



Ethiopian News

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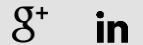
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Ethiopia at the UN

Ethiopia successfully concludes Presidency of the UN Security Council



Ethiopia concludes month-long presidency of UNSC



📷 Ambassador Tekeda Alemu with his team at the UN Headquarters

Ethiopia has concluded its presidency of the United Nations Security Council for the month of September.

A priority during its membership of the UNSC was strengthening the partnership between the UN and the African Union in the area of peace and security.

Ethiopia chaired several meetings of the Council on reform of UN peacekeeping, resolution of conflicts in Somalia, South Sudan and in the Chad Basin, along with other issues related to international peace and security.

Ethiopia also led the UNSC delegation that participated at the 11th Annual Joint Consultative Meeting with the African Union Peace and Security Council (AUPSC), which took place on 7th and 8th September at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa.

The highlight of Ethiopia's Presidency was the High-Level Open Debate on Reform of UN Peacekeeping

Operations, held on 20th September, chaired by PM Hailemariam. It focused on recommendations from the previous Secretary-General and on the reform process initiated by the current Secretary-General. All 15 UNSC countries unanimously backed the resolution on UN Peacekeeping reform, urging higher efficiency of peacekeeping operations, including more thorough planning.

Chairing the informal wrap-up session on Ethiopia's presidency, Ambassador Tekeda Alemu thanked members of the Council for their support and members discussed the month's work, including the joint annual consultation of the UNSC and AUPSC, North Korea, Peacekeeping and Counter Terrorism.

The United Nations Security Council has five permanent members – United States, United Kingdom, Russia, China and France – and 10 non-permanent members. The presidency of the Council for the month of October goes to France.

What happened during the month of September under the Ethiopian Presidency of the UN Security Council?



- ✓ High Level Open Debate attended by Heads of State and Government – Reform of UN Peacekeeping
- ✓ Two Ministerial Level Meetings of the Security Council
- ✓ UN Security Council Mission to Addis Ababa – the 11th Joint annual consultation between the UNSC and AUPSC in Addis Ababa
- ✓ Focus on Africa – Matters pertaining to Somalia, South Sudan, Darfur, Mali, Lake Chad, Guinea Bissau and Libya
- ✓ Urgent and Topical Issues - Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Myanmar
- ✓ Thematic Issues - Peacekeeping, AU-UN partnership, reform of PSC Architecture, Non-proliferation, Counter-terrorism
- ✓ Six Resolutions and one Presidential Statement adopted

Resolutions & Presidential Statements adopted by the Security Council under Ethiopia's Presidency

- 1.** 21st September - Threats to international peace and security - S/RES/2379 (2017)
- 2.** 20th September – Reform of UN peacekeeping operations - S/RES/2378 (2017) – this was proposed by Ethiopia and co-sponsored by 61 Member States including the fifteen members of the Security Council
- 3.** 14th September - Approving the size, operational aspects and mandate of the UN Verification Mission in Colombia - S/RES/2377 (2017)
- 4.** 14th September - The situation in Libya - S/RES/2376 (2017)
- 5.** 13th September - The situation in Guinea-Bissau - S/PRST/2017/17
- 6.** 11th September - Non-proliferation/Democratic People's Republic of Korea - S/RES/2375 (2017)
- 7.** 5th September 2017 - The situation in Mali - S/RES/2374 (2017)

HIGHLIGHTS OF ETHIOPIA AT THE UN

PM Hailemariam calls for decisive action to combat climate change



Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn addressed the UN General Assembly on 22nd September, calling for decisive action by the international community to combat the adverse impacts of climate change. Like many other countries, Ethiopia is dealing daily with the adverse impacts of climate change, the PM said. Now is not the time to doubt the devastating impacts of climate change while millions of our fellow humans are losing their lives and their hard-won development achievements...It is high time to act – and act urgently and decisively,” he added.

Read the Prime Minister's full speech via our website <https://goo.gl/Q2tF4C>

...highlights Ethiopia's contribution to UN Peacekeeping

PM Hailemariam led the UNSC high-level open debate on the “Reform of UN peacekeeping: implementation and follow-up” on 20th September.

The Council heard briefings from Secretary-General António Guterres, Moussa Faki Mahamat, the Chairperson of the AU Commission, and José Ramos-Hortaa, Chair of the High-Level Panel on the Review of Peace Operations (HIPPO).

Following the briefings, the Security Council adopted the resolution on peacekeeping reforms, tabled by Ethiopia, which was backed by all 15 countries.

PM Hailemariam highlighted Ethiopia's contribution to UN Peacekeeping, emphasizing the role of the Council in strengthening UN peacekeeping operations. He stressed the need to receive the necessary capabilities for peacekeepers to carry out their mandate and protect civilians. He welcomed the adoption of the resolution and thanked all members for their inputs.



The adoption of the resolution has particular significance for Ethiopia as one of the leading troop-contributing countries to Peacekeeping Operations.

Read more at <https://goo.gl/Ljk151>

Dr Workneh chairs UN meeting on Threats to International Peace and Security



On 21st September, the UNSC unanimously adopted a resolution on an Investigative Team for ISIL Crimes in Iraq.

Chairing the meeting, Dr Workneh Gebeyehu told the Council that Ethiopia will never forget the loss of its compatriots who were mercilessly massacred by ISIL/Daesh in Libya.

Resolution 2379 (2017), calls on the Secretary-General to establish an Investigative Team to support domestic efforts to hold the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Da'esh) accountable. The Investigative Team will collect, preserve and store evidence in Iraq of acts that may amount to war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide committed by ISIL/Da'esh in Iraq.

Read Dr Workneh's full statement at <https://goo.gl/6fXQmw>.

Ambassador Tekeda briefs Security Council on mission to Ethiopia

Ambassador Tekeda Alemu, Ethiopia's Permanent Representative to the UN and President of the UNSC for September, briefed members on the successful conduct of the Council's eleventh joint consultative meeting with the African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council held in Addis Ababa from 5th – 9th September.



The meeting was aimed at strengthening partnership and enhancing cooperation between the UN and AU in the areas of peace and security. and covered three country specific and regional issues, namely: the situations in Somalia, South Sudan, and Lake Chad Basin.

