

# A Week in the Horn

## 16<sup>th</sup> December 2016

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### News in Brief

#### Africa and the African Union

Foreign Minister Dr Workneh addressed the Khartoum process senior officials meeting held on Friday (Dec16) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Khartoum Process is a regional dialogue which takes in the overarching framework of the Global Approach to Migration and Mobility (GAMM) that provides a platform for consultation and coordination through dialogue between Africa and the EU on anti-trafficking and human smuggling in the Horn of Africa. **(See article)**

The Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, on Tuesday (Dec 13) approved the deployment of 40 short-term observers to the Parliamentary elections in the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire scheduled for 18 December 2016. The AU Short-Term Observation Mission is led by Catherine Samba-Panza, former Transition President of Central African Republic, and comprises observers drawn from the Pan African Parliament, the Permanent Representatives' Committee, Election Management Bodies, civil society, think tanks, and independent experts from various African countries.

**The Africa Report on Internal Displacement** was launched in Addis Ababa at the end of last week at the High-Level Dialogue on Displacement. The report finds that in 2015 alone, 3.5 million people were newly displaced by conflict, violence and rapid-onset disasters in Africa; an average of more than 9,500 people per day uprooted from their homes.

#### Ethiopia

President Mulatu met with the China Poly Group delegation led by its Chairman Yu Baodong on Wednesday (Dec 14) and discussed the progress of the oil and gas project in Ethiopia. Later on Thursday (Dec 15), the group also met with Prime Minister Hailemariam during which it was noted that the company's project in Ogaden, Somali Regional State, has proved to be promising.

Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn on Friday (Dec 16) received a delegation led by Ahmed Alkhateeb, Senior Advisor at the Royal Court in the Royal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, wherein the two sides have agreed to establish a joint committee in a bid to boost bilateral cooperation in the energy sector.

Foreign Minister Dr Workneh Gebeyehu, who held talks on Thursday (December 15) with the Senior Advisor at the Royal Court in the Royal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Mr Ahmed Alkhateeb, emphasized that Ethiopia highly values its relationship with Saudi Arabia. Mr Alkhateeb on his part said Ethiopia and Saudi Arabia have enjoyed excellent ties in the political sphere suggesting the need to inject robust impetus in the economic field.

Foreign Minister Dr Workneh met with a delegation led by Sir Nicholas Kay, UK Special Envoy to the Horn of Africa, on Thursday (Dec 15) for talks on regional and bilateral issues. Dr Workneh said the maintenance of regional peace and security remains key and of mutual concern for Ethiopia, the region as well as for partners. The Special Envoy noted his visit is a testimony of the UK's continuous engagement with Ethiopia and recognition of Ethiopia's contribution to regional peace and security.

In a meeting held between Foreign Minister Dr Workneh Gebeyehu and Claudia Wiedey, Head of European External Action Service (EEAS) for Horn of Africa, East Africa and Indian Ocean on Wednesday (Dec 14), the two sides affirmed the need to forge a broad spectrum of cooperation. **(See article)**

An Ethiopian delegation headed by State Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mrs Hirut Zemene met with Gennady Gatilov, Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister on Monday (Dec 12) in Moscow for consultations in light of Ethiopia's non-permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council in 2017-2018.

The UNSC Committee established pursuant to Resolution 2206 (2015) concerning South Sudan met with State Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Aklilu Woldemariam on Friday (Dec 16). Discussions focused on finding progress, or the lack of it, on the implementation of Resolution 2206 imposed on March 2015 following the outbreak of the civil war in South Sudan, targeting an asset freeze and travel ban on six South Sudanese generals.

The construction of Gibe III hydroelectric dam, which has a total installed capacity of 1,870 megawatts, has been fully completed and its inauguration is scheduled for next Saturday (Dec 17).

## **Djibouti**

Ethiopia and Djibouti have reached an agreement to establish a joint company which will oversee the management of the newly built railway. The agreement was signed on Monday (Dec 12) between the Minister of Transport of Djibouti, Mohammed Abdulkadir Musa, and Ethiopia's Minister of Transport, Ahmed Shide.

## **Eritrea**

The Ambassador of Eritrea to Belarus presented his credentials to the President of Belarus on Tuesday (December 13). President Lukashenko said that he was confident that "with joint efforts we will be able to find ways for successful development of cooperation for the benefit of our countries." The Ambassador also met with the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus to discuss prospects for cooperation between Eritrea and Belarus.

## **Kenya**

Kenya celebrated the 54<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its Independence Day, Jamhuri or Republic Day, on Monday (December 12). President Kenyatta, who appealed for support for next year's Presidential Election, warned against election violence. He also strongly hinted that Kenya might join other countries in withdrawing from the International Criminal Court. **(See article)**

## **Somalia**

With five states having completed their electoral processes for both the Senate and the House of the People, the Independent Electoral Dispute Resolution Committee rejected results for eleven seats in Jubaland, Galmudug, Hir-Shabelle, Puntland and South West states, citing irregularities. **(See article)**

## South Sudan

President Salva Kiir called for a national dialogue to end the country's conflicts on Wednesday (December 14). He said the process should be guided by a panel of "eminent personalities and people of consensus", accepted as credible, genuine and trusted by all rival parties in the country. The Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission said it was delighted at the President's call. **(See article)**

The United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon announced on Monday (December 12) the appointment of David Shearer of New Zealand as his new Special Representative for South Sudan. Mr Shearer will also head the U.N Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). Mr Shearer served as the Secretary-General's Deputy Special Representative in the U.N Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) (2007-2009) and has worked for the UN in the Palestinian Territories, Lebanon, and Afghanistan.

