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THE BRIEF



**From Royal
Engagement
to Economic
Partnership**



Ethiopian Embassy, London Newsletter

Contents

- 2** **Politics and Diplomacy**
Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's Parliamentary Address
- 4** **International Relations (Ethiopia-UK in Focus)**
From Royal Engagement to Economic Partnership
- 6** **International Relations (Ethiopia-UK in Focus)**
Building a Promising Future for Ethiopia and the UK
- 8** **Business and Economy**
Ethiopia's Coffee Export Success
- 10** **Technology, Innovation and Diplomacy**
Ethiopia's Tech Revolution
- 12** **Peace and Security**
Ethiopia's Journey as a Pillar of Peace in the Horn of Africa
- 14** **Infrastructure and Diplomacy**
Ethiopia Redefining African Aviation
- 16** **Tourism and Diplomacy**
AICC: A Hub Where Trade and Diplomacy Collide

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's Parliamentary Address on Diplomacy and Development



On March 20, 2025, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali delivered a comprehensive address to the Ethiopian House of People's Representatives, highlighting the country's current socio-political and economic progress, as well as the ambitious path it is following. In his responses to questions posed by parliamentarians on key issues such as the Pretoria Agreement, maritime access, political culture, infrastructure development, and economic growth, he presented a clearer vision for Ethiopia's future—one grounded in peace, collaboration, and sustainable development.

The Pretoria Agreement: Progress and Challenges

The Pretoria Agreement, which played a pivotal role in the

restoration of peace and stability within the Tigray region, remains a cornerstone of Ethiopia's recovery process. Prime Minister Abiy acknowledged the substantial gains made, particularly in the restoration of critical infrastructure and the provision of services to the people of Tigray. Yet, he was candid in highlighting the remaining challenges, particularly the Disengagement and Reintegration (DDR) process, which continues to affect the youth of Tigray.

One of the Prime Minister's key points was the urgent need to redirect the region's youth from militarization to productive development initiatives, ensuring that resources currently diverted to DDR processes are instead used to foster long-term growth. Despite setbacks in some areas, the work of the Tigray Interim Administration in preventing further conflict over ➡

the past two years was commended. As the administration's two-year term comes to an end, the Prime Minister emphasized the necessity of legal reforms, adjustments in governance, and preparations for upcoming elections, underscoring Ethiopia's commitment to a democratic process that prioritizes stability and peace.

Maritime Access: A Call for Dialogue

Prime Minister Abiy also addressed Ethiopia's longstanding struggle for access to the sea, reiterating that the country does not seek conflict with anyone over the issue. While acknowledging the existential importance of access to the Red Sea for Ethiopia's future, he emphasized Ethiopia's desire to resolve this matter peacefully through dialogue, signalling a diplomatic approach that aligns with Ethiopia's broader vision of regional stability.

Political Culture: Shaping a Unified Future

A reflective analysis of Ethiopia's political culture also surfaced in the Prime Minister's address. He identified two core challenges that have hindered the country's development: a history of destructive political culture, where governments have focused on dismantling their predecessors rather than building upon their successes, and a legacy of socialist ideology, which entrenched division between "enemies" and "allies," leaving little room for negotiation. These patterns, according to the Prime Minister, have led to cycles of violence and instability, with some groups still attempting to overthrow the elected government, often under the guise of advocating for the people they harm.

The Prime Minister's commitment to breaking free from this destructive political history and fostering a culture of negotiation and peaceful collaboration is central to Ethiopia's vision for the future.

Infrastructure and Corridor Development: Building for the Future

Ethiopia's infrastructure development has taken significant strides under Prime Minister Abiy's leadership, particularly through the ambitious corridor development initiative. In Ad-

dis Ababa alone, over 200 kilometers of roads and extensive pedestrian walkways have been constructed. This has been accompanied by comprehensive compensation programs, with over 17 billion Birr allocated to those affected by the development. The Prime Minister pointed to the successful collaboration in Harar as a model for other cities, where active citizen participation has ensured that development efforts benefit all members of society.

The corridor development program, which aims to create lasting benefits for future generations, demonstrates Ethiopia's long-term vision for growth. By focusing on equitable development and infrastructure improvement, Ethiopia is positioning itself to compete more effectively in regional and global economies.

