

A Week in the Horn

4th May 2012

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A UN Security Council resolution on Sudan and South Sudan

On Wednesday this week [2nd May], the UN Security Council, following the lead of the AU Peace and Security Council last week, unanimously called for an immediate end to hostilities between Sudan and South Sudan and for the two parties to resume negotiations within two weeks to resolve all outstanding issues. It expressed its intention to take appropriate measures if they did not comply. In a unanimously adopted Resolution 2046, the Security Council condemned "the repeated incidents of cross-border violence between Sudan and South Sudan, including troop movements, the seizure and occupation of Heglig, support to proxy forces and Sudan Armed Forces aerial bombardments". It welcomed the withdrawal of the South Sudan army from Heglig, called for the immediate cessation of any hostilities or acts of violence committed against civilians in violation of international humanitarian law and human rights law, and expressed deep concern at the fate of the nationals of both countries resident in each other's territory, following the end of the transition period on 8th April 2012. The Council recognized the urgent need to commence the process of border demilitarization, and deplored Sudan and South Sudan's failure to redeploy from the Abyei Area in accordance with their Agreement of 20th June 2011 in Addis Ababa. It welcomed the work of the AU and commended the efforts of the AU High-Level Implementation Panel, the Chairperson of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Sudan and South Sudan, Haile Menkerios, and the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) headed by Lieutenant General Tadesse Werede. It also commended the efforts by UNISFA and expressed its intention to evaluate its mandate and compliance by Sudan and South Sudan of their commitments in agreements on Abyei.

The Security Council, expressing its support for the AU Roadmap, decided that Sudan and South Sudan should immediately cease all hostilities, and formally so notify the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the President of the Security Council within 48 hours and unconditionally withdraw all armed forces to their side of the border. Within a week, they must activate the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism (JBVMM) and the Safe

Demilitarized Border Zone (SDBZ). They must cease support for rebel groups against the other State, and activate the *ad hoc* Committee, under the Joint Political and Security Mechanism, to investigate complaints and allegations. They must immediately cease hostile propaganda and inflammatory statements, and assume full responsibility for the protection of each other's nationals in line with the Framework Agreement on the Status of Nationals of the Other State, initialled in March 2012. Sudanese and South Sudanese forces should be redeployed out of the Abyei Area within two weeks.

The resolution also decided that Sudan and South Sudan "shall unconditionally resume negotiations, under the auspices of the AUHIP and with the support of the Chairman of IGAD, at a time to be set by the AUHIP... but within no more than two weeks". These talks should cover arrangements concerning oil and associated payments; the status of nationals of one country resident in the other; resolution of the disputed and claimed border areas and demarcation of the border; and the final status of the Abyei Area. They are to be concluded within three months.

On all issues regarding compliance with the resolution, the Council requested the Secretary-General to work closely with the African Union and other African partners and report back to the Council within 15 days and every two weeks thereafter on compliance by Sudan, South Sudan, and the SPLM-N. In conclusion the Security Council "expresses its intention, in the event that any or all of the parties have not complied with the decisions set forth in this resolution, to take appropriate additional measures under Article 41 of the Charter as necessary". Article 41 covers measures, not involving armed force, to give effect to Council decisions. These can include economic sanctions or interruption of communications or the severance of diplomatic relations.

Following the adoption of Resolution 2046, Council members urged both parties to avoid more fighting by compliance with the resolution and completing implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. Ambassador Susan Rice, Permanent Representative of the US, and this month's President of the Council said: "Both countries are on the brink of returning to the horrors of the past, taking the entire region with them." Representatives of South Africa, India, Germany, Colombia, France, Togo, Morocco, United Kingdom, Pakistan, Guatemala, Portugal and Azerbaijan spoke and most expressed strong support for the work of the AUHIP. Several warned of their willingness to impose sanctions if necessary, though others, including China and Russia were more cautious. Most speakers blamed both sides equally for the recent violence though the representative of the Russian Federation suggested compensation should be provided for South Sudan's occupation of Heglig, and spoke of armed groups from outside fomenting destabilization in South Kordofan and Blue Nile.

