



## Ethiopia congratulates Somaliland's president-elect

- Commends democratic progress

BY STAFF REPORTER

**ADDIS ABABA** - The Ethiopian government has extended heartfelt congratulations to Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi-Irro on his election as the President of Somaliland.

In a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), Ethiopia expressed its congratulations to both the newly elected president and the people of Somaliland following the successful presidential election.

The MoFA highlighted Ethiopia's admiration for the democratic governance demonstrated during the election process, commended both the incoming president Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi-Irro, and the outgoing president, Muse BihiAbdi, for their leadership.

Furthermore, the statement conveyed Ethiopia's best wishes for the new Somaliland administration, expressing hope for a successful and productive term in office under President Abdillahi-Irro's leadership.

# AfDB advocates capital market for Africa's economic progress

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

**ADDIS ABABA**- The African Development Bank (AfDB) has emphasized the critical role of establishing a capital market in fostering economic growth, particularly for capital-intensive infrastructure investments across Africa.

AfDB's Deputy Director General for the East African Region, Leandre Bassole (PhD), told *The Ethiopian Herald* that creating a comprehensive legal and regulatory institutional framework is vital for capital market development. He highlighted that a robust capital market provides businesses with diversified funding options and broadens investment opportunities for African institutional investors.

Bassole underscored that these efforts align with AfDB's ten-year strategy to mobilize financing from a variety of development partners across the continent. In support of Ethiopia's commitment to financial sector liberalization, the AfDB plans

to collaborate closely with the Capital Market Authority to build a resilient and efficient domestic capital market.

"The Bank is set to provide technical assistance for regulatory supervision and the operation of Ethiopia's stock exchange, enabling better access to long-term financing and skills development for the public and private sectors, including small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)," he remarked.

According to him, the capital market's role in mobilizing savings is pivotal to funding critical infrastructure projects, which are essential for sustained economic growth.

The Ethiopian Capital Market Authority ECMA, Director General, Hana Tehelku, stressed that involving both investors and the public is crucial for the capital market to support the economy effectively. The Authority has already licensed two investment service advisory firms to enhance public participation through

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Photo: Gebabo Gebrie

Leandre Bassole (PhD)



Hana Tehelku

# Value-added agri'l products to boost Nat'l advantages

- Nation hosts 13th Int'l Conference on Pulses and Oil seeds

BY MESERET BEHAILU

**ADDIS ABABA** – By increasing the export of processed pulse and oilseed products, Ethiopia is working to enhance the benefit from its abundant agricultural resources, Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration (MoTRI) said.

Opening the 13th International Conference on Pulses and Oilseeds themed "Seed of prosperity: Global partnership for Sustainable Growth," yesterday, MoTRI Minister, Kassahun Gofe (PhD) said that Ethiopia is giving due attention to the production of quality pulses and oilseeds in order to penetrate the global market.

According to the Minister, the country is



securing 800 million USD revenue from pulses and oil seeds each year. As a result, Ethiopia is ranked second and sixth in the international market through supplying beans and lentils respectively.

However, many activities remain to be done to utilize the country's untapped potential in pulses and oilseeds production, he expressed.

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Fitsum Assefa (PhD)

## Ethiopia unveils 25 – year economic transformation framework

BY YESUF ENDRIS

**ADDIS ABABA** - Government has made public a long-term economic transformation plan that could span 25 years.

During the Financial and Private Sector

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# News

## Commission expedites efforts to finalize Nat'l Dialogue activities

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

**ADDIS ABABA** - The Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission (ENDC) has reaffirmed its commitment to completing its activities as per the schedule.

Presenting its six-month progress report to the House of People's Representative (HoPR) yesterday, Chief Commissioner Prof. Mesfin Araya highlighted that agenda gathering and participant identification would soon commence in Oromia State.

The commission has already finalized agenda gathering and participant identification in nine regional states and two city administrations, covering over 615 districts. It is now preparing to begin similar activities in approximately 360 districts in Oromia. While progressing with these activities, ENDC is also taking measures to continue its work in Amhara and Tigray states despite ongoing challenge.

At the federal level, the commission has outlined plans to engage key institutions, including the House of People's



Representative, political parties, and religious organizations. These entities will deliver their agendas to the commission, contributing to the dialogue's success.

Prof. Mesfin also emphasized the commission's efforts to engage the Ethiopian Diaspora. To date, ENDC has conducted 10 virtual meetings and a formal session in the United States. Additionally, outreach is planned for Diaspora communities in Asia, Africa, Europe, the Pacific, and Middle East. He noted that these engagements are vital for

inclusivity and the success of the National Dialogue.

The commission has also collaborated with the academic community, holding brainstorming sessions with over 80 higher education officials from institutions such as Raya, Adigrat, Axum and Mekelle universities. These sessions are part of broader discussions involving intellectuals from 56 universities.

Once agenda gathering is completed across all states, ENDC plans to transition directly

to a National Dialogue forum. This forum will involve over 4000 experts from diverse sectors. To ensure the forum's success, the commission has also prepared training programs for facilitators and conveners.

Parliament members commended the commission's improved media engagement and increased women's participation compared to its previous report. Tesfaye Beljige, Chief Government Whip, emphasized the government's commitment to the success of the National Dialogue, describing it as a golden opportunity to address Ethiopia's political, structural and economic challenges.

Tsfaye noted that the dialogue provides a platform for fostering shared values and common goals, enabling Ethiopia to overcome divisions and leave a stronger, more unified country for future generations. However, he stressed that the success of the National Dialogue relies on the active and responsible participation of all individuals. The National Dialogue is seen as a crucial step toward addressing the nation's challenges and ensuring a better future for coming generations.

## Scientific approaches enhance Diaspora role in Nat'l drive : Scholar

BY MESERET BEHAILU

**ADDIS ABABA** - Universities must adhere to research-based approaches to help the nation maximize the contributions of its Diaspora community to national development, Scholar suggested.

Wollo University Lecturer and Researcher on Diaspora Policy, Mulugeta Tesfay said that universities should actively engage in conducting researches and forwarding mechanisms to maximize the Diaspora engagement in national projects.

He told *The Ethiopian Herald* that universities and other research institutions are expected to generate knowledge that helps the government, policy makers and private sectors to create a conducive environment for the Diaspora community.

Accordingly, Mulugeta said some higher education institutions are striving to the mutual benefit of the community and the country.

The scholar stated that over 170 countries globally have implemented Diaspora policies through allocating budget, maintaining rules, establishing procedures, and ensuring mutual benefit.

The Ethiopian Diaspora community is keen to engage on various investment opportunities and the country also expects its expatriates to be part of the national development efforts. Therefore, Mulugeta suggested that aligning these interests would help to achieve mutual benefit.

He also underlined that the existing Ethiopian Diaspora policy requires amendment to enhance the Diaspora participation in various projects thereby maximizing the benefit of the community and the nation in a sustainable manner.

Ethiopian Diaspora Service (EDS) Director General Ambassador Fitsum Arega supported the idea of combining interests for mutual benefit of the nation and the Diaspora community as it is crucial to realize a prosperous Ethiopia in the coming years.

Fitsum pointed out that a constructive engagement between the community and the nation is a driving force towards a holistic development.



## Japan marks 70-year of dev't cooperation with Ethiopia

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

**ADDIS ABABA** - The Embassy of Japan and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Ethiopia Office celebrated 70 years of Japan's development cooperation with Ethiopia which was launched in 1954 when the latter joined in the Colombo Plan.

Japan is also marking the 50th anniversary of dispatching of volunteers to Ethiopia and the 30th anniversary of the opening of JICA Ethiopia Office, highlighting the two countries shared achievements and future aspirations.

In his welcoming remark yesterday, Japanese Ambassador to Ethiopia SHIBATA Hironori said that the two countries have enjoyed nearly 100-years of friendship since the Treaty of Amity and Commerce was signed in 1930 during the Ethiopian imperial era. This treaty marked the first diplomatic relations Japan opened with an African country.

Currently, another pillar of Japanese assistance is the support in the northern part of Ethiopia, for recovery and reconstruction, which includes education, health and peace building. "We have invited about 3,700 Ethiopians to Japan, including government staff, as well as having dispatched about

2,200 Japanese experts to various ministries in Ethiopia and over 700 Japanese Overseas Cooperation Volunteers in total have been dispatched to work with Ethiopian vocational counterparts."

