

A Week in the Horn

22nd August 2014

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News in Brief

Africa and the African Union

A Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Inter-Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD) will be held on Sunday (August 24) to discuss the situation in South Sudan. The Summit will be preceded by an IGAD Council of Ministers' Meeting.

The Ministerial Meeting of the UN High Commissioner's Global Initiative on Somali Refugees convened on Wednesday (August 20) in Addis Ababa, to mobilize resources, identify strategies and promote innovative, comprehensive and durable solutions for Somali refugees and for displaced populations in the region. (See article)

IGAD is setting up a standby mediation team to boost early warning mechanisms and diffuse conflicts within member states. A five day high-level mediation course attended by twenty-one people from IGAD member states took place in Kampala this week. The meeting was opened by IGAD's Executive Secretary, Ambassador Mahboub Maalim who said it would help "build capacity on preventive diplomacy and conflict resolution."

An information sharing and working session on Ebola at AU Headquarters on Monday (August 18) in Addis Ababa, jointly organized by AU and international agencies, was briefed by diplomats from the four affected countries, Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Nigeria. Olawale Maiyegun, AU Commissioner for Social Affairs, stressed the importance of joint efforts to limit the effects of the virus and deal with its impact.

The latest Global Economy Watch report from accountants PricewaterhouseCooper identifies ten cities as new investment opportunity "hotspots" in Africa: Ibadan and Kano in Nigeria, Addis Ababa in Ethiopia, Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso, Dakar in Senegal, Nairobi in Kenya, Abidjan in Cote d'Ivoire, Khartoum in Sudan, Luanda in Angola and Dar es Salaam in Tanzania.

Ethiopia

A memorial ceremony on the occasion of the second anniversary of the death of the late Prime Minister Meles was held at the Meles Zenawi Public Park in the Gulele area of Addis Ababa on Wednesday (August

20). The ceremony was attended by President Dr Mulatu Teshome, Prime Minister Hailemariam, Ministers, Regional State presidents and officials as well as diplomatic representatives. (See article)

Dr Tedros Adhanom met with the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia, Nicholas Kay, on Thursday (August 21) to discuss progress in Somalia. He pledged Ethiopia's continued support for the Federal Government's efforts to promote peace and sustainable development.

Foreign Minister, Dr Tedros, held discussions with the Vice-Foreign Minister of Yemen, Ameer Al Aidaroos on Thursday (August 21). They agreed bilateral agreements should be implemented as soon as possible and on the need to tackle illegal human trafficking jointly.

Foreign Minister, Dr Tedros Adhanom held talks with the representatives of TUSKON, the Turkish Confederation of Businessmen and Industrialists, on Thursday (August 21).

The annual meeting of Ambassadors and Consuls General concluded on Tuesday (August 19). During their two weeks-long meeting they had detailed discussions to consider how Ethiopian diplomatic missions could contribute more to the country's economic development. (See article)

The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Geneva announced on Tuesday (August 19) that Ethiopia has become the largest refuge-hosting nation in Africa and is now providing shelter for 629,718 refugees. Of these 247,000 are from South Sudan; 245,000 from Somalia and 99,000 from Eritrea.

The National Committee to prevent Ebola held a meeting on Monday, chaired by Deputy Prime Minister, Demeke Mekonnen. The Committee discussed activities undertaken at national level to prevent Ebola and considered what remained to be done. The Ministry of Health announced this week that Ethiopia has set up standby medical facilities and mechanisms as a precaution against the appearance of any cases of Ebola, including a new fully equipped Ebola treatment hospital.

The UN's Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change in a report on Monday (August 18) on the effects of climate change in Ethiopia said the frequency and intensity of droughts was increasing and temperatures would rise by 0.9°- 1.1° (centigrade) by 2030 and by 2.7°- 3.4° by 2080. Dependence on rain-fed agriculture and high population growth made the country vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change.

Ethiopian gold exports rose last fiscal year from 12.32 to 12.35 tons, but earnings fell from US\$578 million to US\$456 million, a drop of US\$122 million, a spokesman for the Ministry of Trade said on Saturday (August 16). The decrease in revenues was a result of the plunging gold price in the world market.

Director-General for Protocol Affairs, Mihireteab Mulugeta, received on Tuesday (August 19) copies of the credentials of four non-resident Ambassadors from the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Lithuania and the Republic of Malta.

Eritrea

A Turkish Airlines flight arrived in Asmara on Tuesday (August 19) to inaugurate a thrice weekly connection between Istanbul and Asmara, via Taif in Saudi Arabia.

President Isaias Afwerki opened the National Eritrea Festival 2014 on Saturday (August 16) at the Expo Grounds in Asmara in the presence of Ministers, army commanders, regional Administrators and senior PFDJ leaders as well as guests from Sudan and diplomats. The festival, which lasts for a week, has the theme "Culture: Guarantor of Existence and Continuity."

Kenya

A Kenyan newspaper, *The Standard*, claimed this week that since Kenyan forces attacked Al-Shabaab terrorists in Somalia in October 2011, at least 370 people have been killed and over a thousand injured in terrorist attacks in Kenya.

Somalia

Ms Lydia Wanyoto, the Acting Special Envoy of the African Union said this week that “Going by the current projections, we are almost certain that we shall see take off in Somalia in 2016, and according to our roadmap, AMISOM would be leaving Somalia in 2016.”

The Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General (SRSG) for Somalia, Nicholas Kay, arrived in Hargeisa, on Tuesday (August 19) to discuss opportunities for the UN to increase its engagement in support of peace, stability and progress in the region. Ambassador Kay also visited Puntland at the beginning of the week.

South Sudan

South Sudanese President Salva Kiir on Wednesday (August 20) sacked Rebecca Nyandeng de Mabior, the widow of the late John Garang, from her position as adviser to the President on human rights and gender affairs. Ms De Mabior was among a number of senior SPLM members last year who indicated their interest in contesting for the position of SPLM party chairperson.

