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The Ethiopian Herald wishes all its esteemed readers Merry Christmas filled with joy and peace. This festive season is a time of joy, love and celebration, providing an opportunity to share happiness with loved ones.



Photo: Dagne Abera

Mark Napier

FSD Africa supports Ethiopia's green economy

BY HAILE DEMEKE

ADDIS ABABA -Financial Sector Deepening (FSD) Africa commended Ethiopia's Green Legacy Initiative (GLI) and expressed keenness to support the country in achieving Climate-Resilient Green Economy.

FSD Africa Chief Executive Officer Mark Napier told *The Ethiopian Herald* that Ethiopia's exertions in climate change mitigation are clear, and the country is exerting efforts to achieve Climate-Resilient Green Economy (CRGE).

The sector needs collaboration and the investment required, particularly in climate finance, is substantial. He emphasized the commitment needed to achieve these goals and highlighted Ethiopia's crucial role

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Ethiopia expresses dismay over Somalia's foreign ministry allegations

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA- Ethiopia is dismayed by the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Government of Somalia, which makes allegations against the Ethiopian forces for the incident in the town of Doolow, Somalia.

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New Chapter for Nile Waters: CFA's Challenges, opportunities

BY HAILE DEMEKE

Signed by six nations, the long awaited Nile River Basin Commission (NRBC) has come into force on October 13, 2024, marking a significant step towards just and sustainable management of the Nile River. This pivotal agreement aims to ensure that all riparian nations receive equitable benefits from the river, which has historically been dominated by downstream countries at the expense of the upper riparian nations that contributes the lion's share to the river.

The recently reached agreement signed by six riparian nations has rejected colonial-era agreements that have favored the downstream countries at the cost of upstream countries, particularly Ethiopia, which contributes more than 80 percent of the Nile River water. Water resource experts suggested that Ethiopia needs



to play a leading role in the execution of the agreement for the fair and equitable utilization of the river.

The experts stressed Ethiopia's trailblazer

role in coordinating riparian nations in fostering equitable use of the Nile river that has long been dominated by downstream

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News



unesco

UNEVOC Network Member

Ethiopia joins UNESCO- UNEVOC network member

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA – Federal Technical and Vocational Training Institute (FTVTI) announced that it has joined the UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (UNESCO-UNEVOC) membership to technical and vocational institutions in UNESCO Member States.

Accordingly, the centre wants to improve the quality of TVET in each member states.

In the press release sent to *The Ethiopian Herald*, Ethiopia had previously submitted application to UNEVOC to be a member country. FTVTI membership in the UNEVOC network will last until 31 December 2027.

“The membership renewal will then be based upon performance and mutual consent. With the support of UNESCO-UNEVOC, the centers work together to achieve the networks mission and to improve the standard and quality TVET systems in their respective countries at global stage,” the institute disclosed.

The institute further stated that UNEVOC called on FTVTI and other members to play a pro-active role to bring better future for communities. In this regard, the network’s success relies on its members being both beneficiaries and active contributors to its objectives alongside with better environment in the forthcoming.

UNEVOC center coordinated and head of center duties are outlined in the Hand book for the UNEVOC network. For 30 years, UNEVOC network members have proudly embraced a spirit of cooperation and mutual assistance, it was stated.

The UNEVOC network is managed and coordinated by the UNEVOC network secretariat, *The Ethiopian Herald* learned.

ENDC celebrates breakthrough in Oromia’s agenda gathering

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA--The Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission (ENDC) Chief Commissioner, Professor Mesfin Araya, has hailed the participation of former members of the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA) in the agenda gathering phase as a significant milestone.

In a press briefing held at the conclusion of Oromia’s agenda gathering consultative meeting, Prof. Mesfin emphasized the commission’s commitment to involving all groups, including those engaged in power struggles, in the National Dialogue process.

He also highlighted the significance of the OLA’s participation, especially following their recent peace agreement with the Oromia State Government. “Dialogue is a process that makes all parties winners. It is also a path that requires actors not only to be logical, but also to show empathy.”

The agenda gathering, which saw the participation of around 7,000 individuals, concluded in a historic manner. The event was organized into four large clusters and conducted across 640 groups over the span of five days. According to Prof. Mesfin, the groups submitted their agendas, which were thoroughly discussed and debated in an open and free manner.

The upcoming National Dialogue conference will include 320 community representatives,



12 opinion leaders and notable figures, 31 government representatives, and other selected participants from Oromia.

Prof. Mesfin noted that the identification of participants was a highly competitive process. He also pointed out that religious institutions and political parties will send their chosen participants directly to the commission.

Furthermore, the commission has successfully met its target of 30 percent women’s participation, and the involvement of persons with disabilities (PWD) is also showing promising progress.

The Chief Commissioner took the opportunity to express his appreciation to the media for its crucial role in the process, as well as to

acknowledge the continuous support from various actors who have contributed to the commission’s work.

Before the Oromia State gathering, the ENDC held similar events in nine other states, engaging over 105,370 participants from 932 districts across these states and two city administrations.

Now that the agenda gathering in Oromia State is concluded, the commission plans to continue providing training, identifying participants, and gathering agendas for states that have yet to participate. These states include Amhara and Tigray, which were unable to engage for various reasons, it was learned.

Bureau calls for upholding children, domestic workers’ rights

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA – Stakeholders should combine efforts to protect the rights of children and domestic workers, the Addis Ababa Women, Children and Social Affairs Bureau urged.

A panel discussion held yesterday in Addis Ababa highlighted the need to further promoting the rights of children and domestic workers.

During the discussion, Bureau Head, Woinshet Zerihun called for the protection of the rights of children, domestic workers to ensure their freedoms and socio-economic benefits.

The Head reiterated that legal frameworks and tangible agreements between employers and employees are essential to protect children’s rights, including advocacy initiatives with various training programs.

She highlighted those measures to combat child labor exploitation and ensure the wellbeing of vulnerable children as well as domestic workers in the city.

She also pointed out the detrimental role of manipulators who facilitate the exploitation of children and domestic workers for personal gain, calling for justice and stricter legal repercussions for such offenders.

Woinshet emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts among stakeholders in



working together with understanding and a commitment to address the intertwined issues of domestic women’s abuse and child labor exploitation to uphold the good values of country’s culture.

Andinet Ethiopian Domestic Workers Union President, Hirut Abera expressed that her organization protects the rights of domestic workers.

“We provide free legal support and raise awareness among employers to ensure that domestic workers are not exploited, receive timely salaries, and work in safe environments. In recognition of their rights, setting minimum wage and establishing a legal framework, is critical,” Hirut stated.

Addis Ababa Justice Office Legal Advice and Awareness Prosecutor, Hidiat Getachew explained that absence of governing laws that protect domestic workers lead to exploitation so to create a conducive environment for domestic workers, it

requires legislation that takes their needs into consideration and clearly outlines their rights and responsibilities in relation to their employers.

She emphasized that the collective responsibility to advocate for the rights of domestic workers and children in order to create a more just and equitable society is the urgent call of the day towards ending child labor exploitation in the nation.

Panelists agreed that addressing children abuse and domestic workers violence is paramount to improving working conditions and ensuring education rights for children and needs support from civil society organizations.

The event, co-hosted by the Addis Ababa Women and Children Social Affairs Bureau and Hope for Children, aimed at raising awareness and encourage stakeholders to take action against the abuse of children and domestic workers.

News

East Hararghe to utilize Kulbi festival in revamping tourism

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

ADDIS ABABA- East Hararghe Zone Culture and Tourism Office announced preparations to warmly welcome celebrants of the biannual St. Gabriel festival while making provisions to utilize its potential to stimulate tourism.