"We strongly hope that this will lead to the further enhancement of the historically cordial bilateral relations between our two countries, and peace and prosperity for the world. It is my pleasure to welcome you all to this pivotal occasion celebrating the 70th Anniversary of Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA), jointly hosted by the Embassy of Japan and the JICA. Our development cooperation is characterized by respect for recipient countries' ownership and their own efforts in development, as well as equal partnerships with them. Based on the idea that "Nation building begins with human resource building" Japan has been engaged in a wide range of human resource development, high-quality infrastructure development, and other activities," the ambassador remarked.

During the event, Agriculture State Minister Meles Mekonnen (PhD) said that JICA has been working across various sectors in Ethiopia including agriculture, education, health and

private sector development and infrastructure development.

JICA has been supporting in many areas such as in food security, climate change, and agricultural insurance market oriented extension to enhance crop production and productivity thereby ensuring income generation for farmers. Currently there are nine JICA projects in agriculture sector that includes promotion of rice production, market oriented extension delivery through small holder horticulture empowerment and promotion, agricultural insurance, science and technology research partnership project and others.

JICA Ethiopia Office Country Representative Oshima Kensuke said that the main focus areas of the organization are human resource development, enhancing manufacturing sectors to sustain Ethiopia's sustainable economic growth.

Only in Amhara state in 2023, 3000 farmers have trained, and also JICA is working to improve access to safe water and ensure the public's access to education and enhance education quality. "Since 2007, 76 schools were constructed and we have been assisting road connectivity via construction and infrastructure improvement."



# News

## Gov't supports bearing fruits in coffee production: *Producers*

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

**ADDIS ABABA** – The productivity and quality of Ethiopian coffee has seen a substantial improvement amid sustainable support from the government and experts, Coffee Producers said.

Coffee Producers told local media that the quality and production of coffee has been improving since the government and experts sustained their support at each level.

According to Coffee Producer Tatek Demisse, the support and monitoring mechanisms of the government and agricultural experts are greatly contributing to improve productivity, quality and export of the cash crop.

The country should exert more effort

to improve coffee production and be competitive in the global market through utilizing its huge potential. In this regard, supporting smallholder farmers is crucial to improve coffee productivity and quality, he said.

“Now, I recognized that producing in small land with high quality has great importance than owning or having large farms that don't meet quality production. This increases profitability as it gives an opportunity to manage and keep quality production.”

The recent implementation of macroeconomic reform is contributing to address major bottlenecks that prevent the country from fully benefiting from its rich coffee resources, Tatek added.

Coffee Producer Tilahun Cheweka believed that exporting quality coffee to the global market requires the sustainable support of the government.

Although domestic consumption has been growing in Ethiopia, export is also improving in line with the ever increasing production, he noticed.

According to him, the country's coffee production has been massively increasing as well as its quality improving having the above mentioned technical and capacity building support from government and experts.

The country has planned to secure about two billion USD during this Ethiopian fiscal year.

## AfDB advocates ...

collective investment schemes.

“The focus will be on regulations that benefit small enterprises and foster an inclusive market. This involves licensing and supervising market participants such as securities exchanges and brokers, and developing diverse financial products to promote fairness, transparency, and efficiency in the market,” Hana explained.

The ECMA also aims to safeguard investors by mitigating market risks and ensuring integrity in the evolving financial landscape. These strategic initiatives aim to transform Ethiopia's capital market into a vibrant economic force, accelerating growth and development across sectors.

## Ethiopia unveils ...

Dialogue on the State and Outlook of the Ethiopian Economy held yesterday, Plan and Development Minister Fitsum Assefa (PhD) emphasized the urgency of transforming Ethiopia's economy, which has experienced growth but lacks structural change over the past decades.

The minister, therefore, called on the private sector to engage more in secondary and tertiary sectors in a bid to ensure the economic transformation.

According to Fitsum, Agriculture continues to dominating the export, GDP, and employment. Countries including Ethiopia are heavily reliant on primary sectors and struggle to achieve transformation.

She underlined the need for significant growth in the manufacturing sector as it is expected take a larger share of the GDP in the future.

While Ethiopia has maintained a 7.2% average growth over the past six years of reform, structural transformation remains intangible. “Approximately 70% of the employment force is still dependent on agriculture. This highlights the critical need for economic transformation alongside growth,” she added.

Fitsum also highlighted Ethiopia's favourable demographics, strategic geographical location, and cultural ties with neighbouring countries as key opportunities to drive the transformation initiative.

National Bank of Ethiopia Governor Mamo Mihiretu also added that recent reforms have encouraged private sector engagement, particularly in the financial sector, which supports manufacturing and other secondary economic activities.

“The government has launched and enhanced initiatives in manufacturing and industrial sectors with targeted credits and supportive legal frameworks,” Mamo said.

The government's long-term plan (a 25-year framework) designed to achieve sustained economic transformation, is anticipated to align the country with global standards for structural development.

## Panel highlights firsthand experience sharing with Netherland's cooperatives

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

**ADDIS ABABA** - “Like Netherland's cooperatives, ours could enhance their economic contribution in both rural and urban areas through modernizing cooperatives with various spheres,” Ethiopian Cooperatives Commission (ECC) said.

Leaders and experts from ECC, Addis Ababa Cooperative Commission, Oromia Rural Development Coordination Office and other partners took visit to Netherland and shared best experiences.

During the panel discussion and experience sharing of Addis Ababa Cooperative Commission, Deputy Commissioner of the ECC Abdi Mammed mentioned that supporting cooperatives with research and innovation is crucial to develop cooperatives.

He also highlighted that merging cooperatives with different partners such as technology, research and financial institution would play significant role to enhance its contribution to the country.

Highlighting that the nation have shared

best experience with Netherland, the latter has supported cooperatives with amicable policy, science and technology.

Moreover, many countries with long years of experience have increased cooperative's contribution to GDP by 18% through agriculture.

Ethiopia has 110,000 primary cooperatives, 406 cooperative unions, five regional federations, comprised over 25 million members and over 50 billion Birr capital.

Addis Ababa Cooperatives Commission Commissioner Lelity Gedey on her part mentioned that cooperatives have undeniable contribution to the given country since they would help full utilizations of potentials everywhere in the world.

Thus, she underlined that it is high time to increase their accessibility, exploit full capital resource, shift to manufacturer and deliver quality service.

Recalling the best experience drawn from Netherland recently, she emphasized that the experience was an opener which showcased cooperative's potential to increase country's economic contribution.

Cooperatives in Ethiopia have served for several decades. Nonetheless, there are countries like Kenya that first took the financing (saving) sector experience from Ethiopia but now performing better than the latter. Currently, they have managed to cover over 45% of their GDP”.

Lesson should be drawn from such countries and need to work in connection with research institution, higher education institutions and other partners to boost cooperatives capacity, as to her.

“Cooperatives should not be formed for personal interest rather the need to change its member's livelihood while becoming competitive with regard to economy, supply, provision, quality. Apart from improving the livelihood of members, cooperatives need to increase their ability to buy more shares.”

Following the reform undertaken last year, the nation has formulated laws and regulations to enable cooperative perform the aforesaid activities, she stressed. Number of systems that constrained cooperatives have been revised to allow competitiveness, modernization of service and enhancement of capital, she stressed.

## Value-added agri'l products ...

Kassahun further stated that over 150 million USD contracts are expected to be signed in the conference, which has an additional volume of 50 million USD compared with the past similar period.

MoTRI is carrying out product inspection measures in its 17 branches to realize quality oilseeds and pulses across the country, he indicated.

“Particularly, the macroeconomic reform would play crucial role in advancing production of quality oilseeds and pulses. Two months later, similar conference will be organized in Dubai, which would benefit Ethiopia in promoting

its potentials to the rest of the world,” Kassahun expressed.

The 13th International Conference on Pulses and Oilseeds conference which is being held in Addis Ababa marks a significant milestone for global traders, exporters, and producers, Ethiopian Pulses and Oilseeds Exporters Association (EPOSEA) President, Ado Abdi said, adding that such platform has a manifold advantages for bringing key global stakeholders together for sharing ideas, fostering business relationships, and encouraging producers.

“The Association is a continuously

growing and experiencing transformative changes to exploit advantages in global stage,” he added.

Despite the improvements, Ado said that there are still many challenges impacting the industry, including international market fluctuations, logistical constraints, regional security issues, supply inconsistencies, and quality concerns.

Over 100 companies across the globe are participating in the conference that organized by MoTRI in collaboration with EPOSEA, incorporating various events including panel discussions on pulses and oilseeds, it was learned.

# Opinion

## Ethiopia championing in combating global climate change

BY ABEBE WOLDEGIORGIS

Climate change and global warming induced by gas emission released from industrially developed countries have been a pressing issue for the last 50 years all over the world. Global warming posed the melting of snows in North Pole resulting in the rising of the water level in oceans which again has been a threat to islands by engulfing and flooding the coastal parts of the land.

