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Foreign Minister Tedros Holds Bilateral Meetings in Copenhagen

Ethiopia's Foreign Minister, Dr Tedros Adhanom, was in Copenhagen on November 20 for the High Level Partnership Forum on Somalia, he also held a number of bilateral meetings as well as meeting members of the Ethiopian Diaspora in Denmark.



Foreign minister Tedros and Foreign Minister Lidegaard

In Copenhagen, Dr. Tedros held meetings with Danish Foreign Minister, Martin Lidegaard and the Chair of the Danish Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs and Foreign Policy, Ms. Gjerskov; as well as with the Foreign Ministers of Sweden and Egypt, Ms. Margot Wallstrom and Mr. Sameh Shoukry, respectively.

He also met the Assistant Minister for Security and Military Affairs at the UAE Foreign Ministry,

Mr. Faris Mohammed Al Mazrouei; the UN Under Secretary General for Political Affairs, Jefferey Feltman; and the European Union Foreign Affairs High Representative, Ms. Federica Mogherini.

He briefed Mr. Lidegaard on political developments in Ethiopia and its efforts to realize development, democracy and peace through active participation of all communities at the grass-roots' level. He stressed Ethiopia had achieved double digit growth for over a decade and the Government was working to ensure equitable distribution of wealth among the nations, nationalities and peoples of Ethiopia. He said the relationship of Ethiopia and Denmark could be strengthened through expanded investment, trade, and tourism and people-to-people links. He invited Foreign Minister Lidegaard to visit Ethiopia. Dr. Tedros also briefed Ms. Gjerskov on the situation in South Sudan and Somalia, on Ethiopia's efforts to help resolve the crisis in South Sudan and on Somalia's progress in stabilizing and restructuring the state. In his discussions with Ms. Wallstrom, the Foreign Minister of Sweden, Dr. Tedros noted that Ethiopia was building a comprehensive green economy from scratch to mitigate and tackle global warming and climate change. He expressed his hope that Ethiopia and Sweden could work closely to boost investment, trade, tourism and wider economic links. Ms. Wallstrom agreed

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Ethiopia and Sweden should work to expand existing trade and economic relations and raise these to a higher level. She suggested members of the Ethiopian Diaspora should be mobilized to participate in the development activities of Ethiopia. Dr. Tedros invited Minister Wallstrom to visit Ethiopia.



Foreign Minister Tedros and Foreign Minister Wallstrom

In an exchange of views with Egyptian Foreign Minister Shoukry, Dr. Tedros underlined the importance of candid, honest and continued consultation, and said collaboration and cooperation was crucial to enhance and boost Ethio-Egypt relations. He underlined the interlinked and common interests the two countries had in all social, economic and political areas. These, he said, required due attention and strong follow up. Mr. Shoukry said business-to-business links and a strong economic partnership was vital to expand the relationship of the two countries. The ministers also discussed the current situation in Somalia and South Sudan. In his talks with Mr. Al Mazrouei, Dr. Tedros underlined that Ethiopia wanted to enhance its relationship with

the UAE, in all areas of economic, social and political affairs. They agreed that it was important to combine efforts to fight terrorism in the Middle East and the Horn of Africa. Mr. Al Mazrouei noted the importance of the struggle against terrorism in the Horn of Africa, especially against the activities of Al-Shabaab, which, he said, was against development, against peace and against Islamic religious principles of tolerance and peaceful coexistence.

Dr Tedros Adhanom briefed both the UN Under Secretary General of Political Affairs and the European Union Foreign Affairs High Representative on the situation in South Sudan, stressing the importance of continued international support. In South Sudan, the inclusive IGAD-led peace talks were producing a framework for the warring parties to resolve the crisis, and, as in Somalia, it was vital that all stakeholders continued to offer support and assistance. Dr Tedros said European Union support for Somalia should continue to enhance efforts to realize a developed, democratic and stable Somalia. Both Mr. Feltman and Ms. Mogherini welcomed the continued effort of Ethiopia in South Sudan and Somalia. Ms. Mogherini also welcomed Ethiopia's commitment and efforts to realize a developed, secure and stable state in Ethiopia as well as provide these benefits to the wider region and for Africa. She reiterated the EU's commitment and support to the development of Ethiopia.

9th Ethiopian Nation and Nationalities Day celebrated in Ottawa

Ethiopians and Ethio-Canadians reside in Ottawa colorfully celebrated 9th Ethiopian Nations and Nationalities Day and the 20th anniversary of the ratification of the Ethiopian Constitution on December 6, 2014.

On the occasion H.E BirtukanAyano, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to Canada, said the Ethiopian Constitution granted Ethiopian Nations, Nationalities and Peoples economic and political rights to self administration and equitable share of the benefits thereof. H.E



further noted that the Ethiopian Nations and Nationalities significantly contributed to the effort to establish common political and economic society and ensure an equitable share of economic benefits.

