

## **A Week in the Horn 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2012**

- **Ethiopia-Kenya relations: the Prime Minister in Kenya and the JMC meeting**
- **Prime Minister Hailemariam meets Iran's Foreign Minister**
- **The UN Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) is extended**
- **Piracy in Somalia: a UN Security Council Resolution**
- **Ethiopia: a consistent proponent for greater cooperation in the Nile Basin**

### **News and Views (page 9):**

- **The 16<sup>th</sup> COMESA Heads of State summit in Kampala**
- **The UK pledges to continue to support Ethiopia's development**
- **Djibouti deploys further troops to Somalia**
- **Ethiopia described as model for health care**
- **UNDP selects Ethiopia for national consultations on post-MDGs**
- **The Sugar Corporation creates nearly 30,000 jobs**

### **Ethiopia-Kenya relations: the Prime Minister in Kenya and the JMC meeting**

Ethiopia-Kenya relations have been a centre of attention this week with Prime Minister Hailemariam making a two-day official state visit to Kenya from 21<sup>st</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> November, his first official visit to Kenya since taking over as Prime Minister, and the 34<sup>th</sup> Kenya- Ethiopia Joint Ministerial Commission meeting also held in Nairobi earlier in the week (19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> November).

Prime Minister Hailemariam and his delegation were received at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in Nairobi on Wednesday afternoon [21<sup>st</sup>] by President Mwai Kibaki and senior officials from both governments. The two leaders then held talks on bilateral and regional issues at the State House on 21<sup>st</sup> November. Responding to his welcome, Prime Minister Hailemariam recalled that the late Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Meles Zenawi, had a longstanding vision to establish one integrated economic community for the region and assured the President of Kenya that the new generation of Ethiopian leadership will uphold his vision and strive to attain the goals shared by the leadership of the two countries. The Prime Minister stressed the long-standing relationship between Kenya and Ethiopia based "on mutual trust and confidence [and] on the shared vision of maintaining the security and improving the livelihoods of our people and our region. He underlined his hope that his visit would further enhance the already excellent relations between the two peoples and governments. He noted the "commendable levels of cooperation on both the bilateral and regional fronts"; the working relationship of security and military institutions and the consultations and coordination on the diplomatic front, notably in connection with Somalia.

The Prime Minister went on to say that he believed the relationship was now shifting into "one enriched by economic and trade links and enhanced institutional cooperation." Ethiopia and Kenya had started to become integrated and interdependent economic social units with people along the border going to the same schools, getting medical care from the same clinics, and enjoying electric power from a single source. In this context he welcomed the signing of the Special Status Agreement which would, he said, provide a legal foundation for future economic and social integration. He noted that Ethiopia and Kenya had the biggest economies and the largest populations in the region and therefore had a critical role to play in spearheading economic integration.

In a speech at a state banquet in his honour on Wednesday evening, the Prime Minister said Ethiopia viewed Kenya as a strategic all-weather partner and friend in a troubled region. It had, he said, been a difficult year for both countries with Ethiopia losing Prime Minister Meles and Kenya the late Professor Saitoti. He expressed his deep appreciation for President Kibaki's attendance at the funeral of the late Prime Minister. The Prime Minister said that for many Ethiopians, Kenya is like a second home and "Ethiopians' attitude towards Kenya has always been warm, fraternal and positive." Relations have survived ideological cleavages and political upheavals in the past, and have produced a strong foundation on which to build our current and future relations. He added that there was still a long way to go to realize the unlimited trade and business potential that existed between the two countries. He believed the various agreements that had been signed, especially the Special Status Agreement, would help greatly and help resolve the major stumbling block in consolidating trade and business relationships - the absence of a viable infrastructural network. The launching of the Lamu-South Sudan Ethiopia Transport Corridor and the agreement on the development of the railway network between Lamu port and Addis Ababa, signed last March, will be instrumental to turn the vision of a sub-region co-existing in peace and prosperity into reality. The agreement, signed last December, on the development, management and utilization of the transport corridor, will also help resolve the challenges.

