

A Week in the Horn

27th September 2013

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News in brief

African Union

The Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma briefed the AU Peace and Security Council meeting in New York on the partnership between the African Union and the United Nations, calling for more coherence and effectiveness.

The Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Dr. Dlamini Zuma met with the United Nations Development Program Administrator, Helen Clark, in New York ahead of the 68th UN General Assembly meeting on Tuesday (September 24) to discuss establishment of a strategic partnership between the UNDP and the AUC.

The AU Peace and Security Council issued a Press Release on the situation in the Central African Republic, strongly condemning the terrorist attack in Kenya, and expressing its solidarity with the people and Government of Kenya. It also issued a communiqué on relations between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan **(See article)**

Foreign Ministers of IGAD and the East African Community (EAC) meeting on Monday (September 23) called on regional Chiefs of Security and Intelligence to hold an urgent meeting to create a regional mechanism to coordinate efforts to collectively fight terrorism. **(See article)**

Foreign Ministers from Africa and China held the Third Ministerial Political Consultations between China and Africa on the sidelines of the 68th UN General Assembly on Monday (September 23). The meeting was co-chaired by Chinese Foreign Minister, Wang Yi, and the Foreign Minister of South Africa, Maite Nkoana-Mashabane. **(See article)**

Foreign ministers and representatives of African and Arab states held a ministerial meeting in New York on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly this week. The agenda covered multilateral cooperation, Africa's strategic partnerships, and preparations for the 3rd Africa-Arab Summit to be held in Kuwait in November.

The African Union, UNESCO and the Felix Houphouet-Boigny Foundation have committed themselves to launch a major movement for peace in Africa at a meeting at AU headquarters on Friday (September 20).

Ethiopia

Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn left for New York at the weekend to attend the 68th session of the United Nations General Assembly, which is discussing a wide variety of issues including the performance of the Millennium Development Goals and on ways to register globally, peace and security, human rights observance, disarmament, drug control, promotion of justice and international law. Foreign Minister, Dr. Tedros Adhanom, is also leading a delegation drawn from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other governmental offices. **(See articles)**

Prime Minister Hailemariam co-chaired a high level lunch meeting on Sustainable Energy with Jens Stoltenberg, Prime Minister of Norway, on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly on Monday (September 23). **(See article)**

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Tedros Adhanom, expressed deep condolences to the people and government of Kenya over the killing of civilians in Nairobi mall in the terrorist attack carried out by Al-Shabaab. Ethiopia offered all necessary support to help bring the perpetrators to justice.

Foreign Minister, Dr. Tedros Adhanom met with the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Lithuania, Linas Linkevicius, and held talks with Professor Viola Onwuliri, the Acting Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in New York on Tuesday (September 24)

Government Communication Affairs Office Minister, Redwan Hussien, expressed support for Kenya's campaign for all African countries to collectively withdraw from the Rome Statue, the treaty that established the International Criminal Court. The AU has announced that an extraordinary Heads of State Summit will be held on October 13 in Addis Ababa to discuss Africa's concerns with the ICC.

A Polish Economic Mission headed by Poland's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ms. Beata Stelmach, met with State Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Berhane Gebre-Christos on Monday (23rd September). The Mission also participated in the first Ethiopian-Polish Business Forum. **(See article)**

The State Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Berhane Gebre-Christos met with a delegation from the French Senate, led by M. Louis DUVERNOS, Senator of French citizens living abroad and Chairman of the Friendship Group "France and the Horn of Africa" on Friday (September 20).

The newly assigned Ambassadors of the European Union, Mrs. Chantal Hebberecht and of the Slovak Republic, Mr. Jozef Cibula, presented copies of their credentials to the State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Berhane Gebre-Christos on Monday (September 23).

The departing Ambassadors of Switzerland, Dominik Langenbacher, and of Japan, Hiroyuki Kishino, took leave of the State Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Berhane Gebre-Christos. Each had been in Ethiopia for three-years.

Ethiopian Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, Ambassador Dina Mufti, said on Wednesday (September 25) that Al-Shabaab posed no "imminent threat to the country's national security." He said Ethiopia's defense forces and intelligence were capable enough to defend their country; there was no reason for the public to be worried.

Ethiopia celebrated its 6th National Flag Day across the nation on Monday (September 23) under the theme "Our Flag is an emblem of our diversity, unity and renaissance". In Addis Ababa, the ceremony in the National Stadium culminated in oaths to the Flag and the Constitution, and raising of the flags of Ethiopia and of the country's nine regional states.

Djibouti

Representatives from the Djiboutian government and the Saudi Fund for Development on Thursday (September 19) signed a US\$5million loan agreement to support Djiboutian economic development.

Eritrea

President Isaias continued his diplomatic efforts to restore Eritrean relations with Arab states in the region and the Middle East with messages to the President of Yemen, the Emir of Kuwait and the Head of the United Arab Emirates. These followed messages to the King of Saudi Arabia, and to the leaders of Sudan and Egypt.

Yemen's Prime Minister Mohammed Salem Basindwa has promised to work with the Government of Eritrea to secure the release of Yemeni fishermen detained in Eritrea for over two years. An Eritrean delegation is reportedly due in Sana'a next week to discuss current maritime boundaries between the two countries to try to reach an understanding over fishing agreements.

Kenya

Kenya's President Kenyatta declared on Tuesday evening (September 24) that the Al-Shabaab terrorists who had launched their attack on the Westgate center in Nairobi on Saturday had been killed or captured. The President declared three days of national mourning Wednesday to Friday. Confirmed deaths included 61 civilians and 6 soldiers with more than 240 injured; more bodies were believed trapped in sections of the building that collapsed. Security forces arrested 11 suspected terrorists; 5 others were reported to have been killed.

