

A Week in the Horn

8th April 2016

Articles :

- **The ECA launches its Economic Report Africa 2016**
- **Fifth anniversary of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam**
- **The Federal Government of Somalia and Puntland agree on an election model**
- **Foreign Minister Dr Tedros makes an official visit to the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire...**
- **... and lays the cornerstone for the Ethiopian embassy in Côte d'Ivoire**
- **“Fighting Genocide Ideology”: the 22nd anniversary of the Rwandan genocide**
- **IGAD honors Special Envoys to South Sudan**
- **The International Criminal Court’s case against Kenya’s Deputy President collapses**

News in Brief

Africa and the African Union

The African Union Commission (AUC) and the European Commission signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to deal with shared challenges (April 7). The two sides met for the biggest Africa-EU political meeting of the year to share views on key themes such as migration, peace, security and sustainable growth.

The African Union observed a two day commemoration of the 22nd anniversary of the Rwandan genocide under the theme "Fighting Genocide Ideology" (April 7-8). (See article)

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa launched its Economic Report, Africa 2016 this week (April 4-6) at a Ministerial Conference. (See article)

Ethiopia

Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn, accompanied by First Lady Roman Tesfaye and other senior government officials began a three day official visit to Ghana (April 7).

Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn addressed the AU-ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (April 4). (See article)

Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn following his meeting with the Algerian Minister of Maghreb Affairs, African Union and Arab League Abdelkader Messahel on Wednesday (April 6), said Ethiopia and Algeria will cooperate in the fight against terrorism.

Foreign Affairs Minister Dr Tedros Adhanom held discussions with the High Representative for Foreign Affairs of the European Union, Ms Federica Mogherini on Thursday (April 7). The two sides discussed issues of regional peace and security, migration, among other issues.

Foreign Minister Dr Tedros Adhanom received Rwandan Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Ms Louise Mushikiwabo, on Monday (April 4). Discussions centered on various bilateral, regional and continental issues of mutual concern.

State Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Taye Atske-selassie, met with Mrs Nicole Reberton, New Zealand's Special Representative to the United Nations Security Council and Mr Anthony Simpson, New Zealand's Political Coordinator, at the United Nations Security Council on Wednesday (April 6). The two sides dealt at length with ways of promoting global peace and security, and shared experiences on working as a non-permanent member in the United Nations Security Council.

State Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Taye Atske-selassie, received a South Sudanese delegation headed by former Ambassador to Ethiopia, Akuei Bona Malawal, on Wednesday (April 6). Ambassador Akuei said his country stands by the Ethiopian side and supports the ongoing campaign for a non-permanent seat in the UNSC and Dr Tedros' candidacy for the post of Director Generalship of the WHO.

State Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Taye Atske-selassie, met with Mr Adan Muse Jibril, a representative of the Somaliland administration (April 6). Discussions focused on enhancing the partnership in the fight against al-Shabaab and strengthening cooperation concerning Berbera Port.

State Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Taye Atske-selassie, received a delegation from the US National War College (April 4) and briefed them on the Ethio-US relations and issues of regional peace and security.

State Minister of Finance and Economic Cooperation, Ahmed Shide, said Ethiopia is keen to be a model in cooperation between Africa and China (April 7).

The European Commission has announced €122.5 million euros for Ethiopia to address the immediate needs of people affected by the El Niño-driven drought in Ethiopia today (April 8).

Middle East Affairs Director-General Ambassador Siraj Reshid, told the Ethiopian News Agency that Ethiopia's economic relations with Middle Eastern countries have been on a steady growth [trajectory].

The Institute for Advanced Research (IAR) tasked with "creating conducive conditions for the realization of real transformative change in the Horn of Africa and beyond", launched on Tuesday (April 5) in Addis Ababa. On the occasion, Foreign Minister Dr Tedros Adhanom said indigenous research institutions help to address problems at the Continental and regional levels.

The House of People's Representatives (HPR) on Tuesday (April 5) ratified the draft bill which allows Ethiopia to join the African Trade Insurance Agency (ATIA).

The annual digital diplomacy review (DDR 16) has ranked Ethiopia 3rd in Africa and 76th worldwide in digital diplomacy.

An expansion project to raise Bole International Airport's annual passengers' handling capacity to 20 million is well in progress. (April 6)

A Turkish Company said it was keen to engage in Ethiopia's telecom sector at a cost of 3 billion USD (April 7).

According to the Horn of Africa nation's athletics federation (April 7) Ethiopia will test more than 350 athletes for the use of banned substances by November.

The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MoLSA) is set to begin selection of agencies to commence overseas recruitment programs within the coming 2-3 months, (April 6).

The Oromia regional state is due to unveil a 300 million birr project to address youth unemployment (April 7).

Flooding in Jigjiga town, Ethiopian Somali Regional state has claimed the lives of 15 people, including 7 children (April 4).

Djibouti

Djibouti is holding presidential elections today, Friday (April 8). President Ismail Omar Guelleh, seeking a fourth term of office, is facing a challenge from two candidates from the opposition coalition, the Union of National Salvation, and three independents.

Eritrea

BBC reports (April 6) security forces in Eritrea's capital Asmara have killed several young conscripts who tried to escape the convoy they were travelling in. There were also civilian casualties after some of the recruits' friends and family used a bus to block the road to help them escape.