The Office Tourism Team Leader Tadiwos Sileshi told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that preparations are finalized to celebrate the St. Gabriel, also known as Kulbi Gabriel, religious festival on December 28, 2024. This biannual festival will have a significant contribution to the revival of tourism and economy in area.

Tadiwos stated that the Kulbi Gabriel biannual festival is the largest pilgrimage event in Ethiopia, and an estimated 7 million people will attend the event.

Pilgrims, who travel to the state to attend the religious festival will visit various tourist destinations in the area thereby spending money for variety of services, which will boost tourism and the local economy, he stressed.

Tadiwos also expressed that the local



community has completed preparations to celebrate the festival with warm welcome to the faithful.

According to him, tourists will attend the festival and visit various natural attractions, learning about the culture and language of the area. It will give the city of Kulbi and its surroundings charming vibes.

East Hararghe is working with neighboring zones and states to ensure a peaceful festival. Accordingly, guests are arriving at the city to celebrate the festival.

The St. Gabriel Festival is celebrated twice

a year in Kulbi, East Hararghe Zone, on December 28th and July 26th, and it is the biggest religious event.

The historic and attractive monastery is located in the mountainous area of the zone, which makes it appealing for tourists. Moreover, the area is also known for its various natural resources including valleys, mountains and wild animals, he elaborated.

Various activities are underway to expand tourist attraction places and infrastructures so as to exploit the tourism potential of the resources, the Team Leader stated.

Ethiopia expresses...

In its recent statement, Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) stated that the allegation is not true and the incident is instigated by certain elements intent on derailing the normalization of relations between Ethiopia and Somalia.

“These third parties are intent on destabilizing the Horn of Africa (HoA) and are perennial spoilers of peace in the region. They should not be allowed to frustrate the commitment of the two countries to peace as expressed in the Ankara Declaration,” MoFA noted.

MoFA, moreover, noted that Ethiopia values and upholds its commitment to revitalize and deepen the fraternal relations between

the two countries in the spirit of the Ankara Declaration.

The resolve and courage of the leaders of the two countries will also continue to bolster the bilateral partnership and broader regional cooperation, it was stated.

In related news, Ethiopian and Somali held bilateral discussion aimed to solidifying the Ankara Declaration in Addis Ababa. The discussion between the two countries was headed by Foreign State Ministers of the two countries.

During the discussion, Ethiopian Foreign State Minister, Ambassador Misganu Arga highlighted Ethiopia’s commitment for the full implementation of the Ankara

Declaration, and to continue cooperation in combating terrorism in the region, Ethiopian News Agency reported.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Somalia, Ali Omar on his part also reportedly appreciated the discussion focused on mechanisms for the effective implementation of the agreement.

The Ankara Agreement was subsequently signed by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) and President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud of Somalia.

Furthermore, intelligence institutions of the two countries have discussed security issues yesterday, it was learnt.

New Chapter for Nile...

countries particularly Egypt.

Speaking to Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) in water resource development and Trans Boundary River and Horn of Africa (HoA) Hydro Diplomacy Consultant Feki Ahmed said that Ethiopia needs to play a pioneer role for the effectiveness of the accord in ensuring equitable and reasonable utilization of the river.

From the outset of the Abbay Dam construction, Ethiopia has consistently communicated to the riparian countries that the project will not adversely affect downstream nations and is designed solely for development purpose. The recent agreement is also in line with international water law principles and is crucial for ensuring fair resource usage, thus preventing significant harms. The agreement is also vital for fostering strong collaboration among the member states. Accordingly, Ethiopia’s

leadership role is crucial in promoting fair and scientifically informed water usage, ultimately benefiting the shared resources of the Nile Basin.

On the other hand, the riparian countries must work together to ensure inclusive development within the basin. Ethiopia is emerging as a regional energy hub, exporting electricity to neighboring countries, which is important for enhancing regional cooperation, Feki added.

Echoing this sentiment, Water and Energy Minister Eng. Habtamu Itefa said that reaching the agreement is a major milestone for the basin countries, paving the way for equitable and reasonable use of the river water.

He emphasized that Ethiopia needs to advocate more for the fair use of the resources and strengthen the agreement to come into force shortly.

For more than half a century, Egypt has stubbornly worked to maintain its preferential access to the Nile’s waters while contributing nothing to the river’s water volume. In defiance of this progressive framework, Egypt and Sudan persist in their rejection of the Cooperative Framework Agreement (CFA), clinging to antiquated colonial era agreements from 1929 and 1959 that primarily serve their vested interests. Accordingly, Ethiopia has to inform the global community to understand the reality and the benefits of the agreement. The enactment of the CFA establishes a robust legal framework designed to promote collaboration and mutual advantages.

Habtamu stated that Ethiopia considers the condition of downstream countries, affirming that the dam does not negatively affect Sudan or Egypt. Despite consecutive dam fillings over the past few years, the amount of water reaching downstream countries has not decreased.

FSD Africa supports...

in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), contributing 50 percent of the country’s targets.

Napier stated that Ethiopia has set clear objectives in forestry, land use and livestock management, which is essential for ensuring sustainable development and also contributing to the nation’s long-term effort of creating prosperous nation.

Praising Ethiopia’s progress in combating the precarious impact of climate change, he called for greater private sector involvement to close the climate finance gap. Africa currently receives far less climate funding than other regions, he indicated.

“I think it could do better at mobilizing more international finance but at the moment the track record of mobilizing international climate finance is quite poor.” The Ethiopian government has lots of commitment and it is important for the government to lean on the private sector to invest in the green economy through sectors like energy, according to the CEO.

For many years, Napier stated that FSD Africa has been providing technical and other supports and is very keen to back the greening of Ethiopia’s financial system and looks forward to collaborate with FSD Ethiopia.

Finance Minister Ahmed Shide said that the Green Legacy Initiative (GLI) plays a significant role in restoring degraded lands and reducing carbon emissions, calling for greater cross-sector collaboration with international partners to ensure a sustainable economy.

Ethiopia is working on overcoming challenges related to climate change and is committed to achieving its ambition of building a resilient green economy. The country faces challenges ranging from devastating droughts to erratic rainfall, which continue to affect local communities. However, the Minister noted that the nation remains steadfast in its commitment to becoming a climate-resilient green economy by 2030.

“Climate change is one of the urgent challenges of our globe and it has a profound implication for Ethiopia’s development aspirations. The erratic rainfall, prolonged drought and environmental degradation have jeopardized the food security and economy, hindering the country’s development trajectory. Ethiopia’s vulnerability to climate change is undeniably and we remain steadfast.”

Ahmed emphasized Ethiopia’s unwavering commitment to combating climate change and building a sustainable future. “A shining example of our commitment is GLI, by rallying millions of Ethiopians, we have planted over 36 billion trees, reversing deforestation and conserving biodiversity,” he stressed.

Ethiopia’s efforts, grounded in the Climate-Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) strategy launched in 2011, have positioned the country as a leader in integrating climate resilience and sustainability into national development programs. Ethiopia made remarkable progress developing long term carbon emissions reduction and other policies, he noted.

Opinion

Addressing generations old political impasse through dialogue

BY ABEBE WOLDEGIORGIS

Ethiopian politicians must prioritize peace, especially after centuries of conflict marked by senseless wars aimed at changing governments through military means. It is essential to foster sustainable peace and contribute positively to society, particularly for the youth, rather than perpetuating toxic approaches.

The Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission (ENDC) is actively working to address the country's long history of conflict to closing the chapter and build working system. To achieve this, key stakeholders must come together to tackle existing gaps in a constructive manner, moving away from sentiments of hate and revenge.

Currently, the ENDC is engaged in activities to facilitate an inclusive national dialogue. As part of this effort, agenda items have been gathered from the Ethiopian diaspora, reflecting diverse perspectives and issues that will inform the upcoming national dialogue process.

