



ETHIO NEWS

Politics

ETHIOPIA'S STATE VISIT TO ISRAEL



Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn and Foreign Minister Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu in Israel

Photo:mfa

Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn made a four-day official visit to Israel on June 5-8 at the invitation of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The Prime Minister was accompanied by First lady Roman Tesfaye and a delegation which included Foreign Minister Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu, Defense Minister Siraj Fegeta and the Ministers of Livestock and Fisheries, Agriculture and Natural Resources, Water and Energy, Culture and Tourism, and Trade and Investment.

On the first day, the Prime Minister held talks with President Reuven Rivlin, President of the State of Israel. Their discussions covered the increasing bilateral relations between the two nations and peoples as well as international issues of interest to both states. President Rivlin expressed his desire to bolster further the deep historical relations between the two countries. He assured Prime Minister Hailemariam that Israel would cooperate with Ethiopia in the exchange of knowledge and technology in the agricultural sector, and it would also encourage Israeli companies to invest in Ethiopia. Prime Minister Hailemariam thanked the President for the warm welcome given to his delegation and expressed his readiness to facilitate Israeli government and private sector participation in Ethiopia. He also emphasized the strong link Ethiopia has with Israel and the

long-standing relationship dating back to the time of King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba. He also underlined the role played by the more than 140, 000 Ethiopian Jews in building a strong bridge between the two peoples.

On June 6 Prime Minister Hailemariam met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem. Prime Minister Netanyahu said Ethiopia and Israel had increased their economic cooperation following his visit to Ethiopia last year, adding that Israel was keen to deepen its cooperation with Ethiopia, particularly in water, agriculture, in health and security. He said: "Israel is a world leader in these fields and we hope that by working together we can solve some pressing problems, and provide a better future for both our peoples. We intend to cooperate today in areas of irrigation, local development, fishing, milk, cattle." Prime Minister Netanyahu, who commended Ethiopia's unwavering commitment in the fight against terrorism, underlined the need for joint efforts to defeat this global threat. He said: "Ethiopia takes a strong stand in the fight against terrorism, particularly against Al-Shabaab. We must continue to work together to defeat this scourge, across the world, in Africa, in Europe, just recently in London, in America, in Asia. We have to fight together against these forces of barbarism because we must seize the future, we must advance modernity."

The exchange of visits, Prime Minister Netanyahu to Ethiopia last year and now Prime Minister Hailemariam to Israel, has strongly enhanced the longstanding historic and bilateral relations between Ethiopian and Israel. Prime Minister Hailemariam's visit has created an additional focus for Ethiopian-Israeli co-operation in terms of development and investment in agriculture and green industrialization in Ethiopia, technological transfer and training in different sectors in which Israeli expertise is predominate. They

agreed to encourage major Israeli companies to invest in Ethiopia. The two leaders recognized the important role of the more than 140,000 Ethiopian Jews residing in Israel as a bridge to help create even closer bonds between the two peoples. Overall, the visit of Prime Minister Hailemariam to Israel demonstrated a bright future for the relationship of two countries working closely together for the mutual benefit of both their peoples.

ETHIOPIA AND CHINA KEEN TO STRENGTHEN BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL COOPERATION



Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Foreign Minister Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu

Photo:mfa

China's Foreign Minister, Wang Yi, arrived for a visit to Ethiopia on June 21 at the invitation of Foreign Minister Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu. During his two-day visit, he met with Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn for discussions covering a wide range of bilateral, regional and international issues of common interests; and at the invitation of the Chairperson of the AU Commission, Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat, he also attended the opening ceremony of a China-Africa high-level dialogue on poverty reduction and development as well as a think tank forum.

During his meeting with Prime Minister Hailemariam, Mr. Yi noted that relations had been consolidated following the recent exchange of high official-level visits. The understanding reached by the leadership of the two countries to upgrade their relationship to a comprehensive Strategic Co-



operative Partnership level, the fact that Ethiopia has been recognized as a pilot country for production capacity building and Ethiopia's active participation in the Belt and Road Initiative Forum and its implementation are some of the elements demonstrating the depth of their bilateral partnership. The Minister expressed his government's strong desire to work and share its experiences with the government of Ethiopia on governance, peace and security, industrialization, human resources development, aviation and tourism as well as cooperation in international fora.