Kenya

President Kenyatta, on a visit to Europe this week, told German Chancellor, Angela Merkel that cutting funding to the troops in Somalia would be a grave mistake. He said the funding needed to be increased to levels commensurate, "with similar UN peace enforcement missions."

The International Criminal Court (ICC) ruled on Tuesday (April 5) that Kenya's Deputy President, William Ruto and journalist Joshua Sang had no case to answer. President Uhuru Kenyatta on Thursday (April 7) expressed gratitude to the African Union and its individual member states for standing in solidarity with Kenya as the country battled International Criminal Cases (ICC).

Senior energy experts from across the world on Wednesday (April 6) kicked off an international conference in Nairobi to address investors' concerns when setting up energy projects.

Somalia

Federal Prime Minister Omar Abdirashid Ali Sharmarke and Puntland President Abdiweli Mohamed signed an agreement on how to hold this year's election in Somalia on Sunday (April 3). The ceremony was attended by Ethiopian Foreign Affairs Minister and Chairperson

of IGAD Council of Ministers, Dr Tedros Adhanom and other members of the international community (See article).

The EU Foreign Policy Chief Federica Mogherini expressed her appreciation of the recent agreement signed between the Somalia Federal Government and Puntland. Mogherini hailed the deal on the election model during a meeting with Foreign Minister Dr Tedros Adhanom.

The International Monetary Fund on April 7 said Somalia has marked a milestone in its development by taking steps to normalize relations with international financial institutions.

South Sudan

IGAD Special Envoys, Ambassador Seyoum Mesfin from Ethiopia, General Lazarus Sumbeiywo of Kenya and General Mohammed Ahmed Mustafa El Dabi of Sudan, presented their final report to Dr Tedros Adhamon, Chair of the IGAD Council of Ministers, at a ceremony at the Sheraton Hotel in Addis Ababa on Saturday (April 2). (See article)

The United Nations Security Council on Thursday (April 7) renewed, until June 1, its sanctions regime imposed last year against those blocking peace in the war-torn country, including a travel ban and a freeze on their assets.

South Sudan's First Vice President designate, Riek Machar, via his spokesperson James Gatdet Dak, announced (April 6) that he will arrive in the national capital, Juba, on April 18.

JEMEC Chair, Festus Mogae has expressed his wish and willingness to help facilitate the first meeting between President Salva Kiir and Vice President designate Riek Machar (April 5).

WFP and FAO's assessment report (April 5) showed civil strife and unfavorable rains have further reduced crop production in South Sudan, contributing to a cereal deficit of 381,000 metric tons, 53% higher than in 2015

Sudan

Sudanese President Omer al-Bashir Wednesday (April 7) said he will step down by 2020 and won't run for office again.

The European Union (EU) on Tuesday (April 6) called on the Sudanese opposition groups to sign a roadmap for peace and democratic reforms brokered by the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP).

U.N. Security Council peacekeeping chief, Herve Ladsous, on April 7, said clashes and bombing continue to take place in the Darfur area of Jebel Marra between government forces and the fighters of the rebel Sudan Liberation Movement led by Abdel Wahdi al-Nur.

The ECA launches its Economic Report Africa 2016

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa launched its Economic Report, Africa 2016 this week (April 4-6) at a Ministerial Conference. This was preceded by a session for experts at the end of last week (March 31–April 2). Among those attending were

the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Hailemariam Dessalegn, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Dr Dlamini Zuma, and UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the ECA, Mr Carlos Lopes, as well as dozens of experts, ambassadors and others.

This year's 2016 edition of the Economic Report on Africa presents the case for sustainable and people-centered green industrialization in Africa. The form and pattern of Africa's industrialization, shaped by its abundant natural resources, especially water and renewable energy sources, are discussed in the report, alongside the reshaping of policy to tackle poverty and inequality. It stresses that Africa, as a late comer to industrialization, should adopt the green pathway towards sustainable and inclusive development to avoid the pitfalls and mistakes made by some developed nations. Given the impact of climate change, resource scarcities and environmental degradation, it emphasizes that measures for greening Africa's development were critical and could bring significant benefits.

The report explores the role of de-coupling energy and economic activity and the greening of value chains as a route to generate low-carbon growth in Africa. Country case studies demonstrate ongoing greening activities across key sectors. A modeling of alternative scenarios, under "business as usual" and "greening", make the case for the continent achieving its strategic goals of structural transformation and industrialization, in ways that are sustainable and inclusive.

The report, which also offers governments greening policy suggestions, notes that greening industrialization provides the impetus for turning current supply chains linking natural resources to markets into value chains that can diversify Africa's economies and ensure greater value added. Discussants were in agreement that in this era of growing scarcity, resource-rich Africa must shift away from being a marginal supplier of raw commodities, to harness the full potential of its natural resources by diversifying into greater value addition, through processing and marketing.

The report also covers how the continent can achieve green industrialization. It highlighted projects in a number of countries, among them Kenya and Malawi, that show how countries can develop through green industrialization. Equally it notes a lack of, or inadequate, infrastructure conducive for greening Africa's industrialization process. It added, however, that there was a willingness on the part of governments to move from coal to greener pathways of development. Ultimately, the report says, a greener future holds the key to making good Africa's long-term development plans.