## Sudan

Sudanese State Minister of Finance and Chairman of the Joint Sudanese-Ethiopian Technical Economic Committee, Dr Abdul-Rahman Dirar, met with Ethiopia's Ambassador to Sudan, Abdi Zemo and discussed the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Joint Committee aiming to develop the economic cooperation with Ethiopia.

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## Dr Workneh addresses the Khartoum Process Senior Officials Meeting

Foreign Minister Dr Workneh addressed the Khartoum process senior officials meeting held on Friday (Dec 16) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Khartoum Process is a regional dialogue which takes in the overarching framework of the **Global Approach to Migration and Mobility** (GAMM) that provides a platform for consultation and coordination through dialogue between African and the EU on anti-trafficking and human smuggling in the Horn of Africa.

Dr Workneh in his opening remarks praised the outgoing chair, the United Kingdom for the excellent leadership they demonstrated throughout the year and expressed his thanks for entrusting Ethiopia to chair the Khartoum process for 2017. He noted that Ethiopia, as a country of origin, transit and destination of either voluntary or involuntary migrants, holds a strategic position in the cooperation between Europe and the Horn of Africa. The Foreign Minister added, Ethiopia is hosting nearly 800,000 refugees who fled their homes as a result of multiple problems in their countries of origin. He underscored that the question of unregulated migration is a national concern and in this respect, Dr Workneh added, the government has taken several measures to address the root causes of migration through the Ethiopian National Council. Dr Workneh said, the government has also adopted new legislation to reinforce the concerned authorities who tackle human trafficking and smuggling. He also mentioned the recently announced **Ethiopian Jobs Compact** program which aims to create jobs for hundreds of thousands of people. He also noted that 30 percent of the Ethiopian Jobs Compact will be dedicated to refugees.

The Foreign Minister added that migration and human trafficking is not only a national problem but also cross-national, regional and global problem that should be tackled by concerted and holistic approaches by all stakeholders. In light of this, he said, Ethiopia signed the Common Agenda for Mobility and Migration with the European Union in 2015 and [has been] an active participant of the Khartoum Process since its inception in 2014. He commended partner countries and the European Union for their support to the country's policy initiative on the Jobs Compact program.

At the meeting, experts made presentations on a wide range topics like "Overview of migratory trends and flows from and within the region over the past year" and "Follow up to UNGA agreement to negotiate migration and refugee compacts". The experts underscored that smugglers and traffickers are getting greedier and more brutal. Hundreds of thousands of illegal migrants took a journey via Mediterranean routes alone from January-December 2016, of whom Eritrean migrants accounted for 92 percent.

The European External Investment Plan (EIP) was also revealed, including reference to the Partnership Framework. Ethiopia, the incumbent chair of the Khartoum process for 2017, presented the proposed

programs for the year to come. The Senior Officials Meeting held today was an extension of the meeting of the Steering Committee Meeting that took place yesterday, December 15.

### **...and Foreign Minister Dr Workneh meets the EU's Claudia Wiedey**

Foreign Minister, Dr Workneh Gebeyehu met with Ms Claudia Wiedey, Head of the European External Action Service (EEAS) for the Horn of Africa, East Africa and Indian Ocean this week. The meeting, on Wednesday (December 14) focused on the importance of strengthening the longstanding partnership between Ethiopia and the European Union that has covered broad-spectrum issues raising them to a higher level. Ms Wiedey also noted that as the EU was following the current situation in Ethiopia closely, it would welcome reforms being made by the government regarding addressing the problems related to unrest in some parts of Oromia and Amhara Regional States.

Recalling the strategic engagement signed between the EU and Ethiopia this year, Ms Wiedey noted the agreement gave further impetus to the relations that the two sides had encouraged over many years. Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn and Jean-Claude Juncker, European Commission President, signed an Ethio-EU strategic engagement document in Brussels in June, 2016. The Strategic Engagement Agreement aims at structuring the reinforced cooperation between the two partners. The Strategic Engagement focuses on six sectoral dialogues: regional peace and security; countering terrorism and violent radicalization; migration; social and economic development, investment and trade; governance and human rights; and climate change and environmental cooperation.

Dr Workneh said that the most important element was the “Focus on the partnership that we have built over the years.” He mentioned Ethiopia’s commitment towards establishing a continuous dialogue for enhanced cooperation on migration and mobility, adding that Ethiopia, as the chair of the next **EU-Horn of Africa Migration Route Initiative** meeting, would closely work on efforts to create a framework for policy and dialogue, as well as for sharing knowledge and experience to strengthen cooperation. The EU-Horn of Africa Migration Route Initiative, also known as the “Khartoum Process”, aims to tackle trafficking and smuggling of migrants between the Horn of Africa and Europe.