Read the Ambassador's full briefing via our website at <https://goo.gl/oXu311>.

ON THE UN SIDELINES...

Ethiopia working with UK to tackle slavery

On 19th September, PM Hailemariam attended an event on tackling modern slavery, hosted by Prime Minister Theresa May.

37 Member States, including Ethiopia, endorsed the UK's Call to Action to end Forced Labour, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking.



PM May announced new domestic measures and an investment of £20 million in the new Global Fund to End Modern Slavery. The UK will double its development spending on combatting modern slavery to £150 million, enabling more collaboration with source and transit countries.

...High-level Meeting on Somalia

A High-Level Meeting on Somalia was co-hosted by Somalia, Ethiopia, Italy and the United Kingdom on 21st September. The Meeting was attended by the UN Secretary General, African Union Commissioner, the IGAD Executive Secretary and the EU High Representative and Vice President plus 27 other international partners. Ethiopia was represented by State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mrs Hirut Zemene while the UK was represented by the Minister for Africa, Rory Stewart MP.

The meeting provided an opportunity to consider progress and challenges in two key areas of political reform and economic recovery in Somalia and keep Somalia on the international agenda and mobilize international support for the country's peace-building and post-conflict recovery efforts.

Participants affirmed strong interlinkages between these issues and Somalia's security and stability. It was highlighted that progress on security will be essential to enable political and economic progress and participants stressed that this remains a top priority, requiring Somali commitment on security sector reform and international support.



Participants expressed particular appreciation for AMISOM's vital work in enabling security and stability, key to laying the foundations for a staged transfer of security responsibility to Somali institutions and forces. They acknowledged the urgent need for sustainable and predictable funding for AMISOM.

Ethiopia's state Minister for Foreign Affairs Mrs Hirut Zemene acknowledged the importance of support to the Somali government for the implementation of economic recovery. She also highlighted the importance for Somalia of increasing its domestic revenues in order to independently finance core government functions and accelerate provision of basic services.

The State Minister and other participants noted that Somalia is taking important steps in the areas of economic and public financial management reform and welcomed the passage of the anti-corruption bill by the Council of Ministers. They highlighted the need for continued progress in these areas in order to tackle corruption, attract investment, and help advance Somalia along the path towards International Financial Institutions normalisation. Substantial investments in Somalia were also underlined as the most important element to support economic recovery and to rebuild the country's physical infrastructure.

PM Hailemariam co-chairs meeting in support of Every Woman Every Child

PM Hailemariam attended a meeting of the High-level Steering Group for Every Woman Every Child, on the margins of the UN Assembly's annual debate.

The Prime Minister joined H.E. Mr Jakaya Kikwete, former President of the Republic of Tanzania, to facilitate the discussion.

As Senior Co-Chair of the Steering Group, the UN Secretary-General, Mr António Guterres, chaired the meeting and provided opening remarks, noting the value of Every Woman Every Child in an evolving sustainable development era.



Secretary-General António Guterres (centre right), Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, President of the United Republic of Tanzania right, and left, Tarja Halonen, Former President of Finland.

Members of the Steering Group heard Secretary-General Guterres' vision for Every Woman Every Child. In the discussion, members highlighted targeted opportunities to advance implementation of the EWEC Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health, at regional and country-level to support government-led priorities.

...meets with Bill Gates

PM Hailemariam held a meeting with Bill Gates, founder of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, aimed at facilitating the joint review and planning of the **Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)**, with a focus on the implementation of the 2014 AU Malabo Declaration for agricultural transformation on the African continent.

During the meeting, Mr Gates informed the PM of his plan to introduce an African Agricultural Score Card at AUC in order to track and evaluate the performance of member states and identify gaps to help his foundation mobilize adequate resources to support CAADP implementation and achieve the Malabo Declaration, in line with the principles of Africa's Agenda 2063.

PM Hailemariam assured Mr Gates of his readiness to support the initiative and also share Ethiopia's experience, as Africa needs African solutions, reaffirming support of the AU Agenda 2063, which calls for an Africa whose development is people driven and hinged on the potential of its own people, especially its women and youth.

...addresses high-level meeting on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

PM Hailemariam reaffirmed Ethiopia's commitment to the UN Zero-Tolerance Policy on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, during a high-level meeting at the UN Headquarters on 18th September.



UN Secretary-General António Guterres, who convened the meeting, called on the world to stand in solidarity to condemn sexual exploitation and abuse as he detailed the key initiatives at the heart of his victim-centred approach to address the scourge across the UN system.

Read PM Hailemariam's full remarks at <https://goo.gl/rF8ux6>.

LOCAL NEWS

Ethiopia to launch school health programme

Ethiopia is set to launch a school health programme to create a 'health conscious' generation.



The programme will start in 200 pilot schools in the Amhara and Tigray regional states, then Oromia and SNNP regional states, to help expand health services in an equitable manner and make schools part of the effort towards alleviating health problems.

The Ministry of Health said training will be provided for health extension workers, teachers and experts at the zonal and *woreda* level.

The school health programme will run until 2020 E.C. [2027], with a total budget of 11.7 billion Birr (about \$502 million).

15-year National Adaptation Plan launched to address Climate Change

Ethiopia has launched a fifteen-year National Adaptation Plan (NAP-ETH) to address the adverse consequences of climate change.

The Plan will focus on agriculture, forestry, health, transport, power, industry, water and urban sectors that are identified as most vulnerable, and will cost \$6 billion a year.

Within these sectors, 18 adaptation options have been identified for implementation at all levels and across different development sectors, recognising the considerable diversity in context and vulnerability across Ethiopia's regions and social groups.

Speaking during the launch, State Minister at the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Kare Chawicha, said Ethiopia has been implementing its Climate-Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) on mitigation since 2010, but the adaptation component was not complete, so it is “high time for a comprehensive and long-term adaptation plan for the country.”



MoEFCC Climate Change Advisor, Asrat Yirgu said the NAP-ETH was developed in accordance with the Cancun Adaptation Framework of 2010, which aims to enhance national and international action on adaptation.

He said “Ethiopia’s NAP initiative is part of its grand action to mainstream climate change mitigation and adaptation into its national development plans, especially its Growth and Transformation Plan.”

The annual \$6 billion funding for the plan will be raised from public and private financing sources, both domestic and international.

