



ETHIOPIA TODAY

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Ethiopia Signs the Paris Climate Agreement



Ethiopia has joined 171 countries in signing the Paris Climate Agreement at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, USA on 22 April 2016.

The Paris Agreement, adopted last December at COP21 in Paris by the 196 Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, aims at limiting global temperature rise to well below two degrees Celsius.

Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn signed the agreement at the event which attracted "by far the largest number of countries ever to sign an international agreement on a single day."

"Today is an historic day," the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon told reporters at a press conference following the opening ceremony of the signing event, the UN News Center reported.

According to the UN chief, the participation by so many countries and the attendance by so many world leaders leaves "no doubt" that the international community is determined to take climate action. "If all the countries that have signed today take the next step at the national level and join the Agreement, the world will have met the requirement needed for the Paris Agreement to enter into force," Mr. Ban highlighted, congratulating the 15 Parties that have already deposited their instruments for ratification.

French President François Hollande also applauded all those who made it possible to reach the second stage of the process which is the signing of the document. "France should be an example to show that it wants to be the first or one of the first not just to ratify but also to implement the contents of the Agreement," Mr. Hollande stated.

The Paris meeting held last December saw the election of Ethiopia as chair of Climate Vulnerable Forum for the period 2016- 2017.

The Agreement will enter into force 30 days after at least 55 countries, accounting for 55 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions, deposit their instruments of ratification.

H.E. Dr. Tedros Visited Sweden, Russia and Serbia



Foreign Minister Dr. Tedros Adhanom made a three-day official visit to Sweden. He began his visit on April 19, 2016 by attending a roundtable discussion at the Swedish Institute of International Affairs on "Developments in Ethiopia and regional Security Challenges in the Horn of Africa." The Swedish Institute of International Affairs is a public-service organization that was founded in 1938 as a politically independent institute supporting research and education in international political issues.

Dr. Tedros spoke on Ethiopia's role and on the challenges and opportunities in the Horn of Africa. He noted that Ethiopia finds itself at the epicenter of one of the most volatile regions in Africa with complex and multiple security and development challenges. Two of the key challenges in the region, the growing interest of traditional and emerging powers towards the region and the longstanding problem in Somalia, helped make the security dynamics more complex and difficult. Nevertheless, he insisted: "the Horn of Africa also has tremendous potential for common development and prosperity, provided that there is durable peace and stability."

The bigger challenges, according to Dr. Tedros, revolved around how to minimize the pitfalls and capitalize on the opportunities available to transform the region into a zone of peace and prosperity. This, he said, is what Ethiopia is trying to address together with countries of the region. Speaking on strategies that Ethiopia had deployed over the last two and a half decades, he said the country had focused on addressing its own internal vulnerabilities. He offered statistical evidence how this strategy had added to the robust and sustained growth the country had shown. "Since 2000, poverty in Ethiopia fell from 55% to 26% by 2014 according to the World Bank."

In a related news, Foreign Minister Dr. Tedros also paid a working visit to Russia and conferred with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on 25 April 2016. The two foreign ministers discussed on bilateral issues, development cooperation, energy projects, regional peace and security. Foreign Minister Dr. Tedros said that Ethiopia and Russia are committed to find out collective answers to modern challenges and threats throughout the world. Dr. Tedros underlined that Ethiopia and Russia should enhance cooperation in the areas of trade, investment, tourism and other economic cooperation to benefit peoples of both countries.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on his part said Ethiopia and Russia have enjoyed longstanding multifaceted relation which is more than 100 years old and Ethiopia is one of Russia's key partners in Africa. The Minister pointed out that Russia welcomes Ethiopia's desire to promote cooperation with Russia in education, science and technology. Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov mentioned that Russian companies are interested in enhancing energy and hydrocarbon cooperation and building infrastructure in Ethiopia. He also

stressed that the key role in settling African conflicts must belong to Africans. Both sides agreed to further enhance cooperation in the areas of Education, Science and Technology, trade and investment.

In another development, Foreign Minister Dr Tedros has been bestowed with the decoration of the Order of Serbian Flag on 24 April 2016 during his visit to Serbia. The decoration of the Order of Serbian Flag is the highest honor that can be bestowed upon a person by the Serbian Presidency. Dr. Tedros has been bestowed with the honor for the roles he played in lifting up the Ethio-Serbia relations.