Economic Growth: Building Momentum

Ethiopia's economic outlook also remains positive. The Prime Minister highlighted that key economic indicators have shown significant progress over the past eight months, with the country on track to achieve an impressive economic growth rate of over 8.4 percent for the current fiscal year. This reflects the country's resilience and commitment to sustainable development despite the challenges of the past years. With continued momentum, Ethiopia aims to translate this economic growth into broader prosperity for its

people, focusing on job creation, poverty alleviation, and infrastructural investment.

A Vision of Peace and Development

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali's address to the Ethiopian House of People's Representatives is a testament to Ethiopia's determination to overcome past challenges and build a brighter, more stable future. With a focus on peace, economic growth, and infrastructural development, the Prime Minister's vision is one of reconciliation and constructive progress. Ethiopia's journey, while complex and multifaceted, is one driven by an unwavering commitment to the well-being of its people and its place in the regional and global community. ■

**ETHIOPIA
IS ON TRACK
TO ACHIEVE AN IMPRES-
SIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH
RATE OF
OVER 8.4 PERCENT FOR
THE CURRENT FISCAL
YEAR.**



H.E. Ambassador Biruk Mekonnen presenting his letter of credence to His Majesty King Charles III at Buckingham Palace

The diplomatic relations between Ethiopia and the United Kingdom have reached a historic milestone with the official presentation of credentials by His Excellency Ambassador Biruk Mekonnen to His Majesty King Charles III at Buckingham Palace. In 1965—a pivotal moment in the history of bilateral relations. This visit set the tone for cooperation that has evolved over the decades, fostering a deep partnership in various fields. Her Majesty the late Queen Elizabeth II's state visit to Ethiopia

From Royal Engagement to Economic Partnership

The Growing Ethiopia-UK Relationship

During his address to King Charles III, Ambassador Biruk Mekonnen extended a cordial invitation from His Excellency Taye Atkesellassie, President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, for the

King to visit Ethiopia. Such a visit would undoubtedly strengthen the bonds between the two countries, providing a valuable opportunity to further enhance political, economic, and cultural exchanges. Given the shared history and mutual respect between the nations, the prospect of a Royal visit holds great promise for the future of Ethiopia-UK relations.

With Ethiopia undergoing significant political and economic transformation, ➡

the UK's expertise in fields such as finance, services, technology, agriculture, manufacturing, and renewable energy offers an excellent opportunity for deeper collaboration. Ethiopia's Digital Strategy 2025, which prioritizes digital innovation and sustainable economic growth, aligns closely with the UK's strengths, providing a fertile ground for strategic partnerships.

The recent visit of Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner to Ethiopia further solidified the partnership between the two nations. The Deputy Prime Minister's visit, focused on sustainable development, technological innovation, and economic growth, underscored the UK's commitment to supporting Ethiopia's development agenda. Her engagement with key Ethiopian institutions, including the Ethiopian Artificial Intelligence Institute and Safaricom Ethiopia, highlighted the growing role of digital technologies in the country's economic transformation. With the UK's support, Ethiopia is working to position itself as a regional leader in digital innovation, leveraging cutting-edge technologies to drive economic growth and improve livelihoods.

One of the highlights of Deputy Prime Minister Rayner's visit was the signing of a \$600 million partnership agreement aimed at modernizing Ethiopia's agricultural sector. The agreement, which involves the UK-based company United Green collaborating with Ethiopian Investment Holdings, is expected to modernize farming practices, boost productivity, and support Ethiopia's agricultural transformation. Ad-

ditionally, the visit to Ethiopian Airlines emphasized the growing importance of aviation in Ethiopia's economic future, with the airline playing a crucial role in facilitating business and cultural exchanges between the two countries.

In light of these ongoing developments, an invitation for a visit by the Royal Family to Ethiopia would provide a unique opportunity to strengthen the diplomatic and economic ties between the two nations. Such a visit would not only celebrate Ethiopia's rich cultural heritage but also highlight the country's strategic role in regional and global affairs. Ethiopia's focus on peacebuilding, climate change, and sustainable development aligns with the UK's own priorities, making the prospect of further engagements particularly significant.

