



# ETHIO NEWS

## Politics

### HAILEMARIAM ATTENDS THE WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM AT DAVOS



*Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn meets with Swiss President Doris Leuthard.*

The 47th World Economic Forum was held in Davos, Switzerland under the theme "Responsive and Responsible Leadership" from January 17-20. As usual, the meeting brought together top business leaders, global political leaders, economists and journalists to discuss the most pressing issues facing the world. In addition to representatives from over 70 countries, including all the G20 countries, the new Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres, along with heads of key international organizations participated. President Xi Jinping of China opened the Annual Meeting of 2017. CEOs of over 1,000 companies were present. More than a third of the participants came from outside Europe and North America, and another third represented stakeholder groups outside of business and government.

In keeping with its theme of "Responsive and Responsible Leadership" the meeting focused on four critical leadership challenges for 2017: re-imagining global cooperation, revitalizing the global economy, reforming capitalism and preparing for the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Over half of the 400 sessions on the program addressed issues of social inclusion and human

development. Professor Schwab, the Founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum said: "The world around us is changing at an unprecedented speed. At this tipping point, our traditional concepts of society, meaningful employment and the nation state are challenged, and many understandably feel insecure or even threatened. A new model of responsive and responsible leadership is needed to allow us to address the challenges the world faces".

Overall, this year's Forum aimed to rededicate leaders from all walks of life to achieve common goals and drive new initiatives. It called for the more agile, inclusive and collaborative responses that are urgently needed to address the complexity and uncertainty in people's lives. It identified responsive and responsible leadership, both nationally and globally, as requiring a deeper commitment to inclusive development and equitable growth. This should also involve working rapidly to close generational divides by exercising shared stewardship of those systems that are critical to prosperity. In the end, leaders from all walks of life attending the Annual Forum must be ready to react credibly and responsibly towards societal and global concerns that have been too long neglected.

Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn was one of the dozens of world leaders who attended the Forum. He told journalists that Ethiopia's uninterrupted participation at annual meetings of the Forum over the last few years had helped the country to reflect seriously and usefully on its national and continental agendas. During his stay in Davos, the Prime Minister had a series of meetings with development partners and held fruitful discussions with the leaders of various countries including Switzerland, China and the United Kingdom. He

also met with Professor Klaus Schwab, Founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum. Ethiopia has offered to host the World Economic Forum in Africa for 2018.

The Prime Minister's meeting with President Leuthard of Switzerland focused on bilateral business and investment ties between Ethiopia and Switzerland and also on Ethio-Swiss cooperation. They also discussed pressing continental and global issues including migration. President Leuthard commended Ethiopia's role in working for peace in the Horn of Africa in particular and the continent in general. Emphasizing Ethiopia's efforts to become a climate-resilient middle-income country by 2025, Prime Minister Hailemariam called on Swiss investors to take advantage of Ethiopia's favorable investment climate. President Leuthard promised to extend support to Ethiopia's green-growth strategy.

The Prime Minister also met with investors and representatives of international companies and held discussions focusing on four major areas: the creation of more jobs through modernizing the agriculture sector; developing locally manufactured products to substitute for imported pharmaceutical products, encouraging companies to engage in the ICT area and attracting companies engaged in health activities to work especially in tertiary health services. He said Ethiopia had been able to take advantage of the Forum to attract more companies in these priority areas and had reached consensus with various leaders to further enhance investment and development ties. A number of participants at the Forum had expressed readiness to invest in Ethiopia in power generation, tourism and other sectors. He described his discussions with potential investors as fruitful.



## 28TH AU SUMMIT IN ADDIS ABABA



Representatives from all over Africa gather for the 28th summit of the African Union

The 28th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union started on January 30 in Addis Ababa under the theme “Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in the Youth”.

Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union, opening the two-day session, noted the importance of making 2017 as the year of the youth since the continent comprises 200 million young men and women ages between 15 to 24 years. To harness the demographic dividend, Dr. Dlamini-Zuma underscored the need to firstly provide Africa’s youth with opportunities to expand their knowledge of science, mathematics, engineering and technology and to close the gap between industry and educational systems. She also noted that the Union will this year appoint a Special AU Envoy for Youth with the objective of mobilizing and advocating for the younger generation

The newly appointed United Nations Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres addressing the opening session of the assembly emphasized the urgency to put the UN’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the AU’s Agenda 2063 in perfect sync, elevating the level of the strategic partnership between the UN and the AU and enhancing the UN’s partnership with Africa’s eight Regional Economic Communities. The Secretary-General affirmed that the UN system stands committed to support Africa’s effort in this regard. He also noted that the UN will intensify cooperation

and coordination to reinforce the nexus between peace, security and development. The occasion gave Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn and Minister of Foreign Affairs Workneh Gebeyehu ample opportunity to engage in bilateral discussions with their respective counterparts of other nations, affirming old friendships and finding new common ground with acquaintances.