The Khartoum Declaration was adopted and formally launched in Rome on November 28, 2014. Participants included ministers of the 28 EU countries and Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Tunisia, as well as the European and African Union Commissioners in charge of migration and development and the EU High Representative. The intention is to provide for better management of migration from and within the countries of the Horn of Africa through the provision of capacity building and basic equipment for government institutions, with particular reference to investigating and prosecuting cases of trafficking and smuggling, improving border management, and the generation and use of statistical data. It is also intended to help the development and harmonization of policies and legislative frameworks, notably on trafficking and smuggling, the provision of protection to victims of trafficking and smuggling, and awareness-raising campaigns about the perils of irregular migration and options for legal migration and mobility.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> thematic meeting of the Khartoum Process took place in Addis on October 19-20, 2016, as a precursor for a steering committee meeting on December 15 and Senior Officials Meeting on December 16. The Khartoum Process convened these meetings to stimulate cooperation and coordination and monitor programs. It focused on return, readmission and reintegration. They also addressed a series of key issues: strategies, policies and approaches during a pre-return phase, identification techniques, key stakeholder and cooperation mechanisms and the establishment of reintegration strategies.

### **IGAD Summit discusses South Sudan and Somalia**

The 29<sup>th</sup> Extra-Ordinary Summit of IGAD Assembly of Heads of State and Government took place on Friday (December 9) under the chairmanship of Ethiopia’s Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn. South Sudan and Somalia were on the agenda. The Summit was attended by President Ismail Omar Guelleh of Djibouti, President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud of Somalia, President Salva Kiir of South Sudan, President Omar Hassan al-Bashir, of Sudan, Ambassador Amina Mohamed, Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs and International Trade of the Republic of Kenya; and Sam Kutessa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uganda. Also attending the Summit were the Executive Secretary of IGAD; the AU High Representative for South Sudan; the Deputy Chairperson of the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (JMEC); the AU Peace and Security Commissioner; the EU Special Representative to the Horn of Africa; the UN Secretary General

Special Representatives for Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan; the UNHCR Special Envoy for the Somalia Refugee Situation; the Chairperson of the IGAD Partners Forum (IPF); and the Special Envoys of the UK, Norway and US to Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan.

Following briefings and discussions, the Summit adopted a communiqué. It expressed its serious concern and dismay that the implementation of the Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (ARCSS) has faced a serious setback since the July 2016 incidences in Juba. It underlined its firm conviction that the agreement was the only viable way for achieving peace and stability in South Sudan. It condemned in the strongest terms the reported systematic targeting, killings and forced displacement of civilians and the destruction of property, perpetrated by armed men, including sexual violence against women and girls. It also expressed deep concern over the rising ethnic rhetoric, hate speech and ethnically-fuelled violence. It called on all parties to immediately cease all hostilities and condemned any declaration of armed uprisings in South Sudan, calling upon the SPLM-IO to renounce violence.

It welcomed the consent of the Transitional Government of National Unity for the immediate deployment of the Regional Protection Force and commended the Troop Contributing Countries for shouldering the responsibility of deploying their troops in the spirit of regional solidarity. It expressed deep appreciation to Kenya for its role in supporting the peace process in South Sudan, and encouraged the Government of Kenya to reconsider its decision of withdrawing its troops from UNMISS and to contribute to the RPF. It called on the TGoNU to fully cooperate with the Ceasefire Transitional Security Monitoring Mechanism (CTSAMM), UNMISS, and humanitarian partners in particular with respect to their freedom of movement. It also stressed that the Government has a responsibility to facilitate the deployment and unimpeded movement of CTSAMM. It further reiterated its request of August 5, 2016 that the African Union Commission, in consultation with the United Nations, and building on existing regional and continental capabilities, look into the best mechanisms for timely and effective action to address large-scale mass atrocities in line with the relevant provisions of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, the Protocol Establishing the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, and Chapter VIII of the UN Charter.

The Summit underlined the need for a credible and genuinely inclusive political process in South Sudan as the only way to reach a sustainable peace. It stressed this was not about individuals but must be a process of ensuring genuine representation of the national character in the implementation of the ARCSS. In this regard, it welcomed the announcement by President Kiir of the Government's plan to conduct an all-inclusive national dialogue, and encouraged the President to welcome all parties of the Agreement willing to rejoin the peace process to do so, in the spirit of greater inclusivity, forgiveness and reconciliation. It further called upon the SPLM-IG and SPLM-IO, as well as other South Sudanese political stakeholders, to re-affirm their commitment to the full and timely implementation of the Agreement.

The Summit also expressed its grave concern over the humanitarian situation in South Sudan including acute scarcity of food resulting in massive displacement of population. It therefore called on the TGoNU to take full responsibility for ensuring the protection of civilians and the safety and security of humanitarian workers. It commended partners of IGAD and the international community for its generous humanitarian assistance to the people of South Sudan, but emphasized the need for continued support. It also noted with concern the "prevailing dire economic situation in South Sudan and its consequence for the peace, security and livelihoods of the people of South Sudan". It called on the international community to continue providing technical and financial support to the TGoNU.

The Summit also expressed the view that an arms embargo or sanctions on South Sudan will not provide the solution being sought for permanent peace and stability in the country and stresses that what is required is dialogue, reconciliation and commitment by all South Sudanese parties to faithfully implement the ARCSS and for the region and the international community to support them.