Sudan

The Head of the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP), Thabo Mbeki, met with Sudanese First Vice-President, Bakri Hassan Saleh, and Defense Minister Abdel Rahim Hussein, this week, to discuss the lack of progress in implementation of the bilateral cooperation agreements reached between Sudan and South Sudan in September, 2012.

Former South Africa president, Thabo Mbeki, the AU's chief mediator for Sudan and now chair of the High Committee set up by the AU to support the National Dialogue process in Sudan, met with a delegation of the National Consensus Forces, a coalition of opposition parties, in Khartoum on Monday (August 18).

A leading official of the ruling National Congress Party in the Sudan said this week that the party is leaning towards re-nominating President Omer Hassan Al-Bashir for a new term in next year's April 2015 elections.

Memorial ceremony on the second anniversary of the death of Prime Minister Meles

A memorial ceremony on the occasion of the second anniversary of the death of the late Prime Minister Meles was held this week at the **Meles Zenawi Public Park** in the Gulele area of Addis Ababa. The ceremony, which included the planting of hundreds of trees in the Park, was attended by President Dr Mulatu Teshome, Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn, Foreign Minister Dr Tedros, Ministers, Regional State Presidents, Ambassadors, senior officials, army officers, diplomats and religious leaders as well as other stakeholders.

Speakers at the ceremony emphasized that the late Prime Minister was a champion of the country's green growth economic strategy and that he had struggled hard for the dignity and equality of nations, nationalities and peoples as well as for socio-economic progress and political equality in Ethiopia and more widely. Meles Zenawi's vision, they noted, would contribute to the nation's green development agenda as a guiding light for present and future generations of Ethiopia.

The late Prime Minister's widow, Azeb Mesfin, the President of the Meles Zenawi Foundation Board, spoke of his strong and committed visionary leadership as a politician, a comrade and a father. She underlined his respect and love for the nations, nationalities and peoples of Ethiopia, and noted the unreserved support and participation that Ethiopians from all over the country had shown for the realization of the late Prime Minister's vision and plans. She said the Meles Zenawi Public Park would have a sophisticated modern library and a guest house for national and international tourists and researchers as well as a public recreation center. The design of the Park would symbolize the struggles of the late Prime Minister for Ethiopian unity as well as the values of education and the cultures and norms of the Ethiopian people.

On the occasion, Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn reiterated that the Government stood committed to the advancement of the developmental vision of the former Prime Minister, adding that both the Government and people were collectively promoting implementation of a green development agenda. This would turn Ethiopia into a pacemaker in realizing a climate-resilient green economy, embracing sustainability and development. Meles Zenawi, he said, had crafted the foundation and bedrock of a sustainable green growth path. He had also devoted his entire life to being an advocate and defender of the shared interests of his country and Africa. The Prime Minister said the ceremony of tree planting could be regarded as a manifestation of rejuvenating commitments to a unity of purpose for the attainment of the vision of green economic development and the renaissance of the nation. He said Meles' vision saw Ethiopia becoming a nucleus for international investment, and this would be maintained to ensure continuity of socio-economic development in a forward-looking, comprehensive and coordinated manner.

The Prime Minister said the developmental policies drawn from the vision of Meles had discarded the previously defining elements of Ethiopia, poverty, famine and suffering, through the uplifting of millions out of poverty, the registration of double-digit economic growth, intensification of human resource development in conjunction with creating employment opportunities for youth, and provision of improved food security over the last ten years. These positive results, he said, were testimony to how the people had seized on the need for attaining the vision of national rejuvenation and renaissance. He added that they also demonstrated how the vision of the late Prime Minister had set the development of the nation on a sound foundation.

President Mulatu Teshome also noted that ongoing economic activities and projects were placing Ethiopia on a brand new page of economic takeoff. He said the ceremony should be a platform to **renew pledges to sustainability of practical achievements and a means to cement the democratic developmental philosophy and vision of Meles Zenawi**. Dr Tedros Adhanom, Foreign Affairs Minister, emphasized that the ceremony of planting tree seedlings signified the power of an inspiring vision and the continued and sustained participation for the realization of the dream, accelerating and expediting efforts for the attainment of Ethiopia's Renaissance. He said Meles Zenawi had made sacrifices to achieve the resilience of Ethiopia and the betterment of its peoples, underlining that he had devised ways and means to work towards the creation of a harmonious, integrated and peaceful East Africa that would also be conducive for Ethiopia's win-win development. This diplomatic praxis was based on the entrenchment of mutual advancement and common prosperity.

Meles Zenawi's leadership laid a solid foundation for Ethiopia's entry into the list of the fastest growing economies of Africa and enabled the nation to engage in constructive and proactive involvement in today's globalized world. It provided a framework for establishing speedy economic development and democratization as top priorities for the survival of the nation. The developmental plans and the building of democratization, charted by Meles, **are now being elevated to new heights within the structure of globalization**. As a leading African statesman and the model of a Pan-Africanist, **Meles dedicated his life to pursuing Africa's rightful place in international relations as well as voicing the interests of Africa on climate change, peace, security and sustainable development**. He demonstrated the importance, the necessity, of placing those interests on an equal-footing with other areas of the world, in a spirit of peaceful coexistence, mutual prosperity and mutual help. It is a legacy worth remembering.