The visit of Deputy Prime Minister Rayner and the formal credential presentation by Ambassador Biruk Mekonnen to King Charles III mark key milestones in the growing Ethiopia-UK relationship. As Ethiopia continues on its transformative journey, the UK's role as a trusted partner will be indispensable in supporting the country's development goals.

With an eye toward a prosperous future, the partnership between Ethiopia and the UK is poised for deeper collaboration, with shared objectives that hold great promise for both nations. Whether through diplomatic engagement, investment in key sectors, or joint efforts on global challenges, the relationship between Ethiopia and the UK is set to flourish for years to come. The best is yet to come. ■

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND THE UK IS SET TO FLOURISH FOR YEARS TO COME. THE BEST IS YET TO COME.

Building a Promising Future for Ethiopia And the UK

In a pivotal diplomatic and economic engagement, the Ethiopian delegation, led by H.E. State Minister Ambassador Mesganu Arga, recently visited London, marking a significant milestone in the ever-strengthening relationship between Ethiopia and the United Kingdom. This visit, which focused on deepening cooperation across economic, political, and security sectors, was a testament to both nations' commitment to forging closer ties that will undoubtedly benefit their citizens and economies for years to come.

A Political Dialogue

Laying the Groundwork for Future Collaboration

A defining moment during the visit occurred on March 26, 2026, when Ethiopia and the UK convened their first-ever political dialogue in London. This historic meeting allowed both sides to take stock of their past cooperation while setting the stage for a new chapter in their bilateral relations. The discussions spanned several key areas, with particular emphasis placed on economic collaboration, peace, and security—cornerstones of the partnership



between the two countries.

One of the standout outcomes from the dialogue was the agreement to encourage UK-based businesses to seize investment opportunities in Ethiopia. With a

rapidly evolving business climate, Ethiopia is increasingly becoming a prime destination for foreign investment, particularly in sectors recently liberalized to welcome international capital. The Ethi- ➔

opian delegation, led by His Excellency Ambassador Mesganu Arga, highlighted the government's ongoing reforms aimed at improving the investment landscape, ensuring it is not only conducive to business but also supportive of multinational ventures.

The dialogue also underscored the vital role both countries play in ensuring peace and security in the Horn of Africa, with a shared focus on combating terrorism and extremism. Both Ethiopia and the UK reaffirmed their commitment to collaborating on regional security initiatives, underscoring their collective responsibility in working towards peaceful conflict resolution and addressing the humanitarian crises affecting the region.

Ethio-UK Investment Forum

Unlocking New Business Opportunities

Before the political dialogue, the Ethiopian delegation participated in the much-anticipated Ethio-UK Investment Forum, co-facilitated by the Ethiopian Embassy in the UK and the Institute of Directors (IoD) Africa Group. The forum, attended by influential business leaders and investors, served as a key platform to explore Ethiopia's vast investment opportunities, especially in sectors primed for significant growth.

Ambassador Mesganu Arga delivered a compelling keynote address, spotlighting Ethiopia's vibrant and dynamic business environment. His remarks emphasized the country's favorable investment climate, the government's efforts to streamline legal and institutional frameworks, and its commitment to creating an investor-friendly environment. These efforts were further highlighted by Dr. Zeleke Temesgen, Commissioner of the Ethiopian Investment Commission, and Meleket Sahlu, Deputy CEO of Ethiopian Investment Holdings, who spoke about Ethiopia's ongoing reforms that ensure a smoother

and more attractive path for foreign investors.

The forum also featured an engaging interactive session where Ethiopian officials and representatives from companies like Kagool, an IT solutions firm recently establishing its presence in Ethiopia, shared valuable insights into the business environment. This dynamic exchange allowed potential investors to gain firsthand knowledge of the country's growing potential and the wide range of partnership opportunities available.

The forum's conclusion saw Ambassador Biruk Mekonnen, Ethiopia's Ambassador to the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland, reiterating the key messages and urging UK businesses to take full advantage of the emerging opportunities in Ethiopia. The support of the IoD Africa Group—an influential professional network—further strengthened the event, fostering important connections between UK investors and Ethiopian market opportunities.