Recently, the Addis Ababa Diaspora Association presented these agenda items and a video clip to Prof. Mesfin Araya, the Chief Commissioner of the ENDC. Prof. Araya expressed gratitude for their contributions, emphasizing the importance of including the diaspora's voices in national discussions. He encouraged Ethiopians abroad to bring their concerns to the dialogue, reinforcing the commission's commitment to fostering inclusive participation.

The ENDC has already conducted over ten online consultations with Ethiopians from Africa, the Middle East, Europe, North America, and beyond. These consultations aim to bridge national divides and facilitate engagement based on established guidelines. Drawing on successful examples from other nations, the commissioner noted that similar dialogues have led to peace and development.

In Oromia, the agenda-gathering process has recently concluded, bringing together over 7,000 representatives from 356 districts. This initiative underscores the government's commitment to mapping its support networks nationwide, similar to efforts made during national elections.

The national dialogue presents a significant opportunity for consensus-building, allowing citizens to address organizational issues and break free from a history of conflict. Local elites, both in Ethiopia and abroad, should positively engage with these initiatives to foster a stable and dignified life for all citizens.

The diaspora community's involvement is notable and many diaspora agreed that, the commission's activities as a beacon of hope for peace and security, reaffirming their commitment to support the ENDC.

Ethiopia's national dialogue has sparked hope among those who have vested interest in the country's future. It is true that dialogue between opposing political factions is vital for addressing the complex issues facing

Ethiopian society. However, challenges remain and some elements suggest that the dialogue should utilize inclusive measure to bring armed opposition groups to embark on track. So far the dialogue commission tried its level best to approach them but still not yet brought tangible results.

The ENDC must continue to address fundamental issues of division and conflict in Ethiopia. It should promote inclusivity, maintain its integrity and uphold human rights to preserve its credibility and achieve meaningful dialogue.

There are promising signs that the ENDC is genuinely committed to addressing the country's challenges through dialogue, rather than merely serving as a strategic tool for the government. For these initiatives to be effective, they must prioritize inclusivity, accountability, and respect for diverse perspectives. Only then can trust be built and sustainable peace fostered in Ethiopia.

Ethiopia is an ancient country with thousands of year's history of governance and civilization. However in its modern history in the late 19th century, the nation building project similar to other countries was implemented through military means. And the force full advent still has been a source of debate and some leveled the venture as source of grievance which let various ethnic groups for cultural and linguistic domination. Others on the contrary argue that the nation building project as it was aspired to establish a unitary political system had no option except subjugation. The military means implemented to realize the objective was the order of the day all over the world.

In the early 20 century, the first modern constitution was introduced. Though some of the articles in the constitution recognize some of the universally declared human and civil rights including the right to elect and be elected they were not fully implemented.

Though the constitution enshrined the existence of state structure such as the legislative, the judiciary and the executive organs of the government they had not been functioning properly. The nation had been in its formative years to stride nation building project. Side by side with the introduction of laws, there were not sufficient and strong institutions staffed with qualified personnel. The absence of well-educated and politically active members of the community also had brought its own impact on deterring the nation establishment of modern political system.

In fact, though new constitution was introduced, the level of the political conscious of the society was traditional. The society implicitly agreed that the king had the right to rule the nation emanated from divine power and selected by God to govern the people. The society believed that in case grievance occurred due to mal administration and governance, its duty was only to pray to God to get remedial action. The constitution did not put in to account the king for his maladministration or misdeed.

Land was the main economic stay of the society and it was absolutely feudal system

The Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission (ENDC) is actively working to address the country's long history of conflict to closing the chapter and build working system

even worse to this, slave owning system was not totally eliminated.

Obviously in the traditional society even though there were institutions that serve to resolve differences among the clan members such structures and mechanisms to date had not been evolved to the modern type. As any emerging political system, it had stride to create its political cadres through expanding educational institutions helpful for establishment of unitary political system. It constructed schools, colleges and universities. Some teachers and instructors recruited locally others had been brought from abroad.

From time to time the created elite groups face challenges in their day to day living. There were gaps between what they understand about the socio economic situation of the country and the governing system of the archaic and monarchial system. Particularly those elite groups who were educated abroad and experienced the governance system of the western society refused to tolerate the old monarchial governance system. Later resentment began by university students spilled over to the society and at this stage the regime did not show interest in accepting the demand of the society to attain peace full change through dialogue and ultimately the movement paved the way for the ultimate demise of the imperial regime.

Since 1974 Ethiopia witnessed three regime changes at the same time the nation missed opportunities which enable to transform the nation from oppressive political system in to modern manifested by electoral system. Had there been a culture of dialogue and tolerance the opportunities would have brought a tremendous chance to establish peaceful and sustainable political system derived functioning and viable institutions. The elite group paid sacrifice for attaining justice but there is huge gap between the exerted energy to attain justice and the outcome. Still the ambition to establish rule of law, democracy and stability has to see long journey.

The coming to power by violence means and overthrown again by military means had been a common phenomenon in the modern history of Ethiopia. There had no political continuity hence, governments tried to introduce their own governing system by starting from zero and abolishing

the old political order.

Introducing new constitutions, regulations and institutions was common. The imperial government tried its level best to establish a unitary government by denying cultural, linguistics and religious diversity. Its economic aspiration was to establish capitalism by providing wide space for the flourishing of private sector. But unable to set stable political system and ultimately had been overthrown by unconstitutional means.

After it took power in 1974 The Derge introduced socialist system based on an imported Marxist ideology. It assumed that the new ideology and socialist oriented political system can serve as tool to eradicate poverty and addressing the political demand of citizens but the outcome did not bring the aspired solution rather aggravated conflicts among various political groups and dragged the nation to the devastating war. It did give little space to dialogue and ultimately, the regime fate was decided by the rebels groups.

The EPRDF regime which assumed power in 1991 by military means underlined the historic problems of the nation originated from nation building approach and to resolve the problems emphasizing ensuring group rights should be taken as a way out. It introduced a new constitution and enshrined the right to self-determination up to secession to each ethnic group and crafted the map of the country along ethnic lines.

Some argue that the crafting of the map along ethnic line posed horizontal contradiction and conflict among various ethnic groups and since then for the last three decades displacement and violence has been continued and put question the nation continuity.

In contrary others argue that the enshrining of article 39 which underlined the right to self-determination up to cessation is in alienable rights of nations and nationalities and will not be put for negotiation.

As mentioned above the nation social, political and economic problems had many layers and they were complicated by historical aspect of the nation and by the types of governments ruled the country.

The current government underlined that dialogue among various political and interest groups can have capacity to address the problems. It opened the platform by establishing the National Dialogue Commission. In the ongoing agenda gathering process citizens are forwarding their ideas which can be used as inputs for the dialogue. Therefore, citizens should exploit the created opportunities which had not been existed in the past and diligently participate.

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

Editorial

Unwavering commitment for regional peace, stability

Over the past few years, Ethiopia has diligently been working to enhance its diplomatic relations and reinforce regional peace and security, not only with its neighboring countries but also across the broader African region and beyond.

Despite being constrained by some internal matters, Ethiopia has still positioned itself as a beacon for fostering lasting peace and stability in a continent, burdened by recurrent challenges ranging from political instability and violent conflicts to climate-related crises among others.

Ethiopia's commitment and effort to regional peace and development has been evident through its diplomatic and military engagements, demonstrating a clear commitment to both cooperation and conflict resolution.

The country has recognized the importance of regional collaboration in tackling peace and security challenges; and it has been proactive in establishing partnerships with countries across Africa. These partnerships, in turn, have played a pivotal role in countering threats that transcend national borders and require a collective response.

