



ETHIO NEWS

Politics

THE 29TH AFRICAN UNION HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT SUMMIT



All AU Heads of State assembled Photo:mfa

The 29th biannual African Union summit opened late June at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa with the Assembly of the African Union Heads of State and Government holding its deliberations on July 3-4. The theme of the Summit was “Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in the Youth.

On issues of Peace and Security, the AU Commission Chairperson Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat said silencing the guns by 2020 was an important agenda of the African Union. He said that in order to deal with conflicts, the AU Commission had decided to give priority to prevention and anticipation. In this connection, he called upon the regional groupings and mechanisms to intensify their activities in close cooperation with the relevant bodies of the African Union. He called for closer alignment between the decisions made by the AU and their implementation. Mr. Mahamat also spoke about the partnership between the African Union and the United Nations, especially cooperation in peace and security, as well as the partnership with the European Union on issues of peace and security and the fight against terrorism and radicalism, as well as economic, democratic and electoral governance issues. Humanitarian action in solidarity with the victims of drought, famine and forced displacement, he said, must be another area of immediate action. Mr.Faki also high-

lighted the need to provide extra attention to some strategic development issues, such as implementing integral projects for the benefit of African people. The Chairperson also underscored the imperative for the continent to speak with one voice.

In its deliberations, the Summit took decision on how to tackle ongoing security threats in Somalia, Mali and South Sudan, as well as the need for predictable funding and AU reform. During the closing ceremony, two Commissioners were sworn into office: Ms. Agbor Sarah MbiEnow Anyang of Cameroun who was elected to the post of Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology and Mr Victor Harrison of Madagascar who was elected Commissioner for Economic Affairs. In addition, 3 members were elected to the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption and another 4 as members of the African Commission on Human and People’s Rights. At the closing ceremony of the Summit, the Heads of State also decided to erect monuments to two former Ethiopian leaders, Emperor Haile Selassie and the late Prime Minister Meles Zenawi in honor of their contributions to the Organization of the African Unity and to the African Union.

IGAD MINISTERS MEET IN JUBA TO DISCUSS SOUTH SUDAN PEACE PROCESS



IGAD Ministeres deliberating the delicate situation in South Sudan Photo:mfa

IGAD Council of Ministers held their 58th Extra-Ordinary Session in Juba on July 23 -24 on the revitalization of the Agreement

on the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan (ARCSS). The meeting was chaired by the Foreign Minister of Ethiopia, Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu.

The Executive Secretary of IGAD, Ambassador Maalim, said the revitalization forum was the first of its kind to be held in Juba. He added that he believed that convening the forum in Juba would help accelerate the revitalization process by bringing all relevant stakeholders on board.

The first session of the Council of Ministers considered implementation and strict observation of the peace accord, the cease-fire and cessation of hostilities, humanitarian access, and the importance of free movement for the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism, as well as prompt deployment of regional protection force and accountability for the actions of all parties. The Council subsequently paid a courtesy call on President Salva Kiir. On behalf of the Council, Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu gave details of the IGAD revitalization forum and called on the President to assist and support the revitalization process. President Kiir expressed his support for the new revitalization of the peace process, and briefed the IGAD Ministers on the recent meeting in Kampala on SPLM reunification process. The leaders reaffirmed their commitment to a more inclusive political engagement with the aim of bringing a peaceful solution to South Sudan.

In the second session of the Council, Dr. Workneh noted that the revitalization process did not mean fresh negotiations to implement the ARCSS. Rather, the process was designed to offer a window of opportunity for all South Sudanese stakeholders to be involved in the implementation of the August 2015 Peace Accord.

The IGAD Council of Ministers meeting ended with the issue of a joint communiqué, underlining the importance of implementing the Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan, the importance of the inclusivity of the national dialogue,



of the further participation of Civil Societies, and of a ceasefire and cessation of hostilities. The Council urged all armed opposition groups to respect the ceasefire and denounce violence. It welcomed the efforts being organized by President Museveni of Uganda to reunite different factions of the SPLM. The communiqué stressed the importance of the unity of purpose among the various actors and called on the Transitional Government of National Unity and all regional and international partners of IGAD to facilitate the urgent deployment of the Rapid Protection Force (RPF). The same day, July 24, the chiefs of Defense Forces of the troop-contributing countries met in Addis Ababa and decided immediate deployment of RPF.