The Prime Minister noted that his meetings at all levels had been cordial and productive and discussions fraternal and forward looking, adding "We should march forward with the understanding that our destiny is intertwined. We will fall or rise together." In a joint statement with President Mwai Kibaki, he said that Kenya and Ethiopia could lead IGAD - "Joining hands so that we can secure peace and stability in this sub-region which all of you know is a troublesome area." He added: "We see the light at the end of the tunnel where Somalia is now being stabilized by the joint effort of Ethiopia and Kenya along with our brothers from the region."

The Prime Minister during his stay in Kenya also held a breakfast meeting with members of the Kenyan business community where he expressed Ethiopia's commitment to further strengthen trade and investment relations. He said it was time to develop the huge potential of the youth population. He stressed the importance of focusing on textiles, agricultural and food production as well as providing value addition by developing industries instead of relying on outsiders. Instead of importing edible oil from Malaysia "we should grow palm oil since we have the land to do so", he said. The Prime Minister said priority should be given to such areas as seed and fertilizer for farmers and for the horticulture and floriculture industries which were significant employers. It was time East African Governments invested in building equipment plants, and another priority area was the hospitality industry. He noted that Ethiopia had a lot of land so it could encourage investors to bring in infrastructure, build complexes and invest. He also said the energy sector in Africa remained a big challenge. Governments should invest in it and support manufacturers with energy costs and encourage investment in manufacturing industry.

Earlier in the week the conclusion of the 34<sup>th</sup> Kenya-Ethiopia Joint Ministerial Commission meeting (19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> November) witnessed the signing of agreements in the field of media, youth and sport, women and children, health, science and technology as well as extradition. Together with the Special Status Agreement these will provide the two countries with the necessary legal framework to significantly enhance bilateral relations.

The Ethiopian delegation to the Joint Ministerial Commission was headed by Ambassador Berhane Gebrechristos, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs. Ambassador Berhane noted that the decision to reactivate the Commission last year, after a lapse of seven years, had been a very important development, and the 34<sup>th</sup> session was particularly significant as it showed both countries were committed to regular close consultations. He also underlined the unprecedented levels of co-operation that had been taking place in bilateral and multilateral forums on regional peace and security matters. The new political dispensation in Somalia and the hopeful developments

between the Republic of the Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan, he said, would not have been possible without the coordinated efforts of Kenya and Ethiopia. It demonstrated that working together they were a potent force for peace and stability in the region.

Ethiopia, he said, firmly believed both would continue to help the new Federal Government of Somalia in its task of rebuilding Somalia, assisting in the development of federal and local governmental institutions, as well as its security forces. The Acting Foreign Minister took the opportunity to commend the members of the Joint Border Administrators' Commission, noting that the border provided an exemplary model of cooperation despite some intermittent problems. Movement of people had become easy, enabling trade and cultural exchanges. A joint technical committee to repair border beacons had been established and Ambassador Berhane hoped the experts would finalize their work in the first half of the New Year.

Ambassador Berhane said that the previous Joint Ministerial Commission meeting demonstrated a firm commitment to improving economic relations by expanding trade and investment ties and infrastructural networks. At the last meeting, in Addis Ababa, road transport and passenger road transport service agreements had been signed as well as power purchase and standard gauge railway agreements and the LAPSSET project has been launched. The Special Status Agreement would propel overall economic ties to an even higher level and this and the other agreements in the fields of media, youth and sport, women and children, health, science and technology as well as extradition would provide the necessary legal framework to enhance bilateral relations.