A Promising Future

Ambassador Mesganu Arga's visit to London, alongside the Ethiopian delegation's active participation in both the political dialogue and investment forum, demonstrated that the Ethiopia-UK relationship is not only on solid footing but is evolving rapidly. The two countries are committed to working together across multiple sectors, from economic development to regional security, with both sides eager to unlock new areas of collaboration.

The momentum generated by these discussions, reinforced by the ongoing institutional reforms in Ethiopia, signals a bright future for Ethiopia-UK relations. As Ethiopia continues to open its doors to foreign investment and the UK seeks to deepen its role in Africa, this partnership holds tremendous promise for shared growth and prosperity. The Ethiopian delegation's presence in London was a powerful affirmation that diplomatic ties are transforming into concrete economic opportunities that will benefit both nations for years to come. ■

Reforms And Success In Ethiopia's Coffee Export

Ethiopia, the birthplace of coffee, is experiencing a transformative shift in its coffee export industry, thanks to a series of crucial reforms aimed at unlocking its full potential. Over the past few years, policy changes have not only revitalized the coffee sector but have also propelled the country to new heights in terms of production, export volume, and revenue generation.

According to Dr. Adugna Debela, Director General of Ethiopia's Coffee and Tea Authority, the country achieved a remarkable feat in the 2023-2024 fiscal year by exporting 300,000 metric tons of coffee, generating a record \$1.43 billion. This year, Ethiopia has set an ambitious target of over 400,000 metric tons and aims to surpass \$2 billion in revenue. The export performance has far exceeded expectations, with \$1 billion in revenue already generated within just seven months, marking a significant improvement compared to previous years.

The success of Ethiopia's coffee export industry can be attributed to several key factors, with policy reforms being at the heart of this growth. These reforms have created a more conducive environment ➔

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This year, Ethiopia has set an ambitious target of exporting over 400,000 metric tons and aims to surpass \$2 billion in revenue.



for coffee producers, exporters, and stakeholders in the entire coffee value chain. Changes to outdated policies have fostered a more efficient and competitive market, allowing Ethiopia to capitalize on its coffee-producing capabilities.

One of the most significant reforms has been the rejuvenation of old coffee trees. Over 450,000 hectares of land have been renovated and replanted with new, higher-yielding coffee trees. These newly rejuvenated

trees have boosted coffee production, pushing Ethiopia's annual production past 1 million metric tons. This increased supply has directly impacted the export volume, making Ethiopia a more reliable and consistent exporter to the global market.

Additionally, Ethiopia's focus on improving coffee quality has paid off. The emphasis on specialty coffee, which commands higher prices, has allowed the country to distinguish itself in the competitive international market.

By expanding its market reach, Ethiopia now exports coffee to 66 countries, up from just 30 in the past. This diversification of export destinations, along with the rise in specialty coffee production, has contributed to the country's growing share of the global coffee market.

Reforms have also played a pivotal role in enhancing Ethiopia's foreign exchange earnings. Coffee

now constitutes 38% of the country's total export revenue, and this share is expected to grow even further. By improving market access and tackling issues such as contraband and illegal trade through macroeconomic reforms, Ethiopia has ensured that its coffee exports remain competitive while increasing profitability.

Moreover, the African Continental Free Trade Area (*AfCFTA*) provides Ethiopia with a new avenue

to expand its coffee exports within the continent. This regional trade agreement presents an opportunity to increase both the volume and profitability of Ethiopian coffee, while simultaneously boosting foreign currency earnings.

Given Ethiopia's impressive coffee export performance and its potential for further growth, it is an

opportune time for UK coffee businesses to increase their import of Ethiopian coffee. With Ethiopia being the birthplace of coffee and producing some of the finest beans globally, expanding imports will not only support Ethiopia's economic development but also provide UK consumers with exceptional coffee experiences. ■



Ethiopia's Tech Revolution

Modernizing Defence for Civilian Benefits and Regional Stability

Ethiopia's ambitions to modernize its defence and security sectors have reached new heights, with remarkable achievements that underscore the country's growing technological prowess. As Ethiopia strives for self-sufficiency in the creation and production of technological outputs, these advancements are not merely confined to military applications but have significant potential for civilian purposes, offering both economic and societal benefits. The international community, particularly nations that have supported Ethiopia's development efforts, can play a vital role in nurturing this transformative journey.