On Somalia, the Summit reiterated the Federal Government's ownership in leading and setting the priorities for its stabilization and reconstruction in an all-inclusive manner. It welcomed the formation of Hir-Shabelle State and the completion of the state formation process in Somalia and noted the commitment of National Leadership Forum to support a credible, transparent and inclusive electoral process. It commended the progress made so far in the electoral process, and urged all parties to rapidly implement the peace deal signed on December 2, 2015 by Puntland and Galmudug. It also encouraged the FGS and the regional leaders' cooperation through the NLF and the timely finalization of the electoral process.

It condemned the recent al-Shabaab attacks in Mogadishu and against the government, AMISOM and the civilian population. It called for better coordination of AMISOM and friendly forces along with the Somali National Army. It called for full and timely support to AMISOM including the urgent funding needs of the Mission through UN assessed contributions.

It welcomed the decision of the Government of Kenya to host the **Special Summit** in March 2017; and the appointment by UNHCR of Ambassador Mohamed Affey as the Special Envoy for the Somalia Refugee Situation and expressed its support to the re-election of Judge Abdiqawi Yusuf as the Vice President of the International Court of Justice. It called on the international community to give financial support to refugee-hosting countries and communities in the spirit of burden sharing. The Summit also acknowledged the persisting drought conditions and unfolding humanitarian crisis that is expected to worsen through 2017 in Somalia, and the threat of famine in South Somalia.

The Summit appreciated the on-going efforts among IGAD Member States to implement the IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative. It resolved that an IGAD-based Multi-Donor Trust Fund to support humanitarian needs and development investments related to drought impact and implementation of IDDRSI, should be established under the IDDRSI Platform. It also called for the immediate lifting of the ban on credible Money Transfer Organizations to facilitate remittances from the Diaspora to the region. It also instructed the Ministers responsible for Finance and Livestock to convene a meeting to address issues pertaining to remittance and livestock export promotion, and appealed to the international community to support this effort.

### **President Kiir calls for a national dialogue to end the civil war**

South Sudan's President Salva Kiir has called for a national dialogue to end the country's three-year civil war. In a speech to parliament on Wednesday (December 14), the President said the dialogue would "consolidate peace in the country". He said the process could be guided by a panel of "eminent personalities and people of consensus", accepted as credible, genuine and trusted by all rival parties in the country and would involve "all the people of South Sudan". President Kiir did not mention his main rival Riek Machar in the speech, but insisted that armed groups in opposition to his government would be presented from grassroots level. He gave no indication of who he had in mind as members of the panel, but stressed the aim of the initiative was to "save the country from disintegration and usher in a new era of peace, stability and prosperity." The committee will work with independent experts from Juba-based think tanks such as the Ebony Center, Sudd Institute and Centre for Peace and Development. The three institutions will also provide secretariat work for the committee.

The President called on all those still bearing arms to lay down their weapons. He said: "I call upon those who are still carrying arms to stop destroying their own homes and their own country and join the process of national dialogue. I also call upon our national army and all the security organs to uphold their constitutional mandate to protect all the citizens and their properties." He also demanded that all those who indulged in hate speeches in the social media, or in international or local fora should stop "tearing their country and communities apart." He said "we are bound together as one people; one nation and we cannot allow our political and social disappointments to destroy our unity." He said: "National dialogue in my view is both a forum and process through which the people of South Sudan can gather to redefine the basis of their unity as it relates to nationhood, and the sense of belonging." He went on: "In the light of national endeavor, I am calling upon all of you to forgive one another, enter dialogue with one another in your personal capacities, embrace yourself."

President Kiir also took the opportunity to ask forgiveness from his countrymen on his own behalf. He said: "I am asking you, the people of South Sudan, to forgive me for any mistakes I might have committed. This is the spirit that our country needs and we must act now."

The President's appeal for dialogue comes just at the start of the fighting season after the rains finish. There have been a number of recent claims that the South Sudan army is preparing a major offensive in Equatoria, and warnings by UN officials that there is a danger of genocide in parts of the country, particularly around the town of Yei in Equatoria. President Kiir has now issued a directive to both government and rebel forces "to immediately cease hostilities, protect their fellow citizens and prepare the ground for a more peaceful, secure and joyous Christmas and New Year." At the beginning of the week the European Union said it could impose new sanctions against inciters of ethnic hatred and those said to be obstructing the peace process in South Sudan. In a statement issued on Monday (December 12), Foreign Ministers from the EU countries

said they were “disturbed” by the conflict in South Sudan, they urged South Sudan’s Transitional Government of National Unity to protect civilians, while calling on all parties to respect international law and to halt all human rights violations. The United Nations recently warned that South Sudan was at risk of genocide and that ethnic cleansing was being carried out in several parts of the nation, claims that the South Sudan government has rejected.

The body overseeing the implementation of the Peace Agreement in South Sudan, the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (JMEC), said it was delighted that President Salva Kiir had called for national dialogue in the country. The JMEC Chairman, Festus Mogae, former President of Botswana said: “The President has seized a critical opportunity for national reconciliation, appealed for a spirit of forgiveness and togetherness and set in motion a genuine campaign to address the concerns and grievances of the South Sudanese people.” In a statement issued on Wednesday, Mr Mogae said President Kiir had reached out “to his people with such strong and heartfelt words and launch[ed] this much-needed National Dialogue initiative.” He added: “I applaud his leadership and I give my assurance that JMEC will support the National Dialogue in any way we can.”