### **Prime Minister Hailemariam meets Iran's Foreign Minister**

A high-level delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, led by Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi, paid a working visit to Ethiopia on 16<sup>th</sup> November. During their visit they met Prime Minister Hailemariam for discussions on bilateral, regional and international issues. The Iranian Foreign Minister, who offered his condolences on the death of late Prime Minister Meles, described Iran as a good friend of Ethiopia and said it had high regard for its relationship with Ethiopia. He also added that one way to strengthen the existing relationship would be to hold the forthcoming 6<sup>th</sup> Joint Ministerial Commission in Tehran as soon as possible. The Foreign Minister said that Iran admired Ethiopia's development achievements and said that Iran was ready to support its efforts. In this connection, he mentioned the planned visit of an Iran business delegation next month at the invitation of the Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce and Sectoral Association.

With reference to regional and global issues, the Foreign Minister stressed that Ethiopia was an important and significant country with an important role to play in international and regional issues. One mechanism for such cooperation and activity, he said, would be to hold regular political dialogue and consultations between their two countries.

Prime Minister Hailemariam thanked the Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic for his country's wish to enhance their bilateral relationship. He welcomed the fact that Ethiopia and Iran had similar positions over the issues of peace and tranquility of Africa in general and the Horn of Africa in particular. The Iranian Foreign Minister informed the Prime Minister about his trip to Somalia a day earlier and the opening of an Iranian Embassy in Mogadishu. He detailed Iran's involvement in a programme of well-digging for drinking water and for irrigation purposes as well as the opening of a large clinic, a donation from the government of Iran, to provide free medical care in Mogadishu. Iran, as the current chair of the Non-Aligned Movement, wished to cooperate with the African Union in order to address the problems of the region.

The two sides discussed the issue of technological transfer and what might be appropriate for Africa's development efforts, in particular in matters of training and capacity building. The Prime

Minister, who noted that Ethiopia had reduced poverty by 50% during the last 5 years, expressed his expectation that Iran could be a partner in these efforts through involvement in investment and other development sectors on a win-win basis. Prime Minister Hailemariam said that Ethiopia was ready for the resumption of the 6<sup>th</sup> Joint Ministerial Commission as soon as possible and he supported the idea of continuous political dialogue and consultation on regional and global issues, emphasizing in particular the central issues of Somalia and Sudan for the Horn of Africa's peace and security.

Before leaving, the Foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran invited Prime Minister Hailemariam to visit Iran; the Prime Minister accepted the invitation.

### **The UN Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) is extended**

The UN Security Council has extended the mandate of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) at current troop levels for a further six months, to the end of May next year [2013]. UNISFA was established in June 2011 following an outbreak of violence and it is made up of troops from Ethiopia. Numbers are currently 3,967 out of a total of 4,200 allowed under a mandate which includes overseeing demilitarization and maintaining security.

The Security Council Resolution 2075 (2012) was unanimously adopted on Friday (16<sup>th</sup> November). Recalling previous resolutions and presidential statements, the Council reaffirmed its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity, and territorial integrity of the Republic of the Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan, reiterated that territorial disputes should be settled exclusively by peaceful means and underlined the priority it attached to implementation of all issues outstanding from the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. The resolution recalled the commitments made by the two governments in the 20<sup>th</sup> June 2011 Agreement on Temporary Arrangements for the Administration and Security of the Abyei Area, the 29<sup>th</sup> June 2011 Agreement on Border Security and the Joint Political and Security Mechanism, and the 30<sup>th</sup> July 2011 Agreement on the Border Monitoring Support Mission as well as the 27<sup>th</sup> September Agreements on Cooperation and Security Arrangements reached in Addis Ababa under the auspices of the AU High-Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP). It expressed its determination that the future status of Abyei should be resolved by negotiations between the parties and not by any unilateral actions. It welcomed the commitments of both parties to implement a Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism (JBVMM), but expressed its concern that the parties have not yet reached agreement on modalities for implementation.