The government's pursuit of modernization is evidenced through several groundbreaking projects, including the locally developed Tsehay 2.0 aircraft, the establishment of a domestic drone manufacturing industry, and plans for a third Earth Observation satellite. These initiatives demonstrate Ethiopia's commitment to technological innovation

while reinforcing its role as a stabilizing force in the Horn of Africa.

Tsehay 2.0: Reviving Aviation Heritage

One of Ethiopia's most iconic achievements is the return of the Tsehay aircraft, which was the first airplane built in Ethiopia in the 1930s. This historic milestone, marked by the arrival of the aircraft in Addis Ababa from Italy in February 2024, not only reflects the country's rich aviation heritage but also underscores its aspirations for self-reliance in aviation technology. Originally crafted under the collaboration of German engineer Ludwig Weber and Ethiopian technicians, Tsehay serves as a symbol of national pride and technological potential.

Fast forward to 2024, and Ethiopia has already made remarkable strides with the development of Tsehay 2.0, a modern, flight-ready aircraft designed by the Ethiopian Air Force. This achievement demonstrates the country's growing capacity to produce complex aviation technology



Handover of Tsehay Aircraft from Italy



Ethiopia's First Launched Satellite



Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed at Sky Win Aeronautics

gies domestically. The Tsehay 2.0 project is part of Ethiopia's broader ambition to become the largest air force in Africa by 2030. This air force modernization is not solely for defence purposes but is designed with potential civilian applications in mind, including emergency response, infrastructure monitoring, and transportation.

Drones: From Defence to Civilian Innovation

In parallel to its advancements in aviation, Ethiopia has also embarked on the creation of a domestic drone manufacturing industry, further illustrating its push toward technological self-sufficiency. The inauguration of Sky Win Aeronautics Industries, a facility dedicated to producing unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), marks a pivotal moment in Ethiopia's defence and technology sectors. The drones are designed for both military and civilian applications, including surveillance, agricultural monitoring, and disaster management.

The Ethiopian drones, equipped with cutting-edge artificial intelligence (AI), are capable of performing a wide range of tasks, from intelligence gathering to counter-drone operations. These drones are primarily aimed at enhancing Ethiopia's national security and sovereignty, but they also have the potential to revolutionize civilian industries such as agriculture and logistics.

The drones could enable more efficient farming practices, monitor crops, optimize irrigation systems, and improve food security—a critical issue in a country where agriculture plays a central role in the economy.

The establishment of this manufacturing capacity not only strengthens Ethiopia's technological infrastructure but also advances the broader goal of regional economic integration, as these technologies can be utilized by neighbouring countries for a range of applications.

Expanding Space Capabilities: A Vision for the Future

Ethiopia's space endeavours, exemplified by the ongoing development of the ETRSS-2, its third Earth Observation satellite, further demonstrate the country's vision to become a leader in space technology. Partnering with China's Shanghai Engineering Microsatellite Centre, Ethiopia is enhancing its capabilities in satellite development, which will have wide-reaching impacts across multiple sectors, including agriculture, water resource management, and disaster prevention.

The ETRSS-2 satellite, expected to launch in the coming months, will provide high-resolution imagery that supports Ethiopia's agricultural initiatives and enhances environmental management efforts. It will complement the two existing satellites—ETRSS-1 and ET-SMART-RSS—that have already contributed valuable data to the country's economic and environmental planning.

The Need for Continued International Support

As Ethiopia continues its journey toward technological self-reliance, the support of the international community remains essential. Collaboration in this regard will not only benefit Ethiopia but also contribute to broader regional stability, economic development, and innovation. ■

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Ethiopia's Journey as a Pillar of Peace in the Horn of Africa

Ethiopia has long been a cornerstone of peace and security in the Horn of Africa. Known for its unwavering commitment to resolving regional challenges through dialogue, cooperation, and collective action, Ethiopia plays an essential role in shaping the future of the region. The nation's dedication to peace is reflected in its proactive involvement in resolving conflicts, offering humanitarian assistance, and fostering diplomatic relations across the African continent.

