



# ETHIOPIA TODAY

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## Ethiopia Becomes a Non-Permanent Member of the UN Security Council

The United Nations General Assembly elected five non-permanent members to the Security Council on June 28 at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The election provided the successful candidates, Ethiopia, Bolivia, Sweden and Kazakhstan with Italy and the Netherlands splitting the fifth seat, with a two-year mandate for membership of the Security Council commencing January 1st, 2017.



The Security Council rotates the ten non-permanent seats among the [various regional blocs](#) into which United Nation member states traditionally divide themselves for voting and

representation purposes. This year, the 193 members of United Nations General Assembly conducted the elections for five non-permanent seats. These included one seat for the African Group, one seat for the Group of Asia and the Pacific small island developing states, one seat for the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, and two seats for the Western European and Others Group. The candidates presented for the election were therefore Ethiopia and Bolivia running on a clean slate basis from the African and the Latin America and Caribbean Groups respectively; Italy, Netherlands and Sweden, competing for two seats for Western Europe and others Group; and Kazakhstan and Thailand competing for a single seat for Asia and the Pacific Group.

The number of votes Ethiopia obtained in the General Assembly was very impressive if not surprising. In fact, with 185 votes out of out of 190 members of the General Assembly, it had an extraordinary 96% support in the Assembly. Ethiopia was running uncontested for the Eastern African seat, with the full backing of the African Group, which endorsed it at the 26th Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union in January 2016. Ethiopia is, of course, one of the founding members of the United Nations and has contributed considerably to the drawing up of

the principles of the United Nations Charter. It has, however, only twice served on the Security Council before, 1967-1968 and 1989-1990. This week's elections showed the 193-member General Assembly was prepared to welcome Ethiopia back to the Security Council after 26 years of absence.

The election provided a clear indication of recognition of Ethiopia's increasing reputation for helping to maintain international peace and security. Ethiopia's participation and experience in peacekeeping in Africa also played a significant element in its successful bid. It currently provides a contingent of 8,321 personnel, both men and women, involved in UN peacekeeping duties, one of the largest in the world. In addition, Ethiopia is a founding member and host country for the African Union. In fact, Ethiopia is a major pillar in the continent's peace and security architecture. In the same way, Ethiopia has also played a significant contribution towards mediating conflict in the Horn of Africa including in South Sudan and in providing peacekeepers for AU missions.

Ethiopia's Foreign Minister, Dr. Tedros Adhanom, affirmed that Ethiopia would work for the benefit of African states and other developing countries. He stressed that it would also further strengthen its clear stand in support of ensuring global security and peace as well as preventing and eliminating terrorism during its tenure in the Security Council. The Foreign Minister said the election of Ethiopia to the Security Council demonstrated Ethiopia's success in working unreservedly to attract international cooperation and attain audibility in international fora during the past two decades. This success could be seen as directly or indirectly associated with Ethiopia's steadily growing influence in the international arena.

The five newly elected non-permanent members of the Security Council are replacing Angola, Malaysia, New Zealand, Spain and Venezuela which finish their two year terms at the end of 2016. They take their place on the Security Council along with the five permanent Security Council members, namely Britain, France, China, Russia and the United States, and the other five non-permanent members who are Egypt, Japan, Senegal, Ukraine and Uruguay. These other five non-permanent members end their term in December 2017. The new members will begin their term of office on January 1, just as the next secretary-general takes the helm following an October election to replace UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon and will last until 31 December 2018.

### **Ethiopia, EU sign Joint Declaration Towards Strategic Engagement**



The Ethiopian government and the European Commission concluded an agreement that will enable them enhance the partnership on bilateral issues to a more strategic level.

The Joint Declaration on the EU-Ethiopia Strategic Engagement, signed will become a comprehensive process of dialogue and cooperation, in different

areas and on different levels, based on common interest.

The Strategic Engagement involves annual high-level meeting at the level of foreign ministers to assess the fulfillment of the Strategic Engagement goals.

The Strategic Engagement focuses on six sectoral dialogues including regional peace and security; countering terrorism and violent radicalization; migration; social and economic development, investment and trade; governance and human rights; and climate change and environmental cooperation are the focus areas. Prime Minister Hailemariam, who attended the 10th edition of the European Development Days (EDD), and European Commission President Jean Claude Juncker signed the agreement in Brussels.