In the industrially advanced countries, global warming increases their energy consumption for household equipment's like refrigerator and air conditioners that enhances living costs. Most developing countries including Ethiopia, on the contrary, relied on rain for agriculture. When extreme weather conditions occur whether it is drought or flood, they face crop failure.

As a result, farmers will face food shortage forced to sustain their living by foreign aid. Water points are also affected by global warming which poses the dwindling of water sources of rivers, streams and lakes. Not only had these, global warming is aggravating the expansion of desertification.

The outbreak of new diseases also burdened the health sector. Drought also poses the reduction of the inflow of water to the rivers which in turn reduce the amount of water goes to dams. Consequently, the power generation capacity of dams decreased which again affect the manufacturing production capacity and brings the layoff of workers. It also reduces the revenue collected from the Industries.

Ethiopia, since long ago, has been exerting its efforts to fight global warming and climate change through perusing adaptation and mitigation program. In addition to these, it has crafted and implemented the building of Climate Resilient Green Economy since 2005. To adopt the climate change Ethiopia has been planting trees in selected areas for decades; particularly in lands critically affected by global warming and erosion and so far, many barren lands have been recovering.

Studies proved that, Ethiopia is a country with sever environmental degradation problems including soil erosion, land degradation heavy rainfall and temperature variability. Though several direct and indirect drivers of deforestation and forest degradation have been identified, efforts have been continued in reversing the situation.

The mass tree planting program called the Green Legacy Initiative was launched by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) in 2019 with the objective of reducing the impact of climate change and to sustain the Green Growth path of the country. Hence, only in 2019, 2020, and 2021 totally 4 billion, 5 billion and 6 billion seedlings were planted respectively.

In the later years also billions of saplings were planted. This provides several opportunities such as mitigating the impacts of climate change and enhance the ecosystem services, generate revenue from both timber and none timber products which improve livelihood and enable the country to meet national and global restoration and reforestation commitments.

However, this kind of programs needs to be closely followed and monitored as well as challenges should be identified for successfully attaining the objectives set by the initiative.

Tree plantation, in addition to conserving the environment, it also enables to replenish underground water and increase the volume of river waters, preserve wild animals and balance the ecosystem. Afforesting the deforested areas also serves for carbon sequestration which has not only domestic but also global effects.

Garnering foreign currency through carbon trading is also possible by evaluating the sequestered carbon emitted by industrial countries. As it is understood, the industrial countries are the major emitters but the developing countries including Ethiopia with insignificant contribution to the climate change suffer from the burden of global warming induced by the gas emission.

Therefore, it is vividly clear that sequestering carbon can bring opportunity to support its economy. 20 years ago, farmers in Humbo woreda of Wolayta zone, generated income from carbon marketing with Norway which is a global partner. The World Vision, an international none governmental organization, facilitated the carbon market. Similarly, farmers residing in Bale zone obtained money from carbon market and such practice has been continued to date.

As global warming has a global effect and the solution needs the cooperation of countries all over the world. In 1972, scientists across the world who understood the negative consequences of climate change on earth induced by gas emission gathered in Stockholm, Sweden and discussed the matter and showed concern to bring solution to the problem.

After the discussion, they decided that the United Nation has to take responsibility to deal with the matter and the UN, since then, has played crucial role in conducting climate negotiation between parties known as Cop.

From that time onwards, countries under the auspicious of United Nations Frame Work Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) have been conducting climate negotiations.

According to experts, developing countries which are the victims of climate change with very little contribution for the gas emission,

critically suffered from the effect of global warming. Sectors such as agriculture, health and water felt the brunt of climate change and countries are not strong enough to withstand the effect because of lack of financial, technical and well trained human resources.

They forward their plea to the industrially advanced countries to support them financially and technically for the reason that the climate impact affects not only developing countries but also has adverse consequence on the developed countries. In addition to these, they request the top industrialized countries to reduce their gas emission released from their industries.

The industrially advanced countries also have their own shortcomings with regard to carbon reduction. They argue that if they reduce the emission, the volume of their industrial products will be reduced which in turn affects the market and bring negative consequence on their economy.

On the other hand, changing carbon based energy sources into renewable energy sources, for instance, coal into hydropower is very expensive which is beyond their financial capacity and to mitigate the problem, they say that they need time.

The other factor which hampers countries with advanced industry to implement the agreement reached in the climate negotiation is that in their country, there is a developed culture manifested by separation of power among the three branches of the government, the legislative, the judiciary and executive which is an indicator of the prevalence of check and balance.

The executive branch of the government has a mandate to conduct climate negotiation with other countries on the UNFCCC but to implement the negotiations' outcome it is required the approval of the legislative which is an entity of representative of citizens. If the legislative rejects the negotiations' outcome, it will not be implemented and again the delegates of the climate negotiation prepare themselves for another round negotiation.

Such legal hurdles make the climate challenges to stay unsolved. The other thing that should be underlined is that most of the time on the climate negotiation, developed nations pledge to support developing countries financially to run their adaptation and mitigation program but though they pledge to support them, they fail to live up to their pledge.

Technological support to the poor countries is not sufficient as compared to the mounting challenges brought by climate change.

As compared to other developed countries, USA and China are the major emitters but regarding emission reduction, mostly, they showed reluctance to hear the plea of the poor countries. Because they claim that still they need more energy to meet their

development aspiration.

In mitigating climate change, Ethiopia has been doing its home work by enhancing the development of renewable energy sources including hydropower generations, wind farms, geothermal and solar. In the last three decades, many hydropower dams have been constructed and began to generate power.

The Tana Belese, Tekeze, Gilgel Gihbe I, II and III dams can be mentioned in this regard. The completion of Gilgel Gibe IV and the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam in the coming years is expected to tremendously enhance the nation's power generation capacity. The hydropower generation endeavor, in addition to supplying energy to the domestic power grid, it also becomes a source of foreign currency earning by exporting electric power to the neighboring countries.

The wind farms constructed near Adama town and Mekele also contribute their part to the national grid. The ongoing construction of wind farm near Asala town on mount Chilalo and Shinele town near Dire Dawa are also expected to enhance the nation's power generation capacity.

As Ethiopia is located in the tropical zone where excess solar energy is available, if the resource is exploited in full capacity, it can make the nation a power hub in East Africa.

Currently, Ethiopia fulfilled less than 50% of its electric demand and most of the people residing in the rural part of the country particularly, in the mountainous areas live in darkness. Since the peoples' settlement in the rural areas is scattered, power supply from the grid is unlikely to execute. Therefore, installing solar panels has been taken as sole option. To this end, there are many private companies engaged in distribution of solar panels to the rural community at the moment and created job opportunities to the venders.

By now, schools, health institutions and others located in the rural parts could ease their shortage of modern energy source because of the expansion of solar panels.

The other source which is under exploration is the geothermal project and in this regard, the Corbete Project run by foreign companies located near Batu town in Oromia region can be mentioned.

Ethiopia has also abundant geothermal energy source in the Afar depression but has no sufficient capital and technology to explore and exploit so that it will be homework of the generation to come.

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



# Editorial

## Enhancing partnership to expedite development

Over the past four or five years, Ethiopia has made significant progresses in improving the efficiency of government projects; and registered remarkable success across various sectors.

These days, the country, driven by strong political commitment, strategic planning, technological progress and advanced project efficiency, is spotting positive outcomes.

Among others, the initiatives launched to develop various tourist destinations under the Dine for Sheger, Dine for Nation, and Dine for Generation projects, and the Addis Ababa Corridor Development project as well, are some of the most notable projects that the country has itemized astonishing performances.

The newly inaugurated tourist destinations such as the “Elephant Paw Lodge, the “Wonchi” and “Gorgora” eco resorts, the “Adwa Victory Memorial Museum”, just to mention, have a lot to say about Ethiopia’s improved project efficiency.

The Abbay Hydroelectricity Dam which was once delayed for various reasons; but now nearing completion, is also another success story that displays the government’s enhanced competence to carry out large-scale with increased efficiency.

In turn, these and other development projects are generating considerable amount of foreign currencies and supporting the country’s economy.

In fact, the government’s commitment and political will to enhance operational efficiency is not only observed in government projects, but it is also being replicated by the private sector.

Nowadays, the private sector which is the potent engine in driving long-term economic growth and development is demonstrating a higher level of efficiency and it is contributing substantially to the country’s economy.