This long-standing commitment to peace was further recognized when Ethiopia was elected to serve a three-year term on the African Union Peace and Security Council (AUPSC) from 2025 to 2027. This underscores Ethiopia's pivotal role in shaping peace and security policies across Africa, reaffirming its leadership in regional and continental diplomacy. As a member of the AUPSC, Ethiopia will continue to contribute to the peace and stability of the region, emphasizing cooperation and collaborative solutions to the continent's challenges.

Ethiopia's Role in Sudan's Peace Process

Building on its membership in the AUPSC, Ethiopia's commitment to peace is demonstrated through its leadership in the ongoing Sudan peace process. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has played

a pivotal role, facilitating dialogue between Sudanese military and civilian groups even before the current conflict, leveraging Ethiopia's position as a key regional mediator. Amid the ongoing conflict and displacement, his government has been instrumental in engaging with conflicting parties for peace, ensuring safe passage for stranded people, and advocating for accessible humanitarian aid.

In line with these commitments, Ethiopia has consistently engaged in dialogue and mediation, bringing together international stakeholders to address the humanitarian crisis caused by the conflict. Most recently, in February 2025, Ethiopia hosted the High-Level Humanitarian Conference for Sudan, where Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed emphasized, "As a close neighbour and sister nation, Ethiopia stands in solidarity with the people of Sudan during these challenging times."

Ethiopia's efforts are not confined to humanitarian support alone. The country has been at the forefront of diplomatic initiatives, working tirelessly to encourage a peaceful resolution to the crisis. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed reiterated Ethiopia's stance, emphasizing that "regional solutions are essential for sustainable peace." Ethiopia's commitment to a peaceful resolution extends to the upcoming peace conference for Sudan in London in April 2025,



By Ambassador Biruk Mekonnen Demissie

Ambassador of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland

where the country will continue to support dialogue and regional cooperation, ensuring Sudan's path to recovery remains on track.

Ethiopia's and South Sudan's Stability

Ethiopia's role in promoting regional peace extends beyond Sudan and into South Sudan, where it has long supported efforts to secure lasting peace and stability. Ethiopia has played a central role in facilitating the peace process in South Sudan, particularly in ensuring the full implementation of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS). As a member of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Ethiopia continues to work closely with South Sudan to advocate for peace, security, and reconciliation. ➡

The country's contributions were evident in early 2025 when high-level discussions took place between Ethiopian leaders and South Sudanese President Salva Kiir. Ethiopia reaffirmed its commitment to peace in South Sudan, underscoring the importance of fulfilling peace agreements. Foreign Minister Dr. Gedion Timothewos highlighted Ethiopia's steadfast belief in the success of peace initiatives, stating, "The successful implementation of peace agreements in South Sudan is crucial not only for South Sudan but also for the entire Horn of Africa."

Ethiopia's Security Partnership with Somalia

Ethiopia's peace efforts are also critical in Somalia, where it has partnered with Somali forces in the fight against terrorism and worked collaboratively to strengthen the country's security framework. Ethiopia's role goes beyond military cooperation, as it continues to help Somalia in building its governance structures and ensuring long-term peace and stability. The partnership between Ethiopia and Somalia is essential for addressing regional security challenges and promoting economic growth.

This cooperation was further strengthened in early 2025 with the visit of the Federal Government of Somalia, President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud to Ethiopia, followed by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's recent visit to Mogadishu. Both leaders emphasized the importance of reinforcing regional security ties, particularly in addressing extremist threats in the Horn of Africa, including Al-Shabaab. Ethiopia's unwavering support for Somalia's stability reflects its broader vision of fostering a peaceful and prosperous region for all its neighbours.

Ethiopia's Efforts to Re-establish Maritime Access

One of Ethiopia's key priorities, in line with its broader regional economic integration efforts, is to regain access to the sea, a vital component for its economic development and regional partnerships. Since losing its access to the Red Sea in 1993, Ethiopia has sought peaceful avenues to re-establish maritime connections.

"Regional solutions are essential for sustainable peace."