Disability advocate Yetnebersh Nigussie receives Right Livelihood Award

Yetnebersh Nigussie, an Ethiopian disability advocate and lawyer, was among the Laureates of this year’s Right Livelihood Award, widely known as the ‘Alternative Nobel Prize’.

She was recognised by the Jury “for her inspiring work promoting the rights and inclusion of people with disabilities, allowing them to realise their full potential and changing mindsets in our societies”.

She said: “It is an absolute honour to receive the prestigious Right Livelihood Award, which provides welcome fuel to the disability and development community’s ongoing call for inclusion and full

participation of people with disabilities in all spheres of life.”

Speaking to BBC Focus on Africa Radio, Yetnebersh said, I feel so proud that my little contribution towards changing mindsets is recognised as a global solution. I have advocated throughout my life, starting as a music performer in my school days - telling people that my disability is not my inability.”



She went blind at age five. Her parents enrolled her at the Catholic boarding school for girls with disabilities in Addis Ababa where her life changed for the better. Education was her turning point.

She was one of three women to study law at Addis Ababa University in 2002 where she transcribed audio recordings of her legal books into braille throughout her five-year degree.

Among the first three blind women who went to law school, she helped establish the Center for Students with Disabilities at Addis Ababa University and the Ethiopian Center for Disability and Development (ECDD).

TRADE & INVESTMENT

Ethiopian economy - strong resilience: IMF

An International Monetary Fund (IMF) staff team led by Mr Julio Escolano visited Addis Ababa from 13th -16th September to conduct the 2017 Article IV consultation discussions with Ethiopia.

At the conclusion of the visit, Mr Escolano said in a statement that “The Ethiopian economy showed

strong resilience in 2016/17 amid continued weak global prices for Ethiopia's key exports and re-emergence of drought conditions in parts of the country. Real gross domestic product (GDP) is estimated to have increased by 9% in 2016/17. Government interventions to mitigate the social impact of the drought, in collaboration with development partners, were timely and effective, thus limiting its human cost. Prudent budget execution led to a lower-than-planned fiscal deficit, estimated at 2.5%. Determined actions by the authorities to contain external imbalances led to a narrowing of the current account deficit, and restrained debt accumulation.

"Medium-term growth prospects are favourable, supported by strong private investment, completion of key supporting infrastructure projects, and rising productivity as export-oriented industries take root.

The IMF staff team had the opportunity to present its key findings and recommendations to PM Hailemariam who said the IMF's findings coincide with the government's agenda and that in order to strengthen the export sector, the government has been building industrial parks and taken more measures to create a favourable investment climate for local and foreign direct investments.

British trade, investment envoy in debut visit

The British Prime Minister's newly appointed trade and investment envoy to Ethiopia, Mr Jeremy Lefroy MP, made his first official visit to Ethiopia from 21st – 22nd September.



On assuming his role, Mr Lefroy said:

"It is a great honour to have been appointed. Ethiopia is a beautiful country whose people have a proud history and bright future. As well as being Africa's pre-eminent coffee producer and a wonderful country for visitors, it is investing in modern manufacturing enterprises and the infrastructure to support them...The election of former health minister Dr Tedros as Secretary General of the WHO also shows Ethiopia's contribution to and influence in global health. I look forward to working with UK and Ethiopian businesses to expand trade between our two countries."

Mr Lefroy met senior Government officials from the Ministries of Finance, Water, Irrigation & Electricity and Communications & Information Technology and called in on the Commissioner of the Ethiopian Investment Commission, the Ethiopian Railway Commission and the Commodities Exchange. He discussed areas where the UK and Ethiopia can deepen their trade and investment relationship. A reception with the British Investors' Group and a visit to Unilever's new factory, gave an insight into the country's growing manufacturing sector.

He said:

"Ethiopia is a frontier economy with one of the world's fastest growth rates, it has one of the highest investment rates in the world, with the world's lowest energy price. Its infrastructure programme is of considerable interest and I welcome that Ethiopia wants to develop the trade and investment relationship with the UK. I hope that I can help deliver jobs and growth for Ethiopia, while building a commercial relationship which sees UK firms invest, grow and build export success in Ethiopia."

British Ambassador HE Ms Susanna Moorehead said "I am delighted that the new Trade Envoy Jeremy Lefroy MP is visiting Ethiopia, [the first visit by a newly appointed trade envoy anywhere in the world]. His appointment reaffirms the UK's commitment, set out by Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson during his visit earlier this year, to

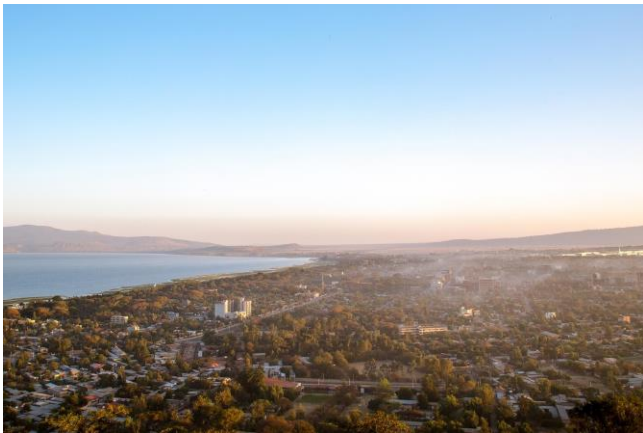
strengthen our trade and investment relationship with Ethiopia. I am confident that with Jeremy's support the UK-Ethiopia trade and investment relationship will reach new heights."

Bilateral trade in goods between the UK and Ethiopia has already grown by 84% in the past five years. The recent Ethiopian Airlines £1.2 billion order from UK manufacturer Rolls Royce for ten A350 engines and maintenance and repair services demonstrates the growth potential, if it is supported by a concerted effort from both sides.

U.K. firm Diageo's \$339m investment to acquire Meta Abo Brewery allowed for a new expansion project to increase the capacity of the facility. A number of British firms have also invested in mining, consumer goods, processed food and the leather industry. There is significant UK investment in renewable energy and growing UK commercial interest to invest in the infrastructure, manufacturing and consumer goods sectors.