In his recent visit to two large-scale manufacturing industries, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) also revealed the contribution of the private sector in the country’s overall development.

As the Premier stated on his social media page subsequent to his visit to “AMG Holdings Industry Park”, and “Andinet Glass Technology”, that are specialized in value-added coffee exports and in glass and aluminum works respectively, the success stories of the government achieved in the implementation of projects are also replicated by the private sector.

“The feats witnessed in government’s mega projects are also being repeated by the private sector in terms of accomplishing activities with increased efficiency and quality, strengthening country’s economy.”

According to him, local private sector productivity plays a crucial role in achieving country’s industrialization goals and strengthening the Ethiopia’s economy. In this respect, the two industries are exemplary in their contribution to industrial expansion.

In actual fact, the synergy between the government and the private sector has wide-ranging benefits. Aside from lessening the financial burden of the government and creating massive job opportunities, it helps to transfer expertise, technology, innovation, and efficiency, leading toward a more diversified and robust economy; and shaping the future of the country.

Ethiopia, as a nation that aspires to realize its development goals and become a major player on the African and global economic stage, the role of the private sector in accelerating its pace and driving change is beyond words.

In this regard, creating a more favorable business environment and working in tandem with the private sector, is a key strategy that holds immense opportunities, mainly to expedite long-term development goals.

Thus, the government, by creating more conducive environment and further strengthening collaboration and partnership with the private sector, will work determinedly to attain broader economic growth and development objectives.

# Opinion

## Coding initiative brings new opportunities

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

Coding enables computers to perform various functions, from simple calculations to complex software applications. The essence of coding is transforming human logic into a format that computers can interpret, typically involving problem-solving and logical thinking to design and implement programs.

Ethiopian learners will have the opportunity to gain foundational level skills across three domains: Programming Fundamentals, Data Science Fundamentals and Android Developer Fundamentals.

Learners will be supported by mentors who will support them on a dedicated Community Platform to unblock technical questions on a daily basis throughout the 6-7 week course. Upon successful course completion, learners will be awarded with skill-based certifications.

According to the organizers of the training program, training in Programming Fundamentals is one of the tracks in which trainings are provided in web development, how web pages are structured from a scratch using a language called Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) and how this HTML structure is therefore designed and styled using another language called Cascading Style Sheet (CSS) and finally how this styles structure gets converted into an interactive application using JavaScript.

The other track of training is entitled Data Science Fundamentals. This track aims to teach the core fundamentals of data analysis and refine your ability to work with massive and complex data sets one would learn to manipulate and prepare data for analyzing and create visualization for telling story with data.

The other important stream relates to Android Developer which deals with how applications layouts are created and how interaction with users take place and the basics of Kotlin language specially designed with speed in mind. It compiles faster and makes your application more light weight and prevents them from increasing in size.

This program is operationally linked to Digital Ethiopia vision 2025 to which the nation is aspiring to digitalize the entire development operation in the country. The training program expects to reach out to millions of youth who will be trained and certified in a relatively short period of time.

The program is instrumental in further developing other national computer programs like woreda-net, school-net and a other programs that provide agriculture related information for farmers in the rural areas of the country. What are the major outcomes and advantages that the Ethiopian youth can get from this training program? The author enumerates on some basic advantages that the youth in this country can get.

The program helps to markedly cut the rate of employment among the youth by providing employment opportunities in public, private and CSO, microfinance organizations or they can establish their own small scale enterprises for generating income. They can also seek for foreign employment for better payments.

The training provides excellent opportunity for the youth to increase their creativity in developing brand new programs for various public and private enterprises by obtaining patents for their new software innovations.

Moreover, with the development of capital market and the need by banks to insure their operational efficiency, the trainees can participate in promoting and increasing the quality of services in the

financial sector of the country by accelerating the digitalization of the sector.

Computer coding and programing are already being implemented in almost all sectors of the economy including agriculture and the manufacturing sector this will open up more opportunities for the trainees to try to develop new coding systems and programs that suit to the needs of the enterprises and institutions in the country.

These trainings on coding are very useful for organizing quarterly and annual reports that could be utilized by policy makers in the government and managers of private enterprises.

The training opens up new ventures not only in programing and coding but also in analyzing results of the outputs by using modern forecasting systems that are useful for socio-economic planning in all sectors including the service sectors.

The training is of crucial importance in preparing the necessary professional manpower in running the economy of the country in all sectors including logistics and handling port services when the country gets access to her own ports.

Given the above mentioned advantages that the country can obtain from the online trainings, there are several preconditions that need to be put in place for smooth running of the program. The following are some of the most important prerequisites the author thinks should be provided for the successful implementation of the training program.

Further expansion of the internet network system in the country by Ethio-telecom and Safaricom needs to be put in place. This will ensure wider accessibility. Focusing particularly on the regional cities, zones and woredas needs to be a priority. This will help to expand and facilitate the outreach program through online accessibly.

Although the system is free of charge, many of the trainees may not have their own laptops or desktops. This will force them to go to commercial internet cafes that they may not regularly afford. The cities and woreda administrations across the country may prepare a computer pool system in which the trainees can take turns in getting their trainings on appropriate venues.

The media in Ethiopia need to prepare specific programs that cater to the online training so that millions of young persons would be able to participate on the trainings. The author believes that as the Ethiopian media is already using modern software in their broadcasting activities, reporters and editor can exploit this opportunity to be trained and certified.

Constant monitoring and evaluation of the program will help to resolve possible problems that may crop up during the training. It is also important to establish mentoring centers in which the trainees can be supporting on their lessons.

The author believes that mainstreaming the 5 million Ethiopia coders program in the educational system of the country is very useful for further digitalization of the country. Students from junior high schools and secondary schools and universities can take advantage of the program by attending online trainings that they can effectively use in career development.

Much off the development of Ethiopia’s socio-economic development certainly depends upon the level on which the country can fast-track her development initiatives by using such mass based online training programs that focus not so much on theory but on practical creation and application of software that can be at disposal of all users in the country.

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



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# Business & Economy

## Corridor development: A pride for current, future generation

BY BACHA ZEWDIE

City Planning Proclamation No. 574/2000 indicates that the task of reconstructing a city is to alleviate urban-related problems, improve living standards, and achieve accelerated urban transformation and efficient land use. The decree also includes urban renewal, upgrading, and land reallocation stressing the importance of reconstructing cities based on structural and environmental development plans with the initiation of administrations, residents and developers.

According to the decree, the act of renovating a city focused on creating a comfortable living and working environment by removing partially or completely dilapidated, old and abandoned structures seen in a city. In the area where urban renovation is supposed to take place, the residents will be informed and discuss about the situation in advance.

Information indicates that the same is happening with the corridor development being carried out by the Addis Ababa city administration. It is also explained that the corridor development is being done by giving primary attention to the people and considering the future generation as well.

Addis Ababa City Administration conducted a discussion with political parties and community representatives as well as heads of religious institutions recently on the implementation of the first round corridor development in the city.

Adanech Abebe, Mayor of Addis Ababa City Administration, said that the main objective of the corridor development is to modernize Addis Ababa and make it a clean, beautiful and comfortable city for its residents and to make it live up its name. It is possible when its infrastructure is fully built and renovated so that its residents get comfortable housing and environment.

“The corridor development is not only for today’s generation, but also for the next generation. Today, we develop it to make comfortable for its residents, to prepare a place where our children can play happily. This is one of the generation building works and it is fundamental,” the mayor said.

As to the mayor, residents of the city should have access to clean housing and recreation, areas for common use and facilities in their respective areas. The city is the home of not only rich people, but also of the low income earners. Everyone should enjoy it equally. It is necessary to make it a place where the movement of traffic is smooth and where car owner can find a better vehicle route. It is necessary to create an opportunity for pedestrians to travel without risk of danger, and to do activities that consider all sections of the society.

The mayor reminded that though they have repeatedly given explanations on the corridor development through the mass media, it is hard to conclude that everyone understood equally in a complete sense. She mentioned that the false information disseminated in this



Addis Ababa corridor development considers the current and future generation

regard attests this reality and she announced that it was appropriate to discuss the issue.

Tilahun Worku, Head of Cabinet Affairs of the Mayor’s Office also presented a discussion point focused on the benefits of corridor development that is changing the face of the city. He said that the first phase of corridor development has been completed and the second phase has been started.

He explained about the historical background of the corridor development, urban renewal, urban development, reconstruction purpose and previous practices.

As to him, though previous leaders of the city have made their own efforts to change it, the capital has remained an unplanned, largely undocumented, slum-like city with unmatched name and task.

