

A Week in the Horn of Africa 19th October 2012

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Prime Minister Hailemariam briefs the House of People's Representatives

Prime Minister Hailemariam briefed members of the House of People's Representatives on Tuesday (16th October) on a number of issues concerning the economy, the status of on-going projects, good governance, democracy and foreign relations. The Prime Minister was responding to questions raised by MP's in a session to discuss and ratify a motion of thanks on President Girma Woldegiorgis's speech opening the new session of Parliament last week.

The Prime Minister said the results of the second year performance of the Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP) were "encouraging" and moving at an "expected pace". The industrial sector had shown 15% growth and national savings had increased from 6% to 9% during the last completed GTP year. As a result of policy measures taken by the government, the rate of inflation had fallen from 40% to 19%. The Prime Minister emphasized that the government would continue to implement a variety of measures aimed at reducing the amount of money circulating within the market through different policy instruments. These included selling of foreign currency to bring the inflation rate down to a single digit as expected in the GTP. **Government import and distribution of basic commodities such as sugar, wheat and edible oil** would also continue as a measure to stabilize market prices and control inflation. He noted that the government had created more than **1.1 million jobs through support for small and micro enterprises** over the past year as part of the effort to reduce unemployment and fight inflation.

Responding to a question on the availability of foreign currency, the Prime Minister said foreign currency generated through exports and from remittances, grants and loans had increased during the current fiscal year. There was no shortage of foreign currency at the moment, he emphasized. There had been some problems and confusion about this because of the activities of some businessmen speculating to try and get larger amounts

of foreign currency than needed. Overall, the Prime Minister said, the performance of the economy showed the country was on the right track to achieve the growth envisaged in the Growth and Transformation Plan. An average 11.7% growth had been recorded in each of the last nine years, and more than 11% growth is expected this fiscal year. He also noted that environmental protection and conservation activities carried out over the year had created a suitable springboard to build up an industrial-led green economy over the next three years.

The Prime Minister highlighted some of the activities, including implementation of quality assurance packages at all levels of education and technical and vocation training, being carried out to ensure an improved quality of education. Encouraging results, he said, were being achieved by these measures and this could be seen in the **astonishing rise in the number of students passing technical and vocational schools exit exams with good results**. He noted that further activities related to capacity building of teachers would be carried out this year. Ato Hailemariam also noted the importance of addressing quality of services in other sectors including the telecom and electric power sectors.

The Prime Minister expressed the government's firm belief that its efforts to provide good governance will not bear fruit without the active participation of the public **and of political parties**. He **underlined the government's readiness to work with any political parties that operate within the bounds of the constitution and the law, that are prepared to uphold the constitution and which are "genuinely committed to the democratization process"**. He **reiterated the government's resolve to take full legal action against civil servants who indulge in practices of maladministration, including corruption, adding that the government "will penalize them without mercy or sympathy"**.

The Prime Minister also underscored what he called Ethiopia's "unwavering commitment to peace and stability" in the region, noting the roles Ethiopia has been playing in resolving intra- and inter-state conflicts through diplomatic and peace keeping efforts. These have largely been through the auspices of IGAD. He itemized the successful negotiations between Sudan and South Sudan and the formation of a new government in Somalia as great achievements and ones in which the relentless efforts of the late Prime Minister Meles had played a major contribution. Prime Minister Hailemariam said Ethiopia would continue its positive role for stability and security in the region as the country's development was intertwined with the development of the region as a whole. Ethiopia, he stressed, was fully ready to work towards regional economic integration to ensure lasting peace and stability.

Questioned over the growing threat of religious fundamentalism, the Prime Minister said the government fully respected freedom of religion. **It would not interfere in the affairs of religion just as religion would not interfere in matters of politics**. He noted there had been a few occasions when some extremist elements had tried to activate a hidden political agenda under the pretext of religion. The government, he said, would not tolerate any such politically motivated activities carried out under the guise of religion. He emphasized the government's determination to take any necessary measures to stop such activities and ensure complete observance of the constitution.