Meanwhile, Sudan has announced its formal acceptance of the AU roadmap, though on Wednesday [2nd May], Sudan's Foreign Ministry said it agreed "in principle" with the seven point plan issued on 24th April. An official spokesperson said Sudan was concerned by the three month deadline because it believed South Sudan was "not willing to reach a solution" and some other issues. Nevertheless, Foreign Minister, Ali Karti, yesterday confirmed his readiness to cooperate with the AU mediation process. South Sudan had formally accepted the AU roadmap last month, a decision welcomed by AU Chairperson, Jean Ping who emphasized the need for both Parties to cooperate fully to implement all aspects of the roadmap, including the urgent convening of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism to address the most pressing security matters. South Sudan's lead negotiator, Pagan Amum, said on Wednesday that South Sudan would also like to see IGAD "playing a more active role" in the negotiations.

Constitutional debate heating up in Somalia

Last month, the proposed draft constitution for Somalia was published. It is due to be presented to a National Constituent Assembly next month to be voted on, and traditional elders are beginning to gather in Mogadishu in order to select 825 members for the Assembly which will consider the draft for two weeks and then vote on its provisional ratification. The Assembly will then choose the 225 members of the new post transition parliament. An Al-Shabaab spokesman has now announced that Al-Shabaab will target any of those involved in the process of adopting the new constitution which he described as 'anti-Islamic'.

In the meantime while the government is bringing traditional elders together to organize the Assembly, some changes have already been made in the draft to accommodate some of the criticisms. After the draft was published, President Sheikh Sharif was among those who indicated that he wasn't entirely satisfied with it. He said there were still some errors that needed to be rearranged. Last week, the Minister of State for the Constitution, Hassan Mahmud Jim'ale said some changes have been made to clauses that had already caused some concern. The clause relating to conditions for presidential candidates now indicates that candidates cannot be a citizen of any other country and that if they hold another nationality it must be cancelled six months prior to the declaration of their candidature. Other changes relate to the clauses on nationality. There have been claims that the language of the draft is imprecise and could lead to disputes of interpretation, and that the Independent Federal Constitutional Commission and the Committee of Experts failed to clarify key issues.

Among other things, the draft constitution lays down strict guidelines for the creation and acceptance of new states for the Federal constitution. Puntland is given the status of a recognized state but it is the only one. Galmudug is recognized as a state but only as one that will be able in the future to fulfil all the requirements for a full federal state as stipulated in the charter. These requirements include holding a sustainable reconciliation process and being made up of two regions which have come together. There are now a multitude of smaller administrations claiming the status of a potential or actual state. It appears none can currently fulfil these proposed constitutional requirements.

Irrespective of the activities of Al-Shabaab, the TFG will still need to do a good deal of work to accommodate opposing views and bring disaffected parties into the process. Nevertheless it remains confident that it will be able to carry the process through. Somalia Prime Minister Abdiweli Mohamed recently told VOA that the government had a 'road map.' "Why previous governments failed was because they never had a framework that guides them, that takes them from where they were and to where they want to be. Now we have a framework. The road map has benchmarks, timelines and deadlines of doing specific jobs. That's why we've succeeded."

The UN, the AU and IGAD have warned that they will impose sanctions on anyone trying to disrupt the constitutional process. A joint statement on Tuesday [1st May] said Somalia was at a critical juncture and it was imperative that the peace process could not be allowed to backslide. In an interview, Ambassador Mahiga, the UN Special Envoy to Somalia, said the warning was, in part, aimed at some Somali MPs. He said there were still elements in Parliament threatening to form their own government outside the roadmap and extend their own terms of office. The new constitution will sharply reduce the number of MPs from 550 to 225. Ambassador Mahiga said there were some former warlords in alliance with MPs, and there were also groups bent on sabotaging the whole exercise around the constitutional process: "We want to engage them in constructive dialogue instead of their just obstructing and being diversionary." The same day, a

TFG spokesman underlined the TFG's determination to carry the process through, saying that politicians against the August deadline for the end of the transitional period could be sanctioned or even possibly tried. The spokesman was quoted as saying that they needed to be added to the 'spoiler' list.

