



ETHIO NEWS

Politics

PRIME MINISTER HAILE-MARIAM AT THE AFRICAN ECONOMIC CONFERENCE



Prime Minister Hailemariam

Photo: mfa

The African Economic Conference 2017 was held from December 4–6. Co-organized by the African Development Bank (AfDB), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) under the theme “Governance for structural transformation”, this year’s conference focused on the achievement of structural transformation in Africa with an emphasis on developmental governance. Speakers stressed this was the key to unlocking Africa’s potential and advancing its prosperity, and the three agencies pledged their readiness to support the continent’s pursuit of an African agenda for stronger democratic states and rapid structural transformation that positively impacts on human development.

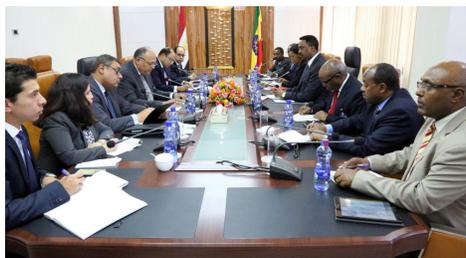
Participants exchanged ideas on progress made in the area of economic structural transformation by African governments. They also discussed policies, programs and mechanisms that can help governments to unlock their economic potential. In five plenary sessions as well as dozens of research presentations, the five hundred or so present heard of possible homegrown solutions and ways to learn from experience to achieve structural transformation on the continent. There were five plenary sessions covering ‘the theory and practice of governance for structural transformation in Africa’; ‘the role of the state in governing development in Africa’; ‘inclusive resource governance as a driver of structural transformation’; ‘role of institutions in transformative governance’; and ‘governance for Africa’s industrialization’, as well as breakout sessions that featured presentations and discussions by prominent academics, policy makers, civil society, and representatives from development organizations, allowing

for a more in-depth and technical analyses of issues related to “Governance for structural transformation”, including e.g. governance, institutions and economic development; the role of the state; financing structural economic transformation; accessing the role of decentralized government institutions; governance of natural resources; migration; urbanization, and best practices in regional integration.

In his keynote speech, Prime Minister Hailemariam underlined that the quality of governance explained and drove transformation, development and democratization, and asked what type of governance best served Africa. Africa’s priorities, he stressed, had to do with development, democracy and equity, and for African countries to structurally transform themselves rapidly and inclusively, the most viable option was a strong, active, developmental and democratic state.

The Prime Minister noted that the developmental state being built in Ethiopia was “not a developmental state of the East Asian variety but a democratic one: a state that is both developmental and democratic.” This, he said, was a necessity not only to avoid the costly mistakes of the past but also to align successful lessons with democratic principles and move towards democratic transition and consolidation.

FOURTH CONSULTATION MEETING BETWEEN ETHIOPIAN AND EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTERS



Ethio-Egypt regular consultation underway in Addis

Photo: mfa

The Foreign Minister of Ethiopia, Dr. Workeneh Gebeyehu hosted Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry in Addis Ababa on December 26 for the fourth Ethio-Egypt Ministerial Consultation. The two countries have agreed on formal consultations between their Foreign Ministers to enhance bilateral relations in all sectors of mutual interest. This consultation meeting covered a number of issues, including trade, investment, tourism, countering terrorism in the region and enhancement of bilateral relations. In their joint

post-meeting press conference, Egyptian Foreign Minister Shoukry, praising the Ethiopian side for the warm welcome accorded to him and his delegation, noted the outstanding commitment the governments of the two countries displayed to further bolster the longstanding and ever-growing bilateral ties. Dr. Workeneh, welcoming Egyptian investors involved in businesses and investment arenas in Ethiopia, called for more to engage in the attractive investment schemes and incentive packages the Government had put in place. Mr. Shoukry said Ethiopia would continue to be a viable destination for Egyptian investors in many fields particularly in the Industrial Parks now being developed in the country, and he noted Egypt’s interest in establishing its own industrial park in Ethiopia.

The other major issue discussed at length during the consultative meeting was the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD). Differences between Ethiopia and Sudan on one hand and Egypt on the other have been the subject of media comment since the 17th Ministerial/Tripartite National Committee meeting held in Cairo, in November.

The two Ministers noted that the current issue on the GERD talks is of mutual concern and the peoples of the three countries Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt were closely following it.” Dr. Workeneh stressed, “the best way to move forward to conduct the two studies is to incorporate the comments of the Tripartite National Committee on the Draft Inception Report and correct it according to the Contract Document. Hence, instructing the technical team accordingly is critical.” Ethiopia also underlined that “escalation of a technical matter will not serve anybody except complicating matters.”