Prime Minister Hailemariam also briefed the House of People's Representatives on the status of several on-going major projects including the construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), the sugar development projects, construction of fertilizer factories and the progress of the railway infrastructural developments. He said implementation of all these projects had been encouraging, despite some delay in the sugar projects. This had, he said, been quite manageable, and the generally encouraging performance over the past year was a clear sign that the GTP targets for the next three years were achievable. He noted that there are promising developments for the financing of these projects, with loans secured from India, Turkey and China to finance railway projects. The Addis Ababa -Djibouti railway project, which would have a major impact on the import of capital goods, had started in June and would be completed within a few years. **The construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam was progressing according to the schedule laid down in the plan: over 11% of the dam had been completed so far.** The Prime Minister said no question of international finance would cause any delay for the construction. It had been decided from the very beginning that the total cost would be covered by local finance. The country's national savings had now reached the level of 9% of GDP and this could be used as a major potential source of finance for the project.

The Conference on Climate Change and Development opens today [19th Oct]

The second annual Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA-II), being held here in Addis Ababa, opened today [19th Oct] with Prime Minister Hailemariam addressing the opening session. The conference theme is **Advancing Knowledge, Policy and Practice in Climate Change and Development**. The Prime Minister told the assembled dignitaries who included AU Chairperson, Madame Nkosazana Dlamanie-Zuma, the United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, Carlos Lopez, the President of the African Development Bank, Dr Donald Kaberu and the Deputy Secretary General of World Meteorological Organization, Jeremiah Langossa, that Africa must **remain focused on the mechanisms to address adaptation and mitigation**. It was a matter of extreme urgency, and he hoped the Forum would produce serious advice and suggestions for the strategies the continent needed, to put containment on a much sounder footing in the campaign against Climate Change. Climate change, he noted, was of course a menace that faced the whole world; its consequences were straining efforts to put sufficient food in the mouths of people. This meeting must generate results that could respond to the challenges facing Africa today and would continue to do so in the future.

The Prime Minister noted that geography and our recent history combined to make Ethiopia particularly aware of the consequences of climate change. Indeed these had been at the centre of the country's development agenda. It was also something to which late Prime Minister Meles had dedicated his role as the champion of Africa's Renaissance in international fora on Climate Change: "His commitment was borne out of his unshakable belief that Africa should be given the attention and support it so richly deserved and needed in its efforts to mitigate and adapt to the adverse impact of climate changes to which its contributions have been minimal." The late Prime Minister had stressed the importance of **African governments reorienting development strategies to ensure climate resilience and provide a real capacity to develop**

green economies. Ethiopia had launched its Climate Resilient Green Economy a year ago with the ambition, along with other aims, to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2025.

Prime Minister Hailemariam described this as an “almost dauntingly ambitious project”, but he added it could, and should, be reached. Realization depended largely on resources that Ethiopia, and indeed Africa, had in relative abundance: land, labour and rich sources of green and renewable energy. He said that green development, involving major reforestation, water management and soil conservation programmes, were the main elements necessary for transforming agriculture which was and would remain a major pillar of the economy. He noted Ethiopia's focus on the development of renewable energy, including hydro-power, wind and geothermal power generation projects. This testified to its commitment to building a green economy. Prime Minister Hailemariam noted the green trend in the development of relevant global technologies, but, he added, there was a very real need for political will and social mobilization to turn Africa's ambitions into concrete results. Equally, he thought Ethiopia's progress provided some practical lessons here for the rest of the continent.

Prime Minister Hailemariam said there was a very real need to address the **continuing and serious challenges resulting from the reluctance of major international players to agree on even the simplest and least controversial points.** Africa suffered most from the current impasse. Negotiations on climate change had been coordinated by various bodies including the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change which the late Prime Minister Meles had chaired. These had achieved some significant results and agreements: on a long-term temperature goal of 2°C; on Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions; economy-wide quantified emission reduction pledges; rules relating to measurement, reporting and evaluation; and on short-term finance and long-term financial mobilization targets as well as on developments relating to the establishment of the Green Climate Fund; the establishment of institutions for adaptation and development, and the transfer of adaptation and mitigation technologies; the agreement to have a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol; and last but not least, the agreement to develop a new legal instrument, under the convention applicable to all parties for the period after 2020.

All these were important but, Prime Minister Hailemariam emphasized they all needed significant follow-up action. Africa must push hard for national and international efforts, particularly in relation to adaptation, mitigation, finance and technology development and transfer, to be increased. He described the performance of the developed countries in activating the short-term financial commitments agreed at the Copenhagen Climate Conference as “extremely disappointing”. Their actions had failed the ‘new additionality’ test. There was a real risk the Green Climate Fund would become no more than an empty shell. Finance for climate action in Africa, he said, must be “real and significant.” The need was urgent, and African countries had a moral and legal claim to proper responses.