The current corridor development is where the city is renewed, modernized, where the city’s reputation and tasks are connected, and where the city is made livable for its people. Cities are not physical structures; they are biological structures that are founded by people, planned and built by people so that they are born, grow, and die.

He mentioned that both the efforts of the first round and the current corridor development should be done to bring life to the city before it dies.

He further stated that the corridor development is being carried out with the intention of building a city that meets the smart city plan that the world has reached. The renovating is done with consideration of internationality, scientific and the legacies that can come from its renovation. He also explained that enough international experience has been taken in demolition, renovation, adjustment, etc. and done accordingly. The first round corridor development has become successful in a short period of time because of efforts of all and commitment of the country’s leaders as well as the mayor and senior leaders of the city who worked day and night.

The ultimate goal of corridor development, as to Tilahun, is changing people’s life. It is to protect the universal, intellectual, spiritual and social prosperity of the citizens. It is being done to make it a life experience for the new generation. To this end, cabinet of the City Administration has passed many decisions by amending many laws which had been bottlenecks to development initiatives.

He said that benefiting small and medium-sized enterprises, which have been suffering for a long time due to lack of market and work is one of the legacies of the corridor development. As a result, many citizens have benefited from job opportunities in this process through market linkage created. There has been a great revival to the extent that a shortage happened in the construction input supplying industry. Many machines have been imported, and production amount is increased by working day and night.

The mayor and her leadership have executed continuous follow up via conducting inspection and monitoring the project at the project management level every day up to nine o’clock at night.

The development was done on the principle that no one should be harmed when infrastructure is laid and special care and respect was given to those displaced because of the development. The leadership from the district to the federal level has been monitoring the corridor development mission every day to make it successful, Tilahun pointed out.

As to Tilahun, there were also challenges in due process. There were some entities who tried to disturb the people by saying that they would leave without discussion on the issue. Sometimes, there were also gaps in the quality of tiles and curve stones on the part of the manufacturers and they were fixed separately.

Another challenge was the issue of many people living in dependence on other families. Though their request is not legal, the city administration has accepted that it cannot throw away these members of the society and

has taken responsibility by reaching a special decision. Those who are disabled, the elderly, and those who could not move found a house and moved to another place.

The official also mentioned that the participation of investors was significant in this regard. By coordinating investors and building houses, these members of the society were allowed to enter this house.

Tilahun stated that the first round corridor development has been an amazing success for those who worked in it, and the second round has been kicked off. He added that the second round corridor development is different from the previous one. It is beyond building the development networks in the urban centers; rather it is providing infrastructure to the areas never available before. In so doing, the city has been put into practical work in which it is livable for its residents and a destination for tourists by returning the rivers and riverbanks to their natural status and connecting them with the main city center.

Belayneh Kinde, an investor, appreciated the leadership that works 24 hours, seven days in the corridor development. He stated that the city administration is feeding more than 800,000 students who need food, which is a humanitarian act that makes the country proud. The words; “We were big, we will be big” are no more word of media, but are being seen in reality, he stressed.

A member of the Wolo People’s Democratic Party, Netsanet Tasew, mentioned some concerns to be revisited in relation to the corridor development. He commented that if there are free health quizzes, if street begging law is prepared, and if old vehicles considered as they can be against the status of the corridor development.

Gebru Gebre of the Ethiopian Democratic Union mentioned that they have set up a committee based on the complaints about the corridor development and tried to identify the people’s complaints. They have come a conclusion that there was wrong information.



# Art & Culture

## Groundbreaking work: Four reasons why it's worth reading

BY WAKUMAN KUDAMA

A few days after the launch of the book entitled as *Narration's Debt and Blessing* three months ago, the CEO of our agency (Ethiopian Press Agency) asked me to review it for one of our publications. I viewed this request as an exciting opportunity to meet my professional obligation and contribute to our readers' understanding of this significant work. Determined to find the book, I visited more than four bookstores, including the renowned Addis Ababa University bookstore. Unfortunately, my search was in vain as the book had not yet been widely distributed. Undeterred, I reached out to the author over a phone. After congratulating him on his remarkable contribution to his generation and the generations to come, I requested him to let me know how to get a copy of his work. He then kindly told me to meet the main distributor, a bookstore near the Abrehot Library. Grateful for his assistance, I obtained a copy from a location conveniently situated just a few kilometers away from my office.

Once I began reading the book, I was immediately struck by its depth and brilliance. The author's mastery of language and the comprehensive treatment of the subject matter captivated my attention. It was evident from the first few pages that this was no ordinary book; it was a meticulously crafted masterpiece of 575 pages.

In the same week, while traveling on one of our local flights, I encountered an interesting coincidence. An official, frequently seen on television, was sitting beside me, and remarkably, we both had the same book (*Narration's Debt and Blessing*) in our hands. The shared interest sparked an engaging conversation that filled the 55-minute flight. During our discussion, he shared fascinating insights about the author, noting his deep expertise in the Amharic language and Orthodox traditions, shaped by his upbringing in *Bete Kihinet*. We both marveled at the author's ability to leverage this unique background to create a work of exceptional depth and authenticity.

As I delved further into the book, its vast scope became even more apparent. It felt less like a book and more like an ocean of knowledge and wisdom, making it daunting to condense its essence into a single review. Attempting to capture its essence in one article seemed not only insufficient but also unfair to the work itself. I realized that presenting a superficial analysis would diminish its value, and I found myself grappling with how best to approach the assignment given by my CEO.

Despite the delay in completing the review, a new perspective has lately come to me. I have recognized the importance of sharing my impressions and encouraging others to engage with this monumental work. While reviews often summarize key ideas to help readers extract value efficiently, this book's uniqueness resists such treatment. Its profound themes demand full attention, requiring readers to immerse themselves completely, line by line, from beginning to end, to truly appreciate its richness.

Therefore, rather than attempting to condense its contents, I have decided to share four compelling reasons why this book stands out and why you should consider reading it. My intention is not merely to summarize but to invite you on a journey of discovery, encouraging you to experience the book's



depth and beauty for yourself.

This book, *Narration's Debt and Blessing*, distinguishes itself as a profound and insightful exploration of Ethiopia's socio-political landscape, primarily owing to the remarkable impartiality exhibited by its author, Daniel Kibret. The author is a prominent figure who has been serving as a Minister of Social Affairs and Advisor to Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) since he came to power.

Daniel's remarkable understanding of Ethiopian politics further enriches the book's value. Drawing on years of experience and adequate knowledge of the country's history, he skillfully analyzes the destructive narratives propagated during various regimes. His ability to identify and deconstruct these narratives is amplified by his linguistic proficiency in Amharic, which allows him to engage with diverse sources and perspectives. This combination of expertise and access equips him to uncover the roots of divisive rhetoric.

In addition to dissecting the problems caused by past destructive narrations, Daniel offers pragmatic solutions aimed at fostering unity and mitigating the adverse effects of polarized discourse. His proposals are underpinned by a vision of inclusivity and reconciliation. After skillfully analyzing the various narrative discourses, he leads his readers to appreciate and uphold the "Grand Narrative" that would foster unity in nation building. Hereunder, I will discuss four reasons that make the book worth reading.

*The first reason* is Daniel's approach to the subject matter with an admirable commitment to neutrality. His refusal to align himself with the perspectives of any particular group, including those associated with his own ethnic background is the clearest indication of the defining strength of the book. This deliberate detachment enhances the credibility of his arguments and enables him to address sensitive issues with objectivity. He provides readers with a balanced lens through which to understand the broader implications of political narratives in Ethiopia by setting a standard for how complex political matters can be discussed constructively.

*Second*, another remarkable feature that makes

*Narration's Debt and Blessing* an invaluable read is its extraordinary richness in sources, with over 600 references meticulously cited. These sources span a wide range of disciplines, including religion, economics, politics, history, and culture, providing a solid foundation for the author's arguments and analyses. By incorporating such an expansive pool of references, the book achieves an impressive depth and breadth, allowing readers to gain a multifaceted understanding of the topics it addresses. This comprehensive approach not only enhances the book's credibility but also elevates its significance in suggesting solutions in our socio-political circumstances.

What sets *Narration's Debt and Blessing* apart is not merely the quantity of sources cited but the exceptional manner in which they are utilized. Daniel organizes these diverse materials with remarkable precision, presenting them in a logical and cohesive sequence that aligns seamlessly with the book's central arguments. This meticulous organization allows readers to follow his reasoning effortlessly, while simultaneously appreciating the depth of research that underpins his conclusions.