Equally, the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (JMEC) on Monday (December 12) emphasized the difficulty, as well as the importance, of creating “inclusive” cantonment sites for the two rival armies. At a Joint Military Ceasefire Commission (JMCC) workshop in Juba on Monday, JMEC’s deputy chairman, Augustino Njoroge, said cantoning all forces would help end hostilities, but, he added, it was not an easy task. He said it would need the combined efforts of the Transitional Government of National Unity, regional and international partners, adding that it required “all parties to join the cantonment and the disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) process peacefully.” The process must also ensure “genuine representation of the national character in all transformed institutions,” he said. According to the Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan, the JMCC is responsible for oversight and coordination of the cantonment process, as well as the return to the barracks by pro-government soldiers. At the workshop, Defense Minister, Kuol Manyang Juuk, reaffirmed government’s commitment to opening cantonment sites. He said, “Efforts are being made to reconcile the people of South Sudan. We have the political goodwill. We are doing everything we can to do well in the peace process.”

### **Five Somali states complete parliamentary elections: eleven seats to be re-run**

Puntland completed its House of the People, Lower House, elections on Monday (December 12), the fifth state to do so, with the election of the last five of its 37 seats.

The parliamentary elections have now been concluded in most of the regional states, in Jubaland, Southwest, Hir-Shabelle, Galmudug and Puntland, but the process is still in progress for Benadir and the Somaliland community in Mogadishu. The National Leadership Forum has been holding another meeting this week to discuss key outstanding issues related to the completion of the electoral process, among them the still unresolved dispute over distribution of Upper House seats for Somaliland community. The Puntland Vice-President and Parliament Speaker last week travelled to Mogadishu to demand changes in the allocation of the contested seats for the Sool, Sanag and Buhodle regions. Elders and politicians from the Somaliland community have demanded the seats’ distribution of the Upper House remain unchanged. With issues around these northern seats still unresolved there have been concerns that the swearing in ceremonies for new MPs might be delayed and this in turn would affect the schedule of the election of the Speakers of both Houses of Parliament and, subsequently the Presidential election.

According to the State-level Indirect Electoral Implementation Team in Puntland, seven female members were elected to the Lower House, out of its quota allocation of 10 seats. SIEIT said it had worked hard to convince the clans with seats given for only women to contest. The chairman said, “We have successfully managed to have seven seats for women after a long struggle, some clans objected to the 30% women quota, but they have been convinced to accept the process.” Puntland held a ceremony on Wednesday to award certificates to newly elected Federal parliamentarians. Federal Prime Minister Omar Sharmarke, Puntland President Abdiweli Mohamed Ali and former Puntland President Abdirahman Mohamed Farole, cabinet ministers and state parliamentarians, attended. The SIEIT chairman said despite challenges, encountered particularly from the delegates, the process had gone smoothly and without disruption or disputes. He expressed gratitude to all sides for their efforts to support the process. President Ali congratulated all elected parliamentarians, and urged them to represent their region and make efforts to bring together the Somali people and the country.

A spokesman for the United Nations Somali Office welcomed the latest rescheduling of the Presidential election. At the end of last week, the National Leadership Forum said the parliamentary elections must be completed by December 22, with MPs then choosing a president by December 28. Joseph Contreras, a Spokesperson for the UN said: "There was always a possibility of some slippages in the timelines of the electoral process, given that this unprecedented and unique electoral model has faced some daunting logistical and technical challenges in a country that is emerging from a quarter-century of armed conflict." He added: "One of the many positive aspects of the 2016 electoral process is al-Shabaab's failure until now to disrupt the selection of electoral college delegates and the election of parliamentary candidates with a major attack on a polling site." He said this was due to the "close co-operation between Somali security forces and the military and police contingents of the African Union Mission in Somalia, with support from international partners."

Mr Contreras said, "The credibility of the results will ultimately hinge on the effectiveness of the country's Independent Electoral Dispute Resolution Mechanism". This is responsible for investigating complaints of vote fraud and for resolving disputes and it has the capacity and ability to "take appropriate action in the worst instances of electoral abuse and malpractice."

Later in the week, the Independent Electoral Dispute Resolution Committee rejected the results in eleven seats in Jubaland, Galmudug, Hir-Shabelle, Puntland and South West states, citing irregularities. The committee said it had the results of 67 cases referred to it, and after lengthy investigations had cancelled the results in eleven seats out of the 67 that it had investigated. Among these were the two last seats elected in Hir-Shabelle won by Somalia's former Youth Minister, Mohamed Abdullahi Noah and Abdiiaziz Salah Arman. The Federal Indirect Electoral Implementation Team and the international community criticized the minister's election at the time because of irregularities. Indeed, FIEIT disqualified both Mohamed Abdullahi Hassan and Ahmed Sheikh Nur for their role in the violence that occurred inside and outside the polling center in Jowhar last month. A number of people, including Electoral College delegates, were injured.

In Jubaland, among the seats cancelled was the parliamentary seat allocated for the Gal-Je'el clan for which the electoral body had earlier rejected Somalia's Minister for Petroleum as a candidate. In Galmudug, the Committee rejected the result, which had allowed a male candidate for a parliamentary seat said to have been allocated for women only. The Committee has now disqualified Mohammed Abdullahi from running in a new election. In the other cases, however, the candidates whose wins were nullified will be allowed to run again. The State Level Electoral Implementation Teams for both South West and Puntland promptly criticized decisions of the Independent Electoral Dispute Resolution Committee.