Prime Minister Hailemariam said Ethiopia was committed to do all it could to strengthen Africa's interests in the climate change agenda. This was the enduring legacy of late Prime Minister Meles. He emphasized that Africa must continue to show a united face and continue to work for success however slow or frustrating progress may be.

Africa's collective efforts offered a real chance of 'turning the corner' if genuine progress could be achieved at the 18th Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change, in Doha, next month. However, he said, “we have to seize the opportunity.”

Prime Minister Hailemariam also noted that Africa's negotiations must be based on proper scientific research and empirically sound assessments. He welcomed the role of **ClimDev Africa**, and of the **African Climate Policy Centre** of the Economic Commission for Africa in supporting negotiations and in providing direct support to African countries and institutions. In conclusion, he underlined the importance of the forum in identifying ways to bridge existing gaps in Climate Change related initiatives, and stressed its importance in providing recommendations to limit Africa's exposure, risks and vulnerabilities to the adverse impact of climate change.

The new AU Commission Chairperson officially assumes office

South Africa's Madam Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma officially assumed office on Monday (15th October), as the Chairperson of the African Union Commission. She is the first woman to lead the Commission. President Boni Yayi of Benin, Chairman of the AU, outgoing AU Chairperson, Dr Jean Ping and Ethiopia's Prime Minister Hailemariam as well as diplomats and representatives of international and regional organizations attended the handing over ceremony held at the AU headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Prime Minister Hailemariam in a welcoming speech congratulated the incoming Chairperson, Dr Dlamini Zuma, for her election as the first woman to assume the high post of Chairperson to the Commission. The Prime Minister recalled Dr Zuma's distinguished contribution to the transformation of the OAU into the AU in her capacity as South Africa's Minister of Foreign Affairs at the time. He expressed full confidence that Dr Zuma would continue to build upon the excellent work that had been done by the outgoing commissioner towards the realization of the principles and objectives of the African Union. Prime Minister Hailemariam assured Dr Zuma that Ethiopia, as host to the AU Headquarters, would remain steadfast in fulfilling its commitments and extend all necessary support to help her successfully discharge her heavy responsibilities.

Dr Zuma and the other new members of the Commission are assuming their duties as we approach the 10th anniversary of the African Union, and the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the OAU. Prime Minister Hailemariam reminded them that they therefore had the task of assessing past achievements and shortcomings as well as producing strategies for the continent to bring about peace and security and realize economic development. The newly elected members of the Commission will, he said, have a huge responsibility in pushing forward Africa's transformation agenda.

The Prime Minister also thanked the outgoing Commission Chairperson, Dr Jean Ping, for the excellent work he had done to help achieve the fundamental objectives of the Union and promote the cause of Africa on the international stage. He noted that Dr Ping besides expanding and consolidating Africa's strategic partnership with the rest of the

world, had also played an important role in strengthening the AU's position in terms of coordinating the continent's engagement with different partners.

Earlier, the Prime Minister had hosted a farewell reception for Dr Ping at the National Palace. He hailed Dr Ping's leadership of the Commission over the previous four years, noting that "in his tenure the chairman has worked to consolidate the organizational structure of the AU, expedite the development of the continent and ensure peace and stability in Africa". He said that the outgoing Chairperson had stood alongside late Prime Minister Meles in all of his efforts to articulate Africa's stand in international fora including the G-8 and G-20 meetings and Climate Change Conferences. Dr Ping, in turn, expressed his hope that the prominent role taken by Ethiopia under the leadership of the late Prime Minister Meles to help ensure benefits for Africa would continue under the new leadership.

Consensus on coordinated assistance for post-transition challenges in Somalia.....

The UN Secretary-General's Special Representative and Head of the UN Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS), Ambassador Mahiga, briefing the UN Security Council Debate on Somalia, on Tuesday (16th October) emphasized that the new government of Somalia needed urgent assistance to meet the challenges associated with peace building as well as stabilizing the areas liberated from insurgents. Somalia, Ambassador Mahiga noted, now had a new Constitution, a new Parliament, a new President, a newly elected Speaker and new Prime Minister who would shortly form the first post-transition Government. These changes, he said, "met the expectations of most Somalis and have raised higher expectations for more change". Ambassador Mahiga later welcomed the endorsement by Parliament of Mr Abdi Farah Shirdon "Saacid" as Prime Minister. It was, he said, "further incontrovertible evidence of progress in Somalia," and this overwhelming endorsement of the new Prime Minister was a vote of confidence in the new leadership. Ambassador Mahiga, briefing the 15-member Security Council by video-conference, said the new Somali authorities now urgently need assistance to move quickly to deal with priority areas, including the stabilization of liberated areas. It was critical to avoid any vacuum which might otherwise emerge from the retreat of the insurgents. "The immediate challenge which the Government faces is, hence, the establishment of local and district administrations, justice and rule of law, as well as to provide basic services to the population."

