is the first Biodiversity COP since the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in December 2022 in Montreal, Canada.

Secretary-General Guterres addresses the high-level opening of the COP16 conference. **Time for action**

Mr. Guterres highlighted the urgency of the situation with sobering statistics: around

75 per cent of the Earth's land surface and 66 per cent of its oceans have already been altered by human activity.

"With each passing day, we are edging closer to tipping points that could fuel further hunger, displacement and armed conflicts."

He called on countries to implement the Kunming-Montreal Framework, which aims to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030.

He stressed the importance of national plans aligned with the framework's targets, backed by transparent monitoring and robust financing, including at least \$200 billion annually by 2030.

Turn promises into action

"We must turn these promises into action in four vital ways," Mr. Guterres said, calling on nations to present "clear, ambitious and detailed plans" to align with the Framework's targets.

Alongside, leaders must agree on strengthening monitoring and transparency. Promises for financing must be kept while support to developing countries is accelerated.

"And we must bring the private sector on board. **Those profiting from nature cannot treat it like a free, infinite resource.** They must step up and contribute to its protection and restoration," he stressed.

Protect environmental defenders

Mr. Guterres also highlighted the vital role of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. They are the "guardians of

our nature," he said, and their traditional knowledge offers essential insights for biodiversity conservation, yet they are too often marginalized or threatened.

He also called for the establishment of a permanent body within the Convention on Biological Diversity to ensure Indigenous voices are heard throughout policy-making processes.

"Peace with nature means peace for those who protect it," he said.

Examples of progress

Despite the challenges, Mr. Guterres pointed to promising initiatives, such as deforestation reduction efforts in Brazil, Colombia and Indonesia, and the Congo Basin's focus on expanding protected areas.

He also praised the European Union's Nature Restoration Law, and the historic Agreement on Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction.

With another pivotal treaty negotiation on plastic pollution scheduled later this year, Mr. Guterres expressed hope that the same determination seen in previous agreements will inspire action in Cali.

A choice for the Planet's survival

In conclusion, Mr. Guterres reminded delegates that humanity stands at a crossroads.

"The survival of our planet - and our own - is on the line," he said.

"Let us choose wisely. Let us choose life. Let us make peace with nature."

Source: *UN News*.

Kenya's Sugar Directorate Set for Autonomy After Senate Passes Bill

Kenya's Sugar Directorate is poised to gain autonomy after the Senate passed the Sugar Bill 2023, setting it on track to become the Kenya Sugar Board once again.

The legislation, which awaits presidential assent, would dismantle the Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA) by allowing several of its founding bodies to regain independence. The move is seen as a win for industry stakeholders who have long called for the Sugar Directorate to be restored as an independent agency with a broader mandate.

If signed into law, the Kenya Sugar Board, dissolved in 2013 when AFA was created, will regain its authority to collect the sugar development levy, a key function it managed before its disbandment. The board will also lead research into new cane varieties to boost productivity in the sector.

Under the new structure, the board's responsibilities will include regulation, development, and promotion of Kenya's sugar industry while ensuring equitable access to industry benefits for all participants.

The bill proposes a sugar development levy on domestic sugar, allocating funds across multiple areas: 30% for factory development, rehabilitation, research, and training at the Kenya Sugar Research and Training Institute; 40% for cane development and productivity improvements; and 15% for infrastructure projects in sugar-producing regions, based on production levels.

The Sugar Directorate is the latest agency to seek autonomy from AFA, following the recent re-establishment of the Tea Board of Kenya as an independent body under the Tea Act.

Source: *Business Day Africa*.

Africa: 251 Million Children Still Out of School Worldwide, UNESCO Reports

Despite decades of educational progress and international commitments, a quarter of a billion children and youth remain out of school worldwide, UN education agency UNESCO's latest Global Education Monitoring Report revealed on Thursday.

The findings reveal that global efforts to ensure universal education have hit a concerning plateau, with the out-of-school population reducing by only 1 percent in nearly 10 years.

Progress and challenges

"Education is the key driver of prosperous, inclusive and peaceful societies," said UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay. **"Yet, quality education risks being the privilege of a few if we do not take serious measures to give every child across the globe the same chance to learn and thrive,"** she added.

While there has been progress in educational enrollment – with 110 million children entering school since the adoption

of the UN Sustainable Development Goal on Education in 2015 – disparities remain persistent.

The completion rates show improvement, with 40 million more young people finishing secondary school compared to 2015.