The Council commended the efforts of UNISFA to carry out its mandate, including its on-going facilitation of peaceful migration throughout the Abyei Area. It said it was encouraged by the improvements in security and stability in the Abyei Area since the deployment of UNISFA, but it remained deeply concerned by delays in the establishment of the Abyei Area Administration, Council and Police, and by the lack of progress in establishing the Abyei Police Service, including a special unit to deal with particular issues related to nomadic migration.

It therefore extended until 31<sup>st</sup> May 2013 the mandate of UNISFA, welcoming the redeployment of Sudanese military and South Sudanese military and police personnel from the Abyei Area while demanding the Government of Sudan redeploy the oil police in Diffra from the Abyei Area immediately and without preconditions. It reiterated that the Abyei Area should be demilitarized with the exception of UNISFA and the Abyei Police Service. The Council demanded that Sudan and South Sudan urgently finalize the establishment of the Abyei Area Administration and Council, resolve the deadlock over the Chairmanship of the Council, and set up the Abyei Police Service to take over policing functions including the protection of oil infrastructure, as agreed in the 20<sup>th</sup>

June 2011 Agreement. It urged Sudan and South Sudan to make full use of the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee to ensure progress.

The Council reiterated the earlier calls for Sudan and South Sudan to urgently activate the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism and the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone and finalize a timeline for the unconditional redeployment of their armed forces on their respective sides of the border. It welcomed the Secretary-General's efforts to assist the parties in the establishment of temporary JBVMM headquarters in Assosa, Ethiopia, and the deployment of national and international monitors to Assosa for participation in the JBVMM. It said it would review the mandate of UNISFA, as appropriate, once the JBVMM was operational. It called on Sudan and South Sudan to ensure free, unhindered and expeditious movement to and from Abyei and throughout the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone for all UNISFA personnel and equipment. It urged the Secretary-General to take measures to improve the difficult living conditions affecting UNISFA peacekeeping personnel, and on all parties to provide humanitarian personnel with full, safe and unhindered access to civilians in need. It also requested that the Secretary-General ensure effective human rights monitoring.

The Council noted that improved cooperation between the Government of Sudan and Government of South Sudan was critical for peace, security and stability and their future relations. It asked the Secretary-General to report to the Council on progress of UNISFA's mandate every two months and decided "to remain actively seized of this matter."

The Security Council commended the continued assistance provided to the parties by the AU High-level Implementation Panel, including its Chairman President Thabo Mbeki, and former Presidents Abdulsalami Abubakar and Pierre Buyoya; by the Chairperson of IGAD, Ethiopia's Prime Minister Hailemariam; by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Sudan and South Sudan, Haile Menkerios; and by the UNISFA under the leadership of Lieutenant General Tadesse Werede Tesfaye. It also took the opportunity to honour "the memory and distinguished contributions to regional peace and security, and in particular, to peace between Sudan and South Sudan and to the peaceful settlement of the Abyei question, of the former Ethiopian Prime Minister and IGAD Chairperson Meles Zenawi."

On Wednesday [21<sup>st</sup> Nov], Secretary-General Ban ki-Moon welcomed the signing of the Status of Forces Agreement for UNISFA. This had been signed by the Government of Sudan on 1<sup>st</sup> October, and was finally signed by the Government of South Sudan on Tuesday (20<sup>th</sup> November). This would, he said help improve the discharge of UNISFA's mandate in its area of operations, including freedom of movement of personnel and assets in both countries.

### **Piracy in Somalia: a UN Security Council Resolution**

On Monday this week [19<sup>th</sup> Nov], the UN Security Council held a debate on piracy as a threat to world peace and security. The debate, called by the Security Council's current president, Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative of India, covered all the piracy "hotspots" including the Gulf of Guinea in West Africa and Southeast Asia but concentrated on Somalia where ships from over 20 nations are involved in anti-piracy operations.