Ambassador Mahiga noted that the security situation in Somalia had "vastly improved," thanks to the continuing efforts of the UN-supported African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), the actions of Ethiopian forces and of the Somali Government and its local allied forces. He said the liberation of the last Al-Shabaab stronghold of Kismayo by AMISOM in late September marked a decisive turning-point: "the challenge now is to align the security and political strategies in Kismayo as part of the overall stabilization strategy in the newly-recovered areas." He added that although Al-Shabaab had now dispersed into a "rag-tag militia," it had nevertheless embarked on more asymmetrical, terrorist and hit-and-run tactics. These were occasionally seen in Mogadishu, and he suggested "these are tactics which AMISOM and the Somali forces must be equipped to deal with, as they control more territory and their lines of supply get extended".

Ambassador Mahiga said the on-going assassinations and targeted killings of civilians was a worrying trend which called for "the expeditious deployment of AMISOM to its

full strength, with the necessary logistical support and the enhanced training and strengthening of the Somali Security Forces.” He underlined the importance of AMISOM, whose current mandate expires on 31st October, **being supported to provide more effective control of the coastal waters around Mogadishu, Merca, Barawe and Kismayo**. This is necessary, he said, to protect its own forces and supply lines, interrupt any efforts to resupply Al-Shabaab and effectively secure and reopen these ports for commercial use. Ambassador Mahiga said UNPOS had begun a consultative review of the future presence of the UN in Somalia, and this would be led by consideration of the needs and expectations of Somalis. He also urged international partners "to sustain and expand their assistance to Somalia, to prevent it from sliding back into famine and misery”.

The African Union informed the Security Council that, in collaboration with the UN, it intends to undertake a thorough assessment of AMISOM and how best it can contribute to the further stabilization of Somalia. This process is expected to start in the next few weeks and to be concluded in the coming months. The AU in a letter to the Council requested the Council to authorize a technical rollover of the current support package for AMISOM for four additional months, until February 2013, with some slight adjustments “to take into account pressing issues on the ground”. This included requests for the deployment of an additional 50 civilian personnel across the Mission area, as well as a maritime component, taking into consideration “the critical role of naval assets for the effective implementation of the AMISOM mandate and the stabilization of Somalia.”

These points were also underlined during a meeting of the ambassadors of IGAD member states held in Ethiopia last week. The ambassadors commended the joint actions by AMISOM and the Somali National Security Forces against Al-Shabaab and the liberation of Kismayo and its surroundings. The meeting underlined the urgency and importance of building legitimate and representative local government and security structures in all areas recovered from Al-Shabaab and in all regions of the country. It expressed concern about the **absence of any centralized national security and military structure**, and called upon all stakeholders to work together for the formation of a cohesive national security force. It stressed the urgent need to build an enhanced level of security by the integration of all armed Somali National Security Forces under one command structure based on the National Security and Stabilization Plan.

The IGAD meeting urged the AU Peace and Security Council to request the lifting of the UN Security Council arms embargo on the government while keeping it for non-state actors to prevent any opportunities of possible threats from such groups as Al-Shabaab. The arms embargo was imposed by Security Council Resolution 733 (1992). The IGAD ambassadors commended AMISOM for the key role it is playing in improving the security situation in Somalia and urged the AU Peace and Security Council to recommend the renewal of AMISOM’s mandate to the Security Council. They also called on **AU member states which had pledged to contribute troops to AMISOM to honour their commitments**. The ambassadors strongly encouraged the Somali government to develop a detailed programme of post-transition priorities in consultation with IGAD, requesting that IGAD’s Executive Secretary visit Mogadishu as soon as possible to consult with the Somali government and to report back to the next IGAD ambassadors’ session.