President Kenyatta called a special meeting Wednesday of his Cabinet and National Security Council to discuss national and regional counterterrorism strategy and lessons to be learned from the terrorist attack on the Westgate Mall in Nairobi.

Ethiopia's Ambassador to Kenya, Ambassador Shemsudin Ahmed met with Kenyan officials on Sunday (September 22) to convey Ethiopia's condolences and its solidarity with Kenya in the face of Al-Shabaab's attack.

Judges at the International Criminal Court at The Hague on Monday (September 22) adjourned the trial of Kenya's Deputy President William Ruto for a week to allow him to return to Kenya to help deal with the terrorist atrocity in Nairobi.

The International Criminal Court, replying to the AU letter (September 10) expressing concern that court proceedings were affecting Kenyan constitutional responsibilities, said the ICC presidency had no legal powers to consider concerns related to ongoing cases. Any issues should be addressed to the relevant Chambers in accordance with the Rome Statute and ICC's Rules of Procedure and Evidence.

Somalia

The Ugandan Chief of Defence Forces, General Katumba Wamala, said on Tuesday (September 23) that AU Mission in Somalia, AMISOM, needed more troops. Numbers should be raised from the current 17,731 to between 20,000 and 25,000 troops, equipped with force multipliers and enablers including helicopters.

The Somali Federal Government has announced an eight person committee, headed by Abdikarim Hussein Guled, Minister of the Interior, to organize the first phase of the Reconciliation Conference between the Government and the Interim Jubba Administration due to take place in Mogadishu on October 5. The conference's second phase will be held in Kismayo.

President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud of Somalia, heading a Somali Government delegation, was on a working visit to USA last week where met with Secretary of State John Kerry, the Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel and National Security Adviser Susan Rice as well as speaking at the Woodrow Wilson Center.

The European Union signed an agreement on Monday (September 23) with the African Union for a US\$124 million support to AMISOM for the period from June to December. The European Union has contributed some US\$600 million to the Mission since March 2007.

Puntland President Abdirahman Mohamed Farole met with President Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi of Yemen in Sana'a on Wednesday (September 25). Discussions covered cooperation between Yemen and Puntland in counter-terrorism, anti-piracy and anti-smuggling operations, as well as economic cooperation. President Farole has been on a series of visits to Kenya, Ethiopia, Djibouti, UAE and Belgium before Yemen.

South Sudan

South Sudan Minister of Interior minister, Aleu Ayieny Aleu, and Sudan's Minister of Interior, Ibrahim Mahmoud Hamid, meeting in Juba on Monday (September 23) signed an agreement for opening of trade borders between the two countries. They are also reported to have agreed cancellation of entry visas for holders of the diplomatic, official and trade passports. State governors from the border regions will meet shortly to put the agreements into action.

Sudan

The Sudanese government announced on Wednesday (September 25) that the army had been ordered to deploy to government buildings and gas stations to protect them from protesters demonstrating against the decision to cut fuel subsidies. Demonstrations started on Monday in Sudan's central state of Gezira and spread to other parts of the country including Khartoum.

UN Secretary General Ban-Ki-moon, meeting Sudan Foreign Minister Ali Karti on Monday (September 23) urged the Sudanese government to engage "inclusive" dialogue with the opposition forces in order to end the ongoing conflicts and re-establish a democratic regime in the country. The meeting discussed relations between Sudan and South Sudan as well as but also the situation in Darfur, Abyei, Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States.

Ethiopia's Prime Minister Hailemariam addresses the UN General Assembly

The Sixty-eighth General Assembly opened in New York on September 23. The session will last until October 8 under the chosen theme "The Post-2015 Development Agenda: Setting the Stage." Ethiopia's delegation is led by Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn, the current Chairperson of African Union.

The Prime Minister addressed the Assembly on Wednesday (September 25). He spoke first in condemnation of the appalling terrorist attack in Kenya last weekend. Offering his deep condolences to the Kenyan Government and people, he pointed out that this shocking incident once again underlined the need to renew the international commitment to fight terrorism and extremism in all its forms and manifestations. The Prime Minister noted African countries now constituted one of the largest groups in the General Assembly, very different from 1945 when the United Nations Charter was signed and much of Africa was under the yoke of colonialism. At the same time, it was important that focus should continue on the challenges Africa faces. He urged a renewal of commitment to the completion of the decolonization process in Africa. Referring to the partnership between the OAU/AU and the United Nations, the Prime Minister welcomed a significant expansion of their cooperation over a wide range of activities, but he said a lot remained to be done to further enhance their partnership in the context of changing dynamics both within Africa and the world at large.

He pointed out that the Golden Jubilee of the OAU/AU this year was celebrated "at a time when the stereotypical narrative about Africa as a continent afflicted by poverty, diseases and conflicts has started to change slowly." He noted the continent's achievements in terms of reducing the number of conflicts and in promoting democratic governance as well as fighting poverty through accelerated economic growth and development. Indeed, "with its enhanced peace and stability, rapid economic growth, natural resource endowment and a growing middle class," he said, "Africa is certainly on the rise and this is attracting a lot of attention from the rest of the world." The 21st century could be an African century, he said, but only if

"we harmonize our efforts to maintain and indeed speed up the rapid economic growth that Africa has been registering for the last decade or so."