Ministerial Meeting on UNHCR's Global Initiative on Somali Refugees

The Ministerial Meeting of the UN High Commissioner's Global Initiative on Somali Refugees was held this week in Addis Ababa. As part of a global dialogue on Somali refugees, the meeting aimed to mobilize resources, identify strategies and promote innovative, comprehensive and durable solutions for Somali refugees and for displaced populations in the region. Those attending included Abdiweli Sheikh Ahmed, Prime Minister of Somalia; Dr Tedros Adhanom, Ethiopia's Minister of Foreign Affairs; Abdurahman Duale Beyle, Somalia's Minister of Foreign Affairs; Engineer Hilary Onek, Uganda's Minister of Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees; Ali Bunow Korane, Chairman of Kenya's Refugee Affairs Commission; Hassan Omar Mohammed Bourhan, Djibouti's Minister of Interior; Antonio Guterres, UN Commissioner for Refugee Affairs; Aisha Abdullahi, AU Commissioner for Political Affairs; Nicholas Kay, the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia; and Ambassador Mohammed Affey, IGAD Envoy to Somalia. In his welcoming remarks, Dr Tedros thanked the UNHCR for launching the Global Initiative on Somali Refugees and lauded the meaningful humanitarian support given by UNHCR to the Horn of Africa. He said

the UNHCR's convening of the High-Level Panel on Somali Refugees in 2013 demonstrated its dedication to the support of Somali refugees and to those hosting them and to its efforts to explore comprehensive, durable and innovative solutions. Dr Tedros said that a refugee-friendly history and environment, and unhindered humanitarian support, as well as an open-door policy were the defining features of Ethiopia's commitment to the spirit of unity, integration and mutual development of the peoples of the region. Hosting about 630,000 refugees from neighboring nations, of whom 245,000 were Somali nationals, he said Ethiopia remained firmly committed to the principles of the 1959 UN Convention and its Protocol of 1967 as well as the 1969 OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa. The enactment of Ethiopia's Refugee Proclamation in July 2004 gave full expression to the provision of unimpeded humanitarian support and the exploration of sustainable, innovative and durable solutions as well as better protection for refugees.

Dr Tedros said that Ethiopia's readiness to serve the needs of refugees and displaced populations was rooted in the deepening of a closer and more sincere partnership as well as advancing the tenets of good-neighborliness and peaceful co-existence with neighboring countries and cementing people-to-people relations with the view to building a community of common destiny in the Horn region, Africa and beyond. He said Ethiopia, in collaboration with UNHCR and other development partners, had developed in the pursuit of mutual help and mutual advancement, a number of policies to improve the lives and livelihoods of refugees and displaced populations. He added that these included the granting of university scholarships, providing skill-building training and offering livelihood opportunities through micro-finance and other activities with the view to developing their potential and preparing the refugees for eventual return. He also underlined the importance of voluntary repatriation for Somali refugees and the necessity of creating enabling conditions for them in Somalia as part of a process of participation in the creation of a peaceful and prosperous future. Advancing the causes of peace, stability and security in Somalia, as well as providing better protection, services and humanitarian support in the areas where there was relative peace, would help deal with the challenges facing Somali refugees. **Dr Tedros reiterated the need for international solidarity and burden-sharing** to help provide sustainable solutions for the refugees.

Antonio Guterres, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, said the meeting was an essential element for finding common ground and overcoming the challenges faced by Somali refugees and displaced populations. He expressed his thanks for the generosity of Ethiopia, Yemen, Kenya, Uganda, and Djibouti in providing adequate protection, safety and humanitarian support, as well as in enhancing human resource development and capacity building activities through training and technical assistance for the refugees. He stressed the importance of voluntary repatriation and called on the international community to fully support Somali refugees and help Somalia overcome its challenges and promote livelihood opportunities for the wellbeing of Somalis in their own country. He underlined the importance of the Somali Government dealing with the refugee issue as a national priority and creating conducive conditions for the welfare of those returning. He noted that the extensive pooling of support from the international community, as well as strengthening regional and international solidarity, was indispensable to devising ways of finding forward-looking, sustainable and durable solutions for Somali refugees. To this end, he said, the international community must assume the responsibility to help support the Federal Government of Somalia, host countries and the refugees.

Prime Minister Abdiweli Sheikh Ahmed on his part extended his appreciation to the UN High Commissioner's contribution and initiatives to assist Somali refugees. He said Somalia placed high importance on the role and standing of neighboring countries and emphasized that the Government was striving to enable Somali refugees and displaced populations to return and contribute in the reconstruction, stabilization and development of their nation. The Government, in association with AMISOM and other partners, had dedicated efforts to creating key enablers, including stabilization programs and institutionalization, to provide a basis for the repatriation and reintegration of Somalis displaced in or outside the country. Towards that end, he urged, these activities needed closer and richer cooperative partnership from the international community.

Prime Minister Abdiweli noted that one of Somalia's immediate tasks was to embark on negotiations with Kenya which was hosting nearly 500,000 refugees, the largest group of Somali refugees anywhere in the world. Somalia, Kenya and the UNHCR had signed a Tripartite Agreement for Voluntary Repatriation of Somali refugees living in Kenya in November last year. He had recently met with the President of Kenya to discuss further the implementation of the agreement which provides a legal framework for the modest,

orderly and voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees. Implementation of its main provisions, he said, will occur soon and he hoped Somalia could enter into similar agreements with the other countries hosting Somali refugees and which are represented in this meeting. The Prime Minister repeated that his government was dedicated to removing as many obstacles as possible to repatriation and reintegration of the Somali people in their home country. He said the Government was expanding, with the help of the National Somali Army and AMISOM, the areas of peaceful coexistence, governance and development to which refugees could return.

Participants delivered country statements and extensively deliberated and discussed the proposed **Addis Ababa Commitment towards Somali Refugees** before issuing a final statement in which “the Governments of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Uganda and Yemen; the AU, IGAD, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary general for Somalia, the UNECA, and the UNHCR” thanked the Governments and the people of the key asylum countries for their solidarity and hospitality. They reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining asylum and international protection for Somali refugees and to intensifying the search for durable solutions for them. They noted that Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and Yemen together today host nearly one million Somali refugees; and another one million Somalis remain displaced internally. Thousands for over two generations have not had a future and their plight is being forgotten as new situations develop elsewhere in Africa. It was unforgivable to keep forgetting their predicament: “We must remain committed and engaged both within the region and internationally.” The statement said there were heartening signs of emerging stability in Somalia including the establishment of a government in Mogadishu, and the efforts of the Somali National Army with AMISOM to liberate areas signified crucial progress. However, the security breaches, particularly terrorist attacks by al-Shabaab and other militia, undermined the positive steps, and perpetuated a fragile security situation, limited humanitarian assistance, risked the displacement of more Somalis and frustrated opportunities for the safe and sustainable return of refugees to their homes.