The IGAD Ambassadors reaffirmed the central role of IGAD in bringing sustainable peace and stability and facilitating a reconstruction process in Somalia based on the needs and priorities to be formulated by the new government. They urged all IGAD partners to support this approach, and welcomed the decision of the Security Council to undertake an assessment to provide the basis for coordinated and coherent UN engagement in post-transition Somalia. They expressed IGAD's readiness to cooperate with the UN in efforts to develop a comprehensive UN engagement strategy for Somalia. The IGAD meeting reiterated strong condemnation of all attempts by spoilers of this historic Somalia reconstruction process. It stressed that all stakeholders should send a clear message that there was no place for warlordism or extremism in Somalia.

The IGAD ambassadors' meeting was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Ethiopia is the current chair of IGAD and the meeting was chaired by Ato Wondimu Assaminew, Director General of African Affairs in the Foreign Ministry. Also present were Dr Monica K. Juma, Ambassador of Kenya, Ambassador Mull Sebuja Katende, Ambassador of Uganda, Ambassador Abdulrrahman Sir Elkatim, Ambassador of the Republic of Sudan, Ambassador Arop Deng Koul, Ambassador of Republic of South Sudan, Ambassador Said Yousuf Noor, Ambassador of Somalia, Mr Abdi Mahmoud, representing the Ambassador of Djibouti, and Colonel Gebregziabher Alemseged of IGAD's Somalia Peace Facilitation Unit.

.....and IGAD presents its views to the Security Council

Ethiopia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Tekeda Alemu, also addressed the Security Council's discussions on Somalia on Tuesday (16th October) – Ethiopia is the current chair of the regional organization, IGAD. He noted that recent political and security developments had created an unprecedented window of opportunity for stabilizing Somalia and ensuring sustainable peace and national reconciliation. He pointed out that this illustrated how serious national effort together with focused and coordinated sub-regional, continental and global efforts could bring about desired results. There was no doubt that the operations of AMISOM and TFG forces with tangible support from the defence forces of Somalia's neighbours had decisively weakened Al-Shabaab, and Ethiopia had played its part. The result had been the forced withdrawal of Al-Shabaab from Mogadishu and the liberation of a number of areas in central and southern areas including Kismayo. Progress on the ground continued and it was now possible to envisage progressively safe and secure communication between Mogadishu and Baidoa. Ambassador Tekeda paid particular tribute to the extraordinary sacrifices made by the Somali security forces, AMISOM and the allied forces.

These developments, said Ambassador Tekeda, coupled with the growing consensus in the international community, were converging to support a **"unique opportunity for a new era of peace and stability"**. He said the Security Council should be commended for adopting resolution 2036 (2012), which had significantly expanded the number of AMISOM uniformed personnel and allowed for the reimbursement of contingent-owned equipment. This had enabled the deployment of peacekeeping forces in liberated areas to facilitate the establishment of administrative systems by the Somali Government as well as provision of humanitarian aid. It also provided the backdrop for the latest

positive political developments, which Ambassador Tekeda described as laying down a strong foundation for the re-emergence of Somalia as a stable country. At the end of the day, it was the people and leaders of Somalia, of course, who would achieve lasting peace and reconciliation, but had no doubt the new leadership would continue to deepen national reconciliation and focus on building and strengthening governance institutions for the provision of basic services and the promotion of economic recovery. Service delivery and attending to the basic needs of people were critically important.

Ambassador Tekeda said there was real momentum for durable peace in Somalia and a real chance to make the process irreversible: "What remains is a wise and prudent use of these opportunities." He stressed that Somalia still needed help and genuine solidarity which would not infringe Somalis' ownership of the process. Its peace and stability were closely linked to regional and global peace and stability; assistance rendered to Somalia therefore had broader significance. The general situation in regions close to Somalia and further afield made it all the more critical to do everything possible to ensure the process was irreversible.

IGAD, he said, would continue, together with the AU and the UN and partners, to assist Somalia along this promising trajectory. An IGAD delegation led by its Executive Secretary was currently in Mogadishu to consult with the new Somali leadership. Ambassador Tekeda said IGAD was convinced a coordinated effort was needed to maintain the momentum achieved so far and build on the gains already made. IGAD, therefore, fully supported the request by the AU Peace and Security Council for a four month technical roll-over of the UN support package to AMISOM, as provided for by resolution 2036 (2012), with the inclusion of additional support to the civilian and maritime components of the Mission, to address urgent needs arising from the realities on the ground. IGAD also supported the AU call for the UN Peace-building Commission to take steps to contribute actively to post-conflict reconstruction and development in Somalia.