The Prime Minister stressed the fact that Africa could only achieve its aspirations for a peaceful, prosperous and integrated continent by bringing about structural transformation. The transformation agenda for Africa, which coincides with the development of the post-2015 global development framework and will build on the OAU/ AU Golden Jubilee celebrations, will be implemented over the next fifty years. Africa, he said, attaches paramount importance to the post-2015 framework. It is preparing itself to develop a common position and galvanize international support to ensure that the successes achieved in the implementation of the MDGs are sustained and its development priorities beyond 2015 are fully taken on board. The Prime Minister noted that the agenda for Africa over the next 50 years is aimed at achieving structural transformation to eradicate poverty and ensure sustainable development. Africa, he pointed out, intends to come up with a well thought-out African position as an outcome of the initiative of our troika: the AU Commission, the UNECA and the African Development Bank. In this context, he added, "we want to achieve a green revolution in Africa and ensure the food security of our peoples". He cited the theme of the African Union for 2014: "Agriculture and Food Security and promotion of CAADP." This would allow Africa to reinforce its commitment for transformation of the agricultural sector to industrialization "in order to accelerate economic growth and generate employment, increase income and diversify exports." In this context, he said, it is vital to consider endowments in Africa and take into account the need to increase value adding as well as exploit forward and backward linkages. The Prime Minister said the infrastructure sector had been neglected over past decades. There was a need to undertake massive investment in infrastructure now as this would enable the promotion of intra-African trade and fast-track regional integration. He emphasized the need for Africa to reap the benefits of its demographic dividend by investing in its people.

Development aspirations, however, he said, cannot be realized in the absence of durable peace and security and he noted the tremendous efforts being exerted in addressing conflicts. The decline in the number of conflicts was to be welcomed but he also recognized the new security dynamics related to the rise of popular dissatisfaction in connection with unmet demands. He pointed out that the African Union, had been "exerting efforts to assist Egypt, a member State whose contribution to the decolonization process in our continent and to African Unity has been second to none, in overcoming its current difficulties in the spirit of African solidarity." The African Union would also be giving all necessary support to Tunisia in order to ensure a successful political transition through the adoption of a new constitution and the holding of elections. It welcomed the successful conduct of elections in Mali that paved the way for the restoration of constitutional order there; and drew satisfaction from the significant progress made in Somalia towards peace in the country and was encouraged by the agreement reached between the Somalia Federal Government and the Jubba Interim Administration.

Regarding the security and humanitarian situation in Central African Republic, the Prime Minister urged the United Nations to provide full support to the African-led International Support (AFISM-CAR). This will be deployed in CAR to protect civilians and restore security and public order. He also noted the escalation of tension in the Democratic Republic of Congo which posed threats to the peace and security of the Great Lakes region and the continent as a whole. He said "the only durable solution is for both the Government and the armed opposition to conclude their peace talks under the auspices of the International Conference for the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR)." On the relations between Sudan and South Sudan, the Prime Minister noted the establishment of the Ad-Hoc Investigation Mechanism (AIM) by the African Union in close collaboration with IGAD. He hoped the investigation would help the two countries to move forward in the implementation of the agreements that they have signed and the normalization of their relations. He commended the regular engagement of the leaders of Sudan and South Sudan as a means to help to resolve some of their outstanding issues.

The Prime Minister also noted the serious and growing concern in Africa over the relationship with the ICC. He pointed out that Africa, time and again, has reaffirmed its "unflinching commitment to fighting impunity and promoting democracy, rule of law and good governance throughout the continent in conformity with the Constitutive Act of our Union," However, he added, "Unfortunately, the manner in which the International Criminal Court (ICC) has been operating left a very bad impression in Africa." He said the ICC, instead of promoting justice and reconciliation and contributing to peace and stability, has become a political instrument targeting Africa and Africans and this is "totally unacceptable and that is why Africa has been expressing its serious reservation against the ICC." Prime Minister Hailemariam expressed

his regret that Africa's repeated requests to the United Nations Security Council to defer the proceedings initiated against President Al-Bashir had neither been heard nor acted upon. Nor, he said, had Africa received any response for its request "for a deferral of the ICC investigations and prosecutions in relation to the post-election violence in Kenya, in line with the principle of complementarity, to allow for a National Mechanism to investigate and prosecute the cases under a reformed Judiciary provided for in the new constitutional dispensation." Kenya, he pointed out, had registered encouraging developments in adopting a new constitution, reforming the Judiciary and had held successful legislative and presidential elections that were critical to peace building and national reconciliation. The ICC should heed these encouraging developments. He urged the United Nations Security Council to respond to Africa's requests in consideration of the way the ICC decision would adversely affect the ability of Kenyan leaders to discharge their constitutional responsibilities.

Prime Minister Hailemariam emphasized the need for Africa to forge multiple partnerships and realize its development aspirations in order to assume its rightful place in an increasingly globalized and multipolar world. He welcomed the fact that Africa's strategic partnerships with both developed and emerging economies had expanded and deepened in recent years. At the same time, he called for solidarity and necessary support from all sections of the international community for Africa in the spirit of the Millennium Declaration, which he said underlined so clearly and with such empathy the special situation of Africa. "This, in our view," he said, "should be the spirit with which the deficit in the implementation of MDG 8 must be treated during the short remaining period of the MDGs."

....participates in the Millennium Development Goals Forum

Heads of State and Government, representatives of business, civil society and philanthropic organizations gathered on Tuesday (September 23), on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly, for a meeting to encourage a final push to propel the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) across the finishing line. The meeting, under the title "MDG Success: Accelerating Action and Partnering for Impact" was convened by UN General Secretary Ban Ki- Moon, who acknowledged in his opening remarks that progress in reaching the eight goals agreed by world leaders in 2000 remained incomplete. However, although many MDGs have yet to be met, Mr. Ban told the meeting that success was within reach because people working together all over the world had proved that transformational change was possible within an accelerated timeframe. He called on the participants, to learn from success and failure, to accelerate efforts in "the precious two years that remain;" to "focus, strategize, and mobilize".