The ECA's Chief Economist, Deputy Executive Secretary, Abdalla Hamdok, told the conference that Africa could define and design its own pathway to industrialization based on its own realities and learn from the history and experiences of other regions to leapfrog traditional, carbon-intensive methods of growth, while championing a low-carbon development trajectory. "There is now growing commitment among African countries to pursue inclusive green development," he said. "Collective commitment from across the African Union will strengthen the speed and effectiveness of such a strategic shift." He added that Africa could take advantage of new innovations, technologies and business models as it optimally and efficiently utilized its natural resources as inputs to an industrialization process powered by domestic endowments of clean sources of energy.

The ECA also took the opportunity to launch a series of country profiles. ECA Deputy Executive Secretary for Knowledge Delivery, Ms Giovanie Biha, said these country profiles would provide periodic economic and social assessments of ECA member States, with a view to making relevant and strategic recommendations to governments and regional organizations on structural transformation. In the long run, country profiles would be used as a tool through which the ECA will monitor the pace of structural transformation on the continent.

The initial profiles are for Botswana, Cameroon, Central Africa Republic, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Guinea, Lesotho, Kenya, Morocco, Namibia, Niger, Rwanda, São Tomé, Senegal, Sudan, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Ms Biha presented a comparative analysis of the 20 countries and said that the country profile exercise would be scaled-up next year to cover the entire continent. She noted that 14 out of 20 countries assessed had recorded real GDP rate in excess of the African average of 3.9%. She said "Cote d'Ivoire was the fastest growing economy in 2014 with real GDP growth of 8.5 percent. Rwanda and Tanzania registered the second highest real GDP growth rate of 7%."

The ECA strongly believes that the country profiles will help the continent take more control of its own developmental narrative, placing Africa in a better position to make evidence-based policy decisions that address many issues that continue to plague Africa like poverty and unemployment. The ECA will update the country profiles on a quarterly basis, working with national statistical agencies and think tank organizations as well as other institutions and leaders on the continent in their bid to help transform the African economy.

In a keynote speech, Prime Minister Hailemariam declared that "our future rests in our hands." He urged African states to be strategic, ambitious, rigorous and disciplined if they were to achieve sustainable and inclusive development for their people while harmonizing and coordinating the different policies necessary for the Sustainable Development Goals and Africa's own Agenda 2063. The Prime Minister said Ethiopia was being successful in the process of maximizing development because the country had managed to harmonize the implementation of national policies with Agenda 2063 and the 2030 SDGs. Noting that Ethiopia had harmonized the first Growth and Transformation Plan (2010-2014) with global polices, the Prime Minister said significant institutional reforms were now being put in place for GTPII (2015-2020). He underlined the importance of Africa's voice being heard on different international platforms and stressed the importance of African governments having a common voice for common development. Leaders, he said, should provide demonstrated commitment to address the challenges the continent faces today. The Prime Minister said, "We should attach due attention and strive to have a better tomorrow because Africa's future prospect is in our hands today." Africa, he added, should do more in terms of creating conducive investment environment for foreign investors.

Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, implored African countries to improve young people's skills in science and engineering. "With an average of over 90% of graduates in social sciences, Africa's innovation and scientific skills lag behind," she said, noting that, with a burgeoning youth population, Africa had no choice but to look for solutions. Dr Zuma also spoke on industrialization and economic diversification, on the need to reduce import dependency and on creating regional centers of innovation.

More suggestions on possible solutions came from Mr Carlos Lopes, the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, who noted "African current growth has not generated sufficient jobs and has not been inclusive enough to significantly curb poverty. Fluctuations in

price have made such growth vulnerable." Africa should, therefore, look into "structurally transforming, focusing on the potential offered by industrialization." He suggested Africa should expand commodity value chains, and attract low-value manufacturing from Asia to Africa. Mr Lopes said: "transformation will not happen spontaneously but rather as a result of deliberate and coherent policies that are entrenched into a coherent development strategy, enlightened by a transformational leadership."

Fifth anniversary of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam

The 5th anniversary of the launching of the construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam was observed over the last week, between March 26 and April 4, with a variety of celebrations in various parts of the country. It was five years ago that the late Prime Minister Meles laid the foundation stone of the Dam on April 2, 2011, and since then the construction has steadily developed and continued according to schedule. One major occasion last week was the celebration at Guba, the project site of GERD in Benishangul-Gumuz Regional State on Saturday (April 2). Held under the theme "the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam on which we are putting our footprints today is the beacon of our renaissance", this was attended by high level Government officials including Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn, Ambassadors, religious leaders, construction site workers and invited guests.