5th Tana High Level Forum Held in Bahr Dar

The 5th Tana Forum was held in the city of Bahr Dar from 16-17 April 2016. This year's forum was held under the theme "Africa in the Global Security Agenda". Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn, President Omar Al-Bashir of Sudan, President Faure Gnassingbe Eyadéma of Togo and President Hassen Sheik Mohamud of Somalia were present as well as the former Secretary General of the United Nations Kofi Annan.

Among the former presidents at the Forum were Excellencies Thabo Mbeki of South Africa; Festus Mogae of Botswana; Pierre Buyoya of Burundi; Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique; Joyce Banda of Malawi; and Leste Ramos-Horta of Timor; as well as Olesogun Obasanjo of Nigeria, who is also the Chairperson of the Tana Forum Board.

The annual Forum brought together over 250 participants, including academics, policymakers, representatives of non-governmental organizations and officials of regional, continental and international organizations as well as heads of state and governments. The Former UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan, who was attending the

Forum for the first time underlined the value of ex-leaders coming together with current leaders "to share experience and try to talk very frankly about the challenges facing the continent and also about our relations with the international community."

Ethiopia's Foreign Minister, Dr. Tedros Adhanom chaired the sessions and acted as master of ceremonies. Ethiopia's Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn opened the Forum, noting that "the growing attendance and diversity of participants demonstrate the growing recognition of the Tana Forum". He added that the Tana Forum had become an invaluable platform for the exchange of views, best experiences and innovative approaches to the fast changing security challenges facing the African continent and the global community today".

The Prime Minister emphasized that African solutions to African problems require collecting and analyzing knowledge as well as upgrading local institutions. He said that Africa suffered from a number of security and political challenges which required African leaders to develop a strategic vision for resolution. It was welcome that a growing number of African leaders were participating in the Forum. This underscored their interest to promote a common understanding to achieve security and stability in the region. He spoke of the challenges of peace and security in the continent and the ways to resolve them, pointing out that Africa had begun to tackle these problems. Equally, he underlined the importance of cooperation among African leaders to develop the continent. They must look forward to securing participation of all to face the existing threats.

The Forum, of course, has never intended to be a decision making body, and it isn't. It was designed as an occasion where local solutions could be

discussed and explored as the region seeks to carve out its proper place in a global security architecture which has been and still is dominated by western powers. It aims to boost Africa's struggle to reposition itself in the global security agenda. This was underlined this year by the subjects discussed including conflict prevention, building peace infrastructures, and sustaining peace and peace support operations.

At the closing session Prime Minister Hailemariam announced the formation of the Tana Foundation, to replace the former Tana Forum. The Prime Minister said "The formation of the Foundation is of paramount importance to attain the objectives and principles of the Tana Forum and Pan-Africanism, respectively".

He noted the Forum has been working by giving due attention to African affairs over the last five years, and had played an important role in promoting peace and security through education at regional and continental level. Now the Tana

Forum's Board had finished its five year- term and a new board would be designated to head the new Tana Foundation.

The Prime Minister stressed that Ethiopia would strengthen its support to the Foundation; and the Chairman of the retiring Tana Forum Board, Olusegun Obasanjo, said "What we said we wanted to achieve through the Tana Forum, we have achieved."

Business and Economy

Finland willing to Foster Trade, Investment Ties with Ethiopia

Finland is willing to foster its trade and investment relation with Ethiopia, according to the country's Ambassador to Ethiopia.

"Finland looks for more trade and investment with Ethiopia to boost its relations," disclosed Ambassador Sirpa Maenpaa while talking exclusively to ENA on 21 April 2016. The

Ambassador said her country is willing to take its relation with Ethiopia beyond development cooperation.

Mentioning the long-standing Ethio-Finland relation in the areas of development cooperation, the Ambassador said Finnish business people are showing a growing interest to invest in many African countries in particular in Ethiopia since there are ample investment opportunities in the country.

Referring to some investment activities by Finnish businesses in the areas of furniture, beer, hotel and other fields in Ethiopia, she said the two nations need to utilize their existing diplomatic ties to further promote trade and investment on both sides.

The two countries are witnessing improvement in the exchanges due to promotional activities and business to business (B2B) meetings, she said.

The Ambassador commended achievements in the education sector in Ethiopia with 95 per cent of children enrolled in primary schools nearby.