Acknowledging the crucial role played by Ethiopia in Africa and the international community, as well as its significant economic growth and progress towards MDGs, Ethiopia and the EU are willing to jointly address regional and global issues of common interest and to enhance the partnership on bilateral issues to a more strategic level.

Ethiopia and the EU look back on 40 years of bilateral relations in development cooperation, trade and economic development, consolidation of democratic institutions, regional peace and security.

The EU considers Ethiopia as one of the important partners on the African continent, active in regional peace and security amongst others in Somalia and South Sudan and as chair of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), and as the number one contributor to UN peacekeeping operations from Africa as well as on

thematic international debates such as climate change.

Ethiopia is also an increasingly important partner to EU in terms of migration, as demonstrated by the signature of a Declaration on a Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility (CAMM) in Valletta on 11 November 2015.

## **The Global Green Growth Forum 2016 Summit in Copenhagen**

The three-day Global Green Growth Forum (3GF) 2016 Summit opened in Copenhagen, Denmark on June 5/2016. The Forum brought together governments, businesses, investors and international organizations to act together for the implementation of inclusive green growth. This year's Summit has been designed specifically to follow-up on the Paris Climate Agreement of December last year, and the Agreement on UN's Sustainable Development Goals reached at the UN in September 2015.

The Global Green Growth Forum (3GF) was initiated by the Danish government in 2011 in close collaboration with Korea and Mexico. Since then, China, Kenya, Qatar, and Ethiopia have joined the platform, and Vietnam and Chile have become official 3GF partner countries this year. The Prime Minister of Denmark invited some 250-300 leaders from corporations, governments and civil society from all over the world, including the 3GF partnership countries: China, Ethiopia, Kenya, Korea, Mexico, Qatar and Vietnam.

This year's Summit was held under the theme of "A Call to Action - Enabling Solutions at Speed and Scale." The Forum and the countries involved believe the momentum has never been greater for a "green transformation" of our world. This, of course, is only possible through a genuine

partnership between public and private sectors as this is necessary to unleash new sources of ideas, technology, and financing to allow for development solutions. The Forum is working to catalyze such game-changing public-private partnerships to accelerate this transition and bring transformative solutions to a global level.

Last year saw large-scale agenda-setting and substantial public commitment on sustainable development. There was the Agreement at the UN on the Sustainable Development Goals and the Agreement on Climate Change reached in Paris. This year, 2016, is therefore crucial in translating the promises made in 2015 into concrete actions and plans. This, indeed, is what the Global Green Growth 2016 Summit sees as its central task. Its timing was deliberately designed to maximize progress arising from last year's meetings, to try to help move the world beyond promise into positive action.

The aim of the Summit has been to provide a forum to accompany and accelerate delivery of elements to support the Sustainable Development Goals through transformational public-private partnerships. The SDGs and the climate commitments can only be successfully delivered by nations acting together and in unison. A key challenge for implementation is the need to foster solutions which link these two agendas together. So the Summit focused on elements that align with green growth drivers, so the discussions concentrated on: cities, energy, forests, water, land, sustainable production and consumption including value chains, food and hunger, and finance. It also underlined the importance of setting the right frameworks for promoting sustainable lifestyles,

making sustainable production and consumption a reality, and on financing of the green transformation.

The Global Green Growth Summits feature some of the most innovative systems thinking available, providing the outline of deliverable and transformative solutions. They offer opportunities for sharing new ideas and evidence as well as experience from partnerships. This year's Summit was no exception, underlining the critical importance of moving faster and further than ever.

The Ethiopian delegation to the Summit was led by Dr. Arkebe Oqubay, Special Adviser to Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn. Dr. Arkebe gave a statement at the opening plenary session and also took part on a conversation on "A Call to Action: A Conversation on Enabling Solutions at Speed and Scale in Ethiopia", exploring green growth in Ethiopia, and the country's experience of climate solutions in the context of mitigation and climate changes in the country. The delegation also included Shiferaw Teklemariam from the Federal Ministry of Health who participated in the sessions on "Unlocking Financial Flows for Restoration" and on "The Role of National Financing in Accelerating Green Growth", described as a session devoted to learning from the practical experiences of those who are making green growth happen on the ground. Ms. Bethlehem Tilahun Alemu, of SoleRebels took part in the plenary session on "Going Back in the Value Chain", and "In the session on "Aspirations and Opportunities for the Growing Middle Class".