Hawassa top city for FDI jobs

According to fDi Intelligence, Ethiopia's Hawassa is the top city for Foreign Direct Investment jobs in the Middle East and Africa.



Hawassa city skyline

6,546 FDI jobs were created in the first half of 2017, the most in the region. Dubai came second with 4,600 jobs created, while Jerusalem created 3,498.

The Hawassa industrial park, launched earlier this year, helped the town to create more jobs.



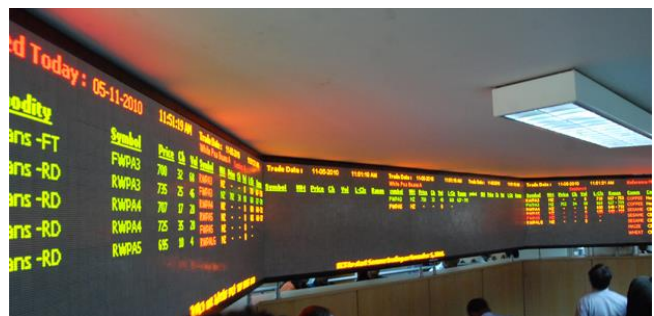
Hawassa Industrial Park

The largest apparel and textile park in Africa, it will employ up to 60,000 Ethiopians when fully operational and generate one billion U.S. dollars annually. It was built in just under a year and has attracted various world-class textile and apparel companies to Ethiopia like H&M, Guess and J. Crew.

Ethiopia's second Growth and Transformation Plan will transform the industrial sector by building more Industrial Parks and new Integrated Agro-Industrial Parks around the country.

With seven industrial parks currently in operation, Ethiopia plans to increase the number of industrial parks to 15 by June 2018 as part of its efforts to boost manufacturing and exports, creating hundreds of thousands of jobs in the process. This will contribute significantly to the development of an industrial-led manufacturing sector.

ECX trades \$73ml of commodities in August



The Ethiopia Commodity Exchange (ECX) traded 1.7 billion birr's (approximately \$73 million) worth of commodities in August.

33,528 tonnes of coffee, sesame and beans were traded with the lion's share going to coffee at 1.4

billion Birr (approximately \$60million) and sesame 303 million birr (approximately \$13 million).

The volume of coffee exported in August surpassed the same period the previous year by 66%.

Ethiopia among top 5 African countries to invest in

Ethiopia has moved up a notch in its investment attractiveness according to the latest report by Rand Merchant Bank (RMB), *Where to Invest in Africa 2018*.

Ethiopia overtook Ghana to take fourth spot, up three places from last year's report, mostly due to rapid economic growth, having brushed past Kenya as the largest economy in East Africa.

This report follows the 2017 *World Investment Report* that also puts Ethiopia among the top five recipients of Foreign Direct Investment in Africa. Similarly, World Bank's *Global Economic Prospects* said Ethiopia will be the fastest growing economy in Africa for the year 2017, with projected growth of 8.3%.

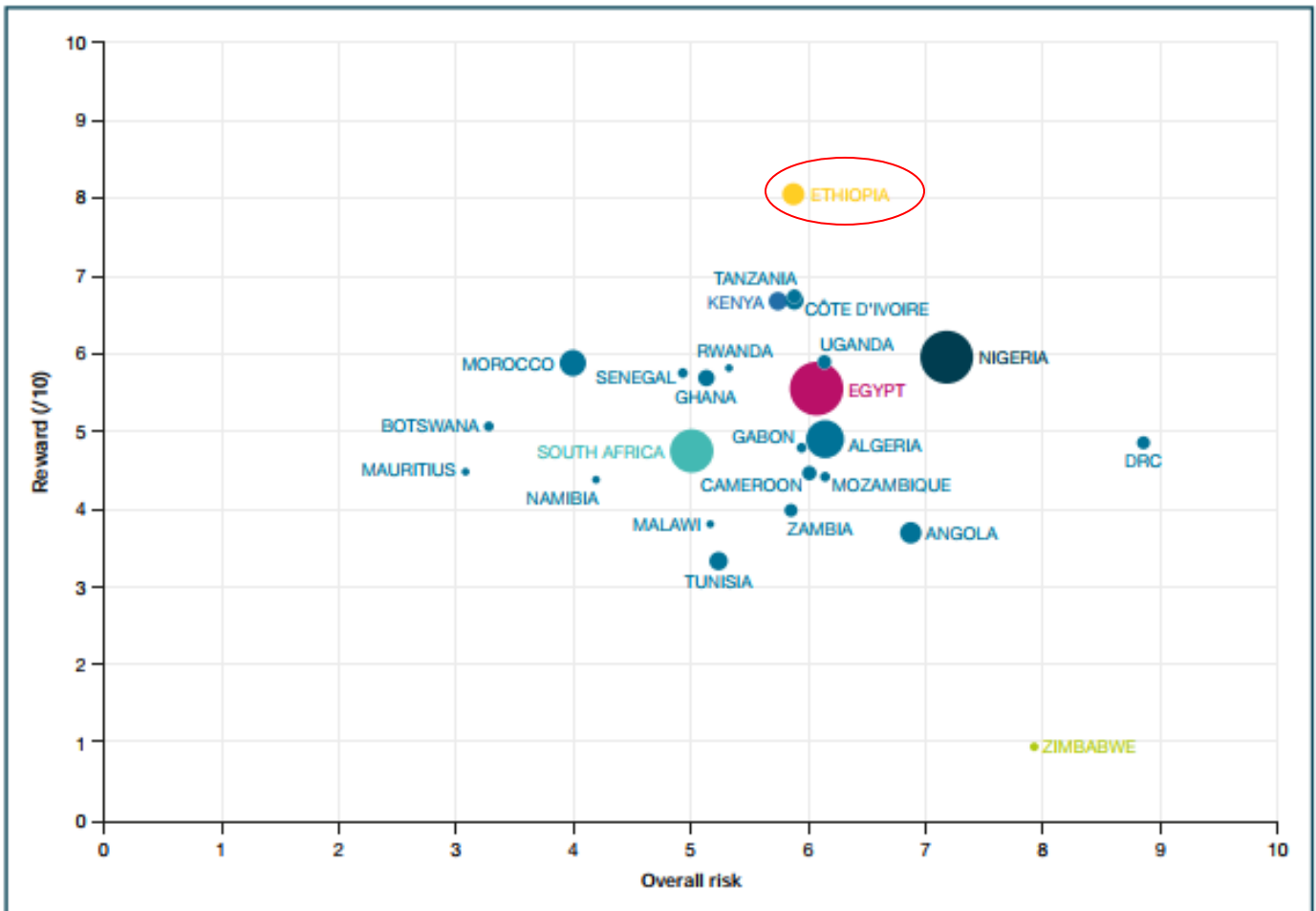
Ethiopia to outshine Egypt, South Africa in competition for investment

According to the new *Africa Risk-Reward Index* by Control Risks in cooperation with Oxford Economics, Ethiopia and Kenya might soon outshine Egypt, Nigeria and South Africa in the competition for investment.