In recent developments, Ethiopia has entered agreements with numerous African nations; focusing on promoting peace, security, stability and development across the continent.

From Nigeria to Uganda, Ethiopia has already established strategic military accords with both neighboring and distant allies, rallying nations together in support of continental security and stability. These efforts include intelligence-sharing initiatives, coordinated military drills, and the formation of strategic defense alliances that collectively contribute to regional security.

The collaborations have also extended to key African players such as Kenya, Algeria, and other nations aiming to strengthen regional security frameworks, improving counterterrorism efforts, and addressing issues like transnational crime, border disputes, and the movement of militant groups. By sharing intelligence and resources, these countries work together to confront challenges those require collective solutions, reinforcing Ethiopia's role as a leader in fostering African peace and stability.

Recently, Ethiopia took another significant step by signing a military accord with Djibouti to elevate cooperation in security, intelligence and related fields. Ethiopia's National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS) and Djibouti's Security Documentation Service agreed to establish a joint task force, enhance security cooperation and address concerns, along their shared border, thereby contributing to regional peace and stability.

This agreement underscores the importance of regional cooperation in maintaining peace and addressing security concerns in a region that has often faced instability due to conflicts and the presence of extremist groups.

Another key milestone in Ethiopia's diplomatic efforts is the official visit of a Somali delegation to Addis Ababa. This visit, the first engagement since the signing of the Ankara Agreement marks a significant step in resolving previous inconveniences, is deepening mutual trust, and fostering regional cooperation and peace within the Horn of Africa and the region.

As Ethiopia's Director General of the National Intelligence and Security Service Ambassador Redwan Hussein stated on his social media page, he held productive discussions with the Head of Somalia's National Intelligence and Security Agency, Abdullahi Mohamed Ali on issues of mutual challenges, opportunities and the way forward.

As a follow-up to the Ankara Declaration, both parties vowed to move forward and thwart any attempts from near and afar to derail their progress, Amb. Redwan added.

Ethiopia's surge in cooperation and collaboration signals the country's growing influence—not only through its military might but also in its expanding diplomatic clout. The country is increasingly recognized as a central player in the evolving landscape of African security. By cultivating strong alliances with both regional neighbors and distant partners, Ethiopia is reinforcing its role as a stabilizing force in the Horn of Africa and across the continent.

Thus, Ethiopia's unwavering commitment to fostering peace and stability in the Horn of Africa and beyond is evident through its strategic diplomatic initiatives and military collaborations. By engaging with neighboring countries and establishing partnerships across the continent, Ethiopia is not only addressing immediate security concerns but also laying the groundwork for long-term regional cooperation. The recent military accord with Djibouti and the productive discussions with Somalia exemplify Ethiopia's proactive approach to tackling shared challenges and reinforcing mutual trust among nations.



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The Ethiopian Herald

Opinion

Placing emphasis on peace through Ankara Declaration

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

It is believed that the Ankara Declaration signed between Ethiopia and Somalia will meaningfully play a role in smoothing the path of peace, stability, and prosperity in the Horn of Africa and beyond. In actual fact, the pact in black and white demonstrates the diplomatic achievements of the two nations. Apart from marking a crucial step toward getting to the bottom of potential quandaries through diplomacy, the region for sure will move to a new horizon at the earliest possible time.

In a similar vein, the commitment to resolving belligerent matters through round table discussion lays the emphasis on the two nations' determination to consolidate relationships and take the region to new opportunities. In the wake of the country's constructive measures, worrywarts have sustained pulling out all the stops to hoodwink the wider international community with their barefaced lies going behind closed curtains.

No matter how hard they attempted to turn their dreams into a reality, all their accomplishments through the passage of time got off the track and deviated from the topic. Notwithstanding the fact that a lot of efforts have been made by various bodies to back the Horn of Africa into a corner and put the region between the hammer and the anvil, attaining the desired goal turned out to be a wild goose chase.

In addition to putting an end to the evil deeds of Ethiopia's archenemies that hate to see its prosperity, the declaration clears the way for the country to secure sea access through bilateral accords with Somalia ensuring mutual benefits and safeguarding the country's sovereignty.

In actual fact, Somalia's recognition of the sacrifices made by Ethiopian forces in peacekeeping missions corroborates a rejuvenated mindset of cooperation and respect between the two nations. In point of fact, the agreement is not merely a victory for the two nations but a triumph for the Horn of Africa and beyond.

Apart from securing a seaport for Ethiopia's existence, Ethiopia's quest for access to the sea gives prominence to regional collaboration. It is absolutely clear that the country is devoted to ensuring the process of securing sea access completely through harmonious mechanics.

Professor Brook Hailu, a political science and international relations lecturer and researcher at the Addis Ababa University, recently told ENA that the Ankara Agreement extends benefits not only to the two nations but to the region.

He highlighted its significance in fostering long-term stability in the Horn of Africa while discouraging destabilizing external influences.

"This agreement sets a strong foundation for peace and cooperation, demonstrating Ethiopia's recognition of Somalia's sovereignty and respect for the sacrifices both nations have made," the professor stated.

The agreement brokered by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan reflects a

commitment to peaceful dialogue and mutual respect, ensuring sustainable solutions to longstanding challenges in the region.

House of People's Representatives Standing Committee for Foreign Affairs Deputy Chair Fetih Mahdi remarked on his part said that the agreement reinforces Ethiopia and Somalia's diplomatic ties and economic cooperation.

He emphasized the value of the mutual benefits and shared gains achieved through respectful and constructive engagement.

"Ethiopia's steadfast commitment to peace and development is evident in this agreement which underscores our country's leadership in fostering regional collaboration," the MP added.

The Ankara Agreement, cited as a model for diplomatic engagement and a pathway to ensuring long-term stability and prosperity in the Horn of Africa, has garnered widespread praise from regional and international stakeholders.

In a statement following the agreement, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has reaffirmed Ethiopia's dedication to enhancing people-to-people ties and fostering deeper collaborations with Somalia.

Along the same line, Ethiopia's rummage for sea access is not only in the interests of the whole nation but also indispensable to achieving regional integration.

It is abundantly clear that access to seaports plays a paramount role in taking the country's economy to a further stage and new procedure.

The country's ongoing endeavors in combating terrorism are an example of its commitment to stabilizing the region. Ethiopia's growth and affluence provide cherished commercial opportunities that will augment economic ties and create collaborative advantages for neighboring nations.

The Ankara Agreement has recognized Ethiopia's martyrs for peace and tranquility in Somalia and the Horn of Africa region. Above and beyond, the agreement assists the progress of the significance of nurturing businesses grounded in cooperation.

As the signing of the historic Ankara declaration is rooted in shared respect and shared goals, the Horn of Africa region down the road will go to the next level of accomplishment at the earliest possible time.

Ethiopia's quest for sea access is not only a national priority but also crucial to realizing regional integration based on the principle of give and take, Foreign Affairs State Minister Ambassador Misganu Arga underscored, according to information obtained from a local media.

The State Minister emphasized that Ethiopia's quest for access to the sea is rooted in the principle of regional cooperation extending beyond national interests.

According to Misganu, securing a sea port is vital for Ethiopia's survival, as the country's economy continues to grow, making access to a sea increasingly critical to support this expansion.

He further elaborated that Ethiopia is pursuing a strategic and peaceful approach to securing a reliable and safe access to sea.

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

Business & Economy

Energy development for economic advancement

BY MENGESHA AMARE

It is well recognized that energy is tightly linked to economic development and growth. It is also clear that higher levels of GDP are correlated with greater electricity use, access, reliability, and affordability. When we understand the causal link between economic growth and energy, there is ultimately no route to development without greater energy consumption.