The major issue of difference has been over the Draft Inception Report. Ethiopia firmly believes that the conduct of the two studies should be based on the Consultancy Service Agreement, the Contract Document, that the Tripartite National Committee and the Consultant signed in September 2016 in Khartoum. This lays out the basis for conducting the studies and the Draft Inception Report should therefore be in line with the Contract Document. It is not unusual for the technical people to experience differences in the process of conducting the two studies. However, guidance from the political leadership has been the lubricant to move the process forward, and Ethiopia has stressed that “any differences between the parties, Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt, can be handled through the mechanisms established in the Declaration of Principles,” signed by Prime Minister Hailemariam, President el-Sisi and President Al-Bashir in 2015.

Dr. Workeneh noted that “the issue of GERD is a trilateral issue that should include the Sudan.” He called Mr. Shoukry’s visit “a positive



signal" towards ensuring the Ethiopian public understands the Government of Egypt was fully determined to foster the long-term solidarity of the two people, underlined the importance of such consultative dialogue. Ethiopia, added the Minister, was determined to uphold all the interests of the parties to the Declaration of Principles, in a pan-African spirit in full respect of mutual concerns. He stressed that the GERD was a "symbol of cooperation" that aimed to enhance the capacity of all the riparian countries including Egypt. He stressed Ethiopia strongly believes that the GERD would cause no significant harm to Egypt and it would always pursue its development activities in a "win-win" approach.

Dr. Workeneh underlined the need to continue the consultative dialogues and Ethiopia's determination for successful consultations and cooperation between the three countries. It required the commitment of the three countries to implement the agreed-upon principles.

IGAD FORUM ON SOUTH SUDAN



High-Level Revitalization Forum underway

Photo: mfa

The IGAD High-level Revitalization Forum of the Agreement for the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan took place from December 18-22 at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa. Opened by Ethiopia's Prime Minister Hailemariam, the Chair of IGAD, and by African Union Commission Chairperson, Moussa Faki Mahamat, it successfully concluded its deliberations with the signing of an Agreement of Cessation of Hostilities, Protection of Civilians and Humanitarian Access on December 21.

Ethiopia, as Chair and member of IGAD has made it clear it will continue its strong engagement to ensure the finalizing of the Revitalization Process, aiming for full revitalization of the 2015 agreement and a realistic timeline for its implementation. The International Community will also continue to play its part: indeed, from the very launch of the High-level Revitalization Forum, the AU, the UN, the Troika, the IGAD Partners Forum, China, Japan and other relevant stakeholders, have all played important roles in helping to ensure the successful outcome of the Forum. They

will continue to do so.

On December 29 however, the Chairperson of IGAD Council of Ministers expressed his deep concern and disappointment over immediate violations of the Agreement on the Cessation of Hostilities, Protection of Civilians and Humanitarian Access. The current violations of the Agreement, only few days after its signing, undermine the genuine efforts by the IGAD Council of Ministers, the AU Commission, the IGAD Special Envoy for the Republic of South Sudan, the IGAD Partners Forum (IPF), the High-Level Co-Facilitators of the HLRF, the AU High-Level ad-hoc Committee, JMEC, the UN, the Troika and the International Community, who are tirelessly and jointly working to help South Sudanese Parties to address the root causes of the Conflict in South Sudan through an all-inclusive dialogue that would pave the way for national reconciliation; and the building of effective State institutions through a democratic process.

The Chairperson of the IGAD Council of Ministers strongly condemns the violations of the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities, demands an immediate end to all forms of hostilities; and calls upon all the parties who violate the Agreement to come to their senses.

Business

GERMAN-AFRICA BUSINESS FORUM IN MUNICH



Business presentation in Munich

Photo: cons

The Consulate General Office of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in Frankfurt participated at the German Africa Business Forum in Munich on November 28, 2017 organized by Africa Branding Corporation. At the Forum H.E. Dr. Mebrhatu Meles, State Minister of Industry gave a presentation on Ethiopia's Business Opportunities and related incentives given by the Ethiopian Government.

The Forum has been organized to bring together African businesses with German entrepreneurs and give a platform to African Governments to promote their respective countries in order to forge stronger trade and investment ties.

On the occasion, H.E. Dr. Mebrhatu informed

the participants about wide-ranging business opportunities in General and the current development plan and progress on the construction of industrial parks in particular. He stressed also, that it is high time for German companies to start focusing on Africa.

H.E. Dr. Mebrhatu held sideline talks with various company executives, heads of institutions and individuals who participated at the Forum and who wanted to have further detail information on the Economic development activities of Ethiopia. H. E. The State Minister encouraged the Executives to come to Ethiopia and observe for themselves the achievements made so far. Meanwhile, other participants stressed the need to encourage the opening of more German private enterprises in Africa.

Taking advantage of the occasion, H.E. Dr. Mebrhatu invited all participants of the Forum to participate at the upcoming 2nd International Agro Industry Forum that will be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, March 5-8 2018 and Ethio-German Business Forum in Frankfurt in mid May 2018.