Whilst South Africa enjoys a deserved reputation as Africa's pre-eminent constitutional democracy, several of its key institutions have gradually weakened over the past decade, says the study.

Ethiopia outperforms every African peer with its high reward score of 8.0. Notably, it attracted \$3.2bn of foreign direct investment in 2016 – more even than Nigeria, and double the figure for Morocco, the report said.

Ethiopia is one of Africa's fastest growing economies and continues to offer strong prospects. Growth averaged 10% from 2010 to 2015 and although 2016 growth was slower at 6.5% the expansion remains impressive.



TRAVEL & TOURISM

Discover Meskerem: Ethiopia's Festival Season

Meskerem, the first of the thirteen months which comprise the Ethiopian calendar, is quickly gaining traction as an idyllic time to visit the Land of Origins.



Meskerem falls between September 11th and October 10th (Gregorian Calendar), and represents the start of the new year in Ethiopia, symbolising an exciting time of change, thanksgiving and renewal, with the celebration of a series of cultural and religious festivals throughout the month, *Meskerem* is attracting a growing number of tourists.

The month kicks off with new year's celebrations, known as *Enqutatash*, which dates back 3,000 years. Ancient lore points to the story of the Queen of Sheba and King Solomon as the origins of these unique celebrations. Roughly translated as "a gift of jewels", the term references the reception the Queen received from her subjects following her fabled trip to Jerusalem – they regaled her with jewels to commemorate her journey to and return from the court of King Solomon. Today, these traditions continue with children receiving gifts of money or loaves from their elders and families coming together to celebrate the end of one year and the beginning of the next.

The festivities are captured by an excerpt from the poem '*Enkutatash*' by Misrak Terefe:

**"... enkutatash – for you – to bloom
we bake the bread. We spread the
grass as carpets, flat, we burn the
incense, add the plates, the blessed,
to celebrate – to celebrate the change.
Enkutatash, if you come – then
change, then change us too..."**

Misrak Terefe, translated from Amharic by Rike Scheffler

New year represents a time of renewal, as the rainy season subsides leaving behind lush fields blooming with yellow flowers known as the *Adey Abeba* (*Bidens macroptera*) which adorn the homes of many Ethiopians throughout *Meskerem*, and symbolise the spirit of peace, hope and love which arrives with a new year. Complementary themes of peace, reconciliation and thanksgiving are also the

foundations of the celebrations of the *Meskel* and *Irreecha* festivals held later in the month.

Meskel, a UNESCO-inscribed intangible cultural heritage, is celebrated by Ethiopian Orthodox Christians on *Meskerem 17* and commemorates the unearthing of the True Holy Cross of Christ. It is the most prominent of these nationwide festivities and is celebrated in the historic *Meskel* Square in Addis Ababa, where tens of thousands gather to watch the Orthodox processions and the burning of a gigantic *demera* bonfire.



Meskel in Addis Ababa

During *Meskel*, believers are urged to resolve the quarrels and disagreements of the past by promoting peace and reconciliation within their communities and renewing their social bonds to one another.

Similarly, the week-long *Irreecha* cultural festival celebrated by the Oromo people at the end of the month, commemorates the beginning of Spring as a time of reconciliation, unity and thanksgiving. The festival culminates with thanksgiving celebrations at Lake Hora Arsadii, outside Bishoftu city in the Oromia Regional State. *Irreecha* celebrations attract tens of thousands and are officiated by elders from across the region who bless participants and promote the culture's ethics of respect, peace and reconciliation. Closely associated with the UNESCO-inscribed *Gadaa* system, a traditional system of governance practiced by the Oromo, the festival connects participants to the past, through the upholding of their ancestral traditions, and to the future, through their prayers and hopes for an abundant spring harvest.



Contrary to last year, this year *Irreecha* was peacefully celebrated on the banks of Lake Hora Arsadii by people from across the region. Led by community elders, the festivities passed without incident and saw participants express their gratitude for the blessings of the previous year while renewing their hopes for peace, unity and abundance going forward.

Meskerem has always represented an excellent time to visit Ethiopia and surely stands alone as the perfect time to discover all that the Land of Origins has to offer.

e-Visa service extended to meeting, conference participants



The Ethiopian Immigration and Nationality Affairs Main Department, in collaboration with Ethiopian Airlines, has launched an e-Visa service for African and international individuals travelling to Ethiopia to take part in meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions (MICE).

Effective from 20th September, participants will be able to obtain their conference visa as well as book, pay and check-in for their flight with Ethiopian, all online.

At the launch, Group CEO of Ethiopian Airlines, Mr Tewolde GebreMariam said, "With the immense potential for conference tourism, Ethiopia still has a lot to do to tap into the sector and the launching of an e-visa service for MICE will help."

Gebreyohannes Teklu, Director Main Department for Immigration and Nationality Affairs, said, "The introduction of e-visa for MICE will provide travelers with a convenient way to apply for a visa and initiate their travel to Ethiopia while ensuring absolute security of sensitive information. This is an important milestone for Ethiopia being capital of Africa to serve various African MICE."

For eligibility and to apply for your e-conference visa, visit the Main Department of Immigration and Nationality Affairs website at www.evisa.gov.et.

International hotel brands expand in Ethiopia

...Hyatt to open first hotel in Addis



Hyatt Hotels and Resorts is set to double its presence in Africa with six new hotels expected to open by 2020.

The company will open its first hotel in Addis Ababa in the Summer of 2018.