The sources included in the book are not limited to contemporary works; the author also delves into ancient texts, including those dating back several centuries and even before the Common Era. This temporal diversity enables him to trace the evolution of ideas and narratives over time, providing a historical context that enriches his analysis. By referencing such timeless works, he demonstrates a keen understanding of how historical narratives continue to influence modern socio-political realities, thereby offering readers a unique perspective on Ethiopia's current challenges.

Above all, the skillful integration of these sources significantly enhances the book's analytical consistency. Each reference is purposefully chosen and expertly deployed to support the author's intended purpose, creating a compelling and well-supported argument throughout the text. This careful utilization of resources not only elevates the book's value but also makes it accessible and engaging for a wide range of readers, from policymakers

to anyone interested in Ethiopia's complex history and politics.

*Third*, another captivating reason to read *Narration's Debt and Blessing* is its exceptional comprehensiveness. Unlike many other works, whether focused on history or culture, this book offers an in-depth exploration of the diverse narratives that have shaped Ethiopian society. Daniel carefully examines the full spectrum of narratives that emerge from every corner of the country—from the South, East, North, and West—providing a holistic view of Ethiopia's cultural and historical evolution. This thorough approach ensures that the book covers the full range of influences that have contributed to the formation of contemporary Ethiopia.

*Fourth*, what makes this book particularly noteworthy is its inclusion of all relevant narratives—both cultural and historical—that have contributed to the development of modern Ethiopia. It addresses not only the narratives that have had a positive influence on nation-building but also those that have led to destructive consequences in our politics. By acknowledging the role of these diverse narratives, Daniel provides readers with a comprehensive understanding of the complexities that underpin Ethiopia's current political and social realities. This inclusiveness is crucial, as it helps identify the root causes of Ethiopia's challenges while also appreciating the multiple perspectives that have shaped the nation's journey.

Ultimately, the comprehensiveness of *Narration's Debt and Blessing* serves as one of its greatest strengths. By embracing the full spectrum of Ethiopia's cultural and historical narratives, the book offers a broad and balanced examination of the forces that have shaped the nation. This inclusive approach not only provides a more accurate portrayal of Ethiopia's past but also offers valuable insights into how these diverse narratives can be harmonized to foster national unity and promote future development.

What distinguishes this work is the meticulous evaluation of the diverse narratives shaping Ethiopian society. Daniel begins by identifying and presenting these narratives in a coherent and well-organized sequence, paying particular attention to their historical, cultural, and political contexts. He then subjects each narrative to rigorous analysis, uncovering the ways in which they have contributed to both constructive and destructive outcomes in Ethiopian history.

After this thorough examination, Daniel shifts focus to propose a unified and constructive "Grand Narrative" designed to foster national unity. This proposed narrative is not merely theoretical; it is a carefully considered framework that draws upon the positive elements of Ethiopia's diverse histories and cultures. By transitioning seamlessly from analysis to solution-oriented discourse, the author provides a roadmap for overcoming fragmentation and building a more inclusive national identity.

In short, for the reasons outlined above, this book merits careful reading. It provides valuable insights into the diverse political landscape of the country, thereby enhancing our understanding of the complexities that shape national development. By engaging with its content, we are better equipped to contribute meaningfully to the process of nation-building.



# Global Affairs

## COP29: Ambitious climate finance goal is not enough – the funds must also reach the Right communities



Fati N'zi-Hassane

The 29th United Nations Conference of the Parties (COP29) currently underway in Baku, Azerbaijan, is a key global milestone for agreeing on a new compromise to reduce emissions and to provide to the Global South the much-needed finance to address the devastating consequences of the climate crisis.

While these climate talks must aim at having rich countries step up and contribute the resources needed, they must also be about how to ensure that the funds actually reach the most vulnerable...because right now, they don't.

A study by Oxfam has shown that only 0.8% of the directly reported recipients of climate finance in the Sahel could be confidently defined as locally-based organizations. The bulk of climate finance goes to international organizations, an indicator of the level of exclusion that local actors still face in directly accessing and managing climate initiatives coming from international public finance.

Oxfam's interviews with over 100 organizations in the Sahel – one of the regions most affected by climate change – revealed that a myriad of obstacles prevent civil society organizations from accessing available climate funds.

Application procedures are often too complex, and favor large, well-established organizations capable of meeting the bureaucratic requirements such as financial statements, letters of approval, environmental and social guarantees, proven experience in managing large budgets, and registration documents that are imposed on them.

Documentation and information sessions are often in English, a less accessible language for many Sahelians, not to mention the fact that information doesn't even reach them in communities where access to the internet and electricity is limited.

Many funding mechanisms require a financial contribution from the organization, or financial guarantees in the case of loans, or even a multi-year financial balance sheet including audits and financial statements, conditions that smaller organizations are not in a position to meet. Short deadlines for application discourage many.



Credit: Karelia Pallan/Oxfam



**It is not only fair but also highly effective that they are able to access and manage as much as possible the international climate finance flowing to their countries**

The program objectives that guide the use of funds are often imposed without taking into account the real needs of the target communities.

Marginalized by social norms within their own communities, women lack access to decision-making bodies, capacity-building opportunities, and land ownership, which prevents them from accessing financing mechanisms that require land as collateral.

In addition, finance tends to be less accessible in contexts affected by conflict, insecurity, and other multidimensional factors of fragility. This is mainly due to a risk averse approach by donors leaving out these areas from their geographical priorities, but also because of the high cost related to implementation, the difficulty to access project areas, and questions about the sustainability of investments.

Yet, it is exactly these fragile and conflict affected communities that are facing most urgent needs to address climate-related impacts and build resilience. One way of improving the flow of climate finance to such areas would be by creating more direct access mechanisms for local authorities and community-based organizations. Ultimately, they are the ones who are best placed to manage the barriers above.

Among the highly inaccessible funds are the Adaptation fund, the Global Environment Fund, the Green Climate Fund, and funds from financial institutions, such as the World Bank or the African Development Bank.

Civil society organisations (CSOs) and local communities in the Global South are leading on climate solutions in their contexts, for example, as first responders when disaster strike in their community, or as leaders rallying their community around disaster risk reduction or environmental conservation projects.

It is not only fair but also highly effective that they are able to access and manage as much as possible the international climate finance flowing to their countries. With the Loss and Damage fund, created following COP27, becoming operational, it is important to avoid the pitfalls of other climate funds and to facilitate communities' access to this new source of financing.

Some simple changes that can improve climate finance access include removing barriers such as co-financing requirements, improving information sharing, making application processes simple and establishing specific quotas and direct access funding windows for national and local civil society organizations, especially the ones representing farmers, indigenous peoples, women, youth or people with disabilities.

The success of COP29 will be measured not only by the quantity of funds committed, but also by the quality of their allocation. Only funds that actually reach the communities on the frontline of the climate crisis and truly meet their needs will contribute to delivering climate justice.

(SOURCE: INTER PRESS SERVICE)



# Law & Politics

## A legacy of commitment to global peace

BY STAFF REPORTER

Ethiopia has long been recognized as a significant contributor to international peacekeeping efforts. Its commitment to global peace and security has earned the country a prominent reputation in the international community. Over the decades, Ethiopia's peacekeeping missions have demonstrated its dedication to fostering stability in conflict zones, particularly within Africa. Its engagement in peacekeeping dates back to the 1950s. In 1951, Ethiopian troops were deployed as part of the United Nations Command during the Korean War, marking the country's first international military engagement. This mission established Ethiopia as a reliable partner in maintaining global peace.

Ethiopian peacekeepers are known for their adherence to the principles of impartiality, respect for human rights, and cultural sensitivity. These qualities have earned them trust and respect in the regions where they operate. The successful containment of conflicts in Darfur and South Sudan is a testament to Ethiopia's capability and dedication.

The country's involvement in peacekeeping also reflects its broader strategic interests. By contributing to regional stability, Ethiopia seeks to prevent the spillover of conflicts into its own borders. Moreover, its active participation in peacekeeping enhances its international standing and fosters strong diplomatic ties with global powers and institutions.

Ethiopian soldiers played a critical role in stabilizing the region during a period of political turmoil, showcasing their discipline, professionalism, and commitment to humanitarian principles.

Ethiopia's peacekeeping efforts are particularly significant within the African continent. As one of Africa's most populous nations and a founding member of the African Union (AU), Ethiopia has been at the forefront of regional stabilization initiatives. Darfur, Sudan (UNAMID): Ethiopia has been a major troop contributor to the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), a mission aimed at protecting civilians and facilitating humanitarian aid in Sudan's conflict-ridden region.