The statement says that, as Somalia’s neighbors and partners, they renewed their commitment to stand by and support Somalia and its long-suffering people. It called upon the international community to meaningfully support the capacity of the Somali Government to create peace, security, law and order, social and economic progress and sustainability and address humanitarian imperatives. It called for more comprehensive support to be extended to the asylum countries and host communities to strengthen asylum and international protection, and for all feasible and creative solutions for refugees, to realize themselves as full and self-reliant members of society, to be explored and supported. In particular, it called for further financial support and all other forms of increased solidarity and responsibility. It said more opportunities for the resettlement of Somali refugees should be provided and the participation of the refugees themselves and of the Somali Diaspora and the private sector at large should be increased.

The statement stressed that at the heart of these commitments were guiding principles “which emphasize the importance of the Somali Federal Government’s commitment in actions concerning Somali refugees, the imperative of continued support to host communities, the need to increase refugee participation and the Somali Diaspora at large in future actions and to create differentiated solutions for a diverse refugee population, the benefits of considering new alternatives for long-staying refugees, and the importance of engaging new actors in the search for solutions.” In conclusion, participants undertook “to work with national, regional and international partners in a coordinated manner to give effect to the renewed commitments and outcomes of relevant sub-regional and regional meetings”, and called “upon the international community, through the Global Initiative on Somali Refugees, to commit to the renewed engagement and work together for a more meaningful life for Somali refugees.”

IGAD and the international community are losing patience with South Sudan leaders

The fifth round of the IGAD-led peace process between the Government of South Sudan and the SPLM/A-in-Opposition adjourned on Monday (August 12). The day after the adjournment, the United Nations Security Council paid a one-day visit on Tuesday to Juba, capital of South Sudan. Ambassador Mark Lyall Grant, Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom, which holds the Council Presidency for August, said the Council was willing to impose sanctions on any party which stood against IGAD-led peace negotiations to stop the eight-month infighting. He said “there will be consequences for those who try to undermine agreements that are reached in the Addis Ababa talks.” He further stated that “one of the reasons that we have come to South Sudan is because we are responsible for peace and security across the world and we

have not seen peace and security in this country.” The Security Council representatives met with South Sudan President Salva Kiir, members of the Council of Ministers and talked with Riek Machar, leader of the SPLM/A-in-Opposition by video as well as with displaced persons in a UN-protected site. Ms Samantha Power, the US Permanent Representative, described the visit as an emergency one aimed at calling on the leaders of South Sudan to comply with the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement they signed on January 23 and May 9. She stressed that the international community would not stand idly by as violations of agreements continued, underlining that perpetrators of human rights abuses would be held accountable.

The urgency of the situation was underlined by the Security Council’s visit to Juba on Tuesday (August 13). After talks with President Kiir and by video link with Riek Machar, Ambassador Lyall Grant described their discussions as “disappointing,” and said “we did not hear much from them that gave us hope that there will be rapid agreement.” Both had said they recognized there could be no military solution, but “the two positions remain far apart.” The UN Security Council also met with IGAD ministers on Wednesday (August 14) in Nairobi where an Extraordinary IGAD Council of Ministers meeting, chaired by Ethiopian Foreign Minister, Dr Tedros Adhanom, was held. After a briefing from Ambassador Seyoum Mesfin, the Ministers agreed unanimously that the problem had been caused by **the refusal of the SPLM/A-in-Opposition to participate in the talks** despite the agreement on inclusivity it had signed. They agreed that “tough action” should be taken against any party that hindered the peace talks.

IGAD Special Envoys on 15 August condemned “in the strongest terms” the continued flagrant violation of agreements signed by both conflicting parties. The Envoys had received reports from the IGAD Monitoring and Verification Mechanism (MVM) on heavy fighting in Bentiu. A statement from the Envoys said they were “dismayed by the latest fighting that happened just days away from the IGAD Assembly of Heads of State and Government summit meeting, and less than 48 hours after the departure of the UN Security Council team that visited the region”. The Envoys urged the parties to comply with the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement and show full commitment to the continuing peace talks. They also underlined that “military advances to gain more ground by any party will not achieve anything except to worsen the already catastrophic humanitarian situation and to cause further devastation.” The IGAD Assembly of Heads of State and Government was postponed and their meeting on the crisis in South Sudan is now going to take place this weekend, on Sunday (August 24). It will be preceded by an IGAD Council of Ministers’ meeting.

Despite the statements from the IGAD Envoys, the two warring sides have continued to try to set preconditions for continuing to participate in the mediation and to criticize each other’s activities. The South Sudanese Government said on Wednesday this week that it would not take part in negotiations with the rebels unless both parties agree on a meaningful cessation of hostilities accord. The government delegation also apparently demanded that the Cessation of Hostilities Matrix be signed before talks on any other issues and said that the two warring parties should engage in direct negotiations without participation of other stakeholders in the discussions about a transitional government. This is in contradiction of the agreements signed by the leaders of the two warring parties in June and of the IGAD Heads of State summit in June when a multi-stakeholder format for the mediation was agreed. The SPLM/A-in-Opposition also accused the South Sudan government on Wednesday (August 20) of boycotting the talks. It said the government delegation’s failure to show up reaffirmed the long-held views of the SPLM/A-in-Opposition that the government was “unfaithful and lacked political will.” It said it was ready for exclusive face to face talks with the government delegation on various substantial issues without participation of other stakeholders.