The voting for the House of the People and the Upper House, the Senate, has been organized on the basis of 135 clan elders choosing 14,025 delegates who take part in electoral colleges which have voted for each of the 275 seats in the lower house, distributed in accordance with a power-sharing formula among clans. Seats in the 54-member upper house have been distributed by region. Members of both houses are now due to vote for the Speakers of the House of the People and the Senate on December 22, and then for President on December 28. Those contesting the presidency include the incumbent, President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, Prime Minister Omar Sharmarke, former Transitional Federal President Sharif Sheikh Ahmed, and the President of the South West Interim Administration, Sheriff Hassan Sheikh Aden. Other candidates include Jibril Ibrahim Abdulle, the Director of the Centre for Research and Dialogue, a Mogadishu-based think tank, and Mohamed Abdullahi Nur, a businessman as well as a number of others.

In a statement over the weekend, the Special Representative of the Secretary General, Michael Keating, condemned, in the strongest possible terms, the terrorist attack at the port in Mogadishu on Sunday, emphasizing that this "bloody act will not stop the momentum of the electoral process." He said, "This latest atrocity by al-Shabaab militants, taking place on a religious holiday, provides fresh evidence of their disregard for the lives and hopes of Somali citizens." Most of those killed or injured were civilians though al-Shabaab claimed that it had targeted security personnel assigned to the seaport facility because they "had been trained to provide security for so-called elections." Mr Keating also welcomed the communiqué issued by the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development at its last week's Extraordinary Summit commending the overall progress achieved to date in the electoral process. It also underscored the importance of enabling the Independent Electoral Dispute Resolution Mechanism to carry out its investigations of alleged electoral abuse and malpractices and ensuring acceptance and implementation of its rulings. He said the international community expected the Mechanism to conclude its investigations in

a timely manner and to take appropriate action, including nullifying the results of the seats affected by the most egregious irregularities. Mr Keating emphasized that any spoilers who were found by the electoral implementation bodies “to have violated the rules of the process must be held accountable for their actions.”

### **President Kenyatta speaking on Jamhuri Day in Kenya**

Kenya celebrated the 54<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its independence, Day, also known as Jamhuri or Republic Day, on Monday (December 12). It is a major national holiday, commemorated nationally with political speeches, feasts, marching bands and dancers in traditional costumes, and this year it was also attended by Togo’s President Faure Eyadéma Gnassingbé. This was the last Jamhuri Day of President Kenyatta’s current term of office, and the President appealed for support in next year’s Presidential Election, warned against election violence and called on Kenyans to resist any attempts by external powers to influence the 2017 Presidential election next year. He also hinted strongly that Kenya may join other countries in withdrawing from the International Criminal Court.

The President gave a tough warning against possible election violence during the eight months to the general election next year. He told politicians firmly to settle poll-related grievances through the courts and not to incite supporters to cause chaos. The President said Kenyans should not forget what happened in 2007-2008 after political differences escalated into ethnic hatred, leading to post-election violence in which 1,133 people were killed and another 650,000 displaced from their homes. President Kenyatta said: “I do not have to remind you what disunity looks like. We know all too well what happened the last time we failed to treat each other as one family. So, I will close by asking every Kenyan one single thing: in 2017, I ask you to be your brother’s keeper.” President Kenyatta said that even when people differ politically, violence should not be the only way to solve problems – “even when we disagree at home, we don’t burn the house down”. He particularly challenged the youth not to be used by political leaders to cause mayhem. He added that the future of Kenya belongs to the youth and it is the responsibility of all leaders to prepare them to be the new heroes. The President challenged his opponents to accept the results and pledged that he too would respect the outcome if he was defeated: “We will either accept the results, or challenge them following the legal means laid down for that purpose. Those who win will use their offices to serve in humility.”

The violence in 2007-8 led the International Criminal Court to open charges against six Kenyans, including President Kenyatta and his Deputy President, William Ruto. The cases eventually collapsed after five years, but on Monday the President made it clear that Kenya would be rethinking its relationship with the court in The Hague. He said: “Our experience at the ICC demonstrated a glaring lack of impartiality in this institution. We have started to see many more nations openly recognizing that the ICC is not impartial. Some have withdrawn. Others have considered that step. Twice, our Parliament has passed motions to withdraw. We have sought the changes that will align the ICC to respect for national sovereignty. Those changes have not been forthcoming. We will, therefore, need to give serious thought to our membership.” He emphasized that: “We are not the world’s richest or most powerful nation, but we are entitled to an equal share of respect for our nationhood, our sovereignty, and our laws.” Gambia, South Africa and Burundi have announced their withdrawal from the ICC and the Kenyan Parliament has twice passed motions to withdraw from ICC.

President Kenyatta, who was speaking at the Nyayo National Stadium in Nairobi, also warned foreign governments against interfering in local politics. He said Kenyans should be allowed to make independent decisions on who should lead them. He said the Government would not allow any external influence by foreign missions. He noted that in the United States after its last election “much has been said about potential foreign interference with the electoral process. We are also going into elections next year. There is already money coming into Kenya from abroad in the guise of supporting good governance or civic education.” This was of concern, he said, as its “true intention is to influence our electoral choices.” Kenyans must be allowed to decide the leaders they want, he said. He went on: “I want to caution those members of the International Community taking these actions that Kenyan people do not look kindly on such actions. I urge all Kenyans to reject such interference, this is our country and no one should ever control our choices for their own selfish interest.”