The support from Finland also contributed to changes in the education sector as the country is sponsoring 100 Ethiopians in the fields of water, sanitation and architecture as well, she stated.

“We convened those students to discuss on possibility to promote the economic cooperation among the two countries,” ambassador Maenpaa added.

The country is also assisting Ethiopia in areas of improving the agriculture value chain and encouraging young Ethiopians to engage in innovation and entrepreneurship.

Finland is heavily investing in water supply, rural development and expansion of primary education in Ethiopia which go in line with the development programs of the Ethiopian government, she said.

The Ambassador expressed her government's interest to continue assisting efforts by the Ethiopian government to develop the nation.

The trade linkage shows that Finland imports coffee, spices and leather from Ethiopia while it exports various machineries to Ethiopia.

Ethio-Hungarian Investment & Business Forum Held

Ethiopia-Hungary Business and Investment Forum was held at the Intercontinental Hotel on April 12/2016 at which the two countries signed MOU to facilitate investment and business ties, trade and business information and encourage links between their respective business people.

The forum was attended by high level government officials, diplomats, representatives of the business sector of both countries including more than 20 Hungarian investors, and invited guests.

Opening the Forum, Foreign and Trade Minister H.E Péter Sziijártó emphasized that Hungary had recently reformed its foreign policy, giving priority to economic cooperation. He stressed that Africa was emerging and that Hungary "would like to forge trade and investment ties with this continent." He said that Ethiopia was Hungary's most important partner in Africa. It had one of the best performing economies in the world today, and Hungary had opened a trade relations' office in Addis Ababa.

Mr. Elias Geneti, President of the Addis Ababa Chamber of Commerce and Sectoral Organizations, said Ethiopia was glad to welcome the first high-level business delegation from Hungary. Ethiopia, he said, would like to build credible, valuable, and reliable business partnerships; and it was working to guarantee incoming investment on a lasting basis.

The Investment Forum included presentations on investment and trade potential and the opportunities available in a number of sessions.

Ethiopia's Investment Commissioner, Mr. Fitsum Arega, described the country's vision and the links to investment opportunities, the path to middle income status, infrastructure development, market

access, investment policies and incentives, as well as summarizing the main reasons to invest in Ethiopia.

Mr. Fitsum also elaborated on the priority sectors and the manufacturing industries currently being promoted. These included light manufacturing industries with basic and import substitution sectors as priorities. The major areas were textile and garment, leather, agro-processing, industrial park development, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, metal engineering and construction materials. The Commissioner identified the main reasons for investing in Ethiopia as its fast and sustainable economic growth and development, a stable economic and political environment, access to international markets, availability of abundant and wage-competitive labor force, fast growing infrastructure and affordable cheap green energy, as well as transparent investment policies aligned with the government's clear strategy of Growth and Development Plan II.

Economic Forecast: Ethiopia to Continue its “Rapid Growth” Trajectory

The future trajectory of Ethiopia's economic growth vis-a-vis current challenges, including the present drought, and the way ahead have been the subject of analysis from a number of different directions recently. One of the most authoritative came from Ahmed Shide, State Minister of Finance and Economic Cooperation who gave a detailed account to the Chinese news agency Xinhua why he expects Ethiopia to keep up the momentum of the rapid economic growth of the last decade for the coming years ahead.

State Minister Ahmed emphasized that Ethiopia expected to register double-digit growth for the coming year despite the impact of the drought

locally and the wider global economic problems. Speaking about the fast growth during the previous 12 years and forecasting the current year's growth, he said Ethiopia was still sustaining its rapid double-digit economic growth, and this year "we also expect a similar growth even though there might be a little impact from the drought situation as well as from the world economic situation." The State Minister Ahmed identified the reasons for expecting the country to keep up this rate of growth. He pointed out that the second Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP II), the implementation of which had already started, was designed to sustain growth and further transforming the structure of the economy.

Among other factors he listed, contributions from the smallholder agriculture sector, the Government's commitment to job creation and service delivery expansion and its public and other infrastructural investment, increasing industrialization and human skill development. This would ensure Ethiopia to keep its "momentum of growth", he stressed. Indeed, as a result of all those dimensions of development, he said "we expect similar rapid economic growth." He noted that the Government also planned to expand infrastructure investment further as well as concentrate on human skill development and institution building in order to attract foreign direct investment as well as unleash the potential of the domestic private sector.