The MGDs aimed to slash extreme poverty and hunger, ensure access to universal health care and education, achieve gender equality, cut maternal and child mortality, secure environmental stability, reduce HIV/AIDS and forge a global partnership for development, all by the end of 2015. The Secretary General described the "bold experiment" which he said "has helped to catalyze one of the greatest surges in human well-being that the world has ever seen. Thirteen years later, I am pleased to report that success in many areas and many countries is within reach. Poverty has declined, health has begun to improve and literacy has soared. What first seemed fanciful and naïve to some has become achievable."

Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam reminded the meeting that the rapidly changing global development landscape called for a new course of action to sustain progress and address the world's pressing challenges, and the developments surrounding the global economy called for decisive actions to restore confidence and growth. "In an increasingly integrated world, we stand a better chance of addressing all challenges if we remain united in our collective efforts and coordinate our actions", said the Prime Minister. He added that the MDGs, in this regard, "have been instrumental in fostering global cooperation to address the challenges we have faced particularly in the social sector." The world was a better place than it had been at the dawn of the new millennium but this did not mean that enough had been done, or that progress had been sufficient to be confident in the future trajectory of the globalized world or in implications for the developing world.

With regard to Africa, Prime Minister Hailemariam noted, progress had been uneven and "many countries in the continent may not be able to achieve all or even most of the MDGs by 2015." He stressed the importance of redoubling efforts during the remaining two years to help those off-track on many of the MDGs. Equally, he added it was important that those countries which were on track should be able to feel confident in effective implementation of the MDGs. Carrying out the main recommendations of the work of the MDG Gap Task Force, created by the Secretary General to ensure monitoring of the implementation of

MDG 8, was therefore critically important. This, indeed, could go a long way towards filling gaps in MDG implementation.

The Prime Minister urged the acceleration of efforts to cut mother and child mortality, and called, most critically, for a new and unified approach to end hunger, particularly in Africa. This, he said, "must embrace the fundamental objective of addressing natural and human calamities in a timely and effective manner." In this regard, he added, identifying best practices and experiences and scaling them up, filling the gaps and, if necessary, adjusting and rethinking the approach to meet emerging challenges were of vital importance. He also stressed the "need to stand united in our collective resolve to address the negative impacts of climate change" adding that "the time could not be more fitting for us to agree on a binding global climate regime by 2015." This, he said, would "undoubtedly afford us the opportunity to be aggressive in our collective endeavor to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change within the framework of the new global development agenda."

The Prime Minister emphasized the need to collaborate under the umbrella of 'Sustainable Energy for All' policy to achieve the objectives of improving energy efficiency and doubling the share of renewable energy. This, he pointed out, was critical for developing countries, particularly the LDCs, to overcome their colossal development challenges and ensure sustainable development. Ethiopia, he said, had charted out a new course of development based on green growth initiatives, and begun harnessing its renewable energy sources, including hydro-power, wind and solar assets, in order to maintain and enhance its development gains.

Prime Minister Hailemariam told the meeting that doing more and doing better was the only way forward for the future even though the road ahead might not be easy. The experience with the MDGs has provided important lessons that "through collaborative efforts, it is possible to achieve great things." He said the experience of Ethiopia was a good example in this regard. He acknowledged with great appreciation the contribution made by development partners to Ethiopia's successful achievements towards many of the MDGs including the full achievement of MDG-4 and its success in reducing under-5 mortality by 67%. "This", he said, "is the kind of solidarity that can take us a long way towards addressing many of our remaining challenges." The Prime Minister concluded by calling on the world to remain optimistic in its determination to succeed in its development efforts in the post-2015 period.

The meeting collected another US\$2.5 billion in pledged funds towards boosting the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals as a number of countries and businesses made commitments. The United Kingdom announced US\$1.6 billion for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria Global Fund over the three-year period of 2014-2016 to deliver life-saving antiretroviral therapy for 750,000 people living with HIV, to provide 32 million more insecticide-treated nets to prevent the transmission of malaria, and to support TB treatment for over a million more people. The World Bank Group will provide at least US\$700 million in financing to the end of 2015 to help developing countries reach the MDGs on women's and children's health, with new funding coming from the International Development Association, the World Bank Group's fund for the poorest countries to enable national scaling-up of successful pilot reproductive, maternal, and child health projects. Norway pledged another major commitment to contribute US\$75 million over three years to finance life-saving support and delivery costs as part of a newly formed "Reproductive, Newborn, and Maternal Health Trust Fund." The Swedish IKEA Foundation pledged US\$80 million over the next five years to fund UNICEF programs in India to improve child survival, education and protection. Energia, the international network on gender and sustainable energy, committed over US\$10 million to strengthen work on gender equality and women's empowerment in the energy sector.

...and co-chairs the discussion on Sustainable Energy

Prime Minister Hailemariam co-chaired a high level lunch meeting on Sustainable Energy with Jens Stoltenberg, Prime Minister of Norway, on sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly on Monday (September 23).

In his speech to the meeting, Prime Minister Hailemariam urged developing countries to use sustainable power to overcome the social and economic problems they faced in a sustainable manner. The Prime Minister emphasized the importance of Ethiopia's efforts to generate power through renewable energy. He pointed out that half of the 1.3 billion people who do not have the opportunity to have access to electricity

live in developing countries. In addition some 4 million people add to the world's carbon emissions by using wood for cooking.