THE 6TH ETHIO-CZECH POLITICAL CONSULTATION MEETING



The Czech delegation in Addis

Photo:mfa

The Sixth Political Consultation meeting between the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the Czech Republic was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia on July 25. Ethiopia and the Czech Republic agreed in 2011 to hold political consultations on a yearly basis at state ministerial level. The annual consultation, which has been held regularly, has provided a most useful forum for continued political understanding between the two countries.

This year the delegations were led by Mrs. Hirut Zemene, State Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and Mr. Martin Tlapa State Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. Discussions covered bilateral, regional and global issues.

Mrs. Hirut Zemene highlighted the historical relationship between Ethiopia and the former Czechoslovakia, underlining that this had pioneered agricultural and indus-

trial development in Ethiopia in many ways. Ethiopia, she said, now attached great importance to its relations with Czech Republic both bilaterally and within the framework of its relations with the European Union. Mrs. Hirut encouraged the Czech Republic to continue its support both bilaterally and multilaterally. She suggested Czech businesses could engage in the agro processing, leather, pharmaceuticals, glass making and energy sectors in Ethiopia as well as partnership on education.

During their visit to Ethiopia, Mr. Tlapa and the Czech delegation also met and held discussions with President Dr. Mulatu Teshome. They attended the Ethio-Czech Business Forum held on July 24 at the Intercontinental Hotel and had meetings with officials from the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries.

Economy

TWO MORE INDUSTRIAL PARKS INAUGURATED



The construction of large-scale industrial parks is central to fulfilling the goals of the second Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP II). A sign of the progress being made was visible in early July, with the inauguration of two industrial parks in the northern part of the country, Kombolcha Industrial Park on July 8 and Mekelle Industrial Park the following day.

The first phase of the Kombolcha Industrial Park in Amhara Regional State, constructed with a total of US\$90 million, was inaugurated on July 8 in the presence of Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn. In his remarks, the Prime Minister noted the importance of industrial parks for the ongoing economic transformation of the country. He stressed the completion of Kombolcha Industrial Park was a big step forward, demonstrating the country was on the right track, and he noted the country's

emphasis on development of industrial parks followed the effective and fruitful experience of various Asian countries. Prime Minister Hailemariam, who also underlined the importance of the development of the industrial parks in the government's plans for manufacturing growth, said the construction of the second phase of the park would be launched following the commencement of production by companies that settled there. Kombolcha is expected to attract companies engaged in textile and garment production and for export. 70% of the facilities would be dedicated to foreign anchor companies, while 30% would be occupied by local companies. The first phase of the Park covering 75 hectares of land was built in nine months and it contains production facilities as well as a shopping center, health, fire and emergency facilities and the necessary maintenance services.

The following day, the Prime Minister attended the inauguration of the Mekelle Industrial Park further to the north in Tigray Regional State. Built with an outlay of US\$100 million USD. The park is located five kms outside the regional state capital of Mekelle. The Prime Minister again underlined the importance of the industrial parks for paving the way for the renaissance of the country. The parks, he said, were already becoming the engine of the country's economic transformation.

Sports

ANNUAL ATHLETICS FESTIVAL IN VATERSTETTEN CITY



On July 14 approximately 1500 students from Vaterstetten city Gymnasium in the Federal State of Bavaria took part at the annual Athletics Festival organized by Vaterstetten- Alem Ketema Sister City Association. The sister city relationship was



established 23 years ago in 1994. The athletics festival is an annual event organized by the Association to raise funds for various development projects the association carries out in Alem Ketema.

At the July 14th festival, Mr. Mehreteab Mulugeta Consul General of Ethiopia to Bavaria along with the current and former mayors of Vaterstatten city Mr. Georg Reitsberger and Mr. Günther Lenz were Guests of Honour.

The Consul General at his opening remark thanked the students and the Gymnasium administrators for their uninterrupted participation on the annual festival and called on them to continue their contribution to the noble causes of the Association. Then the Consul General and the two mayors started the half marathon race.

Each participating student secured a sponsor for his/her run from relatives and friends. The sponsors promised to pay for each lap (about 700 meters) the child completes. Accordingly, the most laps this year were completed by class 5d with 701 laps in total, covering 490.7kms. Next were classes 6b, 7c, 5b, 6d and 5a respectively. A student from class 7a alone run 33 laps (23.1km). At the last year's festival the Association collected 20,000 Euros. The amount of this year's contribution shall be announced in the upcoming weeks.