In the discussions with Dr. Workneh, covering bilateral and multi-lateral issues, the Chinese Foreign Minister noted the outcome of the one Belt-one Road Forum Initiative was particularly valuable in terms of strengthening China's relations with Africa in general and with Ethiopia in particular. He underlined the importance of the strategic partnership agreed between Ethiopia and China to scale up their bilateral ties to a high-level relationship. Mr. Yi said this was the time to put the comprehensive strategic partnership agreement between the two countries into practice. He stressed the objective of his visit was to discuss mutual benefits and to build mutual trust in order to realize the comprehensive strategic partnership agreement and further strengthen their relationship.

He noted that statistics showed that trade and investment relations between China and Ethiopia had now reached over US10 billion dollars. To move forward, he said, the two countries should follow and fully implement the agreements they had signed. In this respect, Mr. Wang Yi said there were six important areas of cooperation that the two countries should consider: sharing experiences in areas of governance; cooperation on security and stability issues; support for accelerating industrialization and independent development; further expansion of infrastructure and assuring compatibility of industrialization with growing infrastructure; expanding human resource development and capacity building projects; exploring new areas of cooperation in the aviation sector and cooperation; and developing mutual support in international matters including cli-

mate change, UN reform and other multi-lateral issues .

Dr. Workneh briefed Minister Wang Yi on security and stability in the Horn of Africa, detailing the ongoing security and humanitarian situation in South Sudan and Somalia. He explained the efforts of Ethiopian government to solve these problems through IGAD, and said Ethiopia appreciated Chinese government support over the security and humanitarian crises in the region.

Dr. Workneh assured Minister Yi of Ethiopia's support and cooperation in the areas of multilateral cooperation, UN Security Council reform and in thematic areas such as climate change. With reference to the aviation sector, Dr. Workneh said Ethiopia is willing to combine its managerial experience with Chinese aviation technology and attain its full potential in Africa and become one of the best in this sector.

The Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China, Mr. Wang Yi, underlined China's continuing support for Ethiopia to continue and sustain its development goals. He also assured Foreign Minister Dr. Workneh that the Chinese government would continue to support Ethiopia and the sub-regional organization, IGAD, on issues of security and the humanitarian crises in the region.

IGAD SUMMIT DEMANDS REVITALIZATION OF SOUTH SUDAN'S PEACE PROCESS



The summit convenes over South Sudan

Photo:mfa

IGAD's 31st Extra-Ordinary Summit on South Sudan took place on June 12 in Addis Ababa, under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn of Ethiopia and Chairperson of the IGAD Assembly of Heads of State and Government. The main focus was on the current

situation in the Republic of South Sudan. The outcome of the meeting strongly emphasized that IGAD had spoken with one voice and conveyed the message that the Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan remained the only viable solution to bring a lasting peace and stability to South Sudan. It decided to urgently convene a High-level Revitalization Forum to include estranged groups and firmly underlined the need for all South Sudanese to join the national dialogue in a credible and transparent manner. It appointed Ambassador Ismail Wais as IGAD Special Envoy for South Sudan.

The Summit recognized the support extended by the international community to provide humanitarian assistance to the affected population of South Sudan. It appealed to the international community to redouble its effort and also assist in alleviating the burden of the neighboring countries that continue to receive and host the huge number of refugees from South Sudan. In this context, it expressed its appreciation to the AU, the UN, the Troika, China, the EU, the IPF, and international partners and friends of South Sudan for their continued commitment and support to peace and reconciliation in South Sudan.

NILE BASIN STATES HOLD A SUMMIT IN UGANDA



Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn among the congregation of representatives of the Nile Basin States
Photo:mfa

A Nile Basin States Summit, convened by President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda, was held for the first time in Entebbe, Uganda, on June 22. The Summit underlined the commitment of the riparian states to Nile Basin Cooperation through the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI).

President Museveni said the purpose of



the meeting was to exchange views on how to best utilize the Nile waters in light of the socio-economic challenges now being faced by the countries of the Nile basin. He described these challenges as “strategic” and said they needed the attention of the Nile Basin countries at the highest level. They included rapid growth of population and the destruction of the environment on which the Nile depends as well as the lack of access to electricity and of industrialization in upstream countries, and continued dependence on subsistence agriculture. To address these challenges, President Museveni said, the upstream countries needed to be industrialized and transformed into modern societies. Equally, the natural environment must also be protected. To achieve this all the Nile Basin countries should cooperate and work together.

