

The Ethiopian Messenger



ETHIOPIA ON THE PATH OF PEACE

ETHIOPIË OP WEG NAAR VREDE

L'ÉTHIOPIE SUR LE CHEMIN DE LA PAIX

Politics

Ethiopia has embarked on the path of peace through the Africa Union led peace process, embedded in the ethos of African solutions to African problems.

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Tourism

The Ethiopian Embassy in Brussels took part in the 2023 Brussels Holiday Fair that attracted a wide range of visitors from Belgium and many parts of the world.

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Economy

Ethiopian Investment Holdings was established to serve as a strategic tool to attract foreign direct investment by creating intermediation that encourages joint investment, pooling resources to generate additional income, and creating value from underutilized resources.

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Bringing news about Ethiopia to Europe



Gelada
Source: Land of Origins

መልእክተ ኢትዮጵያ በ23ኛ ዕትሙ በሀገራችን እንዲሁም በኤምባሲያችን ባለፉት ሶስት ወራት የተከናወኑ አንኳር ጉዳዮች ላይ የተለያዩ ጽሁፎች ይዞ ለአንባቢያን ቀርቧል።

በቅድሚያ የኢትዮጵያ መንግስት በሀገራችን የሰሜኑ ክፍል ሰላም ለማምጣት የተፈረመውን የሰላም ስምምነት ለመተግበር እና በሀገሪቱ ዘላቂ ሰላም ለማምጣት ያሳየውን ቁርጠኝነት የሚዳስስ ጽሁፍ ቀርቧል።

ኢትዮጵያ በዓመታዊው “Brussels Holiday Fair” ስላደረገችው የቱሪዝም ማስተዋወቅ እንቅስቃሴ አጭር ዘገባ ቀርቧል።

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መልካም ንባብ!

የአርትኦት ኮሚቴ

Dear Readers,

The 23rd issue of the Ethiopian Messenger will focus on the Embassy’s activities and Ethiopia’s major engagements in the past three months.

Our first article covers commitments and endeavors of the Ethiopian Government in implementing the peace agreement signed in Pretoria and to bring a lasting peace to the country.

We would like our readers to enjoy an article that features the participation of Ethiopia at Brussels Holiday Fair 2023.

We also carry an article on Ethiopian Investment Holdings that aims to expand foreign direct investment in Ethiopia.

The “News in Brief” column will encompass major news stories that illustrate Ethiopia’s diplomatic engagements in the past three months.

We hope you will enjoy this issue of the Ethiopian Messenger.

The Editorial Team

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Politics

ETHIOPIA ON THE PATH OF PEACE

Ethiopia has embarked on the path of peace through the Africa Union led peace process, embedded in the ethos of African solutions to African problems.



Source: Pic 1. Reuters and pic 2. ASUYOSHI CHIBA/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Ethiopia has embarked on the path of peace through the Africa Union led peace process, embedded in the ethos of African solutions to African problems.

The past two years correspond to one of Ethiopia's most trying times in its modern history. This protracted conflict in the northern part of Ethiopia affected the people living in Afar, Amhara, and Tigray regions. The conflict is believed to have claimed the lives of many across the three regions resulting in destructions of properties and public infrastructures.

In those two years, the government of Ethiopia has demonstrated its readiness on various occasions its readiness to solve existing disagreements by peaceful means. The December 2021 decision to halt its military advance into the Tigray region and the subsequent move to declare a unilateral humanitarian truce on March 22, 2022, cognizant of the need to take extraordinary measures to save lives and reduce human suffering, demonstrated the government's resolve for peace. Later that year, it also took a major step by establishing a peace committee and calling for a solution under the auspices of the continental organization, the African Union. After months of anguish and fray, the much-anticipated peace accord was struck on November 2, 2022, in Pretoria, South Africa, just a day before the two years anniversary of the attack on the Northern Command of the Ethiopian army base. This historic moment signaled the culmination of a two-year-long conflict. Subsequently, the two parties held extensive discussions on the modalities of a successful implementation of

ETHIOPIË OP WEG NAAR VREDE

Ethiopië is de weg van de vrede ingeslagen via het door de Afrikaanse Unie geleide vredesproces, ingebed in het ethos van Afrikaanse oplossingen voor Afrikaanse problemen.



Bron: Foto 1. Reuters en foto 2. ASUYOSHI CHIBA/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

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De afgelopen twee jaar komen overeen met een van de moeilijkste tijden in de moderne geschiedenis van Ethiopië. Dit langdurige conflict in het noorden van Ethiopië heeft de bevolking in de regio's Afar, Amhara en Tigray getroffen. Het conflict zou in de drie regio's aan veel mensen het leven hebben gekost, waardoor eigendommen en openbare infrastructuur zijn verwoest.

In die twee jaar heeft de regering van Ethiopië zich herhaaldelijk haar bereidheid getoond om bestaande meningsverschillen met vreedzame middelen op te lossen. Het besluit van december 2021 om haar militaire opmars naar de regio Tigray stop te zetten en de daaropvolgende stap om op 22 maart 2022 een eenzijdige humanitaire wapenstilstand af te kondigen, in het besef dat buitengewone maatregelen nodig zijn om levens te redden en menselijk lijden te verminderen, tonen aan dat de regering naar vrede streeft. Later dat jaar had zij ook een belangrijke stap gezet door een vredescommissie op te richten en op te roepen tot een oplossing onder auspiciën van de continentale organisatie, de Afrikaanse Unie.

Na maanden van angst en onzekerheid werd op 2 november 2022 in Pretoria, Zuid-Afrika, het langverwachte vredesakkoord bereikt, slechts een dag voor de tweejarige verjaardag van de aanval op het Noordelijk Commando van de Ethiopische legerbasis. Dit historische moment

L'ÉTHIOPIE SUR LE CHEMIN DE LA PAIX

L'Éthiopie s'est engagée sur la voie de la paix par le biais du processus de paix mené par l'Union africaine, dans le respect de son principe de solutions africaines aux problèmes africains.



Source : Photo 1. Reuters et photo 2. ASUYOSHI CHIBA/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

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Les deux dernières années correspondent à l'une des périodes les plus difficiles de l'histoire moderne de l'Éthiopie. Ce conflit prolongé dans le nord de l'Éthiopie a touché les populations vivant dans les régions d'Afar, d'Amhara et du Tigré. Le conflit aurait coûté la vie à de nombreuses personnes dans ces trois régions, entraînant la destruction de propriétés et d'infrastructures publiques.

Au cours de ces deux années, le gouvernement éthiopien a démontré à plusieurs reprises qu'il était prêt à résoudre les désaccords existants par des moyens pacifiques. La décision de décembre 2021 d'arrêter son avancée militaire dans la région du Tigré et la déclaration subséquente d'une trêve humanitaire unilatérale le 22 mars 2022, conscient de la nécessité de prendre des mesures extraordinaires pour sauver des vies et réduire les souffrances humaines, ont démontré la détermination du gouvernement en faveur de la paix. Plus tard dans l'année, il a également franchi une étape importante en créant un comité pour la paix et en appelant à une solution sous les auspices de l'organisation continentale, l'Union africaine.

le commandement nord de la base de l'armée éthiopienne. Ce moment historique a marqué le point culminant d'un conflit qui a duré deux ans. Par la suite, les deux parties ont tenu des discus-

the agreement, and thereafter on November 12, 2022, in Nairobi, Kenya, signed a declaration that contains a series of clauses on the permanent cessation of hostilities, disarmaments of Tigray combatant forces, delivery of humanitarian aid and cooperating on monitoring and verification mechanisms.

What has unfolded following the signing of the peace process?

Over the past five months, the two sides have taken enormous steps in implementing the peace agreements. The humanitarian access that had been hampered due to the conflict has been fully restored. Supplies have consistently reached the needy population in Tigray through all available routes of Semera, Gondar -Maitsabri-Shire and Kombolcha-Kobo-Alamata Corridors. Various international organizations including the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) have confirmed that since the signing of the accord humanitarian supplies has tremendously improved.

Right after the signing of the Pretoria agreement and the Nairobi declaration, the 2nd meeting of senior military commanders of Ethiopia and the TPLF was held in Nairobi on December 22, 2022. The meeting finalized the terms of reference of the Joint Monitoring and Verification and Compliance Mechanism. The meeting also discussed the implementation of the DDR process, one of the most essential elements featured in the agreement.

Tremendous work has also been done to resume various basic services by restoring the infrastructure damaged during the conflict. The Ethiopian Commercial Bank has resumed its service expediting the much-needed services. 95% of repair and maintenance work on electricity infrastructure has been completed, allowing most cities and towns to get electricity. Telephone services and daily flights of Ethiopian Airlines have also resumed successfully.