Meanwhile at the beginning of last week, Uganda announced it had deployed an additional 1,700 troops in Mogadishu, bringing the total number of Ugandan troops in AMISOM to 8,000. A Ugandan military spokesman said the Ugandan forces would now take charge of security in Mogadishu while the troops from other countries in AMISOM moved out of the capital to other towns. A new commander has been appointed for AMISOM. Lt. General Fred Mushiga handed over to Lt. General Andrew Gutti on Wednesday [2nd May] at a ceremony in Mogadishu. He has two deputies, a Burundian Deputy Commander and a Kenyan Director of Operations. The new AMISOM commander said that AMISOM's military progress was critical to the future of peace in Somalia. AMISOM, he said, would continue to work with the Somali Army and affiliated groups to train its soldiers and advance the National Security and Stabilization Plan, an on-going process parallel to the approval of the draft constitution.

The UNCTAD XIII Conference in Doha

The 13th United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) was held at Doha, Qatar, from 21st to 26th April. UNCTAD conferences are held every four years providing a focal point for UN activity on Trade and Development and inter-related issues in technology, investment, finance and sustainable development. This year's conference adopted a Doha Mandate for activities for the next four years. This defines the mandate of UNCTAD in the areas of policy analysis and research, consensus building and technical assistance. It reaffirms the Accra Accord and its continued relevance and validity as numerous areas have yet to be fulfilled. It also includes important considerations for developing countries **including the role of the developmental state for growth and development.**

The Doha Mandate focuses on the themes of development-centred globalization towards inclusive and sustainable growth and developments, enhancing an enabling economic environment at all levels, strengthening North-South and South-South relations and the triangular partnership for trade and development, addressing persistent and emerging development challenges and strengthening economic growth with social links.

The Doha Mandate recognizes that specific attention should be paid to the special needs of developing countries particularly least developed countries (LDCs) and land-locked developing countries (LLDCs). Here, issues of particular relevance to Ethiopia were fully reflected in the Mandate. With reference to the accession process for the World Trade Organization, the Mandate underscores that "WTO Members should fully and faithfully implement the decision on the guidelines for accession of LDCs adopted by the WTO General Council on 10th December 2002 and further build on the decision of the 8th WTO Ministerial Conference on Accession of LDCs." UNCTAD should therefore provide "technical assistance and capacity-building prior to, during and in the follow up to the accession process, depending on the level of development needs."

Other critical areas for Ethiopia and the LDCs addressed in the Mandate include the adverse consequences of climate change and the impact of the economic, food and energy crises on the economy of developing countries. The Mandate recognized the important role of the state in designing and implementing national development strategies. The Mandate points out that foreign direct investment (FDI), technology transfer and green economy are *inter alia*, imperative as elements to boost sustainable development.

The Ethiopian delegation to UNCTAD XIII was led by Ali Siragje Mohammed, State Minister of Trade, who noted during the general debate that "*the Global Recession has exposed the fundamental flaws of the philosophy of market fundamentalism which has been pursued for the last 30 years.*" He pointed out that "*one-sixth of the global population is still in poverty, income inequality is threatening the harmony of societies and global unemployment is running at a very high rate.*" He emphasized that it was the right time to pursue a new, sustainable development path which put development at its centre. The state had to play an important developmental role. The State Minister pointed out that the Ethiopian Government had been successfully designing and implementing developmental strategies with the aim of achieving a broad-based, rapid and sustained economic growth, and as a result, "*the Ethiopian economy has been consecutively registering double digit GDP growth for the last eight years.*" He pointed out that in Ethiopia poverty was decreasing and the country was on the right track to achieve the MDGs targets. Ethiopia's five-year development plan, the Growth and Transformation Plan, has the objective of accelerating pro-poor and sustainable growth.