More than any other factor, the behavior and attitude of the two principal warring parties is the key to determining the future of South Sudan and the destiny of its people through the IGAD-led mediation process now trying to expedite efforts to finalize and sign the Cessation of Hostilities Matrix and get agreement on the establishment of a Transitional Government of National Unity. The people of South Sudan, along with their regional and international friends, have placed their trust in the leaders of two principal conflicting parties to shelve their differences, halt the nine months of violence and ultimately create common ground between them with the view of rekindling the hope of a stable, peaceful and prosperous South Sudan. However, the mismatch between the pledges made by both parties to the conflict and the actual progress in practical implementation of their signed agreements demonstrates the absence of real, genuine and full commitment to lasting peace and a just solution to the conflict. This divergence reinforces the way they have carried out pursuit of political goals through the barrel of the gun as well as their failure to carry out a meaningful, consensual and inclusive dialogue with other stakeholders. The use

of mere rhetoric on resolution of conflict rather than positive action to end the war has produced a situation in South Sudan in which some 1.5 million people have been displaced and over 7 million been put at risk of famine and disease. It has fanned the flames of division among different communities, eroded any culture of peaceful coexistence and trust and brought the nation close to collapse. The failure to do more than offer a limited commitment to the implementation of the agreements and the disinclination to seize the opportunities for peace will force the people of South Sudan to pay an incalculable price for years to come.

Equally disappointing to the people of South Sudan and its friends have been the recent remarks made by both parties to the conflict regarding the IGAD-led mediation process. They have been indulging in the game of attributing their own failures to the IGAD-led mediation process itself and blaming the IGAD Special Envoys. In a Press TV program entitled "The Focus", Gabriel Changsoi, Assistant Chief Negotiator of the SPLM/A-in-Opposition, said on Monday (August 11) that the IGAD Special Envoys "have adopted a new strategy-a strategy of developing positions and then give them to the parties on a take or leave it basis." Michael Makuei, South Sudan's Minister of Information, said the mediators had become a stumbling block for the parties to agree on the Cessation of Hostilities Matrix, claiming "the problem is not the parties, but the problem is with the mediation itself." Although both parties accepted the inclusivity of the IGAD-led mediation process, and the involvement of the SPLM (former detainees), civil society organizations and faith-based groups, they subsequently spoke of the indispensability of bilateral discussions as the way to produce a resolution of the crisis. Michael Makuei claimed "It would have been far better if we were allowed to continue with the rebels without the involvement of stakeholders at this early stage." Gabriel Changsoi said the SPLM/A-in-Opposition valued the engagement of stakeholders in the peace process, but added "[these stakeholders] should not participate in a form of a roundtable because roundtable means...creating ...identical groups that will develop their own positions and will defend them." This, he said, would make the process more complicated.

The objective of the IGAD-led mediation process in supporting inclusivity as its guiding principle arises, of course, from the need for the peace process to resolve the underlying causes of the crisis with the broader involvement of all stakeholders. In other words, the process must be a reflection of the demands and aspirations of the people of South Sudan and, as the Chairman of the Special Envoys, Ambassador Seyoum Mesfin said, avoid "setting the stage for the kind of false peace that only lasts until the next quarrel among political leaders." Prime Minister Hailemariam has also stressed that all stakeholders in South Sudan have to be involved in the negotiation process, even if the prime parties are those of the warring factions. The success of the peace process depends upon the parties themselves and on their commitment to lasting peace and their determination to act on behalf of their country and their people.

The remarks of the two parties ignore the way the Special Envoys have sought ways to obtain pragmatic implementation of the agreements that have been made. Since the outset of the crisis, the Special Envoys have encouraged the cause of peace, reconciliation, healing, stability and prosperity on the basis of the instructions provided by the IGAD Heads of State and Government in four Extraordinary Summits. Their efforts have included facilitating the signing of Cessation of Hostilities Agreement, the starting up of the Monitoring and Verification Mechanism, the beginning of deployment of IGAD Protection and Deterrence Forces within the UNMISS mandate, the release of SPLM political leaders, recommitment to unimpeded humanitarian access, the successful conclusion of a multi-stakeholder, consensual and inclusive dialogue, the repeated pledges made by the principals of the warring factions to end the conflict through inclusive dialogue, and the commitment to establish a **Transitional Government of National Unity** by August 10. Time and again the warring parties have committed themselves to support the agreements achieved by the IGAD-led mediation over the last eight months. Regrettably, they have, however, largely failed to implement them or carry them out in practice. The result has been prolongation of the political, security, humanitarian and economic crisis and waning of hope for a quick resolution of the crisis as the country descends into more conflict.

The leaders of the two warring parties have the shared responsibility to determine the present and future of South Sudan through the mediation process. Blaming others, and externalizing the failures to cement the agreements and consolidate peace, offers no alternative. Trying to blame the IGAD mediated process and the Special Envoys is neither fruitful nor productive. As Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam, current chair of IGAD, said "IGAD is an outsider... [it] cannot force the South Sudanese stakeholders into agreement." He said that "in any mediation process, the third party is a party which facilitates the

negotiation process. We cannot negotiate on behalf of them.” He stressed the need for political commitment. If the leaders of South Sudan did not have a political commitment, the Prime Minister said “whatever mechanisms you create, it doesn’t work.” Indeed, if failure comes, it is not the failure of IGAD” but rather failure of the parties, he added. Prime Minister Hailemariam emphasized that if the armed conflict continued to plague South Sudan, the problem threatened to turn the nation into a failed state.