The country has also played a vital role in the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), deploying thousands of troops to help stabilize the country and support its peace process. Ethiopia's proximity and historical ties to South Sudan have made its involvement particularly impactful. Ethiopia has been an integral part of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) later ATMIS, combating the insurgency of Al-Shabaab and supporting Somalia's transition towards stability and self-governance. Ethiopian forces have been pivotal in reclaiming key territories and securing peace agreements.

Just recently, the International Peace Support Training Institute (IPSTI) has graduated 27 of its students in Master's



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**B**y contributing to regional stability, Ethiopia seeks to prevent the spillover of conflicts into its own borders

Degree in peace and conflict management fields. Of which students, nine of them are from various African countries. The ceremony is its second cohort.

According to ENA, a local media house, Lieutenant General Yimer Mekonnen, The National Defense Forces (NDF) Training Head, during the graduation ceremony, expressed his hope that the graduates will play vital role in promoting peace and security not only in their country and the African continent, but also across the globe, stressing the urgency of peace and conflict management at this time when there are escalating crises in the region.

With a rich history of peacekeeping deployments dating back to the Korean War in 1951, Ethiopia has cemented its role as a trusted partner in the United Nations' efforts to maintain international peace and security.

The National Defense Force's (NDF) involvement in Somalia's peacekeeping efforts has been significant. Since early 1990s, the NDF has been paying sacrifice in Somalia, contributing to the stabilization of the region and the restoration of the Somali government's authority.

Through their tireless efforts, the NDF has been instrumental in securing key infrastructure, facilitating humanitarian aid delivery, and training local security forces, laying the groundwork for Somalia's gradual recovery.

The Lt. General stated that the necessity of effective peace and conflict management is more urgent than ever as we witness escalating conflicts, humanitarian crises, and geopolitical tensions.

According to him, recent years have demonstrated that peace is not merely the absence of conflict but it is the presence of justice, understanding and cooperation. It is our collective responsibility to forge pathway towards harmony, understanding, and reconciliation, Lt. General Yimer added.

Japan's Ambassador to Ethiopia, Hironori Shibata recalled that Ethiopia is a great country that significantly contributed its role to peacekeeping by sharing good experiences.

Japan has been supporting the IPSTI financially and in technical aspect, it was indicated. He reassured Japan's continued support to Ethiopia's endeavor in training personnel for peace keeping missions. He urged graduates to apply the knowledge and skills they have acquired for both continental and global peace and security.

In addition, Samuel Gbaydee Doe, Resident Representative for the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Ethiopia on his part stated that the institute is playing

great role for peacekeeping.

“UNDP is proud to be associated with your remarkable achievements, and we eagerly look forward to seeing the positive impact you will bring to our continent and the world through your work with the United Nations and the African Union Peacekeeping nations across the world,” he said. The representative also acknowledged Ethiopia's long experience in peacekeeping missions.

“I am from Liberia, and I have a personal experience with Ethiopian peacekeepers along with many from across the continent and the world brought peace to Liberia after 14 years of civil war. Today, Liberia is calling from that greater past. It is rising as one of the members of our continent. So let me take this opportunity to commend the government of Ethiopia and the Ministry of Defense for the foresight, to invest in this important training institute that has quickly gone to serve peacekeeping needs across our continent and beyond in the world,” he added.

He also said we also greatly valued and recognized the technical and financial support the Government of Japan has provided to the IPSTI, local and international training as well as the Masters' program.

It is our sincere hope that investments made in IPSTI by the government of Ethiopia and its partners like Japan will go a long way in strengthening peacekeeping and the protection of human security by preventing violence across our continent and the world, especially violence against women, children and girls, the representative stressed.

The success of Ethiopia's peacekeeping operations has not gone unnoticed by the international community. Their unwavering commitment to serving the greater good has earned them widespread international acclaim by the United Nations, the United States, Canada, and various military attachés lauding Ethiopia's invaluable contribution to maintaining peace and security around the world.



# International News

## Africa: UN Chief Urges G20 Leaders to Tackle Global Hunger Crisis

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has called on G20 leaders to address the urgent issue of global hunger, which affected one in 11 people worldwide over the past year.

In a post on X (formerly Twitter), Guterres described hunger and poverty as “shameful injustices” and urged the world’s leading economies to mobilize finance, strengthen global investments, and enhance the global financial safety net.

“Today I urged G20 leaders to help correct the shameful injustice of hunger & poverty,” he wrote, emphasizing the importance of collective action in tackling food insecurity and its underlying causes.

The statement comes amid growing

concerns about global food insecurity exacerbated by conflicts, climate change, and economic disparities.

Recent UN data shows that nearly 735 million people faced hunger in 2023, underscoring the need for immediate interventions.

The Secretary-General has consistently highlighted the need for structural reforms to the global financial system to ensure vulnerable countries can access resources to combat poverty and hunger.

His appeal to G20 leaders builds on these calls, urging nations to prioritize food security in their economic and policy agendas.

As world leaders gather for the G20



summit, Guterres’ remarks aim to refocus attention on human development issues, reminding them that alleviating hunger is

essential to achieving global stability and sustainable development goals.

*Source: Nile Post*

## Africa: 80% of People Without Electricity Access Live in Nigeria, Other African Nations - Report

**ABUJA** — Roughly 80 per cent of people who have no access to electricity globally live in Nigeria and other countries in sub-Saharan Africa despite a decline of the number by more than 10 million, a new report has said.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) in its latest ‘Country Data on Electricity Access,’ however noted that the figure of persons who do not have power supply has slumped from over 760 million to below 750 million in the last one year.

Created in 1974, the IEA monitors energy markets and provides analysis, data, and policy recommendations to its 31 member countries and 13 association countries.

However, despite the large number of persons who do not have electricity, the report stated that data for 2024 suggest that improvements are set to continue this year, as the number of people without access to electricity is expected to decline by as much as 10 million again.

Nigeria faces persistent inadequate power supply, with about 5,000mw available, despite a demand of 20,000mw. Aside transmission infrastructure constraints, the sector is beset with distribution network inefficiencies.

Others include: Metering issues, with over an estimated half of customers unmetered, funding constraints, estimated at \$10 billion annual investment deficit, corruption and inefficiency in the sector, gas supply shortages for power plants as well as aging infrastructure.

But the global improvements remain well below pre-2020 levels, the IEA said, recalling that between 2015 and 2019, the population without access decreased each year by 80 million on average.

According to the report, around 80 per cent



of the countries without universal access today it is still slower than in the late 2010s, with current improvement rates far below what is necessary to reach the target of universal electricity access by 2030.

It stated that this requires the population without access to decrease on average ten times faster than today.

While most of developing Asia and Latin America get closer to universal electricity access, with more than half a billion people gaining access in the past decade, it said major gaps persist in sub-Saharan Africa, where 80 per cent of people without access live.

“The most severe gap persists in sub-Saharan Africa, where 80 per cent of the global population without electricity access live. After three years of backsliding, progress resumed in 2023, driven by an acceleration in grid connections, continued growth in solar-home systems deployment, and, to a lesser extent, new mini grids development.

“Six hundred million sub-Saharan Africans still lacked access to electricity, a number higher than in 2019. Even with continued progress in 2024 as suggested by preliminary reporting, the number of people without access to electricity in the region will still be slightly higher than in 2019 by the end of this year.

“New annual connections in sub-Saharan Africa have rebounded. Decentralised access solutions now serve 7 per cent of the region’s population. The number of new annual electricity connections in sub-Saharan Africa reached more than 6.5 million in 2023, an increase of 60 per cent since the 2021 dip and just shy of the around 7 million connected in 2019.

“Countries with a strong history of expanding electricity access are contributing the most to the recovery, with significant single-year improvements in grid connections driving the rebound in countries like Ghana, Nigeria, and Uganda,” the report added.

The number of new grid connections in Nigeria and the other three countries, it said, has more than doubled since the 2020-2022 dip, reaching or even surpassing pre-crisis levels.

Most countries, however, are still lagging below their historical progress levels, with more than 40 per cent of the population in sub-Saharan Africa connected to the main grid and mini-grids providing access to more than 4 million additional households, it said.

The IEA stressed that market for mini-grids had been growing in recent years as more countries institute regulatory frameworks to facilitate the financing and implementation of these projects.

“Around 27 million people were connected

to a mini-grid in sub-Saharan Africa in 2021. Countries such as Nigeria and Uganda have seen an acceleration in the number of mini-grid licenses that have been permitted and registered, and in the number of customers connected to mini-grids.

“Based on planned projects and permits in the region we estimate this trend to continue to accelerate ... to 3 per cent of the population.