In a report to the Council, UN Secretary-General Ban ki-Moon, noted the situation had improved this year in terms of numbers. In the first nine months of the year, 99 ships were attacked off the coast of Somalia, 13 of which were hijacked. The first nine months of 2011 saw 269 attacks and 30 hijackings. This improvement off the coast of Somalia should be balanced by the figures produced by the International Chamber of Commerce's Commercial Crime Services which has identified a

total of 261 attacks and 26 hijackings worldwide this year. Nine vessels are currently being held off the coast of Somalia with some 154 hostages.

In resolution 2077 (2012), passed unanimously on Monday (19<sup>th</sup> November), the Security Council commended the efforts of the European Union operation ATALANTA, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization operations - Allied Protector and Ocean Shield, the Combined Maritime Forces' Combined Task Force 151 commanded by Denmark, as well as New Zealand, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Turkey, Thailand and the United States, and other States acting in a national capacity and welcomed the efforts of individual countries, including China, India, Japan, Malaysia, Republic of Korea, and the Russian Federation, which deployed ships and/or aircraft in the region. It also welcomed the readiness of the national and regional administrations of Somalia to cooperate with each other and with States who have prosecuted suspected pirates. The resolution renewed for another year the authorizations, first agreed in 2008, for international action to fight the crime of piracy in cooperation with the new Somali Government and for States and regional organizations to deploy naval vessels, arms and military aircraft.

However, in the debate Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson noted that although there might have been a sharp decline in attacks off the coast of East Africa this year the trend could easily be reversed if the causes of piracy such as instability, lawlessness and ineffective governance were not addressed. "Combating piracy requires a multi-dimensional approach," he said. "In Somalia, this has meant stabilizing the country through a Somali-owned process. The new President of Somalia has made an impressive start, but challenges remain significant." The Council recognized that one of the underlying causes of the problem was "the on-going instability in Somalia" and underlined Somalia's primary responsibility for fighting it. It requested the Somali authorities to pass "a complete set of counter-piracy laws without further delay," calling on them to investigate and prosecute pirates and to patrol the territorial waters off the Somali coast to suppress acts of piracy and armed robbery at sea.

Over the years, the international effort to deal with piracy has captured hundreds of pirates at various times but this has led to problems over what to do with prisoners. Many, however, have simply been freed on the Somali coast; others have been taken to Kenya for prosecution but Kenya and other regional authorities have limited resources to deal with these cases. The Netherlands proposed creation of a regional U.N. piracy tribunal several years ago but the idea has been dormant due to lack of Security Council interest. In this resolution the Council reiterated its decision to continue consideration, as a matter of urgency, of establishing specialized anti-piracy courts in Somalia and other States in the region. It is now calling upon members of the international community to bring in domestic piracy legislation in conformity with applicable international law, and urged states to consider prosecuting and imprisoning pirates. The resolution called on states, "to criminalize piracy under their domestic law and to favourably consider the prosecution of suspected, and imprisonment of convicted pirates and their facilitators and financiers ashore, consistent with applicable international law including international human rights law."

The Security Council resolution urged the imperative of a comprehensive response by the international community to repress piracy and tackle its underlying causes, and for states, international organizations, and the private sector to expand cooperation efforts by sharing evidence, information, and intelligence. It also stressed the need to support the investigation and prosecution of all those who illicitly finance, plan, organize, or unlawfully profit from pirate attacks, and urges states and international organizations to share evidence and information. Expressing concern that escalating ransom payments and the lack of enforcement of the arms embargo fuelled the growth of piracy, it renewed its call for all states and regional organizations with relevant capacity to take part in the fight against piracy.

The resolution also urged states to consider investigating any new allegations of illegal fishing and dumping, including of toxic substances, off the coast of Somalia, but it added that the United Nations had received little evidence to justify claims that such activities were factors responsible for forcing Somali youth to resort to piracy. It said concerns over the protection of the marine environment “should not be allowed to mask the true nature of piracy off the coast of Somalia, which is a transnational criminal enterprise”.