In a keynote address, Prime Minister Hailemariam noted the consensus and cooperation that the construction of the Dam had brought about among Ethiopians. It was, he said, a testimony to the mentality and stamina of the people, and he underlined the economic, social and environmental implications of the construction. He noted the "Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam clearly depicted that Ethiopia has not only the interest but also the capacity to build such huge projects," and he stressed that the Dam "has become the leading project to ensure Ethiopia's vision of becoming the hub for a renewable energy power house in Africa". The construction was also testimony that Ethiopia could handle major projects with its own resources, expertise and professionals. The Prime Minister said GERD, self-sponsored by the people of Ethiopia, had changed peoples' way of thinking. It was a project that challenged the age-old mentality of reluctance towards major projects. It had also further cemented the unity of Ethiopia's nations, nationalities and peoples. Praising the contributions of both the people and the government, the Prime Minister said the country had devoted all its efforts to exploiting its resources as a tool for reducing poverty in the country. He called upon the public to continue their support in the future. Clarifying the benefits the Dam would provide, the Prime Minister emphasized it would offer a wide range of benefits and be advantageous for the Nile riparian countries, particularly Sudan and Egypt. He praised the leaders of Sudan and Egypt who were now, he said, "following a principled approach as they have become aware that the Dam is not intended to harm anybody." He was "pleased and thankful for the prevailing win-win approach". The Prime Minister also noted the instrumental role of the project in facilitating the transfer of technology between Ethiopia and other countries.

Deputy Prime Minister Demeke Mekonnen, Chair of the National Council for the Coordination of Public Participation on the Construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, also expressed his appreciation of the way the general public has been supporting the project in various ways. Religious leaders, attending the celebrations at the project site, also praised the considerable progress made and requested that their congregations sustain their contributions until the completion of the project.

Engineer Semegnew Bekele, the Project Engineer, told the press and those present that with the activities and foundations amounting to half the project now carried out, the Dam will be a reality and provide opportunities to assist the country's renaissance journey. He said the construction of the Dam had already played a significant role in establishing and developing national unity among citizens and the "the national consensus reached due to the project has been an encouraging factor for the more than 10,000 citizens working on the project despite the unfavorable weather conditions at the construction site". He added that, since the project was proceeding to completion, he would like "to ask all citizens to continue their support till the end." Engineer Semegnew also noted that the project had initiated some substantial business potential, and these would reinforce further development. He said the opportunities went beyond the original plans and "recognizing this, the government needs to invest in the development of the necessary infrastructure like [an] airport, hotels, business centers and the like to meet the needs of tourists."

Mrs Azeb Asnake, Chief Executive Officer of Ethiopian Electric Power, confirmed that the project was on schedule. Ethiopian Electric, which produced a brochure for the celebrations, detailed the progress Ethiopia has already made in power development. Current electric power coverage has reached 55%, and once the Dam is fully operational, generating 6,000mw, this will add 15,692 GWh average energy to the national grid. EEP also underlined the essential impact the Dam would have on improving water resources and providing Sudan and Egypt with important benefits as well as contributing to the prospects of economic integration both regionally and more widely in the Nile Valley.

The Federal Government of Somalia and Puntland agree on an election model

The Federal Government of Somalia and the Puntland Regional State Government have finally reached a basic agreement on how to hold this year's election in Somalia. On Sunday (April 3) Prime Minister Omar Abdirashid Ali Sharmarke and Puntland President Abdiweli Mohamed signed an agreement in a ceremony attended by visiting regional and international diplomats in the State capital of Garowe. Among those present were Ethiopian Foreign Affairs Minister and Chairperson of IGAD Council of Ministers, Dr Tedros Adhanom; the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General, Michael Keating; African Union Special Representative and head of AMISOM, Francisco Madeira; EU Special Envoy Michele Cervone; IGAD Executive Secretary, Engineer Mahboub Maalim,; IGAD Special Envoy, Ambassador Mohamed Affey; and Ambassadors from the United Arab Emirates, Turkey, Sweden, Italy, and Djibouti. Their presence underlined the final point of the agreement that its implementation is guaranteed by IGAD and witnessed by the United Nations, African Union and European Union.

The agreement comes after months of dialogue between the Federal Government and the Regional leaders on how the elections should be carried out later this year, and it provides a basic framework for the election of a parliament, which will then chose the next president. Overall, the four-point agreement offers a blueprint for the 2016 Electoral Process, including the Upper House, the 2020 Roadmap, and implementation of the agreement, bringing to an end months of disagreement between Puntland and Mogadishu.

The main points of the agreement hold that the 4.5 system of election will be upheld for electing members of the federal government and the regional states will select members of the upper house. Names will be approved by the Electoral Committees made up of representatives of the Federal Government of Somalia and federal member states, and the international community will monitor the implementation to ensure fairness and transparency.

The agreement also notes that the two parties agreed that the 2020 federal elections should be held according to a one-person-one-vote system, adding that "under no circumstances shall the 4.5 clan based power sharing arrangement be used beyond the 2016 elections, and that the international community will guarantee this. Puntland made it clear that it was accepting the use of the 4.5 formula for this election on the firm understanding that this will be the last time the formula is used.

After the ceremony, President Abdiweli Mohamed Ali said the deal had uplifted the position of Puntland in the world and would "spearhead free and fair elections in the country." He said the other options would have been to break away from Somalia or be left out of the expected national elections. The third possible scenario was the one taken: "a deal that is worthwhile for Puntland." Federal President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud thanked international partners, the public, traditional leaders, intellectuals, and civil society groups for their persistence and invaluable support towards Somalia. He said the agreement was very important for the success of the election.