“While there was a slight decrease in sales in more established markets in eastern Africa, these were outweighed by continued growth in west African markets, driven by Nigeria, and record sales in southern Africa,” the document explained.

But despite the promising trends, more financial commitments, it said, are necessary to accelerate progress on global energy access

“Progress remains far behind the levels required in most countries to reach universal access by 2030, and without further action around 645 million people will still lack access globally by the end of the decade.

“New measures and innovations have recently improved the long-term outlook compared to previous years, with around one-third of the population without access living in a country that recently implemented a positive change in their electricity access paradigm.

“Still, challenges remain, including limited access to affordable commercial finance, difficulties in disbursing funds for ‘smaller’ projects, growing debt burdens, and competing demands on overseas development assistance budgets,” the IEA report pointed out.

*Source: This Day*



# Planet Earth

## Understanding antibiotics can help prevent antibiotic resistance, its environmental impacts



BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

Antimicrobials are medications, such as antibiotics, that kill or control disease-causing bacteria. Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) arises when microorganisms evolve or adapt in ways that allow them to resist antimicrobials, making treatments ineffective. The overuse and misuse of antimicrobials, particularly antibiotics, in humans and animals accelerate Antimicrobials significantly.

The ability of microorganisms, including bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites, to withstand the effects of drugs that once effectively treat them is known as antimicrobial resistance (AMR), and it represents a serious global public health concern. Longer hospital stays, more medical expenses and higher mortality rates can result from this resistance.

Overuse and misuse of antibiotics can result in antimicrobial resistance. Resistance develops as a result of self-medication, patient non-compliance, and inappropriate prescribing methods in healthcare settings. The use of antibiotics in animals to promote growth and prevent sickness can result in resistant strains that could spread to people through the food chain. It can also be caused by agricultural activities.

Hence, antimicrobial resistance affects people in different ways. Because infections brought on by resistant organisms are more difficult to cure, they can result in longer disease durations, a higher risk of complications, and higher mortality rates. Furthermore, it has a financial cost. The financial impact includes significant loss of productivity owing to illness, the need for more costly medications, and increased healthcare costs as a result of longer hospital admissions.

Here the most crucial question in this case is whether or not antibiotic resistance affects the environment. If it involves environmental issues, how might it be resolved?

Ethiopian Food and Drug Authority Drug Pharmacovigilance and Clinical Trial Lead Executive Officer Asnakech Alemu told the Ethiopian Herald that the World Health Organization (WHO) has launched a Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance, which aims to improve surveillance, research and development, infection prevention and control, and antimicrobial use.

Taking these facts into account, the country has been implementing national action plans to respond to antimicrobial resistance. These plans mainly focus on improving stewardship programs, enhancing laboratory capacity, and promoting public awareness campaigns.

Taking these facts into account, the country has been adopting national action plans to combat antimicrobial resistance. These strategies primarily aim to improve public health and promote public awareness campaigns. Particularly, antimicrobial resistance is not

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### ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

- STOPPING THE RISE OF SUPERBUGS**  
Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is one of the biggest challenges we face in public health today. It threatens our ability to treat infections and can make common procedures much riskier. Understanding AMR is crucial for everyone, and here's a look at what it is, why it's a problem, its main drivers, and how we can prevent it.
- WHAT ARE ANTIMICROBIALS?**  
Antimicrobials are substances that kill microbes or stop their growth. These include antibiotics, which target bacteria, as well as antiviral, antifungal, and antiparasitic agents. The use of antimicrobials goes back thousands of years, but modern antimicrobials began in the early 1900s with breakthroughs like penicillin. They have changed the way we handle infections and have become essential in medicine.
- HOW DO ANTIMICROBIALS WORK?**  
Antimicrobials work by entering harmful organisms and blocking their important functions. This can either kill the microbes or prevent them from multiplying. However, as we use these drugs, some microbes develop ways to resist them. This resistance can happen through several methods.
- THE CONSEQUENCES OF AMR**  
AMR leads to treatments becoming less effective, making infections harder to treat. Diseases that were once easy to manage can now require more expensive or prolonged treatment. Some might even become untreatable.
- MAIN DRIVERS OF AMR**  
While AMR can be a natural evolutionary process, certain actions have accelerated it. The primary driver is the overuse of antimicrobials in both humans and animals. In many cases, antibiotics are prescribed for viral infections or not taken as directed, allowing resistance to develop.
- PREVENTING AMR**
  1. **Raise Awareness:** Education is vital. Understanding AMR helps everyone make informed choices.
  2. **Strengthen Research:** More research is needed to track AMR and develop new treatments and vaccines.
  3. **Reduce Infections:** Improve sanitation and hygiene, especially in healthcare settings. This includes promoting handwashing and safe food and water practices.
  4. **Optimize Use:** Use antimicrobials wisely in both humans and animals. Implement stewardship programs to ensure appropriate usage.
  5. **Invest in Solutions:** Increase funding for new medicines and diagnostics to ensure we have effective tools to fight infection.

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only a critical public health concern but also has serious environmental consequences. Its relationship with the environment is complicated and multidimensional, with multiple avenues for resistant microbes and antimicrobial drugs to enter and harm ecosystems.

She also stated that environmental pollution may result from antibiotic resistance. Manufacturing pharmaceuticals could be a good example of this. High levels of antibiotics and resistant microorganisms in wastewater from pharmaceutical production sites can contaminate the environment. Antimicrobial resistance also affects agricultural runoff. Antibiotic residues and resistant bacteria can enter soil and water bodies through runoff from the use of antibiotics in crop and livestock agriculture. Antimicrobial resistance can also be found in wastewater treatment facilities. Antibiotics and resistant microbes might not be completely eliminated by these facilities, allowing them to be reintroduced

back into the environment.

Furthermore, antimicrobial resistance has detrimental consequences for ecosystems. The presence of antibiotics in the environment can disturb microbial populations, resulting in decreased biodiversity and altered ecosystem processes. Certain resistant strains may outcompete indigenous species, disrupting the balance of microbial ecosystems which leads to a loss of biodiversity.

She noted that antimicrobial resistance does not just impair biodiversity; it can also have an impact on soil health. Antibiotics can have an impact on soil microbiomes, which are important for nutrient cycling, organic matter decomposition, and soil fertility. Disruptions to these systems can have long-term effects on agricultural yield. Furthermore, it has an impact on water quality since contaminated water bodies can host resistant bacteria, endangering aquatic life and potentially contaminating drinking water supplies. This can result in a cycle of transmission

to humans and animals.

Antimicrobial resistance in the environment can impede efforts to manage infectious diseases because resistant organisms can infiltrate human populations through a variety of paths, including food consumption, recreational aquatic activities, and contact with contaminated surfaces.

She said that to decrease antibiotic resistance and its environmental implications, sustainable agriculture techniques must be implemented. Antibiotic use in agriculture can be reduced by better management methods, such as improved animal husbandry and biosecurity. It is also improving wastewater treatment technologies to better remove antibiotics and resistant bacteria before they are discharged into the environment. Furthermore, it is critical to upgrade infrastructure to ensure access to water and sanitation in healthcare facilities. Effective treatment and disposal of sewage and wastewater can help to reduce antibiotic resistance.

It is also critical to enhance waste management procedures in health stations, hospitals, and so on. Improving the safe disposal of unneeded antimicrobials, as well as monitoring the presence of antimicrobial residues, antibiotic-resistant bacteria, sanitation systems, and genes in health facilities, can assist in mitigating environmental impacts.

More importantly, antimicrobial resistance and its consequences, including environmental impacts, necessitate a One Health approach, which acknowledges the interconnection of human, animal, and environmental health. To effectively address antimicrobial resistance, it is necessary to identify and mitigate its environmental pathways, as well as manage its dissemination in clinical settings. Collaboration across sectors is vital for developing long-term solutions that safeguard both public health and the environment, she underlined.

Furthermore, adopting programs that promote the proper use of antimicrobials in both healthcare and agriculture is critical to reducing the long-term consequences of antimicrobial resistance. The government, the people, and healthcare workers should all work together to prevent infections. They should improve cleanliness practices, immunization programs, and infection control measures in healthcare facilities. It is critical to raise public knowledge about the dangers of antibiotic abuse and the need to follow prescribed treatment regimens.

The issue of antimicrobial resistance is a complicated and growing threat that requires immediate action. Understanding past preventative efforts is critical for implementing effective problem-solving solutions. With adequate funding, inventive thinking, and strengthened international cooperation, the world has a chance of preserving these critical medications for future generations she added.