# Business and Economy

## Ethio-Canadian Business Forum Held in Addis Ababa



Ethio-Canadian Business Forum jointly organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ethiopian Embassy in Canada and the Canadian Embassy in Addis Ababa, CC Africa and Global Affairs Canada was held at the Intercontinental Addis Hotel in Addis Ababa on June 16/2016.

Mr. Regasa Kefale, State Minister for Business and Diaspora Affairs at Ethiopia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs gave a keynote speech in which he noted that Ethiopia and Canada enjoyed more than half a century of historic relations. Their "golden jubilee" was colorfully celebrated in 2015, in Ethiopia as well as in Canada. Ato Ragasa further emphasized the "need to translate these links to foster Ethio-Canadian all-round cooperation and further enhance economic and business ties" between the businesses and the governments of both countries. He underlined the importance of Ethiopia and

Addis Ababa to Canadian business interests as it is "the gateway to Africa, a political capital of the continent and a member of important regional trade groupings such as the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)." In other words, he emphasized, "Ethiopia presents strong internal market opportunities to Canadian investors and businesses", in part emanating from the potential offered by the fact that Ethiopia is the second populous country in Africa. This spectacular opportunity, he added, is constantly bolstered by the various regional interconnection projects currently being undertaken.

Ambassador Birtukan Ayano, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ethiopia to Canada, remarked on the growing business and investment relation between Ethiopia and Canada. She underscored the importance of holding trade and investment forums both in Canada and Ethiopia to raise awareness among the business community that Ethiopia is ready to do business with Canada.

Ambassador Philip Baker, Canadian Ambassador to Ethiopia reiterated the importance of the event which, he said, "underscores the growing relationship between Ethiopia and Canada, through a growing partnership and cooperation on development, trade and investment." In his remarks, the Ambassador reiterated the importance of the role of trade and commerce in boosting relations between the two countries and

emphasized the way trade could be an important agent of change in empowering people.

He stated that Ethiopia was one of the largest recipients of Canada's global development assistance in various fields of cooperative intervention among which was included maternal and child health. The Ambassador underlined his appreciation of the growing and multifaceted commercial relations between Canada and Ethiopia.

Ato Abebe Ababayehu, Deputy Commissioner and Mr. Aschalew Tadesse, Promotion Clusters Team Leader at the Ethiopian Investment Commission (EIC) gave a briefing on investment opportunities in Ethiopia. This was followed by a panel discussion on the investment opportunities available in Ethiopia for foreign investors in general and Canadian investors in particular. Mr. Jean J. Gauthier, President and CEO of the Canadian Council on Africa, warmly welcomed the participants of the Forum that was being held in the "land of Sheba, the capital of Africa and in one of those African countries that has maintained a very high level of economic growth in recent years". It was also a Forum that was successfully bringing Canadian and Ethiopian businesses together, and Mr. Gauthier noted the "various opportunities and economic sectors[that] are of interest to Canadian investors: from infrastructure to transport, mining and energy, from agro-food to the traditional ICT sector."



The Ethio-Canadian Business Forum concluded finally with a closing panel discussion on the nature and type of business and investment opportunities currently present in Ethiopia for Canadian investors with an interest to do business in Ethiopia. It also provided the opportunity for networking of Ethiopian and Canadian business representatives and investors.

### **Ethiopia, the European Union Agree on Further Cooperation**

Ethiopia and the European Union have signed two agreements on June 28 that will expand their areas of cooperation. On June 28, Ethiopia and the European Investment Bank (EIB) concluded an agreement for the establishment of a European Investment Bank country office in Addis Ababa. Ambassador Teshome Toga, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ethiopia to Brussels and Pim van Ballekom, Vice-President of the European Investment Bank for African, Caribbean and Pacific States, signed the accord in Luxembourg. The deal underlined the excellent cooperation the two parties have had over the years; and the agreement will help ensure provision of a greater access to finance for both public and private institutions in Ethiopia.