The continued use of violence to score narrow military and political points at the expense of the broader society of South Sudan, the incessant trading of accusations over the violation of agreements and blaming the IGAD Special Envoys and the mediation process itself threatens the principle of ‘African solutions for African problems’. It also discourages the immense good being shown by the region and by the international community to support efforts for peace. Prime Minister Hailemariam has said that if the present situation goes astray, “IGAD is going to take punitive measures.” These measures, he said, have yet to be defined because “As good neighbors and Africans it is necessary to exhaust all possibilities. Taking measures is the last resort....We’re giving [the parties] the chance to go for a negotiated settlement.” If that doesn’t happen, then obviously, he said, “the region will not stand idly by as the process continues to kill the people.”

Ethiopia’s participation in the US-Africa Leaders Summit....

The Ethiopian high-level delegation, led by Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn, participated in the US-Africa Summit organized by the US Government and in the associated leaders’ signature events in Washington (August 4-6).

At the leaders session on “**Investing in Africa’s Future Generation**” (August 6), Prime Minister Hailemariam said that eradication of poverty, provision of basic needs and necessities including food to African children at an early age, and development of African youths through quality education, would be the priorities in investing in the next generation in Africa in order to develop the human capital of the continent and maintain sustainable economic growth. He said “investing in youth means creating decent jobs for the youth,” adding that creating jobs for the youth would not only help to transform their potential to generate economic growth and development but would also protect them from becoming a problem as a result of unemployment. Noting that the developmental approach was critical to tackling problems of unemployment for youth and others, the Prime Minister emphasized the role of public-private partnerships as well as the private sector in creating jobs for youth and in becoming involved in increased production and in value added sectors in trade and investment.

As part of the Summit, African First Ladies from more than 40 countries, leaders from non-governmental organizations, private sectors, faith based grassroots organization, and leading experts in various fields participated in the African Spouses Forum. The US–Africa Leaders Spouses’ Forum was chaired US First Lady, Michelle Obama, and former First Lady, Laura Bush. The Forum addressed challenges and identified solutions on the social and economic issues that primarily face women and girls, including education and health opportunity. The Forum emphasized that the inclusion and participation of women in every aspect of society had been proven to lead to greater stability and prosperity in countries. Ethiopia’s First Lady, Roman Tesfaye, presented the challenges facing Ethiopia’s women as well as the progress Ethiopia has made in increasing participation of women in all walks of life. During the session, it was announced that Ethiopia was one of the new countries of engagement in life-saving collaboration to combat cervical and breast cancer.

The US-Africa Summit highlighted the commitment of both the United States and African countries to strengthen ties in security, economic cooperation, and in health and infrastructure development. Some tangible actions were taken to strengthen the U.S.-Africa partnership, and the Summit demonstrated the potential for fostering stronger ties between Africa and the United States. The summit sessions focused on ways to overcome shared challenges and accelerate progress in key areas such as expanding trade and investment ties, creating educational and job opportunities, expanding progress in promoting inclusive and sustainable development and intensifying cooperation on peace and security.

Following a series of consultations and reflecting goals of the Summit session on peace and security, investment, development and government, there were a number of concrete outcomes. Leaders welcomed the announcement of new investment commitments to the new alliance for Food Security and Nutrition

which has mobilized more than US\$10 billion. They commended the progress made under NEPAD'S comprehensive **Africa Agriculture Development Program**; and the commitment made to continue African's leadership on food security. Leaders also welcomed the positive impact that the US-Africa partnership on health has had on moving towards achieving an AIDS-free generation and on improving maternal and child health care. The Summit took note of the significance of Power Africa and agreed to intensify the **joint efforts to double access to electricity in Africa**. President Obama pledged to expand the reach of Power Africa and announced that Power Africa had mobilized more than US\$26 billion for its activities.

The Summit also agreed on the importance of a prompt, long-term renewal of an enhanced AGOA and leaders pledged to work together to increase its utilization by African countries. At the US-Africa Business Forum US\$14 billion in private sector deals were announced and President Obama also announced another US\$7 billion in new financing under the **Doing of Business in Africa Campaign**. The Summit also deliberated on Africa's complex security challenges and underlined the importance of increased state capacity and regional solutions to security problems. They welcomed the U.S. pledge of \$550 million to assist in rapid deployment of peacekeeping forces in response to emerging conflicts, and for US\$65 million for building up the capacity of military and security investment in six African countries.

... and Prime Minister Hailemariam and Dr Tedros at official signature events

At the official signature event on "Resilience and Food Security in a Changing Climate" held at the National Academy of Science Prime Minister Hailemariam was invited to provide keynote remarks along with Dr Jill Biden, US Representative Betty McCollum of Minnesota and AU Commission Chairperson, Dr Dlamini Zuma. The discussion was moderated by USAID Administrator, Dr Rajiv Shah who recognized Ethiopia and its leadership for fighting and succeeding in overcoming the challenges of food insecurity in his introductory remarks. He also thanked the Prime Minister for positioning Ethiopia at the cutting edge of agricultural development and making the country **a model in rapid reduction of child death as well as in the increase of agricultural productivity**.

Prime Minister Hailemariam in his remarks said that improving food security by building resilience to the threat of climate change was one of the pillars of Africa's agriculture development program. He noted that African leaders meeting this year in Malabo had evaluated the progress made regarding the comprehensive **Agriculture Development Program** endorsed a decade earlier. They agreed that agriculture was still the source and the engine of growth for Africa. Since the livelihood of the people of Africa is based on agriculture, the Prime Minister said, "we re-emphasized that we should focus again on modernizing the agriculture sector." He also noted that African leaders had come to realize the severity of climate change more than ever before even though Africa did not contribute to global green-house gas emissions. Nonetheless, the Prime Minister said, Africa had seen that climate change had created major a impact on agricultural productivity in some countries, and the share of agriculture in GDP levels had fallen drastically. This demonstrated the absolute necessity of combating the adverse effects of climate change. He noted that as a result, Africa had agreed to introduce a climate-smart agriculture system that would serve as a basis for the respective agricultural development programs. African countries, he said, had to continue to pursue actionable programs with concrete and measurable targets over the coming ten years.