However, the gap between rich and poor nations remains particularly alarming. According to the report, in low-income countries, 33 percent of school-aged children and youth are out of school, compared to just 3 percent in high income countries.

The report highlighted that sub-Saharan Africa faces the greatest challenges, hosting more than half of all out of school children and adolescents globally.

Financing the future

A second report on Thursday, the UNESCO-World Bank Education Finance Watch 2024, points to the chronic underinvestment as a primary obstacle. The disparity in education spending is striking, with the

report revealing that high income countries invest \$8,543 per learner while low- and middle-income countries manage only \$55 per student.

The situation is further complicated by debt burdens. According to the report, in Africa, countries now spend almost as much on debt servicing as they do on education, while global education aid has declined from 9.3% in 2019 to 7.6% in 2022.

In response, UNESCO, working alongside Brazil's G20 presidency, is calling for innovative financing mechanisms, including debt-for-education swaps.

"Equity and inclusion in and through education are fundamental to Brazil's vision of social development," said Brazil's Education Minister Camilo Santana at the UNESCO Global Education Meeting in Fortaleza, where leaders are working to translate discussions into concrete actions to address this global education crisis.

Source: *UN News*.

Verbatim and Caption

Ethiopia's revival phase!

The House of People's Representatives (HoPR) 4th year term 3rd round ordinary session was held on Thursday in the presence of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD). PM Abiy clarified to the questions raised by the members of the parliament. Here are the main points raised by PM Abiy.

Ethiopia's revival phase will start this year: PM Abiy

The national reform being carried out over the past six years brought outstanding triumphs across all sectors. Ethiopia has already finalized the reforms and this fiscal year will be the start of Ethiopia's revival phase.

Ethiopia's next phase targets sustaining the achievements registered by the reform and establishing a solid foundation for Ethiopia's revival.



Ethiopia's national interest in Red Sea

The world have to listen today, Ethiopia's stance to have access to the Red Sea is unwavering. Ethiopia's interest is to secure access to sea outlet through peaceful means with give-and-take principle.

Ethiopia has a legitimate national interest in the Red Sea. For a country with over 120 million populations, having access to waterways is a critical national issue. Countries of the region can use the resource-rich Red Sea as an opportunity for cooperation.

We seek access to the Red Sea in a peaceful manner. Our agenda is not about confrontation, but about ensuring economic growth and benefiting the Ethiopian people.

Ethiopia's FOREX reserve grows by 161%

The implemented macroeconomic reform brings meaningful achievements in Ethiopia especially in boosting export and FDI during the first quarter of this fiscal year. Following the reform, the country's foreign exchange reserve grows by 161% within three months.

The reserve of the National Bank of Ethiopia registered 161% growth while the reserve of private banks grows by 29%. Similarly, remittance shows 24% growth.

Ethiopia to build Africa's largest airport

Ethiopia finalizes a study to build a new mega airport with the capacity of accommodating 130 million travelers annually. The new airport which is more than four times the capacity of the current Bole International Airport will be the largest airport in Africa.

The new airport will be located just 40 kilometers from Addis Ababa Bole International Airport and the two airports will be connected through train. Currently the Ethiopian Airlines has ordered 124 modern planes and efforts are underway to keep the growth of Ethiopian Airlines.

The Mega Airport City will feature a 1.1 million sq terminal including passenger facilities, 126,190 sqm of airline support facilities, and over 100,000 sq of cargo and airport support facilities.

Ethiopia's plan is to register 8.4% growth this fiscal year

Ethiopia has registered 8.1% economic growth last fiscal year (2023/24 budget year). For this budget year, Ethiopia's plan is to register 8.4% economic growth and the first quarter year performance aims to achieve the target.

The agriculture sector is expected to grow by 6.1%, the manufacturing sector is projected to grow by 12.8% and the service sector projected to grow by 7.1%. By cultivating 30 million hectares of land during winter and summer seasons, Ethiopia plans to harvest over 1.4 billion quintals of product.



Ethiopia's three months export earning reaches 1.5 billion USD

Ethiopia has secured 1.5 billion USD from export trade during the past three months. The target was 1.1 billion USD and due to the reform, the achievement exceeds the target.

Accordingly, Ethiopia has the potential to achieve 5 billion USD from export during this budget year. Coffee and gold played crucial role in increasing the export revenue during the first quarter of this fiscal year export.

FDI inflow also registers 6.4 percent growth during the past three months.