The federal government of Ethiopia made further moves to boost the trust needed between the two sides. A high-level delegation led by the speaker of Ethiopia's parliament Tadesse Chaffo arrived in Tigray's capital Mekelle on December 26, 2022. The delegation also included Ministers, CEOs as well as members of Ethiopia's National Dialogue Commission. On February 03, 2023, H.E. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed held his first face-to-face talks with TPLF leaders regarding the progress of the peace process. Consequently, decisions were passed to increase flights, banking & other issues that would boost trust and ease the lives of civilians.

On December 29, 2022, the African Union (AU) launched a joint monitoring mission in the Tigray region of Ethiopia to oversee the implementation of the peace agreement signed between the federal government of Ethiopia and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) in November 2022. The mission, known as the African Union Monitoring, Verification, and Compliance Mechanism (MVCAM), is led by Major General Stephen Radina of Kenya and includes

betekende het hoogtepunt van een twee jaar durend conflict. Vervolgens voerden de twee partijen uitvoerige besprekingen over de voorwaarden voor een succesvolle invoering van het akkoord, en vervolgens ondertekende zij op 12 november 2022 in Nairobi, Kenia, een verklaring die een reeks clausules bevat over de permanente beëindiging van de vijandelijkheden, de ontwapening van de strijdkrachten van Tigray, de levering van humanitaire hulp en de samenwerking inzake toezicht- en verificatiemechanismen.

Wat is er gebeurd na de ondertekening van het vredesproces?

De afgelopen vijf maanden hebben beide partijen enorme vooruitgang geboekt bij de uitvoering van de vredesakkoorden. De humanitaire toegang die als gevolg van het conflict was belemmerd, is volledig hersteld. De voorraden hebben de noodlijdende bevolking in Tigray consequent bereikt via alle beschikbare routes van Semera, Gondar-Maitsabri-Shire en Kombolcha-Kobo-Alamata. Verschillende internationale organisaties, waaronder het VN-Bureau voor de Coördinatie van Humanitaire Aangelegenheden (UNOCHA), hebben bevestigd dat de humanitaire leveringen sinds de ondertekening van het akkoord enorm zijn verbeterd.

Direct na de ondertekening van het akkoord van Pretoria en de verklaring van Nairobi vond op 22 december 2022 in Nairobi de tweede bijeenkomst van hoge militaire bevelhebbers van Ethiopië en het VBFT plaats. Tijdens de vergadering is de laatste hand gelegd aan het mandaat van het gemeenschappelijk mechanisme voor toezicht, controle en naleving. De vergadering besprak ook de uitvoering van het proces van ontwapening, demobilisatie en reïntegratie, een van de meest essentiële elementen van de overeenkomst.

Er is ook veel werk verzet om verschillende basisdiensten te hervatten door de tijdens het conflict beschadigde infrastructuur te herstellen. De Commercial Bank of Ethiopia heeft haar werkzaamheden hervat, waardoor de verlening van essentiële diensten werd versneld. 95% van de herstel- en onderhoudswerkzaamheden aan de elektriciteitsinfrastructuur zijn voltooid, waardoor de meeste steden en dorpen elektriciteit kunnen krijgen. Ook de telefoondiensten en de dagelijkse vluchten van Ethiopian Airlines zijn met succes hervat.

De federale regering van Ethiopië heeft verdere stappen ondernomen om het noodzakelijke vertrouwen tussen beide partijen op te bouwen. Een delegatie op hoog niveau onder leiding van de voorzitter van het Ethiopische parlement Tadesse Chaffo is op 26 december 2022 aangekomen in de hoofdstad van Tigray, Mekelle. Tot de delegatie behoorden ministers, hoofdbestuurders en leden van de Nationale Dialoogcommissie van Ethiopië. Op 03 februari 2023, hield Premier Abiy Ahmed zijn eerste vergadering met de leiders van het VBFT over de stand van zaken van het vredesproces. Bijgevolg werden besluiten genomen om het aantal vluchten, bankdiensten en andere zaken die het vertrouwen bevorderen en het leven van de burgers vergemakkelijken, uit te breiden.

Op 29 december 2022 lanceerde de Afrikaanse

sions approfondies sur les modalités d'une mise en œuvre réussie de l'accord et, le 12 novembre 2022, à Nairobi, au Kenya, elles ont signé une déclaration contenant une série de clauses sur la cessation permanente des hostilités, le désarmement des forces combattantes du Tigré, l'acheminement de l'aide humanitaire et la coopération en matière de mécanismes de suivi et de vérification.

Que s'est-il passé après la signature du processus de paix ?

Au cours des cinq derniers mois, les deux parties ont fait d'énormes progrès dans la mise en œuvre des accords de paix. L'accès humanitaire qui avait été entravé par le conflit a été entièrement rétabli. Les approvisionnements ont régulièrement atteint la population nécessiteuse du Tigré par tous les itinéraires disponibles de Semera, Gondar-Maitsabri-Shire et Kombolcha-Kobo-Alamata. Diverses organisations internationales, dont le Bureau de la coordination des affaires humanitaires des Nations unies (BCAH), ont confirmé que l'approvisionnement humanitaire s'était considérablement amélioré depuis la signature de l'accord.

Juste après la signature de l'accord de Pretoria et de la déclaration de Nairobi, la deuxième réunion des hauts commandants militaires de l'Éthiopie et du FLPT s'est tenue à Nairobi le 22 décembre 2022. La réunion a permis de finaliser les termes de référence du mécanisme conjoint de suivi, de vérification et de conformité. La réunion a également discuté de la mise en œuvre du processus de DDR, l'un des éléments les plus essentiels de l'accord.

Un travail considérable a également été accompli pour rétablir divers services de base en remettant en état les infrastructures endommagées pendant le conflit. La Commercial Bank of Ethiopia a repris ses activités, accélérant ainsi la mise en place des services indispensables. 95% des travaux de réparation et d'entretien des infrastructures électriques ont été achevés, ce qui a permis à la plupart des villes et des villages d'avoir accès à l'électricité. Les services téléphoniques et les vols quotidiens de la compagnie Ethiopian Airlines ont également repris avec succès.

Le gouvernement fédéral éthiopien a pris d'autres mesures pour renforcer la confiance nécessaire entre les deux parties. Une délégation de haut niveau conduite par le président du parlement éthiopien, Tadesse Chaffo, est arrivée à Mekelle, la capitale du Tigré, le 26 décembre 2022. La délégation comprenait des ministres, des directeurs généraux ainsi que des membres de la commission de dialogue national d'Éthiopie. Le 03 février 2023, le Premier ministre Abiy Ahmed s'est entretenu pour la première fois avec les dirigeants du FLPT sur l'état d'avancement du processus de paix. En conséquence, des décisions ont été prises pour augmenter le nombre de vols, les services bancaires et d'autres questions susceptibles de renforcer la confiance et de faciliter la vie des civils.

Le 29 décembre 2022, l'Union africaine (UA)

Colonel Rufai Umar Mairiga of Nigeria and Colonel Teffo Sekole of South Africa. The key objective of the MVCVM is to ensure the successful implementation of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA), confirm compliance, and report any violations.

As of December 29, 2022, the Ethiopian Federal Police has entered Mekelle City, the capital of the Tigray region, to guard federal institutions, facilities, and installations. The TPLF has also commenced handing over the first round of heavy weapons to the federal government of Ethiopia in accordance with the Pretoria peace agreement. Military observers from different countries attended the handing over in Agula camp, 36 kilometers from the regional capital, Mekelle. The heavy weapons from TPLF included armored tanks, artillery, rockets, and mortars. Another important focus of the agreement was establishing an interim administration of Tigray. The post for president was already approved by the federal government as per the provision of the peace agreement. Towards the full-fledged establishment of the interim government and ascertaining the participation of the region in the federal parliament, the designations of the TPLF as a terrorist organization was also lifted.

The way forward!

So far, observers and members of the verification and compliance mechanism as well as the international community have applauded the way in which the two parties have been implementing the accord. The Ethiopian government on its part has once again doubled down its commitment to faithfully apply the agreement. These developments are now further consolidated through the recently launched transitional justice mechanism as well as the much-anticipated national dialogue.

Ethiopians have always had a magical will to overcome fundamental challenges over their survival. The long-standing ties and togetherness developed among the diverse people over the centuries have helped heal wounds. The agreement signed through the facilitation of the Africa Union between the federal government and the TPLF and its faithful implementation, nourished by the people's longstanding values and togetherness, will once again help solve the political ordeal of the past two years sustainably. The long-awaited national dialogue, which is now slated for June 2023, will provide another important millstone to reach into consensus among various political actors and the society at large on the future preferred political dispensations of the country.