Tourism and Culture

Ethiopia's Tourism Industry Gets Boost with New Brand



The newly defined Ethiopian brand “Ethiopia, Land of Origins” will transform Ethiopia's tourism industry into a new chapter, according to the Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

The new brand visibly proves that Ethiopia is the land of origins which represented not only itself

but also the rest of the world, said Gezahegne Abate, Public and International Relations Director with the ministry in an exclusive interview with ENA. “The brand has its logo, slogan and icons drafted in a blue background and the tree with full of green, yellow and red colors and its full root simply to show Ethiopia has its original identity and strong ties among the nations, nationalities and peoples,” Gezahegn said while explaining about the new national brand.

The country has been in search for a genuine expressive brand, the director said, mentioning further benefits of the new brand in encouraging scientists, researchers and other interested foreign visitors to discover Ethiopia and see its unique features which make it "the land of origins". The

official recalled that Ethiopia is the land of ancient civilization, the cradle of mankind, origin of coffee, rich history, culture and source of Blue Nile, among others. Ethiopia's new brand “Ethiopia, Land of Origins” was unveiled in Berlin, Germany at the International Tourism Trade Fair in March replacing the former "13 Months of Sunshine". With the dramatic increase in the flow of tourists to the country, the director has encouraged foreigners to come and witness the real reason behind the rebranding of the national slogan. According to the ministry, 478,890 tourists have visited Ethiopia during the past six months which showed increase by 108,136 visitors as compared against the performance of same period last year.

In terms of revenue over the past six months, the country secured over 1.7 billion dollars from the stated figure of visitors which also surpassed last year's performance by 404,842,160 dollars, the ministry said. The coming years will also see Ethiopia's tourism sector take a five percent share of its GDP. By the end of the second five-year Growth and Transformation Plan Period (GTP2), the country's tourism sector is expected to generate seven billion dollars. “13 Months of Sunshine, Cradle of Humanity were among the previous brands of Ethiopia which did not give a one and clear picture while the new brand well expressed all natural, cultural and historical sites, strong ties among its people and its future inclusive growth,” Gezahegn indicated.

The extraordinary achievements of ancient civilizations of Axum, the rock-hewn churches of Lalibela, the castles of Gondar, the colorful holy Islamic city of Harar are all among the World

Heritage Sites found in Ethiopia. The General Assembly of the European Council on Tourism and Trade (ECTT) has chosen Ethiopia as the number one World Best Tourist Destination and Favorite Cultural Destination for 2015.

Ethiopian Airlines celebrates 70th Anniversary



CEO of the Airline, Tewolde Gebremariam, in his welcoming speech said that in its seven decades of operation the airline became the fastest growing and profitable airline in Africa.

The airline is working to bring Africa together; closer to the world. It has expanded air connectivity with the rest of the world in the last 70 years, he said. It was noted that the airline has been a pioneer in Africa in aircraft technology.

According to information obtained from Ethiopian, the airline is a leader in the continent's air transport service by providing its customer with the first jet service in 1962, B767 in 1984, B777-200LR in 2010, and B787 Dreamliner in 2012.

Ethiopian has joined Star Alliance, the world's largest Airline network in December 2011 enabling its customers to travel comfortably in over 18,500 daily departures and 1330 destinations in 192 countries.

The airline is one of the largest airline groups in the continent both in terms of profit and branching out its services. Walta learnt that the air line plans to generate 10 billion USD in profit by 2025.

ETHIOPIA-CANADA TRADE & INVESTMENT FORUM

WEDNESDAY MAY 18, 2016

TORONTO, CANADA



Join us for a profitable day of business networking and trade and investment opportunities with leading companies from Ethiopia. The Ethiopian Embassy in Ottawa, Wafa Marketing and Promotion, On the Ground Group, Mine Africa, the Canada-Africa Chamber of Business and TFO Canada invite you to participate in The Ethiopia-Canada Trade and Investment Forum in Toronto on Wednesday May 18, 2016.

This exciting forum features forty-five leading businesses from Ethiopia and Amhara Region who will be presenting to Canadian participant's specific investment opportunities in Ethiopia as well as products available for import into Canada. Industry sectors represented include; agriculture (oilseeds, spices, coffee), commercial farming, construction, mining, hotel and tourism, manufacturing (assembly of truck body parts, packaging), etc.