Final preparations for next week's World Economic Forum on Africa

Preparations to host the 22nd World Economic Forum on Africa, being held in Addis Ababa next week – from 9th to 11th May - are in the final stages. Over 700 participants will gather at the Forum to discuss Africa's Transformation in Addis Ababa, capital of one of the fastest growing economies in the world. Recently ranked by *The Economist* as the world's third fastest growing economy and among the top performing countries in sub-Saharan Africa, with average annual real GDP growth of 11.3%, Ethiopia has made major progress in the growth of social infrastructure. This reality in Ethiopia is also a reflection of the economic and social transformation of Africa as many African countries are currently undergoing major advances in economic structure and significant changes in the location of economic activity, moving from rural agriculture-based to more diversified economies with much expanded urban industrial and service sectors. This is a transition that goes hand in hand with overall economic development.

The past decade has seen the advent of the 'African Renaissance' as demonstrated in the formation of the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) and the re-energizing of the African Union. Sound economic management and a growing commitment in many countries to tackle corruption have helped many more African businesses to become successful and compete internationally. The continent is going to have seven of the ten fastest-growing economies in the world over the next five years. In this improved environment, the governments of most countries have identified growth acceleration as the centrepiece of their development strategies.

At this appropriate moment, the World Economic Forum on Africa is expected to discuss a number of issues including turning the growing achievements of the continent in governance and democracy into economic growth, enhancing foreign direct investment in Africa and expanding the investment sectors and their distribution, the role of business in shaping Africa's transformation and Africa's priorities in its aim to become the world's next growth pole. Also on the agenda will be political stability, advancing the continent's regional and global trade agenda, the contribution of the middle class in transforming the economies and societies of the continent as well as translating economic growth into gainful employment.

By organizing the forum, Ethiopia is underlining its commitment to transform its own overall economy and showcasing its own sustainable economic development. In 2010, the government launched its ambitious Growth and Transformation Plan which will provide broad-based and sustainable development, involving the doubling of agricultural production, ensuring food security, and significantly increasing industrial production. The government will be investing

heavily in strategic economic sectors, including energy, telecommunications, roads and railways, coupling this with giving a high premium to the role of the private sector as a major engine of economic growth. As the capital of one of the most stable countries in Africa, home to the African Union and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, a hub of diplomatic missions and international organizations and centre of one of the economic successes of Africa, we can assert with confidence that Addis Ababa is a highly suitable place to hold the 22nd World Economic Forum on Africa. We are sure it will be a highly successful meeting.

World Press Freedom Day Observed

World Press Freedom Day, highlighting the role of press freedom in transforming societies, is observed on 3rd May. This year it was marked under the theme “*New Voices: Media Freedom Helping to Transform*” reflecting the effect of the new forms of media in the popular uprisings in the Middle East and North Africa. UN Secretary-General, Ban ki-Moon, hailed the newly emerging media modes and the impact these had on the massive popular upheaval that swept the entire Middle East. Emphasizing the phenomenal role of press freedom in realizing the aspirations of the people of the region for democracy and justice, the UN Secretary General said “social media, mobile telephone, and satellite television have played a central role in generating a ripple effect: from a vegetable seller’s simple cry for human dignity to the fall of autocratic regimes and the possibility that millions of people will enjoy for the first time, democracy and opportunities so long denied.”