Unie (AU) een gezamenlijke waarnemingsmissie in de regio Tigray in Ethiopië om toe te zien op de uitvoering van een vredesakkoord dat de federale regering van Ethiopië en het Volksbevrijdingsfront van Tigray (VBFT) in november 2022 ondertekenden. De missie, die bekend als het toezichts-, verificatie- en nalevingsmechanisme van de Afrikaanse Unie (MVCVM), wordt geleid door generaal-majoor Stephen Radina van Kenia en omvat kolonel Rufai Umar Mairiga van Nigeria en kolonel Teffo Sekole van Zuid-Afrika. Het hoofddoel van het MVCVM is te zorgen voor de succesvolle uitvoering van de overeenkomst inzake het staken van de vijandelijkheden (CoHA), de naleving ervan te bevestigen en eventuele schendingen te melden. Sinds 29 december 2022 is de Ethiopische federale politie de stad Mekelle, de hoofdstad van de regio Tigray, binnengedrongen om de federale instellingen, faciliteiten en installaties te bewaken. Het VBFT is ook begonnen met de overdracht van de eerste reeks zware wapens aan de federale regering van Ethiopië, overeenkomstig het vredesakkoord van Pretoria. Militaire waarnemers uit verschillende landen woonden de overdracht bij in het kamp Agula, 36 kilometer van de regionale hoofdstad Mekelle. De zware wapens van het VBFT omvatten gepantserde tanks, artillerie, raketten en mortieren. Een ander belangrijk aandachtspunt van de overeenkomst was de oprichting van een interimbestuur in Tigray. De functie van president was reeds goedgekeurd door de federale regering, overeenkomstig de bepalingen van het vredesakkoord. Met het oog op de volwaardige oprichting van de interimregering en de vaststelling van de deelname van de regio aan het federale parlement werd ook de aanwijzing van het VBFT als terroristische organisatie opgeheven.

De weg vooruit!

Tot dusver hebben waarnemers en leden van het verificatie- en nalevingsmechanisme alsmede de internationale gemeenschap de wijze waarop beide partijen het akkoord uitvoeren, toegejuicht. De Ethiopische regering van haar kant heeft nogmaals bevestigd dat zij zich ertoe verbindt de overeenkomst getrouw uit te voeren. Deze ontwikkelingen worden nu verder geconsolideerd door het onlangs ingestelde mechanisme voor overgangsjustitie en de langverwachte nationale dialoog.

Ethiopiërs hebben altijd een magische wil gehad om fundamentele uitdagingen over hun voortbestaan te overwinnen. De langdurige banden en saamhorigheid die in de loop der eeuwen tussen de verschillende volkeren zijn ontwikkeld, hebben bijgedragen tot het helen van wonden. De overeenkomst die door bemiddeling van de Afrikaanse Unie tussen de federale regering en het VBFT is ondertekend en de getrouwe uitvoering daarvan, gevoed door de aloude waarden en de saamhorigheid van het volk, zullen opnieuw bijdragen tot een duurzame oplossing van de politieke beproeving van de afgelopen twee jaar.

De langverwachte nationale dialoog, die nu gepland is voor juni 2023, zal een andere belangrijke hoeksteen vormen om tot een consensus te komen tussen de verschillende politieke actoren en de samenleving in het algemeen over de toekomstige politieke voorkeuren van het land.

a lancé une mission d'observation conjointe dans la région du Tigré afin de superviser la mise en œuvre de l'accord de paix signé entre le gouvernement fédéral d'Éthiopie et le Front populaire de libération du Tigré (FLPT) en novembre 2022. La mission, connue sous le nom de mécanisme de contrôle, de vérification et de conformité de l'Union africaine (Monitoring, Verification, and Compliance Mechanism - MVCVM), est dirigée par le général de division Stephen Radina du Kenya, et comprend le colonel Rufai Umar Mairiga du Nigeria, ainsi que le colonel Teffo Sekole d'Afrique du Sud. L'objectif principal du MVCVM est d'assurer la bonne mise en œuvre de l'accord de cessation des hostilités, de confirmer le respect de celui-ci et de signaler toute violation.

Depuis le 29 décembre 2022, la police fédérale éthiopienne est entrée dans la ville de Mekelle, la capitale de la région du Tigré, pour surveiller les institutions, les équipements et les installations fédérales. Le FLPT a également commencé à remettre la première série d'armes lourdes au gouvernement fédéral d'Éthiopie, conformément à l'accord de paix de Pretoria. Des observateurs militaires de différents pays ont assisté à la remise des clés dans le camp d'Agula, à 36 kilomètres de Mekelle, la capitale régionale. Les armes lourdes du FLPT comprenaient des chars blindés, des pièces d'artillerie, des roquettes et des mortiers. Un autre point important de l'accord était la mise en place d'une administration intérimaire du Tigré. Le poste de président a déjà été approuvé par le gouvernement fédéral, conformément aux dispositions de l'accord de paix. En vue de la mise en place complète du gouvernement intérimaire et de la participation de la région au parlement fédéral, la désignation du FLPT en tant qu'organisation terroriste a également été levée.

Perspectives d'avenir

Jusqu'à présent, les observateurs et les membres du mécanisme de vérification et de conformité, ainsi que la communauté internationale, ont salué la manière dont les deux parties ont mis l'accord en œuvre. Le gouvernement éthiopien, quant à lui, a une fois de plus réitéré son engagement à l'appliquer fidèlement.

Ces évolutions sont désormais consolidées par le mécanisme de justice transitionnelle récemment mis en place ainsi que par le dialogue national tant attendu.

Les Éthiopiens ont toujours eu la volonté magique de surmonter les obstacles fondamentaux à leur survie. Les liens de longue date et la solidarité qui se sont développés entre les différents peuples au fil des siècles ont contribué à panser les plaies. L'accord signé avec l'aide de l'Union africaine entre le gouvernement fédéral et le FLPT et sa mise en œuvre fidèle, nourrie par les valeurs et la solidarité de longue date de la population, contribueront une fois de plus à résoudre durablement l'épreuve politique de ces deux dernières années.

Le dialogue national tant attendu, qui est maintenant prévu pour juin 2023, constituera une autre pierre angulaire importante pour parvenir à un consensus entre les différents acteurs politiques et la société dans son ensemble sur les futures dispositions politiques préférées du pays.



Bale Mountains

Source: Land of Origins

Tourism

Ethiopia at the 2023 Brussels Holiday Fair

The Ethiopian Embassy in Brussels took part in the 2023 Brussels Holiday Fair that attracted a wide range of visitors from Belgium and many parts of the world.

Ethiopië op het Vakantiesalon van Brussel 2023

De Ethiopische ambassade in Brussel nam deel aan de 2023 editie van het Vakantiesalon van Brussel, dat een groot aantal bezoekers uit België en vele delen van de wereld trok.

L'Éthiopie au Salon des Vacances de Bruxelles 2023

L'ambassade d'Éthiopie à Bruxelles a participé à l'édition 2023 du Salon des Vacances de Bruxelles qui a attiré un grand nombre de visiteurs de Belgique et de nombreuses régions du monde.



H.E. Ambassador Hirut Zemene, Head of the Embassy of Ethiopia in Brussels, inaugurating the Ethiopian stand.

Credit: The Embassy of Ethiopia in Brussels

H.E. Ambassadeur Hirut Zemene, hoofd van de ambassade van Ethiopië in Brussel, opent de Ethiopische stand.

Krediet: De Ambassade van Ethiopië in Brussel

S.E. l'ambassadrice Hirut Zemene, chef de l'ambassade d'Éthiopie à Bruxelles, inaugurant le stand éthiopien.

Crédit : Ambassade d'Éthiopie à Bruxelles

The Ethiopian Embassy in Brussels took part in the 2023 Brussels Holiday Fair that attracted a wide range of visitors from Belgium and many parts of the world.

The 64th annual "Salon des Vacances" tourism trade show, which was the first fully attended event after the Covid pandemic, held in Brussels from Thursday, February 2 through Sunday, February 5, 2023, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Heysel Exhibition Center (Brussels Expo). The public and end users were the primary audience for Belgium's most significant tourism exhibition. This year's fair hosted more than 200 exhibitors and 94 sub-exhibitors, and it draws more than 73,000 visitors each.

Participating in this event has been an excellent opportunity to promote Ethiopia's top tourist spots to the visitors, given that Belgium is one of the biggest sources of tourists to Ethiopia. It was also quite important in establishing connections between industry business and potential tourists.

Tourism is one of the sectors that is expected to contribute meaningfully to the national growth drive. To this end, numerous projects in Addis

De Ethiopische ambassade in Brussel nam deel aan de 2023 editie van het Vakantiesalon van Brussel, dat een groot aantal bezoekers uit België en vele delen van de wereld trok.