The international community has welcomed the decision of the Puntland Government to participate fully in the electoral process to choose a new federal parliament later this year. Ethiopian Foreign Affairs Minister and Chairperson of IGAD Council of Ministers Dr Tedros Adhanom said "Thanks to the tireless efforts of its leaders and people, Somalia is slowly but surely following the right direction. The culture of settling differences through peaceful means is maturing through time and today's event is a case in point". He added "It is now my sincere belief that Somali leaders will not disappoint the Somali people and your partners. I firmly trust that you will conduct the forthcoming election fulfilling the expectation of the Somali people and your international partners. The stakes are very high. What is at stake are the achievements you have so far scored. The stake is the future of Somalia. We all agree that the Somali people deserve a better tomorrow". UN Somalia envoy Michael Keating said, "The people and leaders of Puntland deserve special commendation for their political maturity. Puntland has acted in the interest of the whole of Somalia. That is encouraging for the future of the whole country". International partners have also agreed to provide the necessary political, financial and technical support to enable universal suffrage elections in 2020. Their support will include details on how to conduct voter registration and help build electoral institutions.

Foreign Minister Dr Tedros makes an official visit to the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire...

Foreign Minister Dr Tedros Adhanom made an official visit to the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire from Wednesday (March 30) to Friday (April 1) last week. It was the second stop in a two-leg visit to West Africa, following his visit to Senegal last week. On arrival in Abidjan, the Minister was welcomed by Dr Abdallah Mabri Toikeusse, Foreign Minister of Côte d'Ivoire. Dr Tedros' visit coincided with the 50th anniversary of the establishment of bilateral relations

between Ethiopia and Cote d'Ivoire, and a ceremony marking the event was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Côte d'Ivoire to mark the occasion during his visit.

Dr Tedros first engagement was to Grand Bassam, a popular tourist destination, which was the site of a terrorist attack on March 13 in which 19 people died. Dr Tedros laid a wreath for the victims of the attack and, speaking on the occasion, he condemned the attack in the strongest terms, expressing his condolences to the bereaved families. He stressed that an "attack on Ivory Coast is an attack on Africa and Ethiopia", and added that "Africa must unite to fight terrorism in all its forms".

During his stay in Côte d'Ivoire, Dr Tedros Adhanom held discussions with Prime Minister Daniel Kablumo Duncan. Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister said that Côte d'Ivoire was interested in exchanging know-how about fighting terrorism. He also welcomed the decision of Ethiopian Airlines to increase the number of its weekly flights to Côte d'Ivoire to seven. He noted that Côte d'Ivoire would like to see more intra-African trade and underlined that it was working to promote more private sector engagement on the continent.

Dr Tedros thanked Prime Minister Duncan and the people of Côte d'Ivoire for their hospitality. Expressing his sympathies to the bereaved families of the victims of attack at Grand Bassam, he said "Ethiopia would like to partner with Côte d'Ivoire in fighting terrorism." He said unity was vitally necessary in fighting this dangerous problem. Prime Minister Duncan and Dr Tedros condemned terrorist attacks and discussed avenues for strengthening the bilateral relations of the two nations.

Dr Tedros met with Amadou Gon Coulibaly, Minister of State and Secretary General of the Presidency of Côte d'Ivoire to deliver a message from Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn to President Alassane Ouattara.

Dr Tedros also held bilateral consultations with Foreign Minister Dr Toikeusse to consider relations between Ethiopia and Côte d'Ivoire and possible future initiatives to be taken to deepen relations. The two Ministers signed four cooperation agreements during a meeting at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Côte d'Ivoire. These included a General Cooperation Agreement and an Agreement on Mutual Visa Waivers for holders of diplomatic and service passports, as well as a Memorandum of Understanding on Health and a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (IARE) and the National Center of Agricultural Research of Côte d'Ivoire (CRNA).

The General Cooperation Agreement stipulates the creation of a Joint Commission between the two countries and lays down its mission, functions and objectives. The agreement on Mutual Visa Waivers will allow diplomats and other service passport holders of the two countries to stay in each other's countries up to 30 days without requirement of a visa. The authorization of health professionals of the two countries to mutually practice their profession freely and the sharing of information and experience in areas such as emergency evacuation were the main elements covered by the MoU on Health. The Memorandum of Understanding between the two institutes lays down the basis for more cooperation on research and the sharing of best practices between the two countries in agriculture.

Following the signing ceremony, Dr Tedros noted that the signing of the agreements and indeed the meeting should be seen as historic as they were taking place on the 50th anniversary of the start of bilateral relations. He said the signing of the cooperation agreements would be "a game changer", and he welcomed the signing of MoUs between the two research institutes to develop research capacities in both countries in the vital sector of agriculture. He said the Côte d'Ivoire's experience in agriculture management could be an example for many countries in Africa. Foreign Minister Dr Toikeusse also underlined that the visit of Dr Tedros and the signing of the four agreements marked a concordance of vision between the two countries. He said Côte d'Ivoire could learn from Ethiopia's experience in livestock development, and he called for the private sectors of the both countries to work together to bolster relations.

Dr Tedros also held discussions with the President of the African Development Bank, Akinwumi Adesina, on issues ranging from the AfDB's country program in Ethiopia to its support for the developmental endeavors of Ethiopia as well as other issues of mutual interest.