Taking this fact into account, The Ethiopian Herald had a short satay with Mekonnen Simie, an agro economist as well as environmentalist graduated from Addis Ababa University and working as a consultant, to have professional point of view about the amalgamation between energy and economic development/growth.

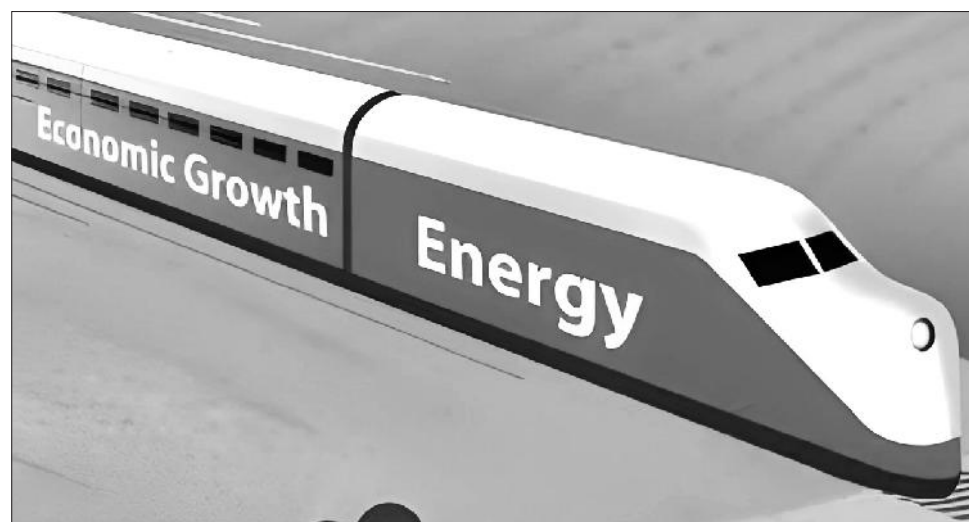
He said, “Prior to the industrial revolution, economies were bound by the availability and usage of organic energy sources, including firewood, man-and horse-power. When innovation and technology allowed coal to be used as an energy source, substantially more production possibilities were unlocked, leading to exponential production and economic growth. What needs to be asked along this line is can investment in energy infrastructure directly lead to growth or does it simply follow growth?”

According to Mekonnen, the contribution of modern energy forms to higher incomes and greater economic well-being is quite immense. Energy markets are potentially very large and are set to grow for most of the century.

As to him, for users to value and utilize energy, it must be accessible, reliable, and affordable. Accessibility is determined by infrastructure, including proximity to the grid, but also the affordability of grid connections, with evidence highlighting the link between high connection charges and low access.

Reliability is important in allowing households and firms to plan investments and activities. However, in many lower-income countries, blackouts are frequent and electricity access fluctuates throughout the day, due to infrastructure, markets, and politics. The price of electricity also determines its value and usage, which is informed by supply costs and the extent to which users pay their bills. Accessibility and reliability interact with pricing – for example, households might be unwilling to pay a given tariff for an unpredictable service. At the same time, a lack of payment or users might prevent investment in service improvements.

Effective infrastructure is key to ensuring energy can be productively. The entire electricity grid, a network of infrastructure that includes generation, transmission, distribution, and wiring – needs to work together. Beyond the electricity grid, infrastructure underpins the supply chain of most modern energy sources, such as physical networks of oil and natural gas pipelines, refineries, wind turbines, hydropower dams, and the many different transportation elements between them.



“Focusing on the entire network of infrastructure may help unlock the potential of energy infrastructure for development. Different parts of energy infrastructure, and in particular the electricity grid, are highly linked and interdependent. Every link must function well; investments in the weakest link may have the most transformative impact. For example, targeting investment in transmission infrastructure in the country found substantial short-run welfare gains,” he said.

As learnt from Mekonnen, roads and ports generally are important pieces of infrastructure that help deliver energy services, such as acquiring the fuel used in energy generation. Other infrastructure influences the prices of other factors of production, which in turn affect the impact of energy infrastructure on economic growth and development. Energy infrastructure will be more transformative when other markets are also primed for growth, such as well-functioning markets for outputs and credit, and active labor markets.

He said, “With climate change intensifying over the coming century, there will be significant demands on and requirements of energy infrastructure. Infrastructure itself is vulnerable to natural disasters, which will increase in frequency and severity. Additionally, climate change will likely induce greater demand on energy, such as from households requiring more cooling in the face of a growing number of hot days. To mitigate the impacts of energy use on climate, which in turn, drives energy use, energy infrastructure will need to support households in lower-income countries transitioning from traditional to modern sources of fuel, and grid electricity transitioning from fossil fuels to renewables. These issues will add new challenges to developing effective energy infrastructure for economic development.”

According to Mekonnen, the later a country industrializes, the lower its peak energy intensity because of intervening improvements in the efficiency of energy conversion processes— especially for electricity generation—and energy use. Such improvements in energy efficiency mean that developing countries are likely to need less energy to produce a unit of GNP and to meet consumer needs per unit of income than was the case for the industrialized countries. How much less is

controversial, because of ambiguities in the evidence and oversimplifications in both the engineering and economic models of energy consumption.

“Energy demand in developing countries will rise enormously as per capita incomes and populations grow. Energy demand in industrialized countries is also likely to remain strong, notwithstanding—and to some extent, because of—continuing gains in the efficiency with which energy is produced and used. Both energy resources and financial resources are amply available to meet market needs. But will solving the ‘pollution problem’ from energy use prove too costly from an economic perspective? There is no evidence that it will, and most assessments point to the likelihood of an improvement, not a deterioration, in economic prospects with enlightened environmental policies,” he opined.

Technologies are now available for addressing the most serious forms of local and regional pollution from fossil fuel use, at costs that are small relative to the costs of energy supplies. So there is every reason to be sanguine in this respect. In fact, developing countries are in a position to address their local and regional pollution problems at a far earlier phase of development than were the industrialized countries before them—within the first third of this century if they wish. Furthermore, there are highly promising options for addressing global warming in the long term—renewable energy, hydrogen-related technologies and fuel cells, for example—which could be developed through enlightened research, development, and demonstration policies. Much therefore will depend on energy and environmental policies. In reviewing the ground rules for such policies, the chapter shows that the aims of developing countries for achieving economic prosperity and of industrialized countries for improving theirs are fully consistent with those of simultaneously meeting rising world energy demand and realizing a low-pollution future.

In fact, she said modern energy forms are an economic good, capable of improving the living standards of billions of people, most of all the billions of people in developing countries who lack access to service or whose consumption levels are far below those of people in industrialized countries. Technologies are available, emerging, or capable of being developed that can solve the pollution problem at a small fraction of

the overall costs of energy supplies. The more policies recognize the distinction, the more likely will we be able to meet rising world energy demands with greatly reduced pollution. Furthermore, once the benefits of pollution abatement are taken into account, economic output and well-being are likely to be higher not lower.

“In developing countries like Ethiopia the net effects on growth should be even greater, since their environmental priorities in the energy sector include the elimination of smoke, emissions of particulate matter, lead in fuels, and the indoor air pollution and damage to soils and forests arising from the use of traditional fuels. Thus there is no reason from an economic perspective why developing countries like ours cannot adopt ambitious policies for reducing local and regional pollution from energy production and use. The technologies and practices are now available that should, if the ‘right’ policies are put in place, enable developing countries to reduce such sources of environmental damage at a much earlier phase of development than was the case for industrialized countries,” he stated.

Developing countries especially need to become engaged in the development and use of such technologies. Clean energy is moving towards center stage in the global energy system – and as its importance rises, a new clean energy economy is emerging. At the same time, global investment in clean energy manufacturing is booming, driven by industrial policies and market demand. Quantifying the expanding role of clean energy in the economy is therefore essential to fully understand the stakes and momentum behind energy transitions.