Hyatt Regency Addis Ababa will feature 180 rooms and be situated ideally for business travellers in the central Kirkos district, at the heart of Africa's fourth largest city. This will offer excellent access to some of Addis Ababa's most significant destinations, including Meskel Square, the National Palace, the UNECA Conference Centre and the African Union headquarters. The lively Mercato district, Africa's largest open market and home to the largest mosque in Ethiopia, will be easily reached from the hotel, and the airport will be a short 5.5 km trip away.

...Carlson Rezidor Group to open new hotels in Addis and Bishoftu

Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group, one of the fastest growing hotel companies in the world, is expanding its operation in Ethiopia by adding two new hotels in Addis Ababa and in the nearby town of Bishoftu, previously known as Debre Zeyit. It has signed agreements to open a Radisson Blu in Bishoftu and the first Park Inn by Radisson in the capital city, Addis Ababa. Carlson already operates Radisson Blu in Addis Ababa which opened in 2011.

Radisson Blu Hotel will be located on Lake Babogaya in Bishoftu, which is a popular MICE and leisure destination.

 "Radisson Blu Hotel, Bishoftu is a great addition to our Ethiopian portfolio as we expand outside of the capital city," said Andrew McLachlan, Senior Vice President of Business Development, Africa & Indian Ocean for the Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group. "The hotel will be the first internationally branded hotel with the largest

meeting and events center in Ethiopia, outside of Addis Ababa."



Radisson Blu Bishoftu

Opening in 2020, the 152-room Radisson Blu Bishoftu hotel will have a specialty restaurant and pool bar on the terrace, offering picturesque lake views. The 1,045 sqm meeting and events spaces will include a state-of-the-art ballroom and six contemporary meeting rooms.



The Park Inn hotel in Addis Ababa, will have 160 rooms and offer a mixture of standard rooms and suites. It will also feature Park Inn by Radisson's signature all-day dining restaurant and lobby bar. The Smart Meetings and Events area will comprise six modern and fully-equipped meeting rooms. Both hotels will offer a luxurious spa and well-equipped gym.

Addis Ababa is referred to as "the political capital of Africa", due to its historical, diplomatic and political significance for the continent. It is where the African Union hosts the headquarters of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and numerous other continental and international organizations. It also houses the third largest concentration of embassies in the world.

"We are delighted to bring our colorful midscale hotel brand to Ethiopia. The country has prepared a five-year strategic plan with a vision to become one of the top five African tourist destination countries in the coming years. With the addition of the Park

Inn by Radisson Addis Ababa and our aggressive growth in this country, we will most certainly be positively contributing to achieving this goal," added Younes.

...Marriott strengthens presence in Ethiopia



From the Africa Hotel Investment Forum (AHIF) in Kigali, Rwanda, Marriott International announced further expansion plans in Africa with **seven** new hotel signings. Marriott International was the first global chain to make a significant investment in Africa with the acquisition of Protea Hotels for \$210 million in 2014. The company is targeting over 200 hotels with 37,000 rooms open or in the pipeline by 2022, equating to around \$8.5 billion of capital investment by its real estate partners, reinforcing its continued commitment to expansion in Africa and solidifying its leadership on the continent. The investment is expected to generate substantial economic activity and around 50,000 direct and indirect jobs once the hotels open.

The 165-room Protea Hotel by Marriot in Addis Ababa is projected to open in 2021 and will be located on Churchill Avenue, marking the debut of the brand into Ethiopia. The hotel will offer a specialty restaurant, a lobby bar and lounge and meeting facilities as well as a fitness centre and spa.

Ethiopian voted 2017 Middle East and Africa Airline of the Year

Ethiopian Airlines Group, the largest Group in Africa, has been voted **Middle East and Africa Airline of the Year 2017** by *Airline Economics*, the largest aviation finance and leasing print publication in the world, outperforming major airlines in their category.

Group CEO of Ethiopian Airlines, Tewolde GebreMariam, said; "It is a tremendous honour to be recognized as Airline of the Year.. through a vote of the readers of one of the most renowned aviation

magazines. Our success has gradually started to position us in a leadership position outside the continent of Africa. We are working together to build one of the best Global Aviation Groups by scaling up the unmatched and seamless connectivity of networks between the Continent of Africa and the rest of the world with more than 100 international destinations operated by the most modern fleet (less than 5 years old on average). Ethiopian Airlines Group is among the very few airlines in the world which has shown leadership in purchasing both of the most technologically advanced airplanes in the world today - the B-787 Dreamliner and the Airbus A-350.



Mr Tewolde GebreMariam receiving the award from Philip Tozer-Pennington (left)

Philip Tozer-Pennington, Managing Director of Airline Economics and Aviation News Ltd, who presented the awards on the night, commented; "Ethiopian Airlines is both an African and an International Airline success story and is the clear winner of the industry vote for the best performing airline in the MEA region over the past 12 months and I wish to congratulate Ethiopian Airlines on this remarkable success."

Ethiopian is a multi-award winning airline: SKYTRAX World Airline Award for **Best Airline in Africa, Best Airline Staff in Africa**; AFRAA- **Best Airline in Africa** – 5 years in a row, **Best Airline to Africa**, for a second year in a row, **Best Airline in Africa** by US Premier Traveler magazine; Bombardier's **Airline Reliability Performance Award** for the 6th Year in a Row; Passenger Choice Awards for **Best Airline in Africa** for the third time in a row; **Outstanding Food Service by a Carrier in Africa** by Pax International Magazine.

...Ethiopian Goes Green

Flying with Ethiopian Airlines, has just got greener after it announced that it has fully digitalized all its business processes – from aircraft maintenance and human resource management all the way to customer services.

As of 28th September, the use of paper has been removed from the entire system.



Tewolde GebreMariam, CEO, signing his last paper approval and below the Executive managements at the paper burning ceremony



Group CEO Ethiopian Airlines, Mr Tewolde GebreMariam, said; “Although we started the digitization project in the last few years, today marks an important milestone in our history as we are removing paper from our entire business processes. ICT will enable us to deliver customized global standard customer services as per the preferences of each customer.

We are living in the fourth industrial Revolution which is fundamentally different from the previous industrial revolutions especially in the speed of change and disruptions and our continued success

depends on our strategic response and our abilities to adapt to the velocity, breadth and depth and scale of the quantum changes coming our way. To this effect, we have embedded digitization in our organizational operating system with our valued customers in our mind.”