The Representatives of Ethiopian Somali, Tigray, Harari Community in Ottawa, and Chairman of Ethio - Canadian Council delivered a speech at the event. Mr. Ismael Lidiya, representative Ethiopian Somali Community in his speech mentioned his memory of three successive governments: the Imprial and the Dergue in which the rights of different nations and nationalities



were oppressed the and current one in which the political, economic and democratic rights of nations and nationalities of Ethiopia has a constitutional guarantee. He added that Ethiopian Somali community in Ottawa continues to fully support the constitution the economic development plans of the government of Ethiopia.

The representative of Harari Community in Ottawa, Mr. ZuberAbdurahiman, congratulated



fellow compatriots and pledged his community's continued commitment to support development efforts of the country.



In a similar note, Mr. Michael Tsegaye, representing Tigray Community in Ottawa, remembered the fierce struggle waged by for Nations and Nationalities of Ethiopia and the enormous scarifies paid in terms of human life and

material costs to bring about equality among nations and nationalities of Ethiopia. He further noted currently the Nations and Nationalities of Ethiopia are engaged in establishing unity based on national consensus and called upon the diaspora community to contribute their part towards this end and to ensure continuity of present economic development successes in Ethiopia.



In conclusion, Mr. Ashagre Getahun, Chairman of Ethio-Canadian Council in Ottawa, congratulated the participants of the event and underlined that the success of the Ethiopia renaissance depends on the opportunity provided to nations and

nationalities to equal participation as stakeholders in the national affairs of their country.

News

Sudan Supports Dam for Economic Benefit not for Political Reason: Ambassador



Sudan supports the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) because of the dam's economic importance to

its citizens, not for political reason, Sudanese Ambassador to Ethiopia said.

In an exclusive interview with ENA, Ambassador Abdel Rahman Sirelkhatim, stated that the dam will ensure the benefits of not only Ethiopia but also for the people of Sudan.

In addition to power generation, the dam will play a vital role to improve agriculture productivity, according to the Ambassador.

"We don't support the dam for political reason. We support this idea because we believe that this dam will benefit Sudan together with Ethiopia and Egypt. We will benefit initially in two accesses. One of them for electrical power, secondly, this will help us in agriculture projects."

He expressed satisfaction with the resumption of the trilateral talks between Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt over the construction of the dam.

He further expressed hope that the tripartite dialogue that is based on trust should create a favorable situation for the completion of the dam.

Regarding trade and investment tie, the Ambassador said Sudanese investors, with 2.5 billion USD aggregate capital, are engaged in various areas. Agriculture, industry, infrastructure and tourism are among the areas the investors are engaged in.

The two countries are working together to improve the trade relationship, with annual trade volume of 234 million USD, by undertaking various measures, he noted.

Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia Agree on Mega Projects on River Dawa



Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia have agreed to construct a multipurpose dam and a hydro power station on River Dawa in Mandera County, which is aimed at harnessing and promoting sustainable use of the resource.

The three countries also proposed construction of a bridge to link Kenya and Ethiopia on the river, which will promote cross-border movement across the seasonal river.

The country representatives who met at the Sarova Panafric hotel in Nairobi during a three day meeting organized by IGAD also called for cooperation in the management and sustainable use of River Dawa.

Kenya was represented at the forum by Mandera County Governor Ali Roba, who said the projects will help utilize the river to the benefit of citizens. "Harnessing the water from the river can solve the persistent drought that the region has been experiencing. We are optimistic that the process will be successful since each of the States is very positive about the proposal," Roba said.

The meeting was called to discuss the cooperation in the management and sustainable use of River Dawa.

During the meeting, the three countries formed a technical team, which will conduct a feasibility study of the proposed projects and share its finding. The process will be steered by IGAD.

River Dawa is a seasonal river which flows cumulatively for nine months, and traverses through the three countries. (WIC)

MoFED Says Ethiopia Will Achieve MDG Target for Poverty Eradication This EFY



Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MoFED) announced that Ethiopia will achieve the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) in poverty alleviation by reducing the number of people living under poverty to 22 percent at the end of the Ethiopian budget year.

The economy will also grow by 11.4 percent during the same period, MoFED State Minister Dr. Abraham Tekeste told the Budget and Finance Affairs Standing Committee of the House of People's Representatives on November 17, 2014.

According to him, the country has been growing at an average 11.9 percent in the past 11 years.

The country was able to register rapid growth due to the stable macroeconomic conditions. Dr. Abraham added that it is also fair as it has concretely benefitted the people.

He said the economic growth has significantly reduced poverty and increased per capita income.

Business and Economy

Chinese Company Interested in Building Huge Factory in Ethiopia



The Chinese company, Media Group, which is engaged in producing electronics and household goods disclosed that it wants to invest in Ethiopia.