President Museveni’s initiative was appreciated and supported by the leaders of the Nile Basin countries present. Their key message was that the strategic vision, of industrialization and transformation while maintaining the environment, could be achieved through the established institution of the Nile Basin countries, the Nile Basin Initiative. The heads of the delegations at the Summit underlined the achievements of the Nile Basin Initiative as an effective platform for the Nile Basin countries over the last 18 years. They expressed the need to establish the Nile Basin River Commission to further consolidate these objectives as soon as possible.

The summit was attended by Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn of Ethiopia and, President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi of Egypt, the Vice-Presidents of Sudan, Burundi, South Sudan, and Ministers from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Kenya, and Tanzania. Burundi, as next Chair of the Nile Council of Ministers, is expected to host the next meeting.

G20

ETHIOPIA JOINS THE G20 COMPACT WITH AFRICA INITIATIVE

The G20 Africa partnership is a central project of Germany’s G20 presidency. The

German government has repeatedly expressed its view that if the world fails to create the conditions for more stability in Africa, those problems will continue to grow. The world in general and Europe in particular will then have to suffer the consequences. In that regard, Germany has proposed different initiatives, the most important among them “G20 Compact with Africa.”

The Compact with Africa program is a key pillar of the G20 Africa partnership, coordinated by the German Federal Ministry of Finance and envisioned by Minister of Finance Wolfgang Schäuble. The Compact with Africa initiative aims to boost private investment and investment in infrastructure in Africa. Such investment is an essential precondition for strong, balanced and sustainable growth. The World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the African Development Bank jointly produced a report: “The G20 Compact with Africa: A Joint AFDB, IMF and WBG Report”. The G20 finance ministers and central bank governors warmly received the report at a meeting in Baden-Baden.

The report proposes a catalogue of instruments and measures designed to improve macroeconomic, business and financing frameworks as a way to boost investment. It suggests ways to do this should include tailor-made individualized investment compacts to be set up between interested African countries, international organizations and partner countries. The various partners would commit to specific steps outlined in a catalogue of measures. The G20 member states would provide political support for comprehensive, country specific packages of measures and give African countries a platform to showcase opportunities and conditions for investment. Seven African countries have already decided to participate in the compact initiative: Morocco, Tunisia, Rwanda, Senegal, Cote d’Ivoire, Ghana and Ethiopia. The two most recent countries involved, Ethiopia and Ghana, joined during the international conference, “G20 Africa partnership - investing in a common Future”, held in Berlin on June 12-13. Dr. Abreham Tekeste, Minister of Finance and Economic Cooperation led the Ethiopian delegation.

The Compact with Africa Initiative will be presented and discussed at the next G20 meeting to be held in Hamburg, Germany, next month on July 7-8. It is, of course, a long-term initiative that can be expected to remain on the G20 agenda. Indeed, Argentina has already pledged to continue the project when it takes over the G20 presidency from Germany

Economy

A JAPANESE BUSINESS DELEGATION IN ETHIOPIA

A display of contribution



Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn and the business delegation
Photo:mfa

On June 15 Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn welcomed a Japanese business delegation led by Dr. Katusuhiko Hirano, Executive Vice-President of the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO. At a meeting also attended by Mr. Tetsuro Yano, ex-Senior Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs and current President of Association of African Economy and Development (AFRECO), the Prime Minister noted the long-standing relations between the two countries. He also said Ethiopia was seeking to attract Japanese investors, something he and Japanese Prime Minister Abe had discussed recently at the G7 Meeting in Taormina Italy. The delegation included 32 business representatives and officials from 21 Japanese companies, JETRO, and AFRECO. The visit followed the Ethio-Japan Business Forum, held on April 25 in Tokyo. Its visit aimed to further strengthen economic relations between the two countries. During the visit a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ethiopian Investment Commission and Tomonius Corporation of Japan. This relates to the construction of an Industrial Park Zone for Japanese companies within the Bole Lemmi 2 Industrial Park.