De 64e editie van het Vakantiesalon, de eerste volledige editie na de Covidpandemie, vond plaats in Brussel van donderdag 2 februari tot en met zondag 5 februari 2023, van 10.00 tot 18.00 uur, in het Tentoonstellingscentrum Heysel (Brussels Expo). Het publiek en de eindgebruikers vormden het doelpubliek van de belangrijkste toerismebeurs van België. Het publiek en de eindgebruikers waren de doelgroep van de belangrijkste toeristische beurs van België. De beurs, die jaarlijks meer dan 73.000 bezoekers trekt, telde dit jaar meer dan 200 exposanten en 94 sub-exposanten.

Deelname aan dit evenement was een uitstekende gelegenheid om de belangrijkste toeristische trekpleisters van Ethiopië bij bezoekers te promoten, aangezien België een van de belangrijkste bronnen van toeristen naar Ethiopië is. Het speelde ook een belangrijke rol bij het in contact brengen van bedrijven in de sector met potentiële toeristen.

L'ambassade d'Éthiopie à Bruxelles a participé à l'édition 2023 du Salon des Vacances de Bruxelles qui a attiré un grand nombre de visiteurs de Belgique et de nombreuses régions du monde.

La 64e édition du Salon des Vacances, qui a été la première édition complète après la pandémie de Covid, s'est tenue à Bruxelles du jeudi 2 février au dimanche 5 février 2023, de 10 heures à 18 heures, au Parc des Expositions du Heysel (Brussels Expo). Le public et les utilisateurs finaux constituaient la cible principale de l'exposition touristique la plus importante de Belgique. Cette année, le salon, qui attire plus de 73 000 visiteurs annuellement, a accueilli plus de 200 exposants et 94 sous-exposants.

La participation à cet événement a été une excellente occasion de promouvoir les principaux sites touristiques de l'Éthiopie auprès des visiteurs, étant donné que la Belgique est l'une des principales sources de touristes pour l'Éthiopie. Il a également joué un rôle important dans l'établissement de liens entre les entreprises du secteur et les touristes potentiels.

Le tourisme est l'un des secteurs qui devrait contribuer de manière significative à la croissance nationale. À cette fin, de nombreux pro-



Credit: The Embassy of Ethiopia in Brussels

Foto credit: Ambassade van Ethiopië in Brussel

Crédit photo : Ambassade d'Éthiopie à Bruxelles

Ababa city have been completed recently, including, Unity Park, Friendship Park, the Science Museum, Entoto Park, the restoration of the National Palace and eight additional palaces outside of Addis Ababa. There are also fascinating eco-tourism projects being built, such as the Gorgora Beach and Resort on the Lake Tana bank, the Wenchi project around the Creator Lake in Ambo area as well as Chebera Churchura around Bale Zone.

Ethiopia is endowed with unique and beautiful historic, cultural, religious, and natural attractions. Thirteen of the tourist attractions have been listed by UNESCO as global tangible and intangible cultural treasures. The obelisk of Aksum, Fasil Ghebbi-Gondar, Harar Jugol-the fortified historic village, Konso Cultural Landscape, Lower Valley of the Awash, Lower Valley of the Omo, RockHewn Churches of Lalibela, Tiya, and Simien National Park are some of the more visible ones. Ethiopia's intangible cultural treasures include Meskel -the celebration of the finding of the true cross of Jesus Christ, the Geda system - an indigenous democratic socio-political system of the Oromo people, Ficheechambalaalla -New Year festival of the Sidama people, and the recently included Timket festival- the Ethiopian Epiphany- to the UNESCO list of intangible human heritage.

At the Brussels Holiday Fair, the Ethiopia stand has offered traditional cuisine, visual display of touristic attractions with a chance to sample

Het toerisme is een van de sectoren die naar verwachting een aanzienlijke bijdrage zullen leveren aan de nationale groei. Daartoe zijn onlangs talrijke projecten in de stad Addis Abeba voltooid, waaronder het Eenheidspark, het Vriendschapspark, het Wetenschapsmuseum, het Entoto Park, de restauratie van het Nationaal Paleis en acht andere paleizen buiten Addis Abeba. Er zijn ook fascinerende ecotoerisme-projecten in aanbouw, zoals het Gorgora Beach and Resort aan de oevers van het Tanameer, het Wenchi-project rond het kratermeer in de regio Ambo, en de Chebera Churchura rond het gebied van Bale.

Ethiopië is begiftigd met unieke en prachtige historische, culturele, religieuze en natuurlijke bezienswaardigheden. Dertien van de toeristische attracties zijn door de UNESCO geclassificeerd als materieel en immaterieel werelderfgoed. De obelisk van Aksum, Fasil Ghebbi-Gondar, Harar Jugol – de oude ommurde stad, het culturele landschap van Konso, de benedenloop van de Awash, de benedenloop van de Omo, de uit de rotsen gehouwen kerken van Lalibela, Tiya, en het nationaal park Simien zijn enkele van de meer zichtbare. Tot de immateriële cultuurschatten van Ethiopië behoren daarentegen Meskel - de viering van de ontdekking van het ware kruis van Jezus Christus, het Geda-systeem - een inheems democratisch sociaal-politiek systeem van het Oromo-volk, Ficheechambalaalla - het nieuwjaarsfeest van het Sidama-volk, en het Tim-

jets ont été achevés récemment dans la ville d'Addis-Abeba, notamment le parc de l'Unité, le parc de l'Amitié, le musée des Sciences, le parc Entoto, la restauration du palais national et huit autres palais à l'extérieur d'Addis-Abeba. De fascinants projets d'écotourisme sont également en cours de construction, tels que le Gorgora Beach and Resort sur les rives du lac Tana, le projet Wenchi autour du lac du cratère dans la région d'Ambo, ainsi que le Chebera Churchura autour de la zone de Bale.

L'Éthiopie est dotée de sites historiques, culturels, religieux et naturels uniques et magnifiques. Treize des attractions touristiques ont été classées par l'UNESCO comme trésors du patrimoine mondial culturel matériel et immatériel. L'obélisque d'Aksum, Fasil Ghebbi-Gondar, Harar Jugol - le village historique fortifié, le paysage culturel de Konso, la basse vallée de l'Awash, la basse vallée de l'Omo, les églises creusées dans le roc de Lalibela, Tiya et le parc national du Simien sont quelques-uns des sites les plus visibles. En outre, les trésors culturels immatériels de l'Éthiopie comprennent Meskel – la célébration de la découverte de la vraie croix de Jésus-Christ, le système Geda – un système sociopolitique démocratique indigène du peuple Oromo, Ficheechambala – la fête du Nouvel An du peuple Sidama, et le festival Timket - l'Épiphanie éthiopienne - récemment inscrit sur la liste du patrimoine humain immatériel de l'Unesco.



*Ethiopian traditional cuisine and coffee ceremony at the Brussels Holiday Fair.
Credit: The Embassy of Ethiopia in Brussels*



*Ethiopian traditional cuisine and coffee ceremony at the Brussels Holiday Fair.
Credit: The Embassy of Ethiopia in Brussels*

*Ethiopian traditional cuisine and coffee ceremony at the Brussels Holiday Fair.
Credit: The Embassy of Ethiopia in Brussels*

freshly brewed traditional Ethiopian coffee.

Brussels Holiday Fair was a fantastic venue in realise the bond that already exists between Ethiopians and Belgians particularly through the great interest of Belgian tourists to visit Ethiopia.

Many of the visitors were giving an account of their impression of Ethiopia along the visit they already made. The fair was equally important to create links with travel businesses and attract more tourists. Above all, it was a great event that made it possible to expand cultural links between Ethiopia and Belgium as well as various visitors from around the world.

ket-festival - de Ethiopische Driekoningen - dat onlangs is opgenomen op de Unesco-lijst van immaterieel menselijk erfgoed.

Op het Vakantiesalon van Brussel bood de stand van Ethiopië een traditionele keuken, een visuele presentatie van toeristische attracties en de mogelijkheid om vers gezette traditionele Ethiopische koffie te proeven.

Het Vakantiesalon van Brussel was een fantastische plaats om de band die er al bestaat tussen Ethiopiërs en Belgen te realiseren, vooral vanwege de grote belangstelling van Belgische toeristen om Ethiopië te bezoeken.

Veel bezoekers deden verslag van hun indruk van Ethiopië tijdens het bezoek dat ze reeds hadden afgelegd. Het salon was ook belangrijk om contacten te leggen met reisondernemingen en meer toeristen aan te trekken. Bovenal was het een geweldig evenement dat heeft bijgedragen tot de ontwikkeling van culturele banden tussen Ethiopië en België en met vele bezoekers uit de hele wereld.

Au Salon des Vacances de Bruxelles, le stand de l'Éthiopie proposait une cuisine traditionnelle, une présentation visuelle des attractions touristiques et la possibilité de déguster du café éthiopien traditionnel fraîchement infusé.