Prime Minister Hailemariam underlined the numerous benefits of producing and using renewable energy. He pointed out Ethiopia, taking note of these benefits, had put in place policies and strategies to enable the country to use the potential of renewable energy. It had already made significant progress in this approach. As part of the country's planned development registering successive years of rapid economic growth, Ethiopia was also undertaking activities aimed at building a carbon-free and resilient economy. This was all part of its efforts to reach middle income status country by 2025.

The Prime Minister detailed Ethiopia's efforts to meet the growing demand for power as the economy expanded, and he noted that the completion of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam would have a major impact in helping to meet the increasing demand for power in the country.

The Prime Minister said developing countries needed development assistance from their partners to realize the necessary increase of sustainable power. He said developed countries needed to provide technological and financial support for the development of clean energy. He stressed the importance of enhancing capacity for developing alternative sources of renewable energy and for its distribution.

The United Nations endorsed 2012 as a year of "sustainable power development for all." This concept of a power development framework was intended to reinforce the Istanbul Action Plan produced two years ago. The Action Plan aimed to provide the ability for half of the 48 developing countries it identified at that time to reach middle income status by 2020. As the lack of sustainable power has been one of the major hindrances in achieving the goals of the Istanbul Action Plan, Monday's meeting endorsed a proposal to put forward sustainable power development as one of the major possibilities of post-2015 development goals.

A High-level United Nations Meeting on Disability and Development

A United Nations High-level Meeting on Disability and Development took place on Monday (September 23) in New York under the theme "The way forward: a disability inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond." UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, told the meeting: "We must further strengthen the international normative framework on disability and development. We must act now to remove barriers to access to physical environments, transportation and information and communications. And we must not only lift the physical barriers, but also the barriers in attitudes that fuel stigma and discrimination." The Secretary General also pointed out that persons with disabilities were a vital and integral part of efforts to achieve the eight anti-poverty targets of the Millennium Development Goals before their deadline, and they also had a major role to play in shaping the post-2015 development agenda.

Ethiopia's Foreign Minister, Dr. Tedros Adhanom, reminded the meeting that many were misled by wrong perceptions that the number of persons with disabilities was small or that their needs were excessively costly, even too expensive to cover. In fact, he pointed out that the situation of this section of society in developing countries, particularly in Africa, was particularly disheartening as they had little or no economic means to cope up with their difficulties in their daily lives. He urged the international community not to repeat the same mistake it had made more than a decade ago in omitting persons with disabilities while formulating the new development goals for the period beyond 2015.

It was true, he added, that the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and its Optional Protocol, had made up for some lost time, and provided a platform for the broader global development community to engage in addressing the concerns of the persons with disabilities. Nevertheless, Dr. Tedros emphasized, much still remained to be done, and now there was a renewed opportunity to scale-up the efforts to support persons with disabilities. He stressed: "We must embrace the fact that like any other able bodied person, persons with disabilities, if cared for and supported, have been seen to be an active and productive force who can effectively contribute to the overall development of their respective countries."

He said "if we are to create a world free from poverty, deprivation, misery, stigma and discrimination, we must then all commit to seize this moment to make a firm commitment that people with disabilities remain high on our collective global development agenda. We must also show strong political will to address the challenges surrounding people with disabilities. We need to make sure that they are empowered and an

adequate policy and programmatic framework for implementation is put in place to enhance their participation at all levels.”

Dr. Tedros said that in Ethiopia there were close to 15 million children, adults and elderly persons with disabilities, the vast majority living in rural areas with limited access to basic services. The Government gave high priority to respond to this challenge, and has adopted and implemented a number of laws, policies and standards for persons with disabilities, including their rights to productive and decent work. The efforts ranged from the Constitution which set out the State’s responsibility for the provision of necessary rehabilitation and support services, to the national development plan which establishes disability as a cross-cutting issue, and to the Proclamation on the Definition of Powers of Duties of the Executive Organs of Ethiopia which provides for equal opportunities and full participation of people with disabilities and those living with HIV/AIDS.” Ethiopia had also ratified the ILO’s Convention Concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation, the Convention Concerning Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment of Disabled Persons and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol.

The UN General Assembly’s High-level Meeting on Disability and Development concluded with the adoption of an agreed outcome stressing the need to ensure accessibility for and the inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of development and of giving due consideration to persons with disabilities in the emerging post-2015 UN development agenda. The outcome document noted that “the way forward, a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond,” underlines the need for “urgent action” by all relevant stakeholders towards the adoption and implementation of more ambitious disability-inclusive national development strategies with disability-targeted actions, backed by increased international cooperation and support.

IGAD and EAC joint meeting to discuss counterterrorism activities

Last weekend, the barbaric terrorist atrocity committed by Al-Shabaab at the Westgate Mall in Nairobi claimed the lives of over 60 innocent civilians and injured two hundred more. It took nearly four days to finally bring the siege to an end on Tuesday with the capture and death of the terrorists. It was the worst terrorist attack in Kenya since the bomb attack on the US Embassy in 1998, and the tragic incident was condemned across the world, with the Government and people of Kenya receiving hundreds of messages of solidarity. The IGAD Secretariat immediately sent a message of condolence to President Kenyatta; and the IGAD Ambassadors held an urgent meeting in Addis Ababa to express solidarity with the Government of Kenya, denounce Al-Shabaab and identify the atrocity as a sign of frustration rather than any demonstration of strength.

In New York a joint meeting of the Foreign Ministers of IGAD and the East African Community, of Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda met to condemn the senseless tragedy, express their deepest condolences to the families and friends of the victims and express their solidarity with the people and Government of Kenya at this time of national mourning. The ministers vowed to support all efforts to bring the perpetrators of this heinous act to justice and reaffirmed their commitment to counter terrorism and extremism in all its forms and manifestations. The Foreign Ministers called on the Chiefs of Security and Intelligence of the region to meet as urgently as possible to create a regional mechanism to coordinate their efforts to collectively fight terrorism.