Representatives of the company were on a two-day visit beginning on November 7, 2014 in

Ethiopia to identify sectors in which they could engage and carry out feasibility study.

Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn held discussions with the leader of the delegation and former World Bank Chief Economist, Professor Justin Lin.

During the discussion, the PM said his government will provide all the necessary support for the company, including establishing industrial parks, if it starts work in the country.

The company will be profitable if it invests in Ethiopia since the country has abundant labor force and market opportunity in addition to the prevailing peace and security, the premier noted. The manufacturing sector should be the motor of the economy in enabling the nation to become a middle-income country, he further indicated.

Professor Lin on his part said Media Group is one of the leading Chinese electronic and household goods manufacturers and has the desire to invest in Ethiopia. The company has plans to build a huge factory in Ethiopia and to export its products to African and other countries, the professor added.

Upon going operational, the company will contribute to the transformation of the manufacturing sector in Ethiopia, according to Professor Lin. Media Group is the second huge private company in China with sales exceeding 25 billion USD in a year.

Ethiopian Named African Airline of the Year



The African Airlines Association concluded its 46th Annual General Assembly and summit in Algiers, Algeria **14 November 2014** with a call for States, airlines, service companies, airports, opinion leaders and indeed all the stakeholders embrace the opening of African skies and the development of intra-African connectivity.

To facilitate this, all stakeholders were urged to play their part towards the single African aviation market before it is too late. The three-day conference was held under the theme ‘Winning Together through Innovation and Collaboration’

and was attended by over 360 high profile delegates from 45 countries across the world.

Welcoming delegates back to Algeria, 24 years after the last Annual General Assembly held in the country in 1990, Dr. Elijah Chingosho AFRAA Secretary General cited the many challenges that stand between African aviation today and its potential to drive growth and development.

He called upon the leaders of African aviation, to play their part to ensure the realization of AU Agenda 2063 for an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens in which a safe, viable, efficient air transport is a key driver. He specifically said: ‘Connecting Africa through aviation and other transport infrastructure is critical to integrate, intra-Africa trade, as well as to tourism, economic growth and development. Air transport is an important creator of jobs and critical skills’. He added that the aviation sector is of key strategic importance for the implementation of the AU Agenda 2063.

The Assembly discussed the challenges that stand between African aviation today and its potential to drive growth and development, from the need for internal African market liberalization, need to recover an intercontinental market share, high industry costs and taxes, to inadequate infrastructure and the need to enhance safety culture. States were urged to speed up the process of liberalization of air transport markets in the continent and expand air services to the rest of the world as air transport continues to have a greater role to play in achieving integration and sustainable development of the continent.

The annual AFRAA award ceremony was keenly awaited and it was Ethiopian Airlines, which was crowned Airline of the Year for outstanding results in 2013, consistent profitability and

strategic win-win partnerships with regional airlines.

AFRAA will in 2015 continue with their fuel saving initiative by pooling resources and using the increased purchasing power to lower fuel cost for participating airlines, but also begin to roll out a similar scheme to coordinate and cooperate in ground handling, again with the aim to lower the cost of handling charges which especially in monopoly environments are a major factor in pricing of tickets.

Tourism and Culture

Ethiopia Targets to Earn 3 billion USD From Tourism Sector

Ethiopia plans to earn 3 billion USD revenue from the tourism sector in this fiscal year, Ministry of Culture and Tourism stated.

Public and International Relations Director of the Ministry Gezahegn Abate told WIC that the ministry has been undertaking various activities to obtain 3 billion USD revenue from an estimated 1 million tourists in the final year of the Growth and Transformation Plan.

According to Gezahegn, the country earned 500 million USD from about 233, 273 foreign visitors in the first quarter of this budget year exceeding the target set of 250,000 tourists.

The influx of tourists to Ethiopia is due to the nation's historical heritages and natural attractions, Gezahegn said, adding that the average stay of foreign tourists has reached 16 days.

The Ministry has been exerting tremendous efforts to raise the standard of hotels that a study document enabling 452 hotels all over the country has already completed.

The Ministry has targeted to make Ethiopia one of the five tourist destinations in Africa in a few years through consolidation of the tourism sector with to the fast growing economy and foreign direct investment of the nation, he added.

The ministry exerted efforts to register seven historical and cultural heritages of the country under the GTP, said Gezahegn, the two heritages of Konso Landscape and Meskel ceremony have already registered by the UNESCO as world heritages, he said.

According to Gezahegn, Dire sheke Hussien mosque, Sofumer Cave, Melka Kuntere, Gedio integrated landscape and Feche chembelala ceremony have also tentatively listed by the UNESCO. Ethiopia obtained 2 billion USD from 724,000 foreign visitors in the last budget year.

**Season's
Greetings
and a Happy
New Year**