Le Salon des Vacances de Bruxelles a été un lieu fantastique pour réaliser le lien qui existe déjà entre les Éthiopiens et les Belges, notamment grâce au grand intérêt des touristes belges à visiter de l'Éthiopie.

De nombreux visiteurs ont fait part de leurs impressions sur l'Éthiopie au cours de la visite qu'ils ont déjà effectuée. Le Salon était également important pour créer des liens avec les entreprises du secteur du voyage et attirer davantage de touristes. Il s'agit avant tout d'un grand événement qui a permis de développer les liens culturels entre l'Éthiopie et la Belgique ainsi qu'avec de nombreux visiteurs du monde entier.



*Ethiopian Airlines
Credit: @flyethiopian*

Economy

Ethiopian Investment Holdings A new way to expand investment in Ethiopia



Credit: <https://eih.et/>

Developing countries require capital injections and diversifying of sources of wealth to meet their growth targets. In this regard, many countries in Africa are introducing mechanisms that could pool sovereign assets together and revolutionize their corporate management and profitability. One growing trend is the creation of Sovereign Wealth Funds (SWFs) that could fill gaps in financing investment.

According to the world bank, in Africa, the growth of SWF increased by 76 percent, while the number of investors also increased by 54 percent respectively mobilizing about \$300 billion in 2020. Hence, it is representing a major source of investible capital for the continent. Currently, Africa has 30 SWFs or sub-funds including the recently established Ethiopian Investment Holding (EIH).

EIHs has twenty-seven investment opportunities across six major portfolio areas. These are Agriculture and Food security, logistics infrastructure, renewable energy, manufacturing/processing, real estate, and the health section with \$150 billion assets under its management. This makes it the largest Sovereign Wealth Fund in Africa.

In the past, public enterprises have contributed positively to filling the gap where the private sector has not focused on or taking initial step in sectors that need to grow. However, at the current stage some of these enterprises need to increase productivity and improve corporate management. Some of them were exposed to high domestic and foreign debt when they were incorporated into the investment holdings. Thus, among the government's focus on economic reforms was to enable these corporations to become debt-free and profitable to attract foreign direct investments. To this end, the EIHs established professional management for its funds, and assets achieving the optimal use thereof by international best practices, and corporate governance principles, and increasing the value for the benefit of contemporary and future generations.

The main objective of the EIH is to increase the flow of significant foreign direct investment and technology by making state-owned enterprises follow a better management system in order to have a greater investment in the country. EIH as the key government investment vehicle addresses this challenge by managing government resources in a highly professional and efficient manner and working in partnership with domestic and foreign investors to achieve national development through different investment projects.

What does Ethiopian Investment Holdings do?

Ethiopian Investment Holdings was established to serve as a strategic tool to attract foreign direct investment by creating intermediation that encourages joint investment, pooling resources to generate additional income, and creating value from underutilized resources. Instead of operating independently, pooling resources and capabilities help to make investment

activities more effective. In addition, pooling resources can help reduce resource wastage, increase access to finance, and increase the profitability of companies. This system will improve the management of government resources and create more resources to get a better financial supply.

The twenty-seven public enterprises have different capacities and profit rates. To this end, the Ethiopian Investment Holding follows strong corporate governance and applies administrative procedures to make all twenty-seven enterprises profitable.

Many institutional investors that are interested to invest in Africa, including Ethiopia, find available investment projects to be of a lesser size in matching with the equity they bring along. Bringing together and managing these state-owned enterprises with large capital capacity will address the interest of attracting large scale investments while at the same time transform the public enterprises into more successful and profitable entities.

Opportunities to co-invest with EIH.

EIH works to attract foreign investment, among others, through joint venture that are critical to the country. At the same time, it has been given the mandate to inter into international joint ventures abroad using its assets under its management. In this connection, EIH has struck its first international joint venture with a Djiboutian company called Great Horn Investment Holdings a memorandum of understanding in 2022, to jointly fuel storage terminal in Dimerjog Industrial Park. According to the company statement, the tank to be built will have a capacity of 270 tons of fuel.

ETH represents Ethiopia's long-term commercial and investment interests. Potential businesses in the Benelux countries are, therefore, invited to partner with EIH and forge possibilities for mutual growth. For further information please visit EIH at www.eih.et.

News in Brief

POLITICS/DIPLOMACY

PM Abiy Ahmed at the 36th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union

H.E. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed addressed the 36th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union on February 18, 2023.

During the opening session of the summit, H.E. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed took the opportunity, among others, to lend his voice for Africa to be represented on the UN Security Council with at least one permanent seat and double non-permanent seats.



President Sahle-Work Zewde and PM Abiy Ahmed Hold Talks with the President of The EU Council

H.E. President Sahle-Work Zewde and H.E. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed held talks with the President of the European Union Council, Charles Michel on the 19th of February 2023, on the side-lines of the AU Summit. They discussed on the current situation in Ethiopia and on ways to strengthen the longstanding relation between Ethiopia and the EU, among others, by drawing special emphasis to the Global Gateway and Connectivity.



President Sahle-Work Affirms Ethiopia's Commitment to Empower Women in Agriculture

President Sahle-Work Zewde reaffirmed Ethiopia's commitment to empower women in agriculture. The President attended the Empower Women in Agriculture meeting held in the side-line of the 36th AU Summit on the 16th of February 2023. "As Ethiopia has been selected to lead Empower Women in Agriculture (EWA) Initiative, I would like to express Ethiopia's readiness to implement this initiative, we are committed to empower women in agriculture," the President said. She emphasized that "mechanization and digitalization are significant to transform the agriculture sector. "Otherwise, women will remain in the vicious circle with no way to change their life. It will take it to another level, and the private sector has a big role to play," she underscored. The president said agriculture is the backbone of the economy of every country in Africa, stressing need to address gender issues in agriculture; support economic opportunities for women as entrepreneurs. The President said that 75 percent of the population of Africa are engaged in Agriculture, half of them are women.



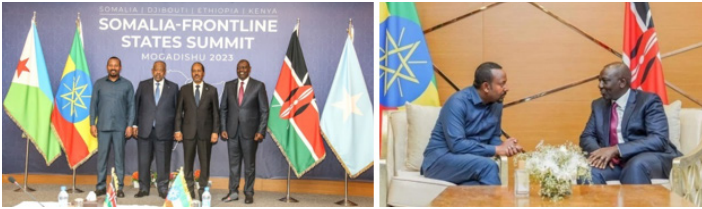
New Ethiopian Ambassadors Take Oath before President

Ethiopian ambassadors appointed recently by H.E. President Sahle-Work Zewde took an oath before the President on January 17, 2023, pledging to safeguard their country's interests and carry out their duties at the utmost of their abilities. Delivering remarks at the ceremony, President Sahle-Work congratulated the ambassadors for getting the honor of representing their country further stressing her hope that they would fulfil their duties diligently. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, H.E. Demekie Mekonnen, for his part, expressed confidence that the ambassadors will advance Ethiopia's interests in bilateral and multilateral fora. He said the ambassadors are expected to expand Ethiopia's relations with other countries in trade, investment, tourism, and diaspora engagement building upon encouraging opportunities at home.



PM Abiy Ahmed in Mogadishu

The Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Abiy Ahmed, participated in the regional forum convened towards strengthening the campaign against Al-Shabaab in East Africa on the 1st of February 2023. The leaders' discussion was aimed at providing regional solutions to regional problems. To this end, the countries of the region would jointly plan to eliminate terrorism, collect timely support and advise on issues where they could combat terrorism in different ways. On the side-lines of the Somalia-Frontline States Summit, the Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed met with Kenyan President William Ruto and discussed to strengthen bilateral ties through infrastructure development, increasing trade and investment as well as regional issues.



Premier in Sudan for a Day-Long Working Visit

H.E Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and his delegation were in Khartoum, Sudan for a one day working visit on the 26th of January 2023. The delegation was received by General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, President of the Transitional Sovereignty Council of the Republic of Sudan.

The two leaders last met in person and held a meeting on the side-lines of the heads of state and government extraordinary summit by the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), which was held on 05 July in Nairobi, Kenya. Subsequently, the two leaders said they “underscored the need to collaboratively address and diplomatically tackle national political and security related issues that bear greater ramification on the IGAD region”.



H.E. PM Abiy Ahmed’s Visit to Italy, Malta and France

H.E. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed paid a working visit to Italy, Malta and France from 6-8 February 2023. During his official visit in Italy, H.E. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed had productive meetings with H.E Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and H.E President Sergio Mattarella of Italy on the 6 of February 2023, where they discussed the multifaceted ties and cooperation between their two countries. The signing of a cooperation framework agreement which includes 180mil Euros in grants and soft loans is essential to forging ahead with activities in Ethiopia home-grown economic reform program and its ten-year perspective development plan. Ethiopian - Italian relations spanning over many decades have been long standing and defined by a fruitful partnership. We will continue to enhance existing relations.”