Responding to a question from Dr Shah on future developments, the Prime Minister said Africa had the commitment but it lacked the capacity to discharge this commitment. Africa needed the support of the US government and its people to help build the necessary capacity to fight climate change. He said his message to the US private sector was that that **Africa has 60% of the world's arable land. This was where it was possible to come and invest. In the coming 30 to 35 years, the demand in Africa for food crops will rise by 50%. "We need to start to invest now in order to fulfill that demand"**.

At another signature event on Investing in Health in Africa, Dr Tedros Adhanom co-chaired the session with US Secretary of Health and Human Services, Dr Sylvia Burwell. Dr Tedros thanked the US Government for including health as one of major areas to be discussed during the US Africa Summit and stressed that global health security was more important now than ever before. New diseases that occurred in one corner of a country can spread only too rapidly to other parts of the world. Dr Tedros thanked the global community and especially the United States, for the unprecedented support given to PEPFAR in tackling the HIV/AIDS pandemic and called for continued collaborative work to achieve an AIDS-free generation. He noted that the keys to achieving this were country ownership, political commitment of leaders and

continued funding from agencies and partners .The reason behind Ethiopia's success in tackling HIV/AIDS, he said, was the emphasis given to prevention from the start, and the political commitment of the Ethiopian government and its leadership who strongly believed that health is an end itself. He called for increased funding to keeping the world safe and secure from infectious disease and cautioned that, since funding is now in decline, Africa may lose what it gained previously in its fight to achieve an AIDS-free generation.

US investments in Ethiopia are increasing

The diplomatic ties between Ethiopia and United States are strong and long-established, one of Ethiopia's longest standing relations in the diplomatic history. This diplomatic success, however, still needs to be backed by a similarly high-level of economic and trade partnership. In 1994 Prime Meles Zenawi paid a working visit to Washington, meeting President Clinton and other high officials. This marked a real widening of Ethio-US cooperation in economic and technical cooperation. Subsequently, Ethiopia also benefitted significantly from duty free access to the US market under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA).

The commitment of the Government in recent years to attract investors by widening available opportunities in Ethiopia and putting in place incentive mechanisms in particular for priority export sectors, including textiles, leather and leather goods, horticulture and agro processing, as well as the growing development and stability of the country, has drawn more US investment to Ethiopia. Energy is another significant area of Ethiopia's economic growth and development. **The country possesses a very substantial potential of renewable energy and Ethiopia is seeking to exploit these resources by increasing installed capacity of renewable energy from around 2,500MW to over 10,000MW. Hydropower, wind, geothermal and solar power are all major areas of investment opportunity.**

US businesses have invested in Ethiopia in a number of sectors. IBM, Microsoft East and Southern Africa, Deloitte Consulting and Hewlett Packard are some of those exploiting the opportunities offered by Ethiopia's continued growth and current investment opportunities. The country's stability and the microeconomic environment have been drawing an increasing amount of international interest and investment. In addition to the number of companies already in operation, there are many more in pre-implementation stages, among them Blackstone and Black Rhino, infrastructure and power builders.

Last week, the Dow Chemical Company, the world's second largest chemical manufacturer, with interests in specialty chemicals, agro sciences and plastics, announced that it intended to open an office in Addis Ababa. Mr Ross Mclean, President of Dow Chemical in sub-Saharan Africa led a 55 strong delegation on a week-long pre-investment visit to Ethiopia. The delegation, which included 41 of the younger company executives and officials, held a number of meetings with Ethiopian officials, including State Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dewano Kedir, the Commissioner of the Ethiopian Investment Commission, Fitsum Arega, and other stake holders and partners. They also met with the AU Commission Chairperson, Dr Dlamini Zuma, and with President Mulatu Teshome.

President Mulatu told the delegation that Ethiopia's economy was based on agriculture, and it was proud to be an agricultural country that was now aspiring to industrialization driven by transformation in the agricultural sector. The President also stressed that the Government was determined to industrialize the agriculture sector to transform the economy. The need to modernize the agricultural sector, by increasing productivity, improving post-harvest methods, through proper utilization of agro-chemical and integrated agricultural techniques and seeking to dispense value addition, were priorities, he said. The President emphasized the need for a generous flow of foreign direct investment in the agricultural sector, adding "the decision of Dow Chemical to participate in the sector is essential." Mr Ross Mclean said, "Dow Chemical hopes to serve the Ethiopian agricultural development effort by supplying the right agricultural input." He explained that recently the company had launched tailor-made solutions designed to address the needs of Ethiopia in agro-processing and in teff production. He said "teff is a gluten-free grain which is quickly climbing to super-grain status in the west."

At a business networking meeting on Tuesday last week (August 12), Mr Mclean noted that Ethiopia was a producer of predominantly 'green power' with 90% or more of its electricity coming from hydro-power. In the coming decade, he noted, Ethiopia would become a major exporter of electricity to its neighbors, to Kenya, Sudan, and Djibouti. The two major new dams, the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance dam and Gibe III, would add almost 8,000 megawatts to the existing 2,000MW or so. This would provide the energy

requirements for Ethiopia's rapidly industrializing economy, but also bringing in export revenue estimated at US\$ 2 billion per year.

This would be of interest to US companies, like the Dow Chemical Company. It all demonstrates the value of investment opportunities in Ethiopia, underlining the positive developments of the economy and increasing the possibilities of attracting more US investment in Ethiopia.

The annual meeting of Ethiopian Ambassadors and Consuls General concludes

The two week-long annual conference of Ambassadors, Consuls General, and Directors General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs concluded successfully this week on Tuesday (August 19). During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on the economic development of the country and of the region as well as on issues of peace and stability affecting Ethiopia and its neighbors. Dr Tedros, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, detailed the activities of the Ministry during the previous Ethiopian year (2006). Evaluations were also made of the performance of the overseas missions.