Clearly, he said assessment based on a first-of-its-kind analysis of three categories of activity in the clean energy sector: Manufacturing of clean energy technologies: investment in clean energy manufacturing, covering the value chains for solar PV, wind power and battery manufacturing Deployment of clean power capacity has to be conducted: investment in deployment of clean electricity generation capacity – such as solar PV, wind power, nuclear power and battery storage – and in electricity networks needs to be consolidated.

Clean equipment sales: sales of electric cars (EVs) and heat pumps. It is based on detailed project-by-project data gathered and processed by the International Energy Agency (IEA) from primary and secondary sources. We conducted this analysis at the country level, and present here the in-depth results for four of the largest economies: the United States, the European Union, China and India, which together account for two-thirds of global GDP.

In sum, sustained economic growth is a mantra for governments worldwide and is seen as having a key role to play in poverty alleviation. But economic activity is predominantly linked to the use of energy, principally from fossil fuels, which account for over 60% of global greenhouse gas emissions. This implies an urgent need to decouple economic growth from energy use.

Art & Culture

Capitalizing on cultural values to boost national consensus

BY MEKDES TAYE (PhD)

Human beings acquire their sense of self and personal traits mainly from their family and the society around them. Scholars say that each of us has our own sense of identity derived from personal and family background, as well as our sense of community heritage and culture.

This identity is limited in its demarcation, as the number and interests of humans cannot be managed in a specific place, leading people to live in different and scattered geographical settings. When this happens, the ties they had with a specific group can no longer be maintained.

Since the chance to frequently meet and interact with each other is interrupted due to spatial separation, they begin creating their own way of life that is suited to their context. In this way, they gradually become a different social group with a unique identity. However, as they are human beings, the way of life they specifically design for themselves has humanistic elements.

Sociologists argue that while human beings have created many solutions to various challenges, human-related issues are still complex and cannot be solved solely through technological advancements.

Dr. Keith Vernon, a principal lecturer in History at the University of Central Lancashire, stated, "Technical fixes cannot solve human problems, as ultimately our difficulties come down to how people relate to each other, how we see ourselves, and how we see others."

In Ethiopia, more than 85 nations and nationalities reside in harmony. Each national has their own cultural identity and language, which sets them apart from others while also sharing some cultural practices. Within these cultural practices, the values of humanity, honesty, love, respect, generosity, truthfulness, and hard work are presented in various intensities and styles. These values are not specific to any one group or nation but are universal human necessities.

The scholar noted that the world is full of wonderful diversity, meant to unite humans at some point. However, sometimes, instead of appreciating and benefiting from these diverse identities, some cultures may be distorted and abused for political or other advantages.

This cultural distortion can be portrayed through language, dress, way of life, and other cultural demonstrations. The Ethiopian Herald interviewed Mulugeta Ayele (PhD), an instructor and researcher at the Department of Peace and Security at Addis Ababa University. He mentioned that in Ethiopia, there has been a distorted narrative shown through the proverbs and folklore of certain social groups.

The culture may contain negative or



In Ethiopia, customary dispute resolution mechanisms are run by elders; involve reconciliation of the conflicting parties and their respective families using different customary rituals where needed.

unwelcome expressions in its language, which can be powerful in dividing society and eroding national unity. Therefore, revising the culture in a way that includes all social groups is crucial for creating national consensus.

Keith expressed this idea as follows: "Our sense of belonging and identity is misused to divide people and communities." Historical evidence is often manipulated to create false narratives, religions, beliefs, and cultures that create barriers and suspicion. This 'Us and Them' ideology pits humanity against itself, making resource sharing difficult.

Dr. Yonas, in an exclusive interview with the Ethiopian Herald, noted that Ethiopia has many cultural practices and customs that promote togetherness, dialogue, negotiation, and compromise. The people have experience in their social classes, making them cautious and willing to discuss issues with minimal effort. However, these cultures have not been fully utilized yet. Scholars argue that the humanistic element is crucial for sustaining harmony more than our differences.

To illustrate this point, let us consider the culture of the Northern Ethiopian people known as Shimglina, which plainly means elderliness, symbolizes dispute solution by elderly persons. In this culture, when a wrongdoing occurs within a community, the case is brought before a group of elders called Shimagles. Both the victim and the perpetrator sit opposite each other in front of the elders without raising any quarrel. The elders listen to the story calmly, balance the accounts, reprimand the criminal, and

Within these cultural practices, the values of humanity, honesty, love, respect, generosity, truthfulness, and hard work are presented in various intensities and styles. These values are not specific to any one group or nation but are universal human necessities

ask the victim to forgive his brother and continue as before.

Compensation is determined based on the severity of the offense. This fair process ensures that no further disputes arise, solving the case peacefully. Similar cultural

practices exist in other societies, each with their unique approach.

In modern human science and interaction studies, there is a growing emphasis on examining the culture and history of societies to understand their true identity and aspirations. Keith emphasized that questions of heritage, culture, and identity are central to humanities disciplines.

Mulugeta believed that Ethiopia has pragmatic cultural practices that facilitate mediation and negotiation in various issues. Elders, religious leaders, and public figures who understand society well can mobilize people effectively. By identifying and capitalizing on cultures that promote negotiation and compromise, national consensus can be achieved naturally.

Keith argued that by analyzing evidence accurately, constructing reasoned arguments, and understanding complex issues, humanities disciplines teach us how to appreciate differences and learn from each other through respectful debate. Through celebrating differences and recognizing commonalities, humanity can bridge divides and create a better future.

Examining people's identities through their culture and history is a fruitful way to find their humanistic qualities. Culture reflects the soul of humanity and can lead to a sense of national identity and consensus on controversial issues. By valuing cultural practices that unite us, we can boost our nationality positively. Let us embrace our cultural values to solve our own problems and celebrate what brings us together as humans.

Global Affairs



Innovative financing to unlock Africa's blue economy

Securing new financing for global good has become more challenging than ever. Negotiations at the recently-concluded COP16 on Nature and Biodiversity failed to reach an agreement on establishing a fund to support the implementation of the Framework for Nature agreed in 2022 under the Montreal-Kunming agreement.

As with all multilateral action, commitments without resources lead to questions on the effectiveness of these global processes. The gap between global commitments and actual resource allocation hits African countries the hardest, as these countries often have limited capacity to generate those resources in the first place.

African negotiators have underscored the need for accountability in honoring multilateral commitments and will continue to maintain this stance at the upcoming climate negotiations.

Meanwhile, many African countries are actively seeking to unlock new funding streams for climate and environmental resilience through financial innovations such as debt swaps, green bonds, and blue bonds.

The Blue Economy has emerged as a key area of focus for Africa, and one of the priorities outlined in AU's Agenda 2063. However, African countries continued to struggle in controlling and benefitting from their own resources.

A good example is the continuing deployment of harmful fisheries subsidies. The value of subsidies by distant fishing nations for their fleets operating in African waters representing on average twice the value of support that African nations are able to provide for their own fishing fleets.

This disparity undermines local economies and depletes Africa's Ocean resources, further complicating efforts to build a sustainable and resilient blue economy.

The Great Blue Wall

African countries have sought to redefine the way in which they leverage their oceanic spaces to develop a 'regenerative blue economy'. This implies re-investing in the ocean to create jobs that engage the community who are the stewards of oceans and coastal eco-systems.

This has been conceptualized through the Great Blue Wall initiative, an ambitious project that seeks to create a network of conserved and restored seascapes that benefit both the natural biodiversity and local communities' livelihoods.