As of February 7, 2023, the Premier and his delegation were in Malta and met Malta’s Prime Minister Robert Abela in Malta. The premier stated his gratitude to Malta’s Prime Minister Robert Abela, and his government for the warm welcome. The two countries have a lot to learn from one another in a multitude of areas and their discussions have further cemented areas of cooperation for mutual benefit. Following the conclusion of the Malta leg of the Europe trip, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and his delegation were in Paris, France on February 8, 2023, for a meeting with President

Emmanuel Macron. The two leaders discussed strengthened bilateral relations including increasing private sector investments in strategic and priority sectors.



The Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang in Ethiopia

H.E Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed met with the recently appointed Chinese Foreign Minister, Qin Gang. The newly appointed Foreign Minister of the People’s Republic of China, Qin Gang, arrived in Addis Ababa on January 10, 2023, for his overseas official working visit.

During his stay in Ethiopia, the Chinese FM held discussions with senior government officials of Ethiopia as well as AU Commission chiefs and officials to strengthen cooperation and bilateral ties. Following their discussion, Prime Minister Abiy stated that the relation between Ethiopia and China remains steadfast.



DPM and Foreign Minister, H.E. Demeke Mekonnen at the 42nd Ordinary Session of the Executive Council of the AU

Addressing the 42nd Ordinary Session of the Executive Council of the African Union on the 15th of February 2023, H.E. Demeke Mekonnen explained about progresses made in the implementation of the peace agreement signed in Pretoria on 2nd of November 2022. On the side-lines of the council session, DPM and FM Demeke discussed with foreign ministers of Gambia, H.E. Gabon Mamadou Tangara (acting foreign minister), Malawi, H.E. Nancy Tembo, Tunisia, H.E. Nabil Ammar, Libya, H.E. Najla Elmangoush, and Gabon, H.E. Hermann Immongault. During the deliberations, DPM and FM Demeke exchanged views on ways to further strengthen the longstanding and multifaceted relations between Ethiopia and their respective countries.



Deputy PM and Foreign Minister, H.E. Demeke Mekonnen Meets with US Secretary of State

As of March 15, 2023, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister H.E. Demeke Mekonnen met with the US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and discussed a wide range of matters spanning from the implementation of the cessation of hostilities agreement to Ethiopia's economic situation and regional peace and security issues. Secretary of State had also met with Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and his team prior to his departure. The two sides have expressed readiness to revitalize the long-standing diplomatic relations between Ethiopia and the United States.



DPM and FM Demeke Mekonnen: History Will Always Remember Positive Roles of Ethiopian Diaspora

The Government of Ethiopia recognized 52 Ethiopian diaspora associations from 25 countries that actively support their homeland in times of need on January 26, 2023. According to H.E. President Sahle-Work Zewde, the recognition is for all Ethiopians in the diaspora who stood by Ethiopia and the people. The president went on to say that the Government has established a welcoming climate for the Ethiopian diaspora to further engage with critical issues facing the country and its people. President Sahlework Zewde also urged the Ethiopian diaspora to get involved in the peacebuilding and restoration process. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, H.E. Demeke Mekonnen, on his part, stated that the work done by the Ethiopian diaspora all over the world for their homeland when Ethiopia faced hardships and obstacles will be recognized in history. The Minister urged the Ethiopian Diaspora to play a positive role in the country's peacebuilding and restoration efforts. At the event, a book that archives list of Ethiopia's diaspora associations was officially launched.



Germany, France Commit to Scaling up Relations with Ethiopia

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Ethiopia, H.E. Demeke Mekonnen, met with the Foreign Ministers of Germany, H.E. Mrs. Annalena Baerbock, and France, H.E. Mrs. Catherine Colonna on January 13, 2023. In a briefing to the press, Mr. Demeke stated that the visit of the two foreign ministers is a demonstration of friendship to Ethiopia and has provided opportunities to further discuss bilateral, regional, and multilateral issues of common interest.

He stated that Ethiopia, Germany, and France have committed to collaborate and strengthen their ties, particularly in the areas of development and humanitarian assistance. Similarly, Mrs. Annalena Baerbock, Foreign Minister of Germany, lauded the reforms implemented in Ethiopia in recent years and reaffirmed a scaled-up cooperation with Germany, France, and the EU in general. She further added that Germany, France, and the EU look forward to cooperating in the implementation of the Pretoria Peace Agreement, as well as in reconstructing and rehabilitating conflict-affected areas. In a similar vein, Minister of Europe and Foreign Affairs of the French Republic, Catherine Collina, stated that the first of its kind, the Franco-German visit, demonstrates that the two countries want to build strategic partnerships with Ethiopia. Both Ministers underscored that France, Germany, and the EU are ready to support the AU-led peace process and the reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts in Ethiopia.

DPM & FM, H.E. Demeke Mekonnen, Meets with Deputy Secretary General of the EEAS

H.E. Demeke Mekonnen, Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia met with H.E. Amb. Enrique Mora, Deputy Secretary General of the European External Action Service (EEAS), to discuss a wide range of bilateral & multilateral issues of mutual importance on the 14th of March 2023. Mr. Demeke described the Ethiopian government's various efforts to implement the Pretoria Peace Agreement. He also discussed Ethiopia's critical role in promoting regional peace & security. He underlined Ethiopia's commitment to the African Union led tripartite negotiations while speaking about the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD). For his part, Ambassador Enrique Mora welcomed Ethiopia's efforts to implement the Peace Agreement, including signing the CoH, providing unrestricted access to humanitarian supplies, and addressing accountability through a transitional justice mechanism. He stated that peace in Ethiopia is necessary for peace in the Horn of Africa. Finally, Ambassador Enrique said that the European Union is keen on enhancing relations with Ethiopia. It is also to be recalled that the Minister had met with H.E. Annette Weber (Dr.), the European Union's Special Envoy to the Horn of Africa and discussed the implementation of the Pretoria Peace Agreement and current situations in Ethiopia on January 17, 2023.



H.E. Ambassador Mesganu Arga, State Minister of Foreign Affairs Briefed the Heads of Diplomatic Missions

H.E. Ambassador Mesganu Arga, State Minister of Foreign Affairs briefed the heads of diplomatic missions based in Addis Ababa on the current situation in Ethiopia on February 12 and 14, 2023. The State Minister highlighted that people of ethnic and religious diversity coexist peacefully with mutual respect, fraternity and equality in Ethiopia. He emphasized the Gov't's position that the current incidence in the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church (EOTC) is a religious matter that should only be addressed according to the Church's canonical internal rules and institutional mechanisms. The State Minister underlined the Government's conviction that, given its long history, EOTC has the necessary wisdom and capability to resolve the matter amicably. The Ambassador said the Gov't of Ethiopia is singularly focused on advancing religious freedom and freedom of belief in tandem with secularism while ensuring the peace and security of Ethiopia.

Ethiopia at the OACPS 63rd and the OACPS-EU Joint Parliamentary Assemblies

The 62nd session of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States Organization (OACPS) Parliamentary Assembly and the OACPS-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly inter-sessional meeting was held in Brussels between February 28 to March 02, 2023. Ethiopia was represented in those meetings through a delegation led by H.E. Hirut Zemene, Ambassador of Ethiopia to the Benelux & EU Institutions. The OACPS Assembly has deliberated on important issues of common interests that range from making the organization, membered by 79 nations, fit for present-day opportunities and challenges to coping with peace and security matters, building a fair-trading regime as well as international taxation and matters of money laundering. The Ambassador has also expressed gratitude to all members of the OACPS for their understanding and support extended to Ethiopia, in its endeavour to bring peace within itself. Following this, the OACPS-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly Inter-Sessional meeting was conducted. The JPA meeting voted and adopted the political, economic, and social committees reports on the outcome of the previous JPA meeting held in October 2022 in Maputo.



H.E. Amb. Hirut Zemene Confers with Mr. Eamon Gilmore, EU Special Representative for Human Rights

H.E. Ambassador Hirut Zemene held a fruitful discussion with Mr. Eamon Gilmore, European Union Special Representative for Human Rights at his office, on February 7, 2023. The Ambassador briefed the EUSR on progresses made in various fronts in the wake of the signing of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (COHA) between the FDRE Government and the TPLF in November 2022. The two sides also discussed at length the issue of addressing Human Rights violations and ensuring accountability through transitional justice mechanism. The two sides agreed to continue working together on the matter.