The President said he believed he had earned people’s support: “I believe that, next year, they will give me a second and final term in an open and transparent election.” “I will accept the electoral choice of Kenyans

in all humility, and give my congratulations, and my full co-operation, to the man or woman of their choice,” he promised. He listed the achievements of his Jubilee administration, which came to power in 2013, referring to the huge investments in education and in technical education to lay the foundation for industrialization and “create a sufficient number of jobs for the young people we have educated.” He referred to the motor vehicle assembly plant in Thika which would produce the first Volkswagen car to be assembled in Kenya by the end of the year. He also noted that every child from standard one to standard three would have access to digital learning devices beginning next year.

### **The Nile Basin’s Cooperative Framework Agreement: enhancing cooperation**

The Nile River Basin Cooperative Framework Agreement (CFA), as its preamble lays out, is a framework agreement to strengthen cooperation and govern relations between the Nile Basin countries in order to promote integrated management, sustainable development and harmonious utilization of the water resources of the Basin as well as their conservation and protection for the benefit of present and future generations. In other words, the CFA is aimed to establish principles, rights and obligations to ensure long-term and sustainable management and development of the Nile River System. The ultimate goal of the CFA is the establishment of a permanent Nile River Basin Commission (NRBC) through which member countries will act together to manage and develop the resources of the Nile. In a nutshell, the Cooperative Framework Agreement seeks to play a key role in catalyzing economic growth, reducing poverty, facilitating regional integration, and promoting regional peace and stability. The establishment of the Nile River Basin Commission as per the CFA would provide a demonstration of their commitment to cooperating in the development and utilization of their shared water resources and enhance regional cooperation and integration.

The CFA has already been signed by six riparian states, namely, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya and Burundi. It has so far been ratified by three riparian states: Ethiopia, Rwanda and Tanzania. The rest of the signatory states to the Framework Agreement are in the process of ratification. South Sudan has been working to accede to the Agreement. As enumerated under Article 42, the cooperative Framework Agreement will come in to force after it has been ratified by six states.

There are a number of reasons that underline the importance of the Cooperative Framework Agreement. One of the major reasons is that the Agreement is based on the cardinal principle of international water law that is on the principle of equitable and reasonable utilization. When states utilize trans-boundary water resources in an equitable and reasonable manner they can avoid the causing of any significant harm. In addition, the CFA is the first ever multilaterally negotiated agreement in the history of the Nile Basin. There has been no earlier multilateral and basin-wide agreement, nor any attempt to create one. There were only partial efforts, unjust and non-inclusive colonial and bilateral “agreements”, which non-signatory upstream states objected to, and rejected because; the “agreements” denied the sovereign rights and uses of all upstream states. By contrast, the multilateral negotiations that produced the Cooperative Framework Agreement were undertaken in an all-inclusive manner with all the riparian states actively participating until the end of the negotiations in 2010. Underlining the concept of inclusive involvement, all states were given the chance to deliberate upon all the issues raised during the negotiation process. The CFA, in fact, can be identified as the instrument that brought a paradigm shift into being for the Nile Basin, providing a transparent, participatory and all-inclusive Agreement.

The only provision of the Cooperative Framework Agreement on which the negotiating states disagreed has been Article 14 (b). According to the Annex to the Agreement, at the end of the negotiations, no consensus was reached on an element in Article 14(b) which reads as follows: “not to significantly affect the water security of any other Nile Basin States”. All of the basin countries agreed to this proposal except Egypt and Sudan. Egypt proposed that the phrase in Article 14(b) should be replaced by: “not to adversely affect the water security and current uses and rights of any other Nile Basin State”. This proposal by Egypt was totally unacceptable to the rest of basin countries. It went against the basic principle of the Cooperative Framework Agreement as laid down in, for example, Article 4, which is about equitable and reasonable utilization of the Nile waters. Such a proposal, in effect, makes the CFA self-defeating, contradicting the aims, and, indeed, the virtue of the rest of its provisions. It appears to have been presented in the spirit of the past discriminatory colonial “agreements” which utterly ignored and excluded the rights of all the upstream states.

Because of the disagreement on Article 14(b), the Extraordinary Meeting of the Nile Council of Ministers held in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, in May 2009, resolved that the issue of this article should be annexed to the Agreement and resolved by the Nile River Basin Commission within six months of its establishment. As noted the long-term goal of the CFA is the establishment of the Nile River Basin Commission, which will allow all Nile Basin member countries to manage and develop the resources of the Nile together. The Cooperative Framework Agreement, the first multilateral negotiated agreement in Nile Basin history, is designed to strengthen cooperation among the Nile Basin countries. It is currently the only platform that can enhance cooperation among the Nile Basin countries, with the ability to create a permanent legal and institutional mechanism. However, in order to benefit from such a vision, the Nile Basin states must work towards ensuring its implementation.