Ambassador Tekeda also made it clear that IGAD welcomed the decision of the Secretary General to undertake an assessment of the basis of a coordinated and coherent UN engagement in post-transition Somalia. He suggested this review should take into account the initiative by the AU Commission to undertake a strategic review of AMISOM and the implementation of its mandate. This is intended to determine how the Mission can in future best contribute to the stabilization of Somalia and the successful implementation of the priorities set by the Somali Government in close coordination with an empowered and restructured national Somali defence and security sector. Ambassador Tekeda stressed **IGAD's readiness to cooperate with the UN assessment team in its effort to develop a comprehensive UN engagement strategy for Somalia.**

IGAD, he noted, also condemned in no uncertain terms recent terrorist attacks in Mogadishu. There was no doubt that Al-Shabaab was retreating; it would be unlikely to be able to regain strength provided that regional and international efforts to marginalize hard-core terrorist elements were pursued "in a principled manner and in line with what is called for by international law and the relevant Security Council resolutions."

Korea-Africa Forum held in Seoul

The third Korea-Africa Forum was held over four days this week (15th to 18th October) in Seoul, the Republic of South Korea, under the theme “sharing today, shining tomorrow.” More than 150 high-ranking officials, representatives of international organizations and other heads of delegations from over eighteen African countries, including Ethiopia, attended. The Ethiopian delegation was led by Acting Foreign Minister, Ambassador Berhane Gebrechristos. The Korea-Africa Forum was launched by former Korean President, Roh Moo-hyun, during a trip to Africa in 2006. It is held every three years. Co-hosted by the Korean government and the African Union Commission, the meeting deliberated on ways and means to strengthen Korea-Africa cooperation with discussions carried out in three fora: the Korea-Africa Industry Cooperation Forum (KOAFIC); the Korea-Africa Forum for Economic Cooperation (KOAFEC); and the Korea-Africa Forum itself. These provided participants with the opportunity to discuss issues of development cooperation, trade and investment, and peace and security.

Prime Minister Kim Hwang-sik in his welcoming speech noted that **Africa was now transforming itself into a land of hope and promise**: "African countries are registering encouraging economic growth," he said. Korea's Foreign Minister, Kim Sung-hwan, explained that South Korea was striving to share its experiences for economic growth and knowledge to contribute to Africa's development. He added: "this year's agenda also includes peace and security for better responses to both regional and global security issues of mutual interest."

Acting Foreign Minister, Ambassador Berhane Gebrechristos expressed his sincere thanks and appreciation to the people and the Government of the Republic of Korea and to other governments for their messages of condolence, solidarity and sympathy on the passing of Ethiopia's late Prime Minister Meles Zenawi. He said the late Prime Minister had worked relentlessly for the progress and advancement not only of Ethiopia but of Africa. Referring to Africa's recent developments, Ambassador Berhane said: "Today more than ever, it is clear for everyone that Africa is fast becoming a pole of global growth." Indeed, recent data from the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa showed that Africa had transformed itself to become the world's second-fastest growing region, with only East Asia above it. Ambassador Berhane said the Forum truly reflected the realization of this changed situation by both parties, and their mutual appreciation of **the emerging opportunities for effective cooperation**. African partnership, he said, is based on a **new spirit unencumbered by sentiments of any donor-recipient relationship**. He noted further that all agreed that the initiative is nowhere better demonstrated than in the **Africa-Korea Green Growth Initiative 2009-2012**, launched during the Second Africa-Korea Forum, in November 2009. The initiative is "not only a confirmation of our resolve for a joint response to climate change," he said; it also reaffirms "the common vision Africa and Korea share for Green Growth."

Ambassador Berhane made it clear Ethiopia greatly appreciated Korea's crucial support, in collaboration with the Seoul-based **Global Green Growth Institute**, for the preparation of Ethiopia's Strategy for a Climate-Resilient Green Economy [available at [http://www.ethioembassy.org.uk/news_archive/crge/CRGE%20Ethiopia%20Green%20Economy Brochure.pdf](http://www.ethioembassy.org.uk/news_archive/crge/CRGE%20Ethiopia%20Green%20Economy%20Brochure.pdf)], successfully launched in November last year. He also noted that senior officials from both countries had done excellent work in preparing the 2013-

2015 Africa-Korea Plan of Action. However, the Action Plan, which covers the broad spectrum of agreed areas of cooperation, including development, peace and security, trade and investment, "needs to be backed up by result-oriented follow-up mechanisms so that they are able to achieve the overarching objectives of the Africa-Korea partnership." Ambassador Berhane confirmed Ethiopia's full commitment to the success of the Africa-Korea Strategic Partnership and the effective implementation of the 2013-2015 Africa-Korea Plan of Action. He also assured forum participants that Ethiopia would continue to play a constructive role both at continental and international levels and it would work to maintain late Prime Minister Meles' vision for a strong, stable and prosperous Africa.