Ethiopian operates the youngest, latest aviation technology and most environmental friendly fleets with less carbon emission to the environment.

SPORTS

Record 48,000 registered for Great Ethiopian Run



A record number of runners have registered for this year’s Great Ethiopian Run set for 26th November.

44,000 adult and 4,000 child runners have registered for the race, which will feature a 10-day exhibition.

The 10 kms Great Ethiopian Run, the largest road race in Africa, was started in 2001 by Ethiopian running legend Haile Gebrselassie as part of his efforts to turn running from an elite sport into a hobby for all - the race promotes healthy lifestyle and running among the Ethiopian public.

Muktar Edris secures hat-trick in Italy, leading an Ethiopian sweep

Following his victories in 2014 and 2015, world 5000m champion Muktar Edris won the Giro al Sas International 10km Road Race in Trento, Italy for the third time in his career, edging fellow Ethiopian Telahun Haile by just one second in 28:54.

Yasin Haji completed the Ethiopian sweep by finishing third.

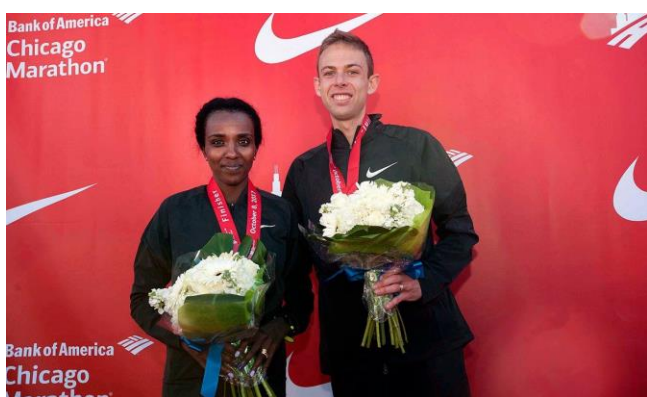
“The training at altitude has paid off,” said Edris. “My form is improving day after day. The world title has changed my life. It’s important to keep my feet on the ground and continue working hard. I made my family and my country proud.



“Winning in Trento for the third time in my career means a lot,” he added. “Everyone expects me to win every time I compete here. It’s always nice to run in Trento in front of such great fans.”

The Queen of distance running, Tirunesh Dibaba, reigns at Chicago Marathon

Tirunesh Dibaba, the queen of distance running, reigned at the Bank of America Chicago Marathon in her first marathon win!



Tirunesh with Galen Rupp, who became the first American man to win the Chicago Marathon since 2002

The three-time Olympic gold medalist turned in the second fastest time in Chicago Marathon history with 2:18:31, and the third fastest time in the world this year.

...Guye Adola gets silver in Berlin Marathon debut

This year’s Berlin Marathon was hotly anticipated with a star line up which included three of the distance’s five fastest men, including Ethiopia’s Kenenisa Bekele, the second fastest marathoner of all-time and the most successful long-distance track runner in history.

In the end, Kenya’s Eliud Kipchoge won the race in 2 hours, 3 minutes and 34 seconds, missing his bid to break the world record. But it was Guye Adola’s moment of national pride after finishing second in his marathon debut. Compatriot Mosinet Geremew finished 3rd.



In the women's race, Kenya's Gladys Cherono won for the second time, in 2:20:23 with Ethiopia's Ruti Aga finishing second.

Tsgabu Grmay joins US cycling team, Trek



Ethiopian climber **Tsgabu Grmay** has joined American Pro-cycling team **Trek-Segafredo** for 2018.

Twenty-six-year-old Grmay, who joins from Bahrain-Merida, is the current Ethiopian Time Trial champion and has ridden five Grand Tours including the last two Tours de France.

Grmay said “I’m very happy about this move. Trek-Segafredo really stood out for me because they offer very professional guidance for their athletes. I am confident that within this team I can continue my development as a rider in the best circumstances.”

“I really like stage races because they suit me better than one-day races. Of course, it would be a dream come true if one day I could win a stage there. But let’s take it step by step. I want to keep learning and improving and will give it my all, and who knows, maybe one day, achieve that ultimate goal. In the meantime, I will honour my jersey, my team and my country. Being the first Ethiopian rider ever who turned pro [in 2012], I feel the support of the whole country standing behind me and that gives me the strength to keep going until the bitter end.”

ETHIOPIA IN THE NEWS

Hyena People of Ethiopia



In the final episode of **Tribes, Predators and Me**, renowned Scottish wildlife cameraman, Gordon Buchanan, journeys across Ethiopia to reveal the curious and complex relationship its people have with hyenas.



Most fearsome predators are revered, but the hyena is reviled. However, this is not the case in some parts of Ethiopia. Ethiopia has more hyenas than anywhere else in the world, and Gordon wants to find out why.

Gordon starts his journey in Addis Ababa, where it is believed that hyenas are tolerated because people believe they ward off the devil.

In the remote Omo Valle, the cattle-herding Bodi people see hyenas as a cunning and respected enemy.

Gordon finishes off in Harar, a medieval walled city, where people have lived alongside hyenas for centuries, previously filmed by the BBC cameras for Planet Earth II. There he meets the experts, [the hyena men of Harar] who rehabilitate orphaned hyenas.

12 of the world’s most incredible buildings, from castles to cathedrals



From Ethiopia's ancient rock churches to Indian palaces, these are the impressive buildings that travel bloggers think you should explore and admire...

4: Church of St. George, Lalibela, Ethiopia

"The 12th century rock-hewn, cross-shaped Church of St. George in Lalibela, Ethiopia is one of the most remarkable buildings we’ve ever seen.



King Lalibela’s vision was to build a New Jerusalem after it became too dangerous for Ethiopian Christians to make the pilgrimage to Jerusalem itself. To protect this place, he carved the churches top-down from a single piece of solid rock below ground, so that invaders could not see them from afar. Once the rough shape of the structure was

carved away from the rock, work would begin on carving the church from the outside in to create columns, altars, walkways and a place for people to worship.

It's also remarkable that St. George and other Lalibela churches have been used continually, filled with hundreds of people chanting and praying every Sunday for almost 900 years."