... and lays the cornerstone for the Ethiopian embassy in Côte d'Ivoire

Dr Tedros laid the cornerstone of the future chancery of Ethiopia in Côte d'Ivoire on Thursday March 31, together with Ambassador Dr Yeshimabrat Mersha, the Resident Ethiopian Ambassador in Côte d'Ivoire and the Mayor of Cocody-Ambassade district of Abidjan. The Foreign Minister noted that the building of the embassy is a testament of Ethiopia's will to deepen its relations with Côte d'Ivoire. Located in Cocody-Ambassade, the embassy is designed to include elements of Ethiopian culture and history taking inspiration from such themes as the renaissance of Ethiopia, its economic transformation and its rich history and culture. Dr Tedros also visited embassy staff before concluding his visit.

A day earlier, Dr Tedros visited the National Agricultural Research Centre (CRNA) accompanied by the Minister of Higher Education and of Scientific Research, Bakayoko-Ly Tamara. Dr Tedros was given a brief presentation on the works and achievements of the CRNA by senior staff at the centre, and he emphasized desire of Ethiopia to work together and exchange experiences with the Centre. This was underlined by the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research and the National Center of Agricultural Research.

Dr Tedros also met members of the Ethiopian Diaspora and friends of Ethiopia at an event held at the Residence of Ambassador Dr Yeshimabrat Mersha. On the occasion, Dr Tedros called for a minute of silence in memory of the victims of the recent terror attack at Grand Bassam. Traditional elders from Côte d'Ivoire took part in the ceremony and blessed those in attendance, testifying to the existing strong links between the peoples of the two countries. In his speech, Dr Tedros praised the Ethiopian Diaspora in Côte d'Ivoire for their unwavering support for the construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, and handed over the GERD trophy to the members of the Ethiopian community in Côte d'Ivoire.

One other visit that Dr Tedros made was to the training Academy of ASEC Mimosa, a football club that regularly figures in the African Champions league and is among the most popular clubs in Côte d'Ivoire. Its academy has produced a galaxy of well known football stars such as Kole and Yaya Toure, Didier Zakora, Bakary Kone, Solomon Kalou and many

others. Dr Tedros appreciated the facilities and history of the academy, whose walls stress "Be humble if you want to be big". He underlined the need to exchange experience on sport and particularly in football with ASEC Mimosa.

“Fighting Genocide Ideology”: the 22nd anniversary of the Rwandan genocide

The commemoration of the Rwanda Genocide is organized annually by the African Union, following a decision to recognize April 7 as a Day of Remembrance of the victims of the genocide and a reaffirmation of Africa's resolve to prevent and fight genocide on the continent. The African Union's Permanent Representatives Committee adopted the decision during its special session on the Commemoration of the 10th Anniversary of the Genocide in Rwanda. The purpose of the commemoration is to "continuously awaken greater awareness of the African peoples and the international community about the value of life and humanity, and to renew collective commitment to protect and uphold fundamental human rights."

It was in this light that the AU, this year, commemorated the 22nd anniversary of Rwandan genocide, which took the lives of 800,000 people, murdered during 1994. The Department of Political Affairs of the African Union Commission, in collaboration with the Embassy of the Republic of Rwanda in Ethiopia and the Permanent Mission to the African Union organized the event. Members of the community of the Republic of Rwanda and AU Member States, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, AU Organs, religious institutions, human rights institutions, inter-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, UN Agencies, and international organizations in Ethiopia, schools and academic institutions attended the commemoration.

The AU observed the commemoration this year under the theme "Fighting Genocide Ideology" on Thursday, April 7. Speaking on the occasion, State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Taye Atske-Selassie noted the Rwandan genocide was, "a crime whose extent and brutality had few parallels in history." He said, "Ethiopian peacekeeping troops were among the first to arrive in post-genocide Rwanda, and see the horror of what had occurred." It was the late Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi who had proposed the International Panel of Eminent Personalities, established by the Organization of African Unity. Ambassador Taye emphasized that the conclusions of that Panel were worth repeating and remembering: "If there is anything worse than the genocide itself, it is the knowledge that it did not have to happen. The simple, harsh, truth is that the genocide was not inevitable; and that it would have been relatively easy to stop it from happening prior to April 6, 1994, and then to mitigate the destruction significantly once it began".

Underlining the failure of the international community to avert the horrible incidents in Rwanda, Ambassador Taye said this was "another sad lesson that Africa must always take the leading role in matters relating to its own peace and stability." He welcomed the African Peace and Security Architecture and the AU Peace and Security Council and added "We now have an African Standby Force ready to provide the means to prevent such activity." All of this, he said, should go a long way towards implementing the commitment "to silence the guns by 2020." Ambassador Taye also hailed the dramatic progress Rwanda had shown since the disaster, in reconciliation, general economic development and in demonstrating its own commitment to peacekeeping. It had also shown enormous progress regarding the empowerment of women who suffered so much 22 years ago.