The Secretary General also drew attention to the problems many journalists faced. He regretted the dire situation where many journalists are forced to work in the face of encroachments on the freedom of the press from both state and non-state actors. He noted that in addition to continuous harassment and persecution of journalists, censorship by states, companies and prominent persons was the biggest hurdle faced by journalists. He strongly condemned extra-judicial killings of journalists and the number of journalists detained, the highest level since the 1990s. Mr Ban Ki- Moon called on all to prevent persecution of journalists and to prosecute those responsible. He added that the “defenders of the free press are safeguarding our rights and we must, in turn, ensure theirs”.

The Secretary-General’s statement indicated that UN has been intensifying efforts to raise awareness, help member states to strengthen their legal framework and encourage them to investigate attacks against journalists. A UN Inter-Agency meeting had produced a Comprehensive Plan of Action. The Secretary General said “a free press gives people access to the information they need to make critical decisions about their lives. It holds leaders accountable, exposes corruption and promotes transparent decision making. It raises awareness and offers an outlet for different voices; especially those that would otherwise go unheard.” He called on all concerned to pledge to do their utmost to ensure journalists can perform their work without persecution and intimidation in the exercise of their rights.

World Press Freedom Day was commemorated here in Addis Ababa at AU headquarters in the presence of journalists, media associations and representatives of various international bodies and AU Commission Chairman Dr Jean Ping and the State Minister of the Government Communication Affairs Office, Shimelis Kemal. Dr Ping said the AU Commission would be strengthening its efforts with member countries to put in place a system of monitoring the enforcement of laws on access to information and freedom of expression. The Commission Chairman added that it was through access to information, freedom of speech and freedom of the press that citizens could become part and parcel of the life of their countries. State Minister Shimelis said that freedom of the mass media was the basis for Ethiopia’s multifaceted

development efforts. To realize this freedom he said that the government was working on supplementary regulations in consultation with all stakeholders. He added that the government was spending huge amounts of money in the provision of an information infrastructure to enable the media to perform its regular duties.

Yemen's Foreign Minister visits Addis Ababa

A Yemeni delegation, led by Foreign Minister Abu Bakr al-Qirbi, made a working visit to Addis Ababa on Monday 30th April, bringing a letter from Yemen's President Abdo Rabo Mansour Hadi to Prime Minister Meles. The Yemeni Foreign Minister said the letter dealt with re-activating the role of the Sana'a Forum, which involves Ethiopia, Sudan, Yemen, and Djibouti. The letter also covered other matters including counter-terrorism cooperation and regional and international issues of common concern, particularly the situations in Somalia and Sudan. The President underlined the need to strengthen joint efforts to combat terrorism and bring about peace and sustainability in the region. During the discussions, Prime Minister Meles told Foreign Minister Abu Bakr al-Qirbi that Ethiopia was determined to work with neighbouring countries to ensure durable peace in the region. Instability in Yemen should, of course, be addressed by Yemenis but Ethiopia was prepared to extend all necessary support for such a cause. The Prime Minister expressed Ethiopia's desire to work with Yemen in economic cooperation and regional peace and stability. Foreign Minister Al-Qirbi said that an invitation had been extended to Prime Minister Meles to visit Yemen.

Ethio-Turkey Political Consultations held in Addis Ababa

Ethiopia and Turkey held the fifth round of their annual bilateral political consultations at Director-General level in Addis Ababa last week on 25th April. The respective delegations were led by Ambassador Grum Abay, Director-General for European Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ambassador Hasan Servet Oktem, Director-General for African Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey. The consultations focused on bilateral issues covering economics and trading relations as well as cultural and educational matters. Regional issues were also discussed with particular emphasis on the situation in the Horn of Africa, the problems between South Sudan and Sudan, Somalia and Eritrea. In addition, the situation in the Middle East and Cyprus was also a focus of discussion. The implementation of understandings reached during the fourth bilateral political consultations held on 9th June 2011 in Ankara was considered and both sides appreciated the progress being made.