GERMAN BUSINESS DELEGATION VISITS ETHIOPIA



The German delegation with Ethiopian officials

Photo: cons

A business delegation from the Federal State of Baden-Württemberg, Germany paid a working visit to Addis Ababa Ethiopia, from November.

The Delegation composed of State Secretaries, Members of Parliament, Institutions, Chamber of Commences (IHK) and the private sector was co-led by H.E. Excellencies Ms. Theresa Schopper, State Secretary in the State of Baden-Württemberg and H.E. Ms. Katrin Schütz, State Secretary in the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Labour and Housing of the State of Baden-Württemberg.

The Delegation was warmly welcomed in Addis Ababa and visited the Bole Lemi Industrial Park which created the first impression on the members of the delegation who witnessed Ethiopia's investment potential and the Commitment of the Government in providing a plug-and-play investment opportunities to potential investors.

On November 28 a one day Ethio-German



Business Forum was held in Addis Ababa. At the opening of the Forum, H.E. Dr Aklilu Hailemichael, State Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia welcomed the Business delegation on behalf of the Government and People of Ethiopia. He mentioned that Ethiopia and Germany have more than a century old diplomatic relations and are strong partners in peace and security, counter-terrorism, migration, climate change and maintain excellent development cooperation programs. He underlined the fact that, despite strong relationships in the aforementioned areas, Ethiopia believes more should be done to extend the cooperation to business relations. Dr. Aklilu further expressed that, the visit by the Business Delegation from the State of Baden-Württemberg is one of the major steps taken in strengthening business to business relations and an evident testimony of desire to improve business relations with the private sector from the State of Baden-Württemberg in particular and from Germany in general. In conclusion, he invited the members of the Business Delegation to utilize business opportunities that exist in Ethiopia and be part of the Ethiopian Renaissance.

The head of the Business Delegation Ms. Theresa Schopper, State Secretary in the Ministry of the State of Baden-Württemberg on her part said that the Business Delegation is organized after a successful Business Forum held in Stuttgart in May 2017. She also added that the business trip is organized to further strengthen and keep the momentum in expanding the Business Relation. The Ethio-German Business Forum has continued the whole day with presentations from FDRE Ministry of Industry and the Investment Commission focusing on business opportunities for private companies from the State of Baden-Württemberg.

The members of the Delegation had a successful B2B sessions with Ethiopian private companies and G2Gs and G2Bs with Minister of Science and Technology H.E. Dr. Eng. Getahun Mekuria, Minister of Education, H.E. Dr. Tilaye Gete and State Minister of Industry H.E. Dr. Alemu Sime. The discussions focused on how to further strengthen Trade and Investment as well as Technology Transfers. During the visit, The Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IHK) of Reutlingen met and held discussion with the President of Ethiopian and Amhara Region Chamber of Commerce and Sectoral Associations on how to start partnership programmes in areas of experience sharing and capacity building.

Activism

YETNEBERSH NIGUSSIE SPEAKS IN BERLIN



Yetnebersh Nigussie speaks at the old Oderberger Bathhouse in Berlin

Photo: Janine Escher/RLA

The disability rights activist and recent recipient of the Right Livelihood Award 2017, Yetnebersh Nigussie, visited Berlin on December 5. Having been blind since age 5, the Ethiopian lawyer spoke openly about her work in front of Berlin citizens and German Members of Parliament. The Right Livelihood Award is also known as the Alternative Nobel Prize, as it seeks to honor achievements that are not covered by the Nobel catalogue, yet are considered to be of paramount societal

importance. Yetnebersh received the award for "her inspiring work promoting rights and inclusion of people with disabilities, allowing them to realise their full potential and changing mindsets in our society". She currently serves as a Senior Inclusion Advisor with the international disability and development NGO Light for the World.

Culture

ETHIOPIA AT THE BUDDY BEARS EXHIBITION

The iconic Buddy Bear exhibition returned to Germany over Christmas. As the 2 meter tall bear sculptures stand for tolerance and international understanding, the exhibition bore a particularly fitting message for the Christmas season. The optical spectacle of 141 colorful bears on the Walter-Benjamin-Platz in Berlin was accompanied by different events over the course of many weeks. On December 10 the Ethiopian Embassy participated by giving visitors the chance to partake in a traditional Ethiopian coffee ceremony – something so culturally significant, that it is prominently depicted on the Ethiopian Buddy Bear, designed by Ethiopian artist Yenatfenta Abate. The exhibition will remain in Berlin until January 7.



Left: Ethiopian coffee ceremony as depicted by Yenatfenta Abate



Right: Actual coffee ceremony at the exhibition

Photo: emb

The Ethiopian Embassy in Berlin wishes all friends, supporters and readers a happy and prosperous New Year 2018!