### **Ethiopia: a consistent proponent for greater cooperation in the Nile Basin**

Ethiopia’s Minister of Energy, Alemayehu Tegen, this week reiterated the country’s commitment to the equitable distribution of the Nile’s waters. He was speaking at a workshop organized by the International University of Africa and Ethiopian Embassy in Khartoum to discuss the effects of the Grand Renaissance Dam. Ato Alemayehu took the opportunity to address the concerns of lower riparian neighbours at the potential effects of the Dam’s construction on downstream water levels. He explained Ethiopia had no desire to monopolize the water behind the Dam and reaffirmed the country’s commitment to the Cooperative Framework Agreement principle that no state should exercise hegemony over the Nile waters and their allocation, or claim exclusive rights. Ato Alemayehu went on to highlight Ethiopia’s active policy of cooperation with Sudan and Egypt, and stressed the Dam would only increase the scope of those relationships. Indeed, by improving development opportunities and increasing economic trade between Nile Basin countries, the Grand Renaissance Dam will act as a catalyst for peace and economic integration in the region.

These perspectives have been a consistent element in Ethiopian policy since the project’s inception.

At the launch of the Dam, the late Prime Minister Meles Zenawi illustrated this position clearly when he said: “the intention to exercise our rights to use our own rivers is in order to fight poverty...It shows no malice to our neighbours. Among the concerns we factored in when we made the decision to build the Nile Dam with our own resources, was to avoid any negative consequences for our neighbours and indeed to offer positive benefits for all of them. I would dare to say that nothing can provide a better testimony of our deepest commitment to forge a lasting partnership between all the Nile Basin riparian countries than the building of the [Grand Renaissance] Dam”.

Prime Minister Hailemariam has reiterated the same approach. He said earlier this year that Ethiopia is “ready for the negotiations and cooperation at the highest and technical level”. He explained that “the Cooperative Framework Agreement gives this option [of examination] to all countries, so we have to engage ourselves to get to an agreement where we can work together equally”. These sentiments have been echoed by Saiffudine Hamad Abdallah, Minister of Irrigation and Water Resources of Sudan, who has noted that “Sudan can make maximum use of this Dam, which will reduce clay [sediment in Sudanese dams], whose removal costs millions of dollars”. A recent study emphasized that the Ethiopian highlands are “the main source of sediment, pouring a huge amount of eroded soil into the Nile... [with] negative impacts on downstream riparian countries”. A 2008 UNESCO study revealed that sediment deposition had drastically reduced reservoir storage capacities at dams in lower riparian countries leading to problems in hydropower generation. In fact, the Minister noted, “the Dam will provide water at fixed levels that will help irrigated agriculture, especially in the wake of shortages of rain across the regions of the country”. By approaching its partners downstream through dialogue and information-sharing, Ethiopia has provided the opportunity for experts from these countries to have an open discussion about the contributions that the Dam can make to their respective countries including flood control, reduction in siltation and limiting of the loss of water from evaporation.

Ethiopia, in fact, has consistently maintained readiness to engage with the other riparian states downstream on its Nile Basin hydrological development projects. The recent establishment of an International Panel of Experts by Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt is one example of the desire for cooperation in the Nile Basin. The Panel which consists of ten experts (two Ethiopian, two Sudanese, two Egyptian and four international figures) is set to announce its findings on how the Dam will affect downstream flows in May 2013. The commitment on all sides to await the Panel's findings is evidence of a move, welcomed by Ethiopia, away from unilateralism and towards collaboration on the part of lower riparian countries. The recent participation of Egypt's President Mohamed Morsi and his speech on the Nile at the African Union Summit as well as the visits of his Prime Minister, Hesham Kandil, to both Sudan and Ethiopia, are further indications of this change in policy. The Egyptian initiative announced by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mohamed Kamel Amr, to further develop the Nile Basin through collective cooperation in the fields of agriculture, irrigation, power generation and telecommunications is a practical step in the right direction. It confirms Egypt's keenness to cooperate closely with all Nile Basin countries. Ethiopia welcomes this. It has always been ready to start a new phase in relations between riparian countries, one based on cooperation rather than competition under the principle of equitable distribution of Nile waters.