The consultations once again demonstrated that Ethiopia and Turkey have made similar assessments on all of the issues raised during the consultation. They agreed to continue to work closely for the realization of the understandings reached during this meeting. The discussions were held in an open and friendly manner and they are a reflection of the strategic importance that both countries attach to the relations between them. The sixth round of political consultations is scheduled to be held in Ankara in 2013.

News and Views

Ethiopia celebrates May Day

May Day, International Labour Day, was marked for 123rd time world-wide and in Ethiopia for the 37th time on 1st May, under the theme “*Workers’ Right to Organize is part of Human Rights*”. Speaking at an event organized in connection with the celebration in Addis Ababa, Ato [Mr] Abdulfetah Abdulahi, Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, said workers should exert maximum efforts on behalf of the productivity of the nation in cooperation with the government and their employers through the maintenance of industrial peace. He urged workers to make use of their rights to organize in labour unions, maintain their benefits and speed up national growth. The President of the Confederation of Ethiopian Trade Unions (CETU), Kassahun Follo, said the fact that the workers are organized in labour unions benefits both workers and employers. There are over two million workers in Ethiopia out of which only 400,000 are organized in labour unions. The Constitution provides for rights for workers specifically in Article 42 on “Rights of Labour”, as well as covering freedom of association and other relevant areas including the right of security of person, prohibition against inhuman treatment and the abolishment of slavery and servitude and forced and compulsory labour.

Tributes to early Pan-Africanists expected at 50th Anniversary of the OAU/AU

The National Organizing Committee established to coordinate the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the OAU/AU has said the event will offer a unique opportunity to pay special tribute to early Pan-Africanists. The 18th Assembly of Heads of States of the African Union declared 2013 the year of Pan-Africanism and of African Renaissance. The 50th anniversary has a special significance for Ethiopia where the first OAU conference was held, and the National Organizing Committee was set up by the Ethiopian government, following the AU decision to celebrate the 50th anniversary on the 25th of May next year in Addis Ababa. A statement issued by the AU noted that the Organization of African Unity had been established with the cardinal objective of promoting the unity, solidarity and cooperation of African states to achieve a better life for the peoples of Africa. Its achievements had been commendable. The statement emphasized that the “OAU has not only contributed to the total liberation of Africa from the vestiges of colonialism and apartheid but also has provided a unique framework for Africa’s collective action since its inception”. The statement also underlined that the OAU laid a solid foundation for the unity and solidarity of Africa. This in turn gave birth to the AU to address pressing African issues in light of the changing global order. The AU, since its formation, has played a crucial role in addressing the multifaceted challenges confronting our continent, according to the statement. The statement indicated that the 50th anniversary “will be a time to reflect on Africa’s journey over the last five decades and celebrate the unique role played by the OAU in the liberation of Africa from the yoke of colonialism and apartheid as well as its invaluable contribution towards the objective of achieving unity in our continent”. Underlining the anniversary’s importance as a historical milestone, the statement stressed the need to look forward with great optimism to the fulfilment of Africa’s aspirations for peace, democracy, development and unity, reaffirming the collective determination of member states for the realization of Africa’s Renaissance.

Rains hit Somali refugee camps in Ethiopia and Kenya

The UN High Commission for Refugees said last week that the Dollo Ado Refugee Camp complex in southern Ethiopia, where the refugee population has reached beyond its maximum capacity of 150,000, was seriously affected by heavy rains in mid-April. These caused serious damages to