### **A successful new impetus for Ethiopian tourism**

Recently, like a number of other sectors of the economy, tourism in Ethiopia has demonstrated its potential for growth, driven by the efforts of the respective bodies involved in the sector. Indeed tourism, as laid out in the National Tourism Development Policy of Ethiopia, certainly makes a tremendous contribution. It serves as a major source of foreign exchange, promoting numerous micro and small-scale enterprises, creating extensive employment opportunities, and ensuring sustainable development in many areas. Across the country, it has shown wide growth in terms of the numbers of visitors as well as in the receipts it has earned.

The UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), the UN's specialized agency for responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism, has made it clear it encourages the promotion of a Global Code of Ethics for Tourism. This underlines the socio-economic contribution of tourism to nations, helping to minimize possible negative impacts. It is also an instrument to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. African countries, as well as other parts of the world, have been quick to show the necessary commitment and resilience towards enhancing the sector and earning a reasonable return of their investments in tourism. Since the beginning of this year, Ethiopia has been working steadily towards its aim to become one of Africa's top five tourist destinations by 2020. The process began with the reorganization of the structure of the sector with such important and tangible developments as the producing of the "Sustainable Tourism Development Project" and the Sustainable Tourism Master Plan (STMP), the setting up of the Ethiopian Tourism Organization (ETO), and, in particular the creation of the high-level Tourism Transformation Council (TTC) chaired by Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn. This underlines the importance the government attaches to the development of the tourist sector.

During the year, a number of international stakeholder and partner organizations including IGAD, UNWTO and organizations like *Rough Guides* have commended Ethiopia's efforts to upgrade and develop the sector. Widely read tourist media like *Rough Guides* and *Lonely Planet* have rated Ethiopia as one of the most impressive of tourist destinations. Regional and International stakeholders including IGAD and the United Nations World Tourism Organization have praised the efforts to upgrade the infrastructure as well as underlined the untapped cultural and natural resources with which Ethiopia is endowed. Dr Ray Muntida, the then advisor to the IGAD Sustainable Tourism Master Plan, said Ethiopia could be one of the top five tourist destination countries in Africa if it properly implemented its Sustainable Tourism Master Plan by 2020. Many of those who have seen the major sites and reported on them have been most deeply impressed. Last month CNN's Tomas Page in a report entitled "Walk with pilgrims on a journey to Lalibela, Ethiopia's New Jerusalem", about Lalibela, one of the UNESCO World Heritage sites in Ethiopia, said, "I'm astonished that everybody doesn't know about this place". He noted the majesty of the architecture and beauty of the region, but most of all the hospitality of its people.

Ethiopia has numerous attractions, natural, cultural historical and archaeological as well as eleven World Heritage Sites, with another five under consideration. Among the sites registered as World Heritage Sites in Ethiopia are: the Aksum Obelisks, the Fasil Ghebbi in Gondar Region, the Fortified Historic Town of Harar Jugol, Konso Cultural Landscape, Lower Valley of the Awash, Lower Valley of the Omo, the Rock-Hewn Churches of Lalibela, the Simien National Park and the Tiya monuments. Most recently it has added the Gadaa System to the list. Ethiopia has also put five sites on its tentative list: the Bale Mountains National Park, the religious, cultural and historic site of Dirre Sheikh Hussein, the Sof Omar cave system, the mixed cultural and natural landscape of Gedeo, and the MelkaKunture and Bachilt archaeological sites.

Ethiopia is a land of wonder and enchantment, a country with one of the richest histories on the African continent, a land of contrasts and surprises, of remote and wild places. This is underlined by some of the other titles bestowed on it. One is the new national brand, replacing Thirteen Months of Sunshine, **Land of Origins**, drawing attention to the discoveries of the remains of the earliest hominids, including Lucy, in the Valleys of the Awash and the Omo. Not surprisingly, Ethiopia is often called the Cradle of Mankind, as well as a Land of Extremes, drawing attention to some of its extraordinary landscapes in the Simien National Park, at the highest levels, and the below sea levels of the Danakil Desert, where you can see the Rift Valley in the (very slow) process of breaking apart. Indeed, Ethiopia is unique, with some of the oldest churches and mosques in the world and their ageless melodies of prayer.

As part of its efforts to encourage tourism, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism has laid out the necessary favorable conditions for the development of the sector, domestically, to include identification of Ethiopia's Possession of Varied Attractions, and the Country's Political and Economic Foundations as well as improved infrastructure. Externally, it has noted that the opportunities to favor development should include continuous growth of the sector, including improved communication and information technology to encourage the growth of the interest of international tourists in authentic and organic tourism products and destinations. It has identified the challenges, including those related to destination development, products and services offered, and expansion of infrastructure and tourist facilities as well as the need to extend the image more widely.

The sector has now put in place broad-based guiding principles covering the integration of Tourism Development into the Country's Key Development Policies and Strategies, Developing the Existing and New Tourist Attractions in Variety, Scale and Quality, Expansion of Infrastructure and Tourist Facilities Essential for Tourism Development, Development of Promotional Work Through the Creation of Strong Market International Ties and Overcoming the Serious Capacity Limitations Observed in the Industry. As the National Policy, however, underlined, the projections for the tourist sector, although it took many relevant factors into consideration at the time, did not fully foresee global conditions that have challenged the growth of the tourist industry. As a result, a lot more effort is needed to provide for the anticipated growth. This remains important. In addition to its economic benefits, tourism promotes better and reciprocal understanding and closer relations among peoples, helping to assure sustainable growth and foster a culture of peaceful coexistence and mutual respect.