The desire shown by all sides to cooperate on the sustainable management, use and development of Nile water bodes well for the expected ratification of the CFA by our partners downstream. Once ratified, the CFA, a product of the Nile Basin Initiative, will guide the equitable sharing of Nile waters among all the Nile riparian states. New research underlines the prospects of cooperation. "We would argue that physically there is enough water in the Nile for all the riparian countries", says Simon Langan, head of the East Africa and Nile Basin office of the International Water Management Institute. The research, published as 'Nile River Basin: Water, Agriculture, Governance and Livelihoods', calls for greater cooperation among Nile Basin countries in enacting inclusive water management policies for the benefit of all the river's stakeholders. It asserts that the Nile "has enough water to supply dams and irrigate parched agriculture in all ten [riparian] countries". The book provides strong support to the calls, among upper riparian states, for reasonable and equitable distribution of the Nile's waters within a framework of enhanced cooperation and regional consensus.

'Abay', the Amharic name for the Blue Nile, has the connotation of 'father' or 'guardian'. It has been the profound belief of Ethiopians across the centuries that this description of the river is more than just symbolic. We need to underline that the Nile is a gift to all the riparian countries, one which has facilitated the rise and growth of civilizations in all the nations its waters flow through. Egypt, Sudan and South Sudan have long been reliant on the waters that rise in the Ethiopian highlands. It has never been, nor will it ever be, the intention of Ethiopia to jeopardize the livelihood of its brothers and sisters downstream for its own gain. Ethiopia has historically always been opposed to any attempt at monopolizing these collective waters. To the Ethiopians, Sudanese and Egyptians alike, the Blue Nile has always been a common gift given by the Creator. Today, more than ever, that gift must be shared equitably and reasonably for the benefit of all.

### **The 16<sup>th</sup> COMESA Heads of State summit in Kampala**

The 16<sup>th</sup> Heads of State meeting of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) started today (23<sup>rd</sup> November) in Kampala, Uganda. This year's summit is being held under the theme "Enhancing Intra-COMESA Trade through Small to Medium-Scale Enterprise Development". Nineteen Heads of State and Government from east and southern Africa are expected to attend. Prime Minister Hailemariam is leading the Ethiopian delegation and arrived in Kampala yesterday (22<sup>nd</sup> November) after his two day official visit to Kenya. Among others attending is the Chairperson of the AU Commission, Dr. Dlamini Zuma. The summit was preceded by the 8<sup>th</sup> COMESA Business Forum held from 20<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> November in Kampala. COMESA states have a population of 467 million people and had a combined GDP of \$799 billion in 2010, making it one of the biggest trade blocs in the world. Its annual import bill is currently US\$32 billion and its exports reach US\$82 billion.

### **The UK pledges to continue to support Ethiopia's development**

The UK's Department for International Development (DFID) has said the UK will continue its support to help Ethiopia continue its development and expand access to basic services. The Head of DFID in Ethiopia, Melanie Robinson, said that the UK's development programme in Ethiopia was its largest in the world, and the overall UK aid programme in Ethiopia was currently running at 300 million pounds, six times larger than it was in 2005. She said the UK has been undertaking various development activities to support Ethiopia's efforts towards lifting citizens from poverty, with an outlay of US\$1.3 billion. The UK's priority areas are helping to expand access to basic services such as health, education, water and agriculture, and last year alone, the UK supported nearly four million people through the Productive Safety Net Programme. Ms Robinson said the UK's development assistance to Ethiopia was based on the country's commitment to end poverty, and over the next couple of years she expected 800,000 people to be lifted out of poverty through development activities assisted by the UK. This support would also enable two million school children to stay in school and 500,000 mothers to give birth safely in health institutions. She also said nearly nine million more people would benefit from health and safe water facilities during the reported period.