IGAD’s Peace and Security Division has already been carrying out activities to coordinate and consolidate counter-terrorist activities within the sub region. Earlier in the month, IGAD held a regional workshop in Khartoum with the focus on promoting legal instruments to deal with terrorism. It was a multi-stakeholder meeting that included civil society members and international partners and discussed a number of ways to develop and expand regional and international legislation against terrorism to control its developments within the IGAD region. The workshop also discussed on the role of civil society members in promoting dialogue and denouncing extremism. IGAD officials emphasized to the press that the workshop’s aim was to bolster coordination between member states in the field of combating terrorism.

The joint meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the two regional bodies, IGAD and the ECA, also discussed the issue of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in light of the repeated failure of the Court to listen to the pleas of the African Union and other regional bodies. In a communiqué issued after the meeting, the Ministers affirmed their unwavering commitment to fight impunity as a matter of principle. They also

noted the numerous decisions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union on the issue of the ICC and expressed regrets that despite the African Union's repeated requests regarding the cases of the Sudan and Kenya, the ICC has failed to act upon either the recommendations or the requests.

The Ministers said that the adoption of a new constitution in Kenya, the reform of the country's justice system and the successful elections earlier this year has created a propitious condition to allow for the creation of a national mechanism to investigate and prosecute cases in relation to the post-2007 election violence in Kenya, in line with the principle of complementarity. In relation to the ongoing trial of President Uhuru Kenyatta and Deputy President William Ruto at The Hague, the Ministers expressed serious concern over their ability to continue to discharge their constitutional responsibilities. They supported the convening of an Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government of the African Union to review Africa's relations with the ICC. This is now scheduled to take place on October 12, in Addis Ababa.

The AU Peace and Security Council meeting on Sudan and South Sudan ...

The African Union Peace and Security Council held its 397th meeting on September 23 in New York, on the margins of the UN General Assembly. The subject was the relationship between the Republic of the Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan. The Council was briefed by representatives from the Sudan and from South Sudan; from Ethiopia in its capacity as the Chair of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD); and from the United Nations. It also took note of the Report of the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel on Sudan and South Sudan (AUHIP) on the situation between Sudan and South Sudan and other related developments.

After briefings and discussions the Council issued a communiqué which commended AUHIP and its members, former Presidents Thabo Mbeki, Abdulsalami Abubakar and Pierre Buyoya, for their efforts to assist Sudan and South Sudan to work towards the goal of two viable states, and Ethiopia's Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn, as Chair of IGAD, for his continued support to the AUHIP and the two Parties. It also expressed its appreciation to the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy, Haile Menkerios, and the UN Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) and others for their continued support to the AU-led efforts.

It welcomed the outcome of the Summit between President Omar Al-Bashir and President Salva Kiir in Khartoum on 3 September 2013; and the progress made in implementation of the proposals in the letter sent by AUHIP to the two Presidents on June 9. It acknowledged their cooperation with the Ad Hoc Investigative Mechanism (AIM) which has just completed its report on allegations over the support to rebels fighting against the other State; and the cooperation with the AU Border Program Technical Team (AUBP-TT), tasked to conclusively determine the centre line of the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone (SDBZ) on the ground. The Council emphasized that "the SDBZ and its centre line represent only the location of the separation line between the armed forces of the two States and do not have any bearing on the definitive and final location of the boundary." It also noted the steps taken in implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding on Non-Aggression and Cooperation (of February 2012).

The Council encouraged the two Governments to continue their efforts, including reinforcement of existing bilateral structures such as the Joint Political and Security Mechanism. It noted their cooperation with the Abyei Area Joint Investigation/Inquiry Committee, which has completed its work and is expected to submit its report soon. It welcomed the plan to convene a conference on the issue of the soft border, under the auspices of the AU and international partners, to be presided over by the two Vice-Presidents and to include the Governors of the states of Sudan and South Sudan adjoining the border. It also welcomed the commitment of the two Presidents, following their Summit on September 3, "to proceed expeditiously with the implementation of the Agreement on Temporary Administrative and Security Arrangements for the Abyei Area of 20 June 2011." It called on the two Governments to facilitate the rapid and safe return of refugees and displaced persons, assist with rehabilitation and development of the communities in and adjacent to Abyei, and to provide for the peaceful migration of nomadic pastoralists during the coming dry season. It called for a special partners' conference to mobilize assistance for Abyei, and for implementation of the commitment to provide 2% of oil revenues originating from Abyei for its development.

The Peace and Security Council reiterated its support for UNISFA and underlined that the area must be fully demilitarized with the exception of UNISFA. The police force stationed in Diffra should be withdrawn

and replaced by the Abyei Area Police Service. It called on the two Presidents to resume their discussions on the Final Status of Abyei on the basis of the AUHIP Proposal of September 21, 2012. It urged the two Governments to establish the Abyei Area Referendum Commission, review and adopt a revised referendum law in line with the AUHIP Proposal, and requested them to submit their nominees to the AUHIP.

The Council reiterated its conviction that there can be no military solution to the conflict in the Two Areas and no alternative to direct negotiations towards a political settlement. It hoped that recent steps towards the normalization of relations between Sudan and South Sudan would create a conducive environment for resumption of negotiations based upon the Framework Agreement of 28 June 2011, and AUHIP's proposed agreement submitted 17 September 2012. It welcomed the steps taken by AUHIP to assist the Sudanese parties in the implementation of the CPA and other related processes, as part of the democratic transformation of the Sudan. It affirmed "the guiding principles of democratic inclusiveness and unity in diversity should inform the goals and processes of national dialogue and constitution making in the two sovereign nations of South Sudan and Sudan". It also emphasized that the peaceful resolution of internal conflicts was an essential pre-requisite to any democratic, inclusive and legitimate process of national consultation and constitution-building. It therefore called on the Government of the Republic of Sudan to redouble its efforts to seek a peaceful resolution of the conflicts in the Two Areas and in Darfur; and on the Government of the Republic of South Sudan to seek a peaceful resolution to internal armed conflicts in South Sudan, especially the on-going conflict in Jonglei State.