## SECURITY COUNCIL’S OPEN DEBATE ON THE MIDDLE EAST



Ethiopia holds a non-permanent seat on the UNSC in 2017 and 2018.

Ethiopia, now a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council, participated in the open debate on the situation in the Middle East with a particular focus on Israel/Palestine on January 17. Nickolay Mladenov, UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process,

briefed the Council on overall developments in the Middle East and stressed the urgent need for both sides to create the conditions for launching direct final-status negotiations. Ambassador Tekeda Alemu, Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the UN, taking note of the briefing, emphasized that the state of the peace and stability of the Middle East region affected the maintenance of international and regional peace and security more widely. It was, he stressed, an obvious truth that developments in the Middle East region has a strong effect on the peace and security of Africa and in particular on the Horn of Africa region, because of the close geographical proximity of the two regions.

Ambassador Tekeda said that the Horn of

Africa had witnessed growing threats from terrorism and violent extremism with the possibility of ISIL/Daesh and Al-Qaeda establishing links with Al-Shabaab in Somalia. With the emerging geo-political shifts in the Middle East and the Red Sea region, new trends were emerging to define and shape the peace and security dynamics of the Horn of Africa region. In addition to the new developments visible in these regions, Ambassador Tekeda noted the collapse of state institutions as well as the escalation of sectarian violence coupled with the adverse impact from the crises in the Middle East. He also strongly condemned the recent terrorist attacks in Israel. These were the realities and the overall context that encouraged Ethiopia to advocate and strongly support the principle of peaceful resolution of Middle East conflicts and most particularly the longstanding Israeli-Palestinian dispute.

Ambassador Tekeda, who emphasized Ethiopia's support for Israel's right to exist in peace and security as well as the inalienable right of the Palestinians to self-determination, stressed that it was only the two parties that can resolve the conflict, adding “the Council cannot be a mere spectator”.

*“The council cannot be a mere spectator”*

He emphasized that the Council must “nudge, prod and encourage the parties” to ensure that the two-State solution

remained viable. Ambassador Tekeda further highlighted the fact that the expanding terrorist influence in the region and the rising sectarian violence was a warning that the absence of any meaningful progress would increase radicalization and create conditions in which extremists thrive. He reiterated that it was imperative for both sides to resume direct and meaningful negotiations to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting peace.



## Economy

### NEW HONORARY CONSUL IN STUTTGART



*Dr. Thomas Breitling will strengthen economic and cultural ties between Ethiopia and Germany*

Baden-Württemberg now has its own Ethiopian Honorary Consul. Dr. Thomas Breitling has been tasked with representing Ethiopia by HE Kuma Demeksa Tokan personally on January 19. An honorary consul "is a mediator and a bridge builder between nations", a speaker comments during the inauguration event. Dr. Breitling's first important act of office will be the facilitation of an information- and networking event for German businesses on May 31 in Stuttgart. The 56 year old has an optimistic outlook on future relations between Germany and Ethiopia, citing that he will profit from the experience of other honorary consuls, with whom he holds close contact. His close cooperation with the city administration will also contribute to strengthening the bond between the two nations.

Dr. Breitling is Ethiopia's fourth honorary consul in Germany and now works alongside Maximiliana Schürle in Munich, Michael Renka in Düsseldorf and Thomas Gerkmann in Bremen.

## Ecology

### NABU PRESERVES KAFA'S WILD COFFEE



*NABU Local Project Coordinator Mesfin Tekle presents the results of his reforestation efforts in the Kafa region.*

Africa, while contributing virtually nothing to the ever-looming threat of global warming, remains among those hit hardest by its effects. Ethiopia has experienced fre-

quent droughts in the recent past. The Afromontane cloud forests of the Kafa Biosphere Reserve in southwest Ethiopia are also among the threatened regions. They can be considered to be a tremendous genetic resource for Arabica coffee, an enormous carbon storage and a centre of endemism. Thus, their protection is not just a regional concern. Fortunately, over the last decade the German Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU) has done its utmost to preserve Kafa's natural beauty and heritage. The organization has been conducting a project initiated by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) in the Kafa region since 2006. The effort is also supported by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB). A closing for the project was held on January 23, giving organizers and on-site participants an outlet to highlight the challenges and achievements. Svane Bender-Kaphengst, Head of the NABU's Africa Program, especially emphasized the successes in conserving the biosphere and, as a result, contributing to regional development and strengthening sustainable agriculture.



*Kafa's wild coffee - a delicate biosphere*

Photo: NABU