### **Djibouti deploys further troops to Somalia**

Djibouti has begun to deploy additional troops to the central Somali town of Belet Weyne in Hiiraan region, some 300km north west of Mogadishu to strengthen the Djibouti contingent serving with AMISOM. The deployment will boost the over 300 Djibouti troops and personnel already on the ground in Belet Weyne to around the agreed number of a thousand or so that Djibouti has agreed to supply to AMISOM. Meanwhile, according to Somali media, forty Somali police officers completed a two-week long training course at a camp in Belet Weyne at the beginning of this week. The officers, from both senior and junior ranks, have been undergoing basic training including courses on ethics and how to drive and operate armoured vehicles. The training has been carried out by AMISOM as part of its efforts to equip the Somali police force with necessary skills.

### **Ethiopia described as model for health care**

Ethiopia has made impressive strides in improving its health care system and can serve as a model for other countries, a paper from Yale University indicates. The paper, "Grand strategy and Global Health, the Case of Ethiopia," states that the country has successfully applied concepts of

grand strategy to implement achievable priorities, worked with diverse partners and external funders and developed middle-level management to promote new health policies. The result has been significant changes on the ground and improved health for more than 80 million Ethiopians through numerous new health centres and clinics, trained personnel to staff them, expanded access to clean water and nutritious food and sharply reduced numbers of deaths from malaria. One of the authors of the paper, published in the current issue of Global Health Governance, describes Ethiopia's health reform strategy "as guided by an extraordinary clarity of purpose, reflecting the priorities of the country rather than the priorities of donors." The paper traces the improvements to the appointment of Dr Tedros Adhanom as Health Minister in 2005 and underlines the importance of the on-going partnership with the William J. Clinton Foundation. The paper, authored by Professor Elizabeth H. Bradley of the Yale School of Public Health, Michael Skonieczny, executive director of GHFI, and Lauren Taylor, also notes that Ethiopia has successfully resolved the long-standing divide between vertical solutions involving combating single diseases such as malaria and HIV/AIDS and the more horizontal approach of expanding infrastructure and training additional health workers.

### **UNDP selects Ethiopia for national consultations on post-MDGs**

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has included Ethiopia as part of a group of 49 countries from across the world to hold national consultations to help produce a post-2015 global development agenda. A joint press conference in Addis Ababa was held by the State Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Dr Abraham Tekeste, and by the United Nations Resident Coordinator, UNDP Resident Representative and UN Humanitarian Coordinator, Eugene Owusu. Mr Owusu explained that when the MDGs were drafted almost 13 years ago, citizens did not get to contribute to the Agenda through the type of national level consultations now being offered. Now they will be able to do so. National consultations will be taking place at three levels: three regional level consultations with a wide variety of stakeholders, three focus group consultations and one national level consolidation. It is expected that these national discussions in all countries will be finalized by next February.

### **The Sugar Corporation creates nearly 30,000 jobs**

According to the newsletter of the Sugar Corporation, new sugar development projects in various parts of the country created job opportunities for over 28,000 people during the last Ethiopian budget year. The jobs came from the developments in sugar projects in Beles, Kuraz, Wolkite and Kessem/Tendaho. Along with the employment opportunities, the corporation also provided a series of developments in connection with the projects, among them roads, potable water, schools and other infrastructural developments. The Sugar Corporation, a state-owned company, is building 10 new factories in its bid to become one of the world's ten major exporters of sugar as well as fulfilling local demand. In the last financial year the Sugar Corporation distributed more than 4.3 million quintals of sugar to consumers as well as making available more than 11 million litres of ethanol, over 300,000 quintals of molasses, 15,000 cartons of candy and nearly 3,000 quintals of bagasse.