It said that for the two countries to achieve the agreed goal of two viable states living peacefully with one another and with the wider region, it was necessary for both to embark upon sustainable development, poverty reduction, the provision of essential services, and economic integration. For this, the cooperation of international partners is required, in particular for debt relief, the lifting of economic sanctions, and the provision of development assistance and cooperation.

The Council also requested AUHIP in close consultation with the Chair and Secretariat of IGAD to promote a regional and holistic approach to the challenges of peace, security, stability and development in the Horn of Africa. It suggested this should involve the holding of a conference on peace, security, stability, cooperation and development in the Horn of Africa, and asked AUHIP to undertake the required consultations with IGAD and its Chairperson. The Peace and Security Council decided to extend the mandate of the AUHIP until December 2014, and also requested the AU Commission Chairperson to take the necessary steps to strengthen AUHIP's capacity.

...and the AUHIP Report to the Peace and Security Council

The suggestion for this expanded mandate for AUHIP came from AUHIP's Report in which it proposed its mandate should be broadened to back up AU's calls for a regional and holistic approach to establishing peace, security and stability in the Horn of Africa in support of IGAD activities. The AU Assembly had requested the AU Commission, in consultation with the countries of the region, IGAD, the European Union, the United Nations and other partners, to take the necessary steps to launch this process. AUHIP, therefore, suggested that its mandate should be extended to promote this, and it should, "among other things" which it did not specify, hold a conference on the Horn of Africa. It also suggested steps should be taken to enhance the capacity of the Panel to carry out such additional responsibilities in order "to contribute to the promotion of the much-needed regional approach to further peace, security and development in the Horn of Africa as a whole."

The AUHIP Report also carried details of the activities of Ad Hoc Investigation Mechanism (AIM) which has paid three visits to each country, and is currently in the process of completing its report to be submitted to the Chairperson of IGAD and the Chairperson of the Commission. It noted the establishment in April of a Joint Security Committee by the Joint Political and Security Mechanism (JPSM), headed by the Chiefs of Intelligence of Sudan and South Sudan and its July and August meetings in Juba and Khartoum. It also detailed the activities of the AUBP-TT and its visits to undertake a process of 'community awareness sensitization', adding that attempts to mark the SDBZ centre line along the Heglig-Bentiu and Kosti-Renk corridors were, however, aborted due to misunderstandings amongst local authorities and communities on the difference between the SDBZ centre line and the international boundary, as well as fears that the centre line would have negative consequences on local communities. The Abyei Area Joint Investigation/Inquiry Committee (AAJIC) into the incident that led to the killing of the NgokDinka Paramount Chief and a UNISFA

officer, on 4 May 2013, was able to resume its work in August. The Committee is currently finalizing its report for submission to the Peace and Security Council.

AUHIP said the September 3 Summit had concluded with positive outcomes, including the decision by the Government of Sudan to suspend indefinitely the shutdown of transportation and processing of oil from South Sudan, as well as activation of the High Level Committee, co-chaired by the two Vice Presidents, and of the Joint Implementation Committee, co-chaired by the two Ministers of Foreign Affairs. The Summit saw the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on Bilateral Co-operation and an Agreement on the Establishment of a Joint Business Council. On Abyei, the two Presidents committed themselves to the immediate and full implementation of the Agreement on Temporary Arrangements for the Security and Administration of the Abyei Area, and agreed to pursue discussions on the final status of Abyei. The Summit agreed to facilitate the work of the AU Team of Experts on the disputed areas; and reiterated the commitment to address the issue of support to and harboring of, rebels against the other State and the work of AIM. The two Presidents also agreed to address jointly the question of Sudan's debt relief and the development needs of both countries, through the activation of the Tripartite Committee on the Joint Approach to the International Community.

AUHIP noted that while there had been no political negotiations in the period under review between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army-North (SPLM/A-N), the improvement of relations between Sudan and South Sudan and the progress made by the AIM and the JSC should create a conducive environment for the resumption of talks on the basis of the Framework Agreement of 28 June 2011, as well as the proposed Agreement submitted by the AUHIP to the Parties in September 2012. AUHIP said it remained engaged with the issue of democratization in both countries and had undertaken consultations with a view to determining how best it could support their efforts.

Overall, AUHIP felt the period under review was marked by significant progress and the Summit on September 3 marked "a watershed in the normalization of relations between Sudan and South Sudan." It paid tribute to the IGAD Chairperson for his continued efforts and interactions with the Parties which had greatly contributed to the progress made. It urged the Parties to build on these achievements to address outstanding issues, including Abyei, with the resolve and spirit of compromise required. It also suggested the progress in bilateral relations provided an opportunity for each country to attend to its own internal challenges, including resolving conflicts in the Two Areas and Darfur (in Sudan), and in Jonglei (South Sudan).

The Polish Economic Mission and the First Ethio-Polish Business Forum

A Polish Economic Mission, headed by Poland's Deputy Foreign Minister, Ms. Beata Stelmach paid an official visit to Ethiopia from September 21 to 24. The mission included representatives from twenty one Polish companies who came to explore business opportunities and discuss the country's investment climate.