The first session of the conference took place in Mekele, the capital of Tigray Regional State, where the Ambassadors and Consuls General also attended an impressive and colorful International Diaspora Festival. The session was launched with a presentation from Dr Shiferaw Teklemariam, Minister of Federal Affairs which covered issues of the expansion, strategy, causes and aspirations of extremists as well as the threat of terrorism and ways to counter it. In the subsequent discussion Dr Shiferaw urged the Heads of Missions serving abroad to work closely with local organizations to counter these elements in the countries to which they are accredited. It was emphasized that those in neighboring countries needed to work particularly hard as extremism is a major threat in the region of the Horn of Africa. The Ambassadors should use any available international or regional framework and every opportunity to condemn fundamentalism and extremism. They should be prepared to make the position of the Ethiopian Government very clear in situations where members of the Diaspora were aligned with fundamentalist groups and were deceiving their host governments and the media with invented and false information.

The second round of the meeting took place in Addis Ababa. In the first session, Foreign Minister Dr Tedros briefed participants on three major issues, the recent **Ethio-US Investment Fora** in Houston and Los Angeles, the US-Africa Summit (see above) and the performance of the Ministry over the previous year. He said the Ethio-US Investment Fora had been very successful and had demonstrated rising interest in investing in Ethiopia. One Forum had been held in Houston and the other in Los Angeles under the themes of "Fostering Private Sector partnership for Economic Development" and "Strategic Partnership for Economic Development." Several hundred people had turned up on both occasions and a number of companies had indicated their readiness to engage in investment in energy, horticulture, coffee, and meat processing.

Regarding the performance of the Ministry during last year, Dr Tedros noted that the country had seen some remarkable gains in the areas of peace and security, trade and investment during the year. He said Ethiopia had been actively engaged in strengthening its Strategic Partnerships, notably with neighboring countries and mainly within the framework of IGAD with special focus on peace and security. It had also been working with the Nile riparian countries on the ratification of the Nile Basin Cooperative Framework Agreement (CFA). Rwanda had ratified the CFA and Burundi promised to do so shortly. In addition, he emphasized, the new Egyptian President was showing promising signals of a desire to resolve controversies among the riparian countries.

Dr Tedros said there had been some remarkable achievements in business diplomacy, comfortably exceeding expectations and targets. He mentioned that many of the leaders and senior officials who visited Ethiopia during the year also brought business delegations with them. Leaders and Ministers from China, Japan, Finland, Israel and Germany had all been accompanied by substantial business delegations. In addition, a number of international brand names, including General Electric and Unilever had promised to invest in Ethiopia. A considerable number of other multinationals were eyeing Ethiopia as a destination for investment.

The Ministry had also registered significant progress in engaging with the Diaspora which has created a conducive atmosphere encouraging their active engagement in various activities in the country.

Representatives of the International Office of Migration (IOM) provided a briefing to the Ethiopian Ambassadors, Consuls General and Ministry officials on Diaspora Mapping. State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dewano Kedir, underlined the importance of the concept, relevance and practice of Diaspora Mapping. He noted that the Government had prioritized the role of the Diaspora in socio-economic development and the democratization process of the country. It had also formulated a Diaspora policy and particular mechanisms for engaging the Diaspora in these processes. Representatives of the IOM in South Africa and Moldova gave presentations on the relevance and need for Diaspora mapping within the context of Diaspora engagement, and shared their experiences. The mapping process is the first step to engage the Diaspora and its purpose is also to improve the capacity to involve the Diaspora in medium- and long-term development processes, as well as provide a significant role in human capital, to transfer knowledge, technology, skills and expertise. Other elements cover social, including collective and economic benefits deriving from cooperation between Government and the Diaspora in financial, cultural and political areas.

The briefing underlined the role of the Government in strengthening and encouraging Diaspora engagement, and emphasized that the role of diplomatic missions abroad as well as the instruments and communication tools used to improve the relationship were crucial. The meeting agreed that policy regulations, directives and practical follow up proposals, as well as possible models for Diaspora mapping, prioritizing needs and matching action to active engagement, should be summarized and put forward to the Ministry for these to be followed up. The 2007 Ethiopian year was labeled as the “**Ethiopian Diaspora Year**” and it was agreed every mission as well as the Ministry headquarters should give full attention to mobilizing the Diaspora and engage them effectively in different socio-economic and political matters.

The Minister of Culture and Tourism, Amin Abdulqadir, told the Ambassadors and Consuls General that they were a vital factor in attracting tourists and publicizing Ethiopia’s tourist destinations. This, he said, was an indispensable element in the country’s growth and development. The Minister said that under the Growth and Transformation Plan (2011-2015) Ethiopia aimed to attract one million tourists to Ethiopia and earn as much as US\$3billion. By the end of this last fiscal year it was well on the way to achieving these figures with 724,000 tourists visiting Ethiopia in 2013/14 and spending nearly US\$2billion. The briefing included archaeologists who presented details of the new discoveries of early hominid remains which will soon be made public. In the discussion it was pointed out that there was an urgent need for the country’s infrastructure to continue to expand to allow for more tourists and to let them get the best out of their visits and boost the income from tourism.

Discussions were also held with other sector ministries and the private sector to find ways and means to work closely in promoting the country’s trade, investment and tourism to a greater extent. Senior officials from sector ministries and representatives of the private sector made presentations and promised to provide all the necessary assistance to the overseas missions to help them in these responsibilities. The Heads of Missions emphasized that they would exert their utmost efforts in areas of business diplomacy, image building and Diaspora engagement.

In the closing session, Dr Tedros, in addition to providing guidelines and directives for further action, also underlined the need for a concerted effort to strengthen the achievements Ethiopia has gained during the past year in various social, economic and political aspects. He encouraged the Ambassadors and Consuls General to build on these in the future.