Bilateral diplomatic, economic and political relations between South Korea and Ethiopia, of course, date back several decades. The two countries also co-operate through associations like the Korea-Ethiopia Alumni Association which was formally established under the Korea International Cooperation Agency Ethiopia Office in 1995 with the aim of promoting friendly ties between the two countries through socio-cultural and educational activities among members of the Alumni Association and Ethiopian society.

The China-Africa Think Tank Forum meets in Ethiopia

The second meeting of the China-Africa Think Tanks Forum (CATTF) was held at the end of last week (12th to 13th October) in Bishoftu, some 45 kilometres south of Addis Ababa. The meeting was organized by the Zhejiang Normal University and the Institute of Peace and Security Studies of Addis Ababa University and the theme was "Chinese and African Common Interests: Current Issues and Future Perspectives in Governance, Peace and Security". A total of eighty participants from China and various African countries attended the meeting at which opening speeches were given by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Demeke Mekonnen; Dr Admasu Tesgaye, President of Addis Ababa University; Lu Shaye, Director General of African Affairs of China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Xie Xiaoyan, Ambassador of China to Ethiopia. There were a series of presentations and sessions on peace, security and governance issues relating to Sino-Africa relation, and 30 papers were presented and discussed.

Deputy Prime Minister Demeke told the Forum that Ethiopia cherished the growing relations between China and Ethiopia, and emphasized Ethiopia's desire to further strengthen relations. Noting that the scourge of terrorism and electoral violence were major threats across the world, Ato Demeke underlined the imperatives of close partnership: "as the world becomes a small village, it has become difficult to treat peace and security issues as distinct problems of a single country or region. In today's world, a threat to peace and security in one part of the world is a threat to the globe". The Deputy Prime Minister noted that Africa placed great emphasis on governance, peace and security. These, he said, were relevant and timely both for Africa and for China-Africa cooperation. He stressed that the Forum was "pivotal to promote mutual understanding, to consolidate friendship, to present recommendations which may have a positive bearing and enhance the comprehensive cooperative relations between China and Africa".

Xie Xiaoyan, Chinese Ambassador to Ethiopia, in his opening speech emphasized that “Peace and security is the absolute precondition of prosperity and development for every nation and its people.” He said “China firmly supports African countries and the AU in their efforts in solving the hotspot issues in Africa.” The Director of the Department of African Affairs at China's Foreign Ministry, Lu Shaye, said China firmly supported African countries in building democracy and legal systems and was increasing experience-sharing on governance with African countries. He also pointed out that the growing relationship between African states and China should be reciprocated in people-to-people and cultural exchanges. Speaking on Sino-Africa relations, he pointed out that China and Africa, working in closer coordination and collaboration, have become important forces in safeguarding world peace and stability. Discussing Chinese foreign policy, Lu highlighted **the principle of non-interference** as a key guiding principle in its foreign relations. He said some people accused China of being only motivated to amass economic benefit from Africa, ignoring peace and security affairs. This was wrong: “In reality, China's commitment to the principle of non-interference can by no means be interpreted as China's indifference to Africa's peace and security”. Mr Lu added that “In the past we provided funds to support the African Union, in the future we will strengthen this support. We will have cooperation with the AU and other regional organizations to have a better understanding on this issue”.