During the commemoration, discussions were also held, covering the dangers of 'denial', as well as highlighting classic 'Manifestations' of Genocide Denial and how to fight it. These also detailed Rwanda's story of reconciliation and nation building and the importance of showing solidarity with survivors. Above all, there was the insistence on the need to ensure that this could never happen again, in Rwanda or anywhere else whether in Africa or beyond.

In Rwanda itself, each year, ceremonies are held across the country on April 7 to commemorate the genocide of 1994. Under the name Kwibuka, meaning 'remember', the commemorations are held to remember the atrocities committed, honor the dead, and prevent them happening again. In the capital, Kigali, President Paul Kagame and First Lady Jeannette Kagame, as well as visiting Tanzanian President Dr John Pombe Magufuli and his wife Janeth Magufuli, joined the country's top officials, members of the diplomatic corps, friends of Rwanda from abroad, other dignitaries and genocide survivors at the Kigali Genocide Memorial in Gisozi to commemorate the genocide. Genocide survivors, relatives and friends of victims, global tourists and researchers among others visit the memorial every year to remember their loved ones and obtain a better understanding of the 1994 Genocide.

IGAD honors Special Envoys to South Sudan

It was at the end of December 2013 that IGAD decided to appoint its Special Envoys to negotiate an agreement between the warring parties in South Sudan. The conflict that broke out in mid December, with clashes between supporters of President Salva Kiir and former Vice-President Riek Machar, had rapidly escalated across the country, posing a major threat to regional peace and security as well as to the people of South Sudan. IGAD Heads of State and Government held an extraordinary summit on December 30 and decided to establish a Committee of Special Envoys to try to resolve the conflict. It appointed Ambassador Seyoum Mesfin from Ethiopia, General Lazarus Sumbeiywo of Kenya and General Mohammed Ahmed Mustafa El Dabi of Sudan.

After 22 months of hard and determined effort, the Special Envoys finally managed to persuade the two sides to sign the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (ARCSS) and the Planning Implementation of the Permanent Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements (PCTSA) in August last year. Among other things this Agreement allowed for the establishment of the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (JMEC). Chaired by the Former President of Botswana, Festus Mogae, the JMEC now has the responsibility for overseeing the implementation of the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict. This, in effect, ended the role of the IGAD Special Envoys who had negotiated the Agreement.

The Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (JMEC) is made up of representatives of the warring parties, key South Sudanese stakeholders, IGAD member states, the AU and the broader international community. Its mandate is to monitor the implementation of the agreement and the key reforms. It reports to the AU Peace and Security Council, the UN Security Council, IGAD, the UN Secretary-General, the AU Chairperson, and to the transitional government. The JMEC Chairman's latest briefing to the UN Security Council was on Thursday last week (March 31) and, as we reported, he said "the implementation of most aspects of the August 2015 Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic

of South Sudan continue to be delayed. The key milestone for the initial element of the Agreement, the formation of the Transitional Government of National Unity, has yet to be reached. Violations of the permanent ceasefire also continue". However, he added, he would be cautiously optimistic that the new Transitional Government would be in place by the middle of the month.

The signing of the August 2015 peace deal provided an end to the protracted phase of negotiations for peace in South Sudan and the beginning of the implementation phase. What remains is the need to focus on the full and complete implementation of the Agreement. Ethiopia, like IGAD, is confident that, if this Agreement is fully implemented with sustained political will, courage, integrity and diligence, it will bring lasting peace and prosperity to the people of South Sudan. All the parties involved, the leaders and the people of South Sudan, members of IGAD-PLUS and the entire international community, must join hands to ensure the full implementation and realization of the Agreement, to provide for the successful establishment of the Transitional Government of National Unity and move forward.

The final conclusion of the work of the Special Envoys came on Saturday last week (April 2) when they handed over the final report of their 22 months work to Dr Tedros Adhanom, Ethiopia's Foreign Minister and Chairperson of the IGAD Council of Ministers and other IGAD representatives. Presenting the report, Ambassador Seyoum Mesfin, Chairperson of the IGAD Special Envoys, said "This report provides matters of fact in the mediation and negotiation of the South Sudan conflict as it evolved for about twenty-two months. The report shares the experience of the Envoys during the pre-mediation and mediation phase of the IGAD-Led South Sudan Peace Process. It's our hope that the report will provide the much needed experience and contribute to policy and practice of conflict prevention, management and resolution."

IGAD then presented awards of honor to the three Special Envoys, Ambassador Seyoum Mesfin, Chairperson of the Special Envoys and General Mohammed Ahmed Mustafa El Dabi, and to General Lazaro Sumbeiywo, through his representative Dr Mohammed Guyo.

Dr Tedros strongly praised the relentless and successful work of the Envoys in overseeing the peace process in South Sudan. He congratulated the IGAD Special Envoys for their patience, their perseverance and their dedication in bringing the South Sudanese Parties to sign the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan and the Planning Implementation of the Permanent Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements. He noted the long struggle of "IGAD and its Member States, the African Union, the United Nations and the international community at large" to engage the South Sudanese Parties and support the negotiation and implementation phases of the peace process. He pointed out that a lot of time, resources and energy had been devoted to try to resolve the conflict in South Sudan, but it was the IGAD Special Envoys who had particularly assumed the brunt of this burden. They had worked with a great sense of urgency, humility and responsibility during the most difficult periods of the negotiation process and had borne the blame for the making or breaking of the peace process. Dr Tedros commended the Special Envoys for their wisdom, insight and their determination.