During the week, the Ethiopian Investment Commission and the European Union Business Forum to Ethiopia also signed an agreement in a bid to enhance business and investment ties between Ethiopia and the EU. The Head of the EU Delegation to Ethiopia, Ambassador Chantal Hebberecht, noting that Ethiopia and the EU were key partners in trade and investment, said Ethiopia's export to the EU member states has now reached 40%, and the cumulative trade exceeded three billion Euros in the previous year. The

Ambassador said the forthcoming Ethio-EU Business Forum would be instrumental to work out ways to deal with challenges in the value chain. She said, "We should develop our public economic diplomacy. There are common issues like taxation, quota free trade and visa issues, which need urgent discussions and consultations. I hope the coming forum will pave smooth way which can enable to promote our business and investment ties." She noted that the EU delegation and the Business Forum have come up with the right business platform, adding that this will attract more European investors to Ethiopia.

Acknowledging that Ethiopia and the EU have been working together on a range of issues, particularly in areas of poverty reduction, job creation, trade and investment, Ethiopian Investment Commission Director-General, Fitsum Arega, stressed that the agreement would help in the exchange of best practices and in the transfer of technology. Noting that Ethiopia has prioritized the manufacturing sector, the Director-General added that Ethiopia wanted to penetrate further into the European markets, and he said the country looked forward to receiving further EU support for this.

### **Ethiopian Graced Africa's First Airbus A350 Reception by Breaking Guinness World Record for Largest Human Image of an Airplane**

Here is another remarkable event at Ethiopian; the fastest growing and the leading pan-African Airline has broken a Guinness World Record for making the largest ever human image of an Airplane on June 29, 2016.

The event was part of Africa's first Airbus A350 XWB delivery and 350 Ethiopian Employees have gathered at Ethiopian Maintenance hangar to create an image of the actual A350 aircraft which clearly represents an airplane consisting of a body, two wings, two engines and fins.



The event was organized in collaboration with Airbus and a team of adjudicators from World Guinness Records have thoroughly checked the final shape from the air and a photograph displaying the arrangement was submitted. They also measured the number of participants, which is the largest number of participants in the world.



Ethiopian Airlines Group CEO Ato Tewelde GebreMariam stated on the occasion, “The year 2016 has been truly exciting at Ethiopian. Along with our 70th year anniversary celebration, we received Africa’s first A350 XWB aircraft, which is our first Airbus airplane in our fleet and another significant milestone in the history of African Aviation industry. Today we are very pleased to magnify our reception ceremony with this interesting event of making the image of Africa’s first Airbus A350 XWB and registering our name in the Guinness World Records which has made this historic occasion even more special and colorful. Hence, we are celebrating being the first operator of Airbus A350 in Africa and the first in the world in its image forming. At last, I would like to thank all my colleagues and partners who made this arrangement a resounding success.”

Ethiopian Airlines has been a pioneer in Aviation technology leadership, from the jet-age in the

1960’s, its history tells of many proud firsts on the continent including introduction of this latest technology Aircraft, the Airbus A350 XWB, dubbed the “Semien Mountain”.

### **About Ethiopian:**

Ethiopian Airlines (Ethiopian) is the fastest growing Airline in Africa. In its seven decades of operations, Ethiopian has become one of the continent’s leading carriers, unrivalled in efficiency and operational success.

Ethiopian commands the lion’s share of the pan-African passenger and cargo network operating the youngest and most modern fleet to 92 international destinations across five continents. Ethiopian fleet

includes ultra-modern and environmentally friendly aircraft such as the Boeing 787, Boeing 777-300ER, Boeing 777-200LR, Boeing 777-200 Freighter, Bombardier Q-400 double cabin with an average fleet age of five years. In fact, Ethiopian is the first airline in Africa to own and operate these aircraft.

Ethiopian is currently implementing a 15-year strategic plan called Vision 2025 that will see it become the leading aviation group in Africa with seven business centers: Ethiopian Domestic and Regional Airline; Ethiopian International Passenger Airline; Ethiopian Cargo; Ethiopian MRO; Ethiopian Aviation Academy; Ethiopian In-flight Catering Services; and Ethiopian Ground Service. Ethiopian is a multi-award winning airline registering an average growth of 25% in the past seven years. – Ethiopian Airlines **29 June, 2016**