The Embassy Meets with Directors at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

H.E. Ambassador Hirut Zemene met with the Director for Africa (DAF) Mr. Jelte van Wieren and the Director for Multilateral Organizations and Human Rights Mr. Gerard Steeghs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands on February 13, 2023. They discussed the progresses made on the implementation of the Peace Agreement, the delivery of humanitarian supplies as well as restoration of public services

in addition to the Transitional Justice Policy designed by the GOE. The two sides agreed to exchange more information on developments.



Exchanges of Views with the Benelux Delegation Heading to Ethiopia

H.E. Ambassador Hirut Zemene met and discussed with members of the Benelux Foreign Ministry delegations heading to Ethiopia. During the exchange, the Ambassador highlighted about the current developments in Ethiopia that ranged from efforts made to establish Transitional Justice System, National Political Dialogue, and revamping development projects as well as rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts in the conflict affected areas in the Northern part of Ethiopia. Benelux political directors from the Ministries of foreign affairs, Mr. Marcel de Vink of the Netherlands, Mr. Axel Kenes of Belgium and Ms. Veronique Dockendorf of Luxembourg, expressed their wishes for the peace process to hold. They also mentioned to learn more about the process of transitional justice and the reconstruction efforts. They all noted their interest to strengthen the bilateral links between the two sides. The Benelux delegation conducted a working visit in Ethiopia from March 22-24, 2023.



H.E. Ambassador Hirut Zemene Pays Respect at the Embassy of Turkiye

H.E. Ambassador Hirut Zemene, Ambassador of F.D.R Ethiopia in Brussels paid respect at the Embassy of Turkiye and expressed her deepest sympathies and solidarity to the people & government of the Republic of Turkiye for the lives lost and the destructions that occurred due to the devastating earthquake.



Economy

PM Abiy Ahmed Attends Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week

H.E Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed attended the opening ceremony of the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week in Abu Dhabi, UAE on January 16, 2023. Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week (ADSW) is a global initiative championed by the UAE and its clean energy powerhouse Masdar to accelerate sustainable development and advance economic, social, and environmental progress. The Week played a crucial role in ensuring momentum is maintained from COP27 to COP28 in the UAE. ADSW 2023 aimed to facilitate impactful dialogue between all global stakeholders, translating pledges into practical outcomes and boosting climate ambition as we work collectively to implement the long-term objectives of the Paris Agreement.



Ethiopia Participates in LDC5 Conference

H.E Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and his delegation were in Doha, Qatar and participated at the 5th United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5) from 5 to 9 March 2023 with the objective to mobilize international community's commitments towards the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action for the LDCs (2022-2031) adopted by the UN General Assembly in April 2022. The government leaders and other stakeholders assessed the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action and mobilize additional international support and action for the

world's 46 least developed countries. The 46 least developed countries (LDC5) comprise about 14 percent of the global population. They are in a race against time to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. At LDC5, UNCTAD calls for bold action and development cooperation to achieve inclusive growth and sustainable development in LDC5.



World Bank Vice President for Eastern and Southern Africa in Ethiopia

The World Bank Vice President for Eastern and Southern Africa, Ms. Victoria Kwakwa, was in Ethiopia for two-day official visit to Ethiopia and paid a courtesy call to H.E. Minister Ahmed Shide on March 22, 2023. They discussed various issues of mutual interest, including development priorities and on how to strengthen the Bank's partnership with Ethiopia. The Minister thanked Ms. Kwakwa for the World Bank's continued support to Ethiopia, specially in delivering much-needed financing in addressing the impacts of overlapping shocks over the last three years. He also highlighted some of the government's priorities in recovery and rebuilding, and developmental efforts in the areas of human capital, food security, infrastructure connectivity, economic stability and creating jobs for the youth. The minister also reaffirmed the Government of Ethiopia's commitment in deepening the Home-Grown Economic Reform Agenda in rebalancing the role of state to give much space to the private sector for job creation and sustainable growth. In her part, Ms. Kwakwa commended Ethiopia's resilience in dealing with multiple shocks and the government's commitment to economic reform to promote a private sector-led development. She also reiterated the World Bank's commitment to assist Ethiopia in policy areas to improve on ease of doing business and productivity in Ethiopia. The Vice President reiterated that the Bank would work closely with the Government and IMF to support the economic stabilization effort of the Government. It is to be recalled that the World Bank had dispatched a prior delegation that met and discussed with Planning and Development Minister, H.E. Fitsum Assefa in her office on the 14th of February 2023 on a similar topic.



World Bank Vows to Continue Support for Development Activities in Ethiopia

Planning and Development Minister, Fitsum Assefa received and held talks with members of the World Bank delegation in her office on the February 14, 2023. The two sides explored ways how to cement existing cooperation between Ethiopia and the World Bank and identified areas for further collaboration. The Minister highlighted the role of the World Bank in backing development aspiration of Ethiopia, calling for enhanced partnership on mutual engagements. World Bank Ethiopia Director, Ousmane Dione, for his part, reiterated continued support for development activities the Government of Ethiopia has been undertaking in various sectors.



Ambassador Hirut Zemene Meets with Officials at the European Investment Bank

H.E. Ambassador Hirut Zemene met with Mr. Diederick Zambon, Head of Division for Country Relations and Public Sector for Sub Saharan Africa and his team at the European Investment Bank. The two sides exchanged views regarding various projects in the public and private sectors that are being affected in cooperation with the Bank. The Ambassador further explained the ever-growing business environment in Ethiopia and called upon the Bank to increase its investment and engagement in the country.



708,157mt Aid Supplied to Beneficiaries in 6 Months: EDRMC

On February 9, 2023, the Ethiopian Disaster Risk Management Commission (EDRMC) announced that 708,157 metric tons of humanitarian assistance was delivered to the beneficiaries in the first six months of the current financial year. EDRMC confirmed that the projected target for the first half of the current fiscal year for 3 rounds was 1,078,369 metric tons of humanitarian assistance. EDRMC Commissioner, Shiferaw Tekle-Maryam, said the government alone is expected to provide humanitarian assistance to 9,905,019 people, whereas partners are expected to provide aid to 11,401,852 people. Among the beneficiaries that received humanitarian aid, more than 16 million people were affected by drought. The Commissioner explained that about 4.6 million people were internally displaced due to man-made problems. But some of them have returned to their villages. As of January 23, 2023, some 60 civil society organizations (CSOs) travelled to Mekelle, Tigray to assess the progress of humanitarian aid delivery and reconstruction and rebuilding efforts in the region. The delegation of the CSOs discussed with peer organizations operating in the Tigray region on ways of fast-tracking humanitarian assistance and reconstruction of institutions and facilities affected by the war, according to ECSOC. The trip organized by the Ethiopian Civil Societies Organizations Councils (ECSOC) also explored ways to speed up humanitarian aid delivery and rehabilitation efforts in war affected areas in northern parts of the country.



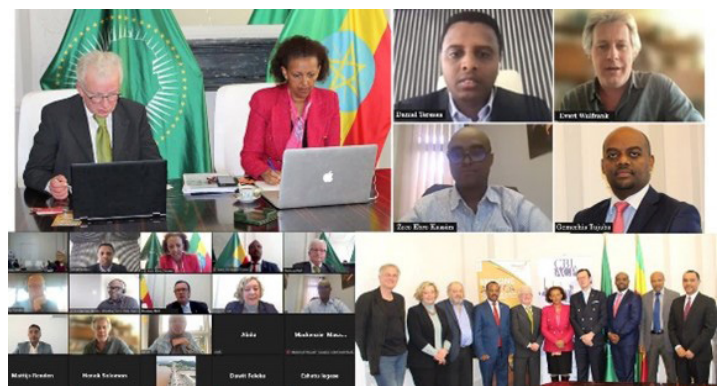
CBE Resumes Full Services in Tigray Region

On February 7, 2023, The Commercial Bank of Ethiopia (CBE) announced full banking services in Tigray region as the peace agreement continues to pay off. CBE's Corporate Communications Director, Alsen Asefa said that the bank has distributed the money sent from the National Bank of Ethiopia to its branches in the Tigray region. The bank has started providing complete banking services in all branches in Mekelle City as well as in many branches in the Tigray region.



A Roundtable Investment Promotion: Towards the Addis Ababa Investment Summit April 26-28,2023

The Embassy of Ethiopia in Brussels, in collaboration with the CBL-ACP, has held a pharmaceutical and agro-processing business roundtable on 24th March 2023 in the presence of businesses from Belgium and the Netherlands. Mr. Daniel Teressa, Deputy Commissioner of the Ethiopian Investment Commission, and his team familiarised participants with the upcoming Investment Summit that will be held in Addis Ababa from 26-28 April 2023. They also highlighted the importance of the pharmaceutical and agro-processing sectors. Representatives from Belgian investors working in Ethiopia-Durabilis and Piratos also shared their experiences about doing business in Ethiopia. Mr. Gemechis Tujuba, the Ethiopian Airlines area manager for the Belelux countries, also explained the airline's critical intervention in fostering the business links between Ethiopia and many parts of the world, including the Belelux. The meeting was moderated by HE Ambassador Hirut Zemene and Mr. Yvan De Kormic, representative of the CPL ACP. Important business representatives, among others, from the Netherlands Africa Business Forum, International Flower Traders Association, and Atridius, the Trade office of the Netherlands Embassy in Addis Ababa, were present. The event was organized to attract businesses from Belgium and the Netherlands to take part in the upcoming Ethiopian Investment Summit in Addis Ababa from April 26- 28, 2023.