Read more at <https://goo.gl/nQPLx7>

Ethiopia built an army to tackle maternal mortality. This is how they did it.

Q Launched in 2003 the Health Extension Programme gives Ethiopians the services they need, where they need them.



40,000 health extension workers have been trained to provide basic information and care to all 100 million Ethiopians. The goal was to put knowledge and power—and, ultimately, responsibility—in the hands of local people.

Dr. Admasu Kesete, CEO Roll Back Malaria Partnership and Ethiopia's former Minister of Health, writes about how the Health Extension Programme is working.

Read more at <https://goo.gl/m7AG2p>

How to Eat Plant-Based at Ethiopian Restaurants



For the uninitiated, African cuisine isn't an all-encompassing term; different regions in Africa specialize in different kinds of cookery. This article explores an African country

that is rich with history and boasts an incredibly fertile land to boot: Ethiopia!

Ethiopia's cuisine is also incredibly vegan-friendly — in fact, every Wednesday and Friday, the Ethiopian Orthodox Church practices "fasting days."

If you are someone who worries that omitting animal by-products from your diet is synonymous with depriving yourself of flavor, Ethiopian cuisine's liberal use of seasoning and spices demonstrates that's not at all the case.



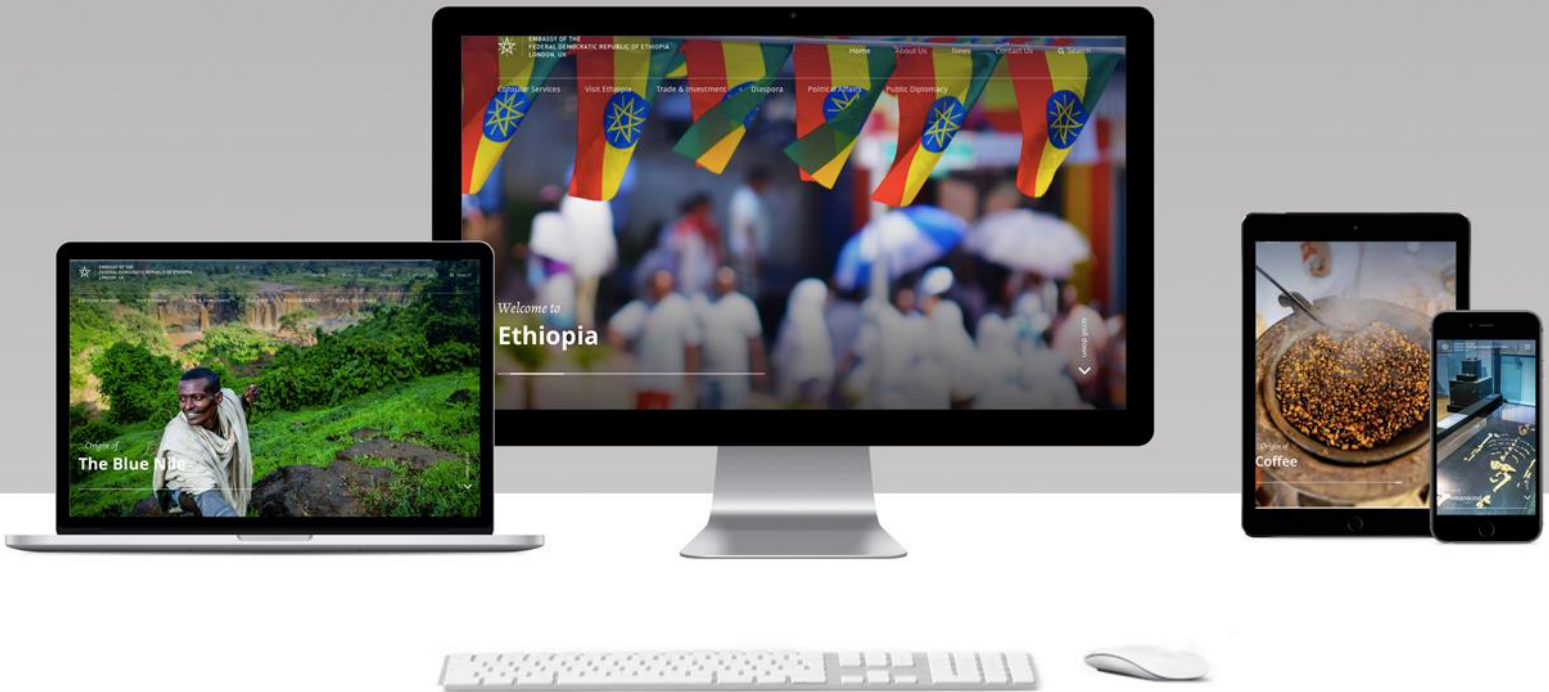
Quick beginner tips to successfully order at an Ethiopian restaurant:

- Ethiopian food is typically eaten with your hands, so if you don't find any utensils at your station, don't despair — that's normal!
- To ensure your meal is plant-based, make sure to request that none of your food is prepared with *nitter kibbeh*, a clarified butter that is occasionally used in Ethiopian cookery.
- Enjoy *Injera!* - Made from the ancient grain teff, injera is a gluten-free sourdough flatbread that is used as an edible serving device. Use injera to sop up all of these spreads and flavors.
- Do: Order *Yetsom Beyaynetu* - a.k.a. a veg platter and is essentially an assortment of all the vegan stews, curries, and vegetables offered at the restaurant the day you order.

Read more at <https://goo.gl/5Au4DX>



Welcome to our new look website...now mobile friendly



www.ethioembassy.org.uk

We value your opinion

We recently redesigned our website, which went live on 11th September to coincide with Ethiopian New Year. Our goal was to make the website easier to navigate and easier to find information. The new website is also mobile responsive adapting to any size of desktop, phone or tablet screen.

We really hope you enjoy the new website user experience and we are constantly looking to improve, so please let us have your feedback on using the new website and/or what we can do to make your experience better through future development. You can share your thoughts via our online feedback form within the website or by email to webmaster@ethioembassy.org.uk.

We have tested the site thoroughly but if you do find something that is not working, or a link that is broken we would appreciate it if you could let us know via the email above.

Thank you.

Public Diplomacy and Communications Department

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