The initiative aims to protect 30% of the countries Exclusive Economic Zones by 2030 and produce a net gain in critical ecosystems like mangroves, corals and sea grasses. It is hoped that the initiative can contribute up to 70 million livelihoods in the region and up to 10 million blue jobs by 2030.

The Great Blue Wall initiative brings together 10 countries: Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, Tanzania, and France (through its overseas department of La Réunion). These countries are working together to enhance socio-ecological resilience, improve livelihoods, and strengthen climate change adaptation efforts.

Financing

Crucially, the initiative is seeking to raise financing towards a collective goal, while building on efforts being made by individual countries. This brings certain advantages, notably in creating economies of scale.

This common approach can also provide significant leverage in addressing issues such as fisheries management and moving away from the current extractive nature of fisheries subsidies to a community-led approach to the management of the resource.

Additionally, many other African countries are looking to tap into innovative climate

water, addressing both energy and water needs.

São Tomé and Príncipe will similarly channel their debt repayments into a national climate fund, supporting various green investments and climate change adaptation projects.

This innovative approach ensures that the debt repayments contribute to sustainable development and environmental protection in these countries. While the amounts are relatively small, they can be catalysts for mobilizing larger funds.

It is with this in mind that Sao Tome and Principe has also announced the creation of a Conservation Trust Fund aimed at channeling resources into the preservation of their unique natural heritage and leveraging new associated economic opportunities such as eco-tourism.

All of these efforts to mobilize innovative climate financing are rooted in the needs of populations who are on the front line of climate change. This is perhaps the most meaningful part of these efforts, because it underscores the greatest challenge of multilateralism: ensuring that support is delivered to the most vulnerable in the community.

Investing in the nexus between climate, nature, and resilience is one of the most urgent and effective actions we can take. The right investments can help unlock the true value of Africa's natural assets, estimated by the African Development Bank (AfDB) to be worth as much as USD \$6.2 trillion.

We need global processes to deliver on the promise of predictable flows of finance at scale. However, equally important is the need to unlock African-driven initiatives that are built within communities. These innovations are helping to start that journey, paving the way for a meaningful change, empowering communities while addressing the challenges of climate change.

SOURCE: INTER PRESS SERVICE

The Blue Economy has emerged as a key area of focus for Africa, and one of the priorities outlined in AU's Agenda 2063

finance opportunities to generate resources for investment in their blue economy.

For example, Cape Verde and São Tomé and Príncipe have entered into agreements with Portugal to convert portions of their national debt into climate investments. For Cape Verde, the agreement involves a debt swap of \$12.9 million (€12 million), while São Tomé and Príncipe's agreement covers \$3.7 million (€3.5 million). These funds are redirected into climate investment projects rather than being paid directly to Portugal.

In Cape Verde, the focus is on water, sanitation, and energy projects, including the expansion of a photovoltaic plant and the development of desalination and water treatment facilities. The initiative aims to use solar energy to produce desalinated

Law & Politics

Ethiopia's quest for sea outlet striking chord with Intl. community

BY EYUEL KIFLU

Ethiopia's long-standing quest for secure and reliable sea access has recently garnered significant international attention. Following the signing of a sea access lease agreement between Ethiopia and Somaliland, various regional and international actors have sought to influence the situation. This agreement has also strained relations between Ethiopia and Somalia.

However, recent diplomatic efforts have yielded positive outcomes. Both countries have taken steps to de-escalate tensions and explore avenues for mutual benefit. Notably, the "Ankara Agreement," brokered by Turkey, provides a framework for Ethiopia to secure sea access through Somalia.

This agreement underscores the critical importance of sea access for Ethiopia's economic development and its growing global integration. During a recent state visit to Ethiopia, French President Emmanuel Macron also expressed his support for Ethiopia's efforts to secure reliable and sustainable access to the sea.

During joint statement by Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and French President Emmanuel Macron, Abiy emphasized the need for strong support from friendly nations like France to help Ethiopia, a country of 130 million with a rapidly growing economy, gain access to the sea through peaceful and diplomatic means. President Macron expressed his willingness to support Ethiopia's request.

Prime Minister Abiy conveyed his deep gratitude to President Macron for accepting Ethiopia's request for sea access, noting that the Ethiopian people and government are looking for tangible results from France on this matter. In response, President Macron affirmed the legitimacy of Ethiopia's request for a seaport, pledging that France would do everything possible to facilitate a positive outcome.

Macron underscored the importance of addressing the request through dialogue, in a manner that respects international law and the interests of neighboring countries, while also benefiting Ethiopia and the broader region. He also expressed support for Prime Minister Abiy's ongoing peace talks with the Somali president in Turkey.

Following the Ankara Agreement, Ethiopia has reaffirmed its readiness to fully implement the pact aimed at resolving recent disputes with Somalia. Ambassador Mesganu Arga, the State Minister of Foreign Affairs, emphasized Ethiopia's commitment during his yesterday meeting with a high-level Somali delegation.

The delegation, led by Somalia's State Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Ali Omar, is currently on a working visit to Addis



This agreement underscores the critical importance of sea access for Ethiopia's economic development and its growing global integration

Ababa. This visit marks a significant step in enhancing bilateral relations, which have been shaped by the Ankara Agreement, originally signed on December 2, 2017 E.C, under the auspices of Turkey. The agreement was formally endorsed by Ethiopian Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed and Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud.

During the discussions, Ambassador Mesganu Arga highlighted the importance of this visit, noting that it is the first of its kind since the signing of the Ankara Agreement. He expressed optimism about the dialogue, stating, "We will continue to hold discussions to strengthen the relations between our two countries by implementing the Ankara Agreement." Mesganu further underscored the interconnectedness of peace in Somalia and Ethiopia, asserting, "The peace of Somalia is the peace of Ethiopia. Our cooperation will continue to strengthen to prevent terrorism and establish peace in the region."

State Minister Ali Omar echoed these sentiments, describing the discussions as fruitful and productive. He acknowledged the significance of this visit, stating, "This is my first visit since the Ankara Agreement, and we have held important discussions to advance its implementation."

Both sides expressed a unified vision for the future, emphasizing the necessity of collaboration to enhance security and stability in the Horn of Africa. The ongoing dialogue reflects a mutual commitment to fostering a peaceful and cooperative relationship, which is critical for regional development and security.

Ethiopia is expressing a strong commitment to collaborate with its neighboring countries, emphasizing that its intentions do not involve waging war or undermining their sovereignty, contrary to claims made by some of its adversaries. Instead, Ethiopia aims to play an indispensable role in pacifying the region, especially during challenging times faced by its neighbors.

Dareskedar Taye (PhD), Director General of American and European Affairs at the Institute of Foreign Affairs, highlighted this perspective during an interview with the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA). He urged neighboring nations to adopt a common mindset and work together on shared issues, noting the historical climate of suspicion and hostility that has often characterized regional relations. "Ethiopia is changing this narrative," he stated, advocating for cooperation on mutual concerns.

Dareskedar pointed out the deep-rooted people-to-people connections and shared identities among Ethiopia and its neighbors, underscoring the potential for collaborative efforts to strengthen these ties. He expressed optimism that a reciprocal interest from other countries would enhance regional stability.

The Ethiopian government, according to Dareskedar, is actively pursuing initiatives that promote peace and cooperation. "When necessary, we take measures to isolate ourselves," he explained, highlighting the importance of proactive engagement in fostering positive relationships.

Ethiopia's role in promoting regional peace, particularly in South Sudan, serves as a

testament to its commitment to stability. "Our success relies on both Ethiopia's interests and those of our neighbors," He remarked, emphasizing Ethiopia's influential role in fostering peace in the region.

Furthermore, Dareskedar noted Ethiopia's ongoing efforts to mediate conflicts in other neighboring countries, including Sudan. "Despite the influx of various actors claiming to bring peace to Sudan, Ethiopia continues to play a significant role," he said, acknowledging that competing interests have complicated peace efforts in the region.