As part of this, the first Ethiopian-Polish Business Forum was held on Monday, September 23, at the Sheraton Hotel in Addis Ababa. The Forum was organized to bring members of the Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce together with the Polish business representatives to discuss on possible ways of co-operation. The Polish companies present were engaged in a number of different sectors ranging from ICT, medical equipment manufacturing, agriculture and transport manufacturing to sugar production, energy and mining.

The Forum was also seen as an opportunity for the Polish private sector to hear from government officials about the Government's investment policy and the general business climate in the country. The State Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Berhane Gebre-Christos told the Polish delegates that the mission's visit was a sign of the progressive relationship between the two countries. He said the Ethiopian Government was committed to working closely together with Poland in both bilateral and multilateral frameworks.

The State Minister commended the economic achievements of Poland in transforming itself into an important economic player in Europe and in weathering "the economic and financial crisis that rocked the larger part of Europe in recent years". He pointed to the necessity of expanding investments and reaching new markets in order to sustain this economic progress, and expressed his confidence that Ethiopia would

be “an attractive destination for Polish direct investment”. He mentioned Ethiopia’s need for innovative information technology solutions for its expanding banking sector as a possible area of interest for Polish companies in the IT sector. He noted the potential available in the healthcare market. He explained Ethiopia’s achievements in health care, and in particular its recent success in meeting one of the MDGs by cutting the under-five child mortality rate by two-thirds, but said that there was still a long way to go in other health areas. Huge investments were needed to provide the necessary health care for all Ethiopians. There was a substantial market for Polish companies engaged in the provision of medical equipment.

Similarly, the State Minister said, Ethiopia’s massive investment in infrastructure could also be a possible area of engagement for Polish businesses. Ethiopia is currently implementing a comprehensive plan to expand its infrastructure. The transport and power sectors are receiving massive investment and attention from the Government. By 2015, total power generation capacity is expected to reach 10,000 MW, with more projects in the pipeline to continue expansion of energy production for both domestic consumption and export. In the transport sector, 6,000 kms of railroad construction are planned for the coming decade. In all these areas Polish private sector investment would be welcome.

Deputy Minister Stelmach said the Ethiopian Government had made it clear that it welcomed investment. She said Ethiopia occupied a special place in Poland’s plan to increase and strengthen its relationship with Africa through its ‘Go to Africa’ initiative. Ms. Stelmach noted that Poland had gone through much the same process of transformation that Ethiopia is currently undergoing and it was hopeful and eager to share its experiences with Ethiopia.

The President of the Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce, Ms. Mulu Solomon, noted that the bilateral trade relationship between the two countries was insignificant, though she added that were attractive opportunities for further trade development. She pointed out that the agriculture, agro-processing, manufacturing and tourism sectors presented substantial opportunities to Polish businesses. During the delegation’s visit, a US\$90 million agreement was signed between a Polish company and its Ethiopian counterpart. The Ethiopian Metal and Engineering Corporation signed a deal with Ursus S.A., a Polish tractor and machinery manufacturer, for the supply of 3,000 tractors, as well as for transfer of technology and the provision of service facilities.

During its visit, members of the delegation also met with officials from various government ministries. At the Foreign Ministry, Ms. Stelmach met and held discussions with State Minister Berhane Gebre-Christos regarding Ethiopia’s economic performance and investment opportunities, bilateral relations and preparations for the upcoming Africa-EU Summit. After the discussion, a Memorandum of Understanding for Political Consultation and an intergovernmental Agreement for Cultural Cooperation in the areas of culture, education, science youth and sport were signed.

Ethiopia and Poland have always maintained a strong relationship marled by solid political cooperation in both bilateral and multilateral issues. The Polish Economic Mission’s visit has taken the relationship between the two countries to a new level and incorporated an economic dimension.

A Consultative meeting on Transboundary Resources at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosted a consultative meeting on Transboundary Resources on Tuesday (September 24), with the objective of finding ways to integrate transboundary-related activities carried out independently by different government departments and academia. The meeting was attended by scholars from Addis Ababa University, representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Water and Energy as well as the Chief Engineer of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam.

The meeting was chaired by Ambassador Ibrahim Idriss, Director General for Boundary and Transboundary Resources Directorate-General in the Ministry, who explained that transboundary issues had recently been elevated to Directorate-General level in the Ministry. This was a clear indication of the importance that the Ministry now attached to transboundary resources.

Ambassador Ibrahim said it was a commonly-held misconception that transboundary issues only related to rivers and in particular the Blue Nile. Transboundary issues, however, could also include a number of other issues such as mining and hydrocarbon resources, game reserves, wildlife and indeed any issues which

crossed borders. In addition, of course, the Blue Nile was not Ethiopia's only transboundary river. There were a number of others including the Genale, the Dawa and the Shebelle.

In the subsequent discussion, participants underscored the need for an integrated and institutional approach to tackle the political, social and economic complexities of transboundary resources. There was a consensus that high-quality research carried out by the various departments and disciplines at Addis Ababa University could serve as an invaluable input for the Government in its efforts to manage multi-dimensional transboundary issues dealing with ecological, geological, legal, engineering and meteorological matters. It was also emphasized that research output could play a crucial role in articulating the government's position in the diplomatic arena. Participants agreed that the ultimate objective of collaboration between relevant government ministries and academia should be to ensure that transboundary resources provided a basis for cooperation and mutual advantage rather than becoming a source of international conflict.

In conclusion, participants agreed to take further steps in order to maximize benefits of combining the activities of academia and the relevant government ministries. They agreed that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs should draw up a memorandum of Understanding aimed at institutionalizing the process of consultation and this should be then considered by other stakeholders before a further meeting.