The Vaterstatten Gymnasium is the largest single donor to the Partnership with Alem Ketema e.V. The donation which will be collected from this year's Athletics festival shall be used for the construction of a third kindergarten in Alem Ketema in collaboration with the City administration of Alem Ketema.

Culture

THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE CONSIDERS TWO ETHIOPIAN SITES

The World Heritage Committee decides on sites to be listed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites, and it is responsible for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention of 1972 which provides for identification, protection and preservation of the world's outstanding cultural and na-

tural heritage sites for the international communities and future generations. The Committee meets annually to consider the practical application of the Convention. This year it convened its 41st Session in the historic city of Krakow in Poland, from July 1–12, to take decisions relating to the World Heritage List as well as to review and evaluate protection of already inscribed sites.

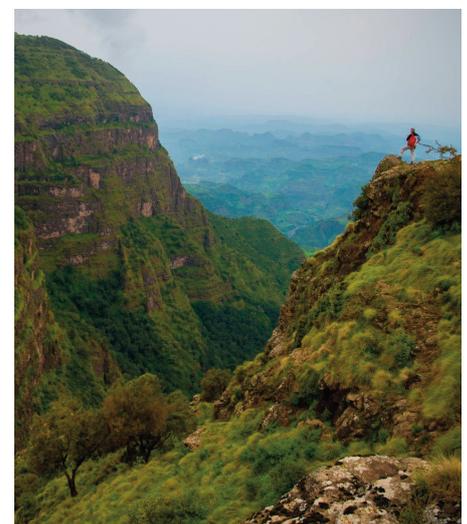
Ethiopia has 7 tangible heritage sites and 3 intangible heritages inscribed on the World Heritage List. Two of these, the Lower Valley of Omo World Heritage Site and the Simien Mountains' National Park were on the agenda this month as items on the 'State of Conservation of World Heritage Sites' and State of Conservation of World Heritage Sites in danger' lists respectively. An Ethiopian delegation led by Mrs. Hirut Zemene, State Minister of Foreign Affairs, including delegates from the Authority for Research and Conservation of Cultural Heritage, the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority, the Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Electricity, and the Ministry of Forest, Environment and Climate Change, participated in the meeting.

The Simien Mountains' National Park was inscribed as a World Heritage Site in 1978 and was placed on the list of heritage sites in danger in 1996 because of problems of human encroachment and environmental damage. Ever since then, the State Party of Ethiopia has been engaged in conservation measures targeted to meet the benchmarks set by the Committee and has held a series of discussions with the advisory body, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), as part of efforts at adopting the recommendations made for conservation of the Park. The implementation of these has meant the requirements to remove the Site from the danger list have been met. The delegation provided evidence of the commitment of the State Party to best conserve the heritage site. A Committee Member, the United Republic of Tanzania, sponsored Ethiopia's concern and activities, and, as a result, the Committee Members removed the Simien Mountains' National Park from the list of World Heritage Sites in danger.

On the State of Conservation of the World

Heritage site of the Lower Valley of Omo, the Committee had prepared a draft decision in March 2017, ready to be adopted at the 41st session. The draft did not show the commitment and efforts of the State Party of Ethiopia to conserve and protect the site. It also proposed the Lower Valley of Omo should be covered by the Strategic Environmental Assessment study of the Lake Turkana National Parks. Ethiopia was clear this would be unsatisfactory, mixing two different inscriptions covering different locations under two separate State Parties (Ethiopia and Kenya) with different attributes of outstanding universal values and different criteria.

Ethiopia, after discussions with the International Council for Monuments and Sites, prepared an amendment to the draft recognizing the State Party's efforts to conserve the site and underlining its commitment to the conservation of World Heritage Sites as a whole. Speaking at the meeting, State Minister Mrs. Hirut Zemene emphasized that Ethiopia would continue to strengthen its efforts to protect heritage sites and discharge its responsibility in caring for world heritage sites by working in partnership with UNESCO. With the aid of the Republic of Angola, Ethiopia's case was presented to the session. While reiterating a request to the State Party to provide additional information, Committee members accepted Ethiopia's amendment and decided to replace the Strategic Environmental Assessment by an environmental assessment impact study.



The beauty of the Simien Mountains National Park
Photo:mfa