In conclusion, he reaffirmed Ethiopia's dedication to facilitating peace and resolving conflicts through mediation, both with its neighbors and within its own borders. He reiterated the country's readiness to collaborate on peace initiatives and address other pressing issues, signaling a hopeful vision for regional cooperation and stability.

Ethiopia's need for sea access is driven by its burgeoning population and expanding economy. As one of Africa's fastest-growing economies, the demand for imports and exports continues to surge. Moreover, securing maritime access aligns with Ethiopia's broader vision of regional integration and cooperation. By fostering peaceful relations with its neighbors through mutually beneficial agreements, Ethiopia aims to create a stable environment conducive to growth not only within its borders but across the Horn of Africa.

Overall, while the path to obtaining sea access may not be "a bed of roses," as challenges persist in this endeavor, Ethiopia remains committed to overcoming them. Rain or shine, the country's leadership recognizes that achieving this goal is vital for meeting the needs of its people and realizing its economic aspirations in an increasingly interconnected world.

Planet Earth

Developing countries need practical support to overcome climate change

BY STAFF REPORTER

Recently through its Ambassador in Addis Ababa, Denmark expressed desire to strengthen its collaboration with Ethiopia in building an economy resilient to climate change. Indeed, such pledges for collaboration are vital for the long term sustainability of the economy of developing countries that are facing the brunt of the global climate change disaster.

In spite of the difficult situation that the developing countries are in, many of the pledges made by developed countries are not fully implemented further exacerbating both the good will for alliance against the threat as well as the looming threat.

Climate change disproportionately impacts developing countries, exacerbating existing vulnerabilities and hindering development progress. These nations often lack the resources and infrastructure to adapt to the changing climate, leading to significant economic and social consequences. The effects manifest across various sectors, creating a complex web of interconnected challenges.

One primary impact is the increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events. Developing countries, frequently situated in geographically vulnerable regions prone to cyclones, floods, and droughts, experience devastating losses in infrastructure, agriculture, and human life.

This highlights the vulnerability of developing nations to climate-related disasters, often lacking the financial and technological capabilities for effective disaster preparedness and response. The resulting damage disrupts livelihoods, increases poverty, and hinders economic growth.

Unlike the industrialized economies of the west, Africa and many of the developing countries out of Africa depend largely on agriculture for their livelihood. Yet agricultural systems in developing nations are especially susceptible. Changes in rainfall patterns, increased temperatures, and the spread of pests and diseases reduce crop yields and livestock productivity. Sub-Saharan Africa, heavily reliant on rain-fed agriculture, faces significant challenges from erratic rainfall and prolonged droughts. This leads to food insecurity, malnutrition, and increased poverty, often forcing populations into displacement and migration. The resulting economic instability undermines national development efforts and exacerbates social inequalities.

Water scarcity is another critical consequence. Many developing countries already grapple with water stress, and climate change further intensifies this problem through altered precipitation patterns and glacial melt. This impacts agriculture, sanitation, and human health, hindering economic development and social progress. Regions reliant on glacial meltwater for irrigation and drinking water,



such as parts of the Himalayas, face severe threats to water security, triggering conflicts and potentially causing mass migration.

Addressing climate change in developing countries requires a multifaceted approach. International cooperation is crucial, with developed nations providing financial and technological support to help these nations adapt and mitigate climate change. Especially the developed countries should at least live up to their promises during the series of annual CoP meetings where billions of dollars are pledged for the climate action.

This involves investing in climate-resilient infrastructure, promoting sustainable agriculture practices, and developing early warning systems for extreme weather events. Furthermore, fostering capacity building and empowering local communities are essential for effective adaptation strategies. Only through concerted global effort can the disproportionate impact of climate change on developing nations be mitigated and a pathway to sustainable development secured.

The impacts of climate change are being felt around the world, but developing countries are often the hardest hit. These nations face numerous challenges, including limited financial resources, inadequate infrastructure, and a lack of technology. Consequently, it is essential that the international community provides significant support to help these countries prevent the negative impacts of climate change. This essay analyzes the types of support that developing countries need to effectively combat and adapt to climate change.

Firstly, financial assistance is crucial for developing countries. Climate change mitigation and adaptation require substantial investments. Many of these nations struggle with tight budgets and competing priorities, which make it challenging to allocate funds for climate initiatives. For instance, the Green Climate Fund, established under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, aims to provide financial resources to help developing countries transition to low-emission and climate-

resilient development. However, this fund needs to be adequately financed to meet the demands of all eligible nations. The expansion of climate finance, through public and private channels, is vital to equip developing countries with the necessary resources.

Secondly, technology transfer is an essential component for developing nations to tackle climate change effectively. Advanced technology can enable these countries to adopt cleaner energy sources, improve agricultural practices, and enhance disaster resilience. For example, solar energy technologies have proven to be efficient in regions with abundant sunlight, yet many developing countries lack the expertise and infrastructure to implement such solutions. International cooperation can foster technology transfer by promoting partnerships between developed and developing nations, creating opportunities for knowledge sharing and capacity building.

Lastly, developing countries require training and education to empower their populations to engage in climate action. This includes not only scientific knowledge but also skills in areas such as sustainable farming and urban planning. For instance, programs that invest in education and skill development can help communities understand the implications of climate change and how to adapt their practices accordingly. Governments and international organizations must prioritize educational initiatives that build local capacities and foster community engagement.

Developing countries need comprehensive support to prevent the impacts of climate change. Financial assistance, technology transfer, and education are three critical areas where international collaboration can make a significant difference. By addressing these needs, the global community can empower developing nations to build resilience against climate change and contribute to global sustainability efforts.

In the face of climatic changes, developing countries are particularly vulnerable due to their limited resources and adaptive

capacities. Building a climate-resilient economy is essential for these nations to ensure sustainable development, mitigate the impact of climate change, and improve the welfare of their populations. This essay analyzes the mechanisms, strategies, and partnerships needed to support developing countries in achieving climate resilience.

One significant aspect of fostering resilience is investment in infrastructure that can withstand extreme weather events. For instance, developing countries like Bangladesh, which are frequently impacted by floods and cyclones, can enhance their infrastructure through international partnerships. Organizations like the Green Climate Fund provide financial assistance aimed at improving disaster resilience in vulnerable regions. Investments can include building flood defences, enhancing water management systems, and constructing roads that can remain passable during severe weather events. Such infrastructure improvements not only protect communities but also boost local economies by enabling better access to markets and resources.

Moreover, empowering local communities is key to achieving climate resilience. Programs that focus on education and capacity building can equip populations with the necessary skills to adapt to climate changes. For example, initiatives in parts of Africa have introduced agroecological practices that conserve water and improve crop resilience. These practices not only help communities cope with climate pressures but also promote food security and reduce poverty. Encouraging community participation in decision-making processes ensures that local knowledge and needs are incorporated into broader climate strategies, fostering ownership and sustainability.

Partnerships between developed and developing countries play a crucial role in knowledge sharing and resource mobilization. Technology transfer is another vital aspect where developed nations can help by providing access to cleaner technologies that reduce emissions. For instance, solar energy projects funded by international donors in countries such as Kenya have expanded access to electricity while minimizing greenhouse gas emissions. This synergy can catalyze sustainable growth and ultimately lead to a shift towards low-carbon economies in developing nations.

Ultimately, supporting developing countries in building climate-resilient economies requires integrated approaches that combine infrastructure investment, community empowerment, and international partnerships. By adopting these strategies, the global community can help mitigate the adverse effects of climate change and promote sustainable development. The resilience of these countries is not only beneficial for their populations but also vital for the health and stability of the entire planet.