The focus of the presentations at the two-day forum also centred largely on Sino-African relations in areas of peace, security, good governance and investment, with scholars assessing the challenges and opportunities of growing Sino-African relations. Some focused on the relationships of specific countries like Ethiopia, Zambia and Tanzania. China's peace-making efforts and mediation role as a global giant were discussed in the context of Sudan and South Sudan. Chinese and African scholars exchanged views on the application of China's foreign policy principles of non-interference in internal affairs. The forum also dwelt at length on Chinese FDI inflow and other investment related issues. **Ethiopian and Chinese scholars delivered presentations on Sino-Ethiopian relations with reference to the development of trans-boundary water issues, peace and security and infrastructure.**

News and Views

Sudan and South Sudan parliaments ratify the cooperation agreement

Parliaments of the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan ratified the cooperation agreement they signed in Addis Ababa on the 27th September. The parliament's committees of legislation and justice, foreign affairs, national security and defence, human rights, financial and economic affairs, energy and industry, labour and public grievances discussed the agreements and issued its ratification in a joint report. The parliamentary committees in their joint report emphasized the importance by the competent authorities of monitoring the implementation of the agreement, and recommended that the implementation of the cooperation agreement be closely linked to progress in implementing the security arrangement deal on the ground. The cooperation agreement was signed along with another seven deals: the resumption of the Republic of South Sudan oil exports via Sudan, security arrangements by establishing a demilitarized buffer zone along the common borders, banking, post-service benefits, trade and economic matters, border demarcation and the four freedoms which grant citizens of both countries the freedom of movement, ownership, work and residence in one another's territory. The speaker of the parliament of the Republic of Sudan, Ahmad Ibrahim Al-Tahir underlined the need for a continued communication with South Sudan to avoid possible misunderstandings, and urged the media to cease criticizing and demeaning the deal while South Sudan's President Salva Kiir noted some misunderstandings on the part of some activists on the agreement reached. On Tuesday (16th October, an overwhelming majority of South Sudan lawmakers voted to ratify the deal in its entirety. Following the ratification, the United Nations Secretary-General congratulated on Wednesday (16th October) the Parliaments of Sudan and South Sudan for ratifying the cooperation agreements signed by Presidents Omer Al-Bashir and Salva Kiir in Addis Ababa on 27th September. In a statement from the Secretary General's office Ban Ki-Moon called on both parties "to continue their constructive engagement with the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel, notably to agree on a process to settle the issue of remaining disputed and claimed areas and the determination of the final status of Abyei". He also noted the UN's readiness to continue assisting the parties in collaboration with its partners. He also urged both countries to immediately enter into the implementation of all the signed agreements and operationalize the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism.

Ethiopia, UK sign MoU to launch security and justice programme

Ethiopia and the United Kingdom signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to launch a £16 million security and justice programme on Thursday (18th October) at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development. The MoU was signed by Ahmed Shide, State Minister of Ministry of Finance and Economic Development and Mrs Melina Robinson, Country Director of the Department for International Development (DFID). Ahmed Shide on the occasion noted that the programme will enhance the capacity of the security sector in different parts of the country. The programme will also work to raise awareness in observance of rights through a range of programmes. The programme which will be implemented within five years aims in particular to improve the quality of service rendered by security and justice organs at grassroots level and ensure the

observance of rights of vulnerable members of the public. Tsegaye Berhe, National Security Advisor to the Prime Minister hailed the project as having “an important contribution in improving the security sector”. He said: “the pilot programme will be implemented in Oromia, Somali, Gambela, Afar and the Southern Nations and Nationalities and Peoples regions.”

South Sudan orders companies to resume oil production

The Republic of South Sudan on Thursday (18th October) issued an order for foreign and national oil companies to immediately resume oil production and exports to the international market through the territory of Sudan. The order comes following the ratification, by vast majorities of both Sudan and South Sudan’s national parliaments, of the oil deal signed between the two countries in Addis Ababa on 27th September, allowing South Sudan to continue pumping its oil through Sudan for export. South Sudan’s Minister of Petroleum and Mining, Stephen Dhieu Dau, at a news briefing in Juba said his government “instructed companies to immediately resume production and exports of crude oil to the international markets through Sudan as agreed in the agreement”. He said the results of his government’s assessment, including in Upper Nile State, indicate that all oil infrastructures are technically ready to recommence operations within three months. Dau noted that “the government of the Republic of South Sudan and parliament approved resumption of the operations within production blocks from today henceforth” following the ratification of the agreement by the national parliaments of the two nations. He said his ministry “would start production from blocks, 1, 2, 4, 3, 7 and 5a”, and explained that his government expects an initial output of 180,000 barrels per day (bpd) within three months from oil companies including China’s Dar Petroleum, China National Petroleum Corp and Malaysia’s PETRONAS. He said his country will initially pump 70 per cent of its former capacity as some oil facilities needed maintenance which requires time.