Dr Tedros said that what was most important to all the parties was full implementation of the Peace Agreement in every way. He recalled the decisions made at the 55th Extraordinary Session of the IGAD Council of Ministers held in Addis Ababa on 30-31 January 2016, and

while recognizing the positive developments towards the implementation of the Peace Agreement that had taken place, he also expressed concern over delays that have been taking place. He reiterated the collective international call to the South Sudanese Parties to put maximum effort into timely and all-inclusive implementation of the signed Agreement. IGAD and its Special Envoys for South Sudan had been making every effort to assist the South Sudanese to fully implement the Peace Agreement, whose main beneficiaries would, of course, be the people of South Sudan. Dr Tedros reminded the South Sudanese parties to take note of this, to cooperate and closely work with partners and commit themselves genuinely to the full implementation of the Agreement. Now, he said, is time for the South Sudanese Parties to take note of this phase of the implementation process and unconditionally commit themselves to addressing the challenges that have been obstructing full implementation of the Agreement. Dr Tedros emphasized that the parties must not miss "this rare opportunity" but they must also stop taking actions that hinder the full implementation of the Agreement. They should focus their attention on the key priority issues that are crucial for the implementation of the Agreement. Dr Tedros reiterated that Ethiopia and IGAD will continue to be fully engaged for the complete implementation of the peace agreement reached last August. He also expressed his sincere thanks to IGAD-PLUS and other international partners who have been working with IGAD from the beginning of the tragic conflict in South Sudan.

The Executive Secretary of IGAD, Engineer Mahboub Maalim, also expressed his appreciation for the dedicated service provided by the Special Envoys Ambassador Seyoum Mesfin, General Lazaro Sumbeiywo and General El Dabi. He also underlined the commitment shown by the IGAD Heads of State and Government who have held nine Extraordinary Sessions on South Sudan during the 22 months mediation process. IGAD had given unwavering support, as has more recently IGAD-Plus and other partners, including the UN and AUC. Engineer Maalim also praised the work of the IGAD secretariat and the staff of the IGAD Office for the Special Envoys for South Sudan, recently renamed as IGAD South Sudan Office. Others who also thanked the IGAD Special Envoys for their work included representatives of IGAD-Plus, Ambassador Haile Menkerios, UN Special Representative of the Secretary General to the AU; Dr Mustapha Sidiki Kaloko, AU Commissioner for Social Affairs; Jean-Francois Hasperue, Acting Head of the EU Delegation to the African Union; Ambassador Andreas Gardeer of the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Ethiopia and Representative of the Troika; Ambassador La Yifan of the People's Republic of China to Ethiopia.

The International Criminal Court's case against Kenya's Deputy President collapses

The International Criminal Court (ICC) ruled on Tuesday (April 5) that Kenya's Deputy President, William Ruto, and journalist Joshua Sang had no case to answer. They had been charged with crimes against humanity over the 2007/8 post-election violence that left over a thousand dead and several hundred thousand displaced. The ICC Chief Registrar Helena Vukasinovic said the Trial Chamber judges found no incriminating evidence to sustain the cases against the two men. The Presiding Judge Eboe Osuji said in a statement on Tuesday that proceedings were declared a mis-trial "due to a troubling incidence of witness interference and intolerable political meddling". He said "The charges are hereby vacated and the accused are discharged from the process without prejudice to their presumption of innocence or the prosecutors' right to re-prosecute at a later time."

The collapse of the case against Ruto and his co-accused follows the collapse of the case against President Uhuru Kenyatta in 2014. Though his counsel, the Deputy President said that the witnesses used to confirm his charges never took the stand, leaving the prosecution with a "case built almost entirely on hearsay"; no evidence had been produced that he supported or organized the violence. He accused the ICC of failing to investigate the Kenyan cases thoroughly.

Following the announcement from the ICC, Kenya's Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a Note Verbale to the President of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. The Note Verbale regretted the long time taken to reach the acquittal of the Deputy President but said it was pleased that "reason has finally prevailed." It welcomed the conclusion of the last of the Kenyan cases, pointing out that the cases had been disruptive to nation building and the promotion of peace and security in Kenya. It would now be possible for the Deputy President of Kenya to "fully concentrate his efforts, undeterred and unencumbered, in the affairs of running the state, for which he was elected by the people of Kenya."

The Note Verbale went on to say that the last seven years had "revealed the insidious nature of the International Criminal Court system as presently constructed." It said that a sliding scale of standards and fluidity of thresholds had rendered "justice served by the court arbitrary at best, and capricious [at] worst." It pointed out that decisions of the Assembly of States Parties had been disregarded and efforts made to diminish and undermine its role. The result of the whole process was the widespread perception that the court was discriminatory in its prosecutorial policy and practice.

The Kenyan Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that Kenya, together with like-minded nations, would remain involved in efforts for "pursuit of justice and equitable participation in the international criminal system." Kenya recognized its duty to, and respect for, international law and institutions. It would, therefore, "continue to pursue ways to improve the delivery of international justice, uphold the rule of law and promote a just and fair global order."