The Embassy Takes Part in the Round Table Discussion on Agribusiness

H.E Ambassador Hirut Zemene took part in a round table discussion on Access to Finance in Agribusiness for Female Entrepreneurs organized by the Netherlands-Africa Business Council (NABC) in collaboration with Atradius Dutch State Business and SIGNATURE Agri Investments in Amsterdam, the Netherlands on March 15, 2023. The roundtable discussion aimed at offering first-hand insights on the matter and starting a discussion on how the public and private sectors might cooperate more effectively on accesses to finance for female entrepreneurs, addressed the barriers to financing for female business owners that operate in the agribusiness sector and explored various solutions for enhancing their access to capital. During the exchange session, H.E Ambassador Hirut emphasized the role of Education, vocational training, and business incubators for women in agribusiness and various sectors to make them capable of solving the problems related to access to finance. NABC works to inspire and connect businesses with Africa's opportunities and enable them to make confident decisions to do Business in Africa.



Culture

First Lady Zinash Tayachew Welcomes the First Ladies of African Countries

First Lady Zinash Tayachew welcomed the First Ladies of African countries who had come to Addis Ababa and attended the 27th Ordinary General Assembly of the Organization of African First Ladies for Development at the Grand Palace. Various traditional Ethiopian products were displayed during the programme, as well as a traditional coffee ceremony, and it was stated that such events play an important role in promoting indigenous products and culture. First ladies and delegations from 12 countries attended the programme. The 27th Ordinary General Assembly of the Organization of African First Ladies for Development was held on February 15 with the theme of "Closing gaps in gender equity".



Ambassador Hirut Zemene Confers with the Rector of Ghent University and Professors

H.E Ambassador Hirut Zemene conferred with Professor Rik Van de Walle, rector of Ghent University and distinguished professors who have been engaged in academic cooperation with Ethiopian higher educational institutes. Both parties overviewed their cooperation spanning close to a couple decades programs, including Network for Advancement of Sustainable Capacity in Education and Research in Ethiopia (NASCERE), Inter-University Cooperation (IUC), and Strategic Institutional Partnership (SIP). Ghent University has a strong cooperation link with many first-generation universities in Ethiopia in master's and Ph.D. programs. Water, health, biodiversity, ICT, and agriculture are some of the areas covered both through the scholarship and inter-University Cooperation. The discussion was quite fruitful in exchanging views on opportunities and challenges to further strengthen the higher education cooperation programs between the two Countries.



Meeting with the Director for Egmont Institute

H.E Ambassador Hirut Zemene conferred with the new director for Egmont Royal Institute for International relations, H.E Ambassador Pol De Witte on the 15th of February 2023. Both sides exchanged views on enhancing engagements between the Embassy and Egmont Institute. The two sides focused, among others, on how to work together to create awareness about various issues of common interests through seminars & exchanges of research that could help build knowledge on the interest areas. On the occasion, the Ambassador briefed the director on the current situation in Ethiopia and the progress made in implementing the recently signed Peace Agreement.



The Embassy along with Diaspora Community Representatives Commemorate the 127th Adwa Victory Day

The Embassy of Ethiopia in Brussels along with Ethiopian diaspora community representatives in the Benelux countries commemorated the 127th ADWA Victory Day, among the historic landmarks that has shaped Ethiopian history heralding hope of freedom for the African peoples in Africa as well as beyond on March 2, 2023. On her opening remarks, H.E Ambassador Hirut Zemene appreciated the Adwa Victory as an African Victory and a source of inspiration for the struggle for independence and freedom throughout the Pan-African world, adding that the new generation has a responsibility to replicate such a victorious spirit in current development endeavours. A moment of silence to honour heroes, a brief presentation on the history of ADWA by Deputy Head of Mission Ambassador Shamebo Fitamo, contributions to the discussion and messages from the diaspora representatives were part of the event. Representatives of the community also expressed their sentiments about the significance of the celebration at this hybrid event. The victory of Adwa is a source of

pride for Ethiopians as well as all black people around the world as it is the first and ever shining victory against colonialism.



The Embassy Celebrates International Women’s Day

The Embassy of Ethiopia in Brussels has colourfully celebrated International Women’s Day through roundtable discussion. H.E. Ambassador Hirut Zemene has opened the program by highlighting landmarks in the policy implementation of national policy of women for the past 30 years by quoting a number of events that took place in Ethiopia during the nationwide celebration of the day. The Ambassador particularly explained the importance of ascertaining equal access to digital technology for women in ascertaining gender parity, along the theme of the year. On the occasion, the message of president Sahelework Zewdie marking the International Women’s Day was transmitted. Mr Belachew Anchiso, minister counsellor of the Embassy, has presented a resource paper on the status of Ethiopian women in various fields of life and the legal and institutional support that have been availed so far as well as issues that need to be looked at to fulfil the national theme of the year “ I am the keeper of my sister”. Diplomats of the embassy have exchanged views based on the presentation by highlighting issues that need to be looked at improving the working environment for women and advantages of meeting the gaps for digital divide for women. It was also alluded that nurturing an inclusive culture and the value of promoting women in development and leadership that will ascertain economic development. The ongoing revision of the 30 years old National Policy on Women, in light with making it fit for purpose, was also highlighted during the exchange among members of the Embassy. It is to be recalled that the global theme of the year for March 8 is “Digit-All for Innovation and Technology for Gender Party”.



Ethiopians Celebrate the Timket Festival Colorfully

Ethiopian Orthodox Christians across the country celebrated the Timket festival with various religious and cultural events colourfully marking the baptism of Jesus Christ in the River Jordan on January 19, 2023. In the morning, the faithful attended the masses and the clergymen sprayed the holy waters onto the congregations who gathered in special places of the celebrations remembering the baptism of Lord Jesus Christ by John the Baptist. The followers along with the students of Sunday Schools and the clergymen have sung songs and chanted religious hymns praising God over the holiday. In the afternoon, the faithful escorted the Tabots or replica of Ark of the Covenant to the churches from the open places that symbolize the River Jordan with huge processions singing songs marking

the holiday. Senior government officials, members of the Ethiopian Diaspora who have come home as per the Great Home Coming Challenge and foreign visitors attended the festival in several major cities and towns of the country. UNESCO inscribed the Timket festival as world’s intangible heritage in 2019.



Ethiopian Athletes Win Marathon Races in Various Countries

Ethiopian athletes won marathons in Dubai, Los Angeles, Barcelona, New York and Seoul, among others, taking spots in both men’s and women’s categories in March 2023. In this regard, Athlete Andosa Tola and Dera Dida majestically led an Ethiopian sweep of the top places in the 2023 Dubai Marathon winning both the men’s and women’s race run. In the Los Angeles Marathon, Ethiopian long-distance runner Jemal Yimer and his compatriot Yemane Tsegay won the men’s division. Correspondingly, Athlete Zeineba Yimer ran a women’s course record at the Barcelona Marathon while athlete Senbere Teferi won the 21km women’s race at the New York City half marathon. Furthermore, in Seoul marathon, Athlete Amdework Walelegn has clocked a time of 2:05:26 followed by Shiferaw Tamru and Haftu Assefa who finished the distance first and second respectively.



Ethiopian athlete, Gudaf Tsegay, stormed to second on the world indoor mile all-time list, clocking 4:16.16 for a runaway victory at the ORLEN Copernicus Cup, this season’s third World Athletics Indoor Tour Gold meeting, in Torun, Poland, on February 8, 2023. The 26-year-old, who set the world indoor 1500m record of 3:53.09 at the World Indoor Tour Gold event in Lievin in 2021, went into the race in Torun targeting the record mile mark of 4:13.31 set by Genzebe Dibaba in 2016. Gudaf was second in that race, running 4:24.98 as an 18-year-old, and now, seven years and six global medals later, she also has the second-fastest women’s indoor mile in history to her name. The world 5000m champion and world indoor 1500m gold medallist showed her intent right from the start and followed the pacemaker through 400m in 1:01.1. Although the pace slowed, Gudaf was led to 800m in 2:07.21 and continued to clock 3:11.26 at 1200m.



Gorgora

Source: Land of Origins