some 700 tents, flooding roads and affecting delivery of aid supplies. This happened at a time when according to a recent UNHCR statement, Dollo Ado has been recently receiving around 450 new Somali refugees a week, fleeing insecurity, forced recruitment or military conscription and fear of possible revenge killings in the wake of renewed fighting. There have been more than 8,500 new arrivals this year, pushing the refugee population in the area's five camps past the 150,000 mark. The problems in Somalia, combined with last year's famine in several areas of Somalia, eroded many people's traditional coping mechanisms and forced them to seek asylum across the border. A UNHCR spokesman said the organization had started distributing thousands of plastic sheets in the different camps to refugees whose shelters might need reinforcement two weeks ago. It has also been providing replacement tents to families whose shelters were destroyed by the wind and rain. With the access road to the Hilaweyn camp at Dollo Ado flooded out, UNHCR is working urgently in collaboration with partners to rehabilitate the road and maintain delivery of services including water supplies to the camp and to mitigate effects of further potential floods. The Dadaab refugee complex in north-eastern Kenya, now trying to cope with well over 600,000 refugees, has also been affected by the recent rains. With the increased risk of malaria, UNHCR's health partners have also started distributing insecticide-treated mosquito nets. Some 220,000 nets will be handed out over the next month in Dadaab's Ifo, Dagahaley and Hagadera camps, accompanied by demonstrations and information sessions on their use and care. The UNHCR spokesperson said needs-assessment and plans were being drawn up for both areas, though budgetary constraints were hindering progress. There are currently believed to be more than 980,000 Somali refugees in Ethiopia, Kenya and Yemen and another 1.36 million remain internally displaced within the country.

Improving prospects for potash developments in Afar State

Prospects for development of the potash deposits of the Danakil Depression in the Afar Regional State are increasing significantly. New investments underline the possibility that the Danakil Basin is going to develop into a **significant international source of potash**, a main source for fertilizer. Yara International, a Norwegian fertilizer group and the world largest supplier of potash, has decided to increase its stake in Ethiopotash, a firm working to exploit the potash deposits in the Depression, from 16% to 51%. The preliminary estimates last November were for the capacity to produce 1 million to 1.5 million tonnes a year of potash from resources that will last for about 30 years. The results exceeded the expectations of management and this led to Yara's decision to increase its stake in Ethiopotash. Yara's sign of confidence in the potash prospects from the region will also be welcomed by Allana Potash which is currently working a concession adjacent to Yara's Dallol site. Allana has also recently announced a considerable increase, of some 90%, in its mineral resource estimates. The measured and indicated mineral resources are now calculated as a total of 1.3 billion tonnes with an average grade of 19.32% Potassium Chloride (KCL) representing approximately 250 millions of tonnes of KCL. Last November, the preliminary economic assessment of the project suggested an internal rate of return of 36.8% and a net present value of US\$1.85 billion, based on a 12% discount rate. The Dallol project is said to have a significant advantage over potash projects in other parts of the world, especially compared to the production in Saskatchewan in Canada, since it has "one of the lowest capex and opex in the world" in the potash industry. With the very high year-round temperatures in the Danakil Depression and minimum rainfall it also allows the opportunity of solar evaporation of potash extracted through saturated brine solution.

Conservation prospects for Grevy's Zebra looking up

Conservation experts and others from Kenya and from Ethiopia met in Nanyuki recently to review the performance of Kenya's National Conservation and Management Strategy and

develop a national action plan for the conservation of Grevy's Zebra. This zebra now only survives in the semi-arid lands of northern Kenya and southern Ethiopia though it used to be widespread in Somalia, Djibouti, Eritrea and Sudan as well as Ethiopia and Kenya. Grevy's Zebra is classified as endangered by the International Conservation Union and is protected from any commercial use through its listing on appendix I of the UN Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora - CITES. There are only 2,400 left in Kenya. According to Dr Myusoki of the Kenyan Wildlife Service the plans to conserve the zebra include the training of community scouts, enhanced research and conservation activities, and the establishment of various community conservancies in Northern Kenya. Dr Kifle Argaw, the Director-General of the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority, underscored the importance of cross border development of strategies for managing and conserving wild life. Reflecting on the increasing challenges of poaching, and ecological problems that endangered Grevy's Zebra, and underlining the importance of jointly pushing the conservation agenda, he said "we need to develop these species strategies together since if any country lags behind, it becomes a headache for the rest of us." Cross-border collaboration will enhance the survival prospects of Grevy's Zebra and other endangered species.