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed

Ethiopia has consistently emphasized that its interest in gaining dependable sea access is driven by economic necessity and regional cooperation. Ethiopia's move to establish a naval presence along the Red Sea should not be seen as a threat, as many countries, including those from distant regions, are doing the same to protect their economic and security interests. However, Ethiopia firmly believes that dialogue is the best path forward and does not seek conflict with any party. It calls for reasoned behaviour from all parties to ensure continued progress toward peace and stability in the Horn of Africa. Ethiopia's goal remains to achieve a peaceful, mutually beneficial arrangement on maritime access, without resorting to force, in a way that promotes regional peace and prosperity. Prime Minister Abiy in his address to the Ethiopian parliament reiterated Ethiopia's firm position saying "our desire is to engage in dialogue and discussion on this matter instead. Access to the Red Sea is nevertheless an existential matter for Ethiopia. What we want is to peacefully address our current challenges."

Ethiopia's Central Role in Regional and Continental Peace

With its election to the AUPSC, leadership in the Sudan peace process, and proactive engagement in South Sudan and Somalia, Ethiopia has solidified its place as a central figure in the peace and security landscape of the Horn of Africa. The country's commitment to peacebuilding is not limited to one area but is a comprehensive approach that includes humanitarian aid, diplomatic efforts, security partnerships, and long-term regional integration.

As Ethiopia continues its efforts to promote peace and stability across the region, its role in the African Union and strategic partnerships with neighbouring nations ensure its central position in shaping Africa's future. Whether addressing the immediate challenges of Sudan, South Sudan, and Somalia, or working toward its broader strategic goals, Ethiopia remains a steadfast advocate for peace, security, and prosperity across the Horn of Africa and beyond. ■



ETHIOPIA

Redefining African Aviation

Primed to cement its position as Africa's central aviation hub, Ethiopia is developing a monumental \$6 billion airport project near Bishoftu, which is set to become one of the largest airports on the continent. Ethiopian Airlines, the driving force behind this ambitious venture, is spearheading the construction of the new international hub, a move that will have far-reaching implications not just for the country but for the entire African continent.

The new airport, covering a vast 35 square kilometers and located just 40 kilometers southeast of Addis Ababa, is expected to handle over 60 million passengers annually by 2029, with plans for expansion to accommodate up to 100 million passengers per year. This vast expansion addresses the rapidly increasing demand for both passenger and cargo services that the current Bole International Airport can no longer handle. Ethiopian Airlines, which carried 17 million passengers last year, is seeing consistent growth, and this new infrastructure will ensure that the airline maintains its competitive edge and global reach.

Ethiopia's strategic location, bridging Africa, the Middle East, Europe, and Asia, is a significant asset for this new airport. Positioned to handle long-haul flights and enhance connectivity, the airport will strengthen Ethiopia's role as a regional transit hub. This is especially important for Ethiopian Airlines, the continent's leading carrier, whose operations have expanded significantly in recent years. The new airport will be a cornerstone for the airline's goal of further increasing its reach, offering passengers direct flights to new destinations and enhancing cargo services. ➔



Ethiopian, AfDB Management Displaying Signed Letter of Intent

The design of the airport, a collaboration between Dar Al-Handasah and other well-known architect firms, reflects Ethiopia's ambition to create a modern, sustainable, and uniquely Ethiopian landmark. Drawing inspiration from the country's natural beauty and culture, the airport will blend cutting-edge technology with traditional elements.

The use of renewable energy and natural ventilation will ensure the airport meets high environmental standards, signalling Ethiopia's commitment to sustainability. Additionally, the design incorporates advanced passenger services, including digital check-ins, smart security systems, and efficient baggage handling, offering travellers a seamless experience.

The construction of the new airport will have a significant impact on Ethiopia's economic growth. It is expected to create tens of thousands of jobs, benefiting local communities and boosting employment in sectors like airline operations, security, and retail. The expanded airport will also support Ethiopia's growing tourism sector, a major contributor to its GDP.

With better connectivity, the country aims to increase annual tourist arrivals, which will help generate revenue and further integrate Ethiopia into the global economy. Additionally, the airport will be vital for strengthening the African aviation network, promoting regional integration, and reducing the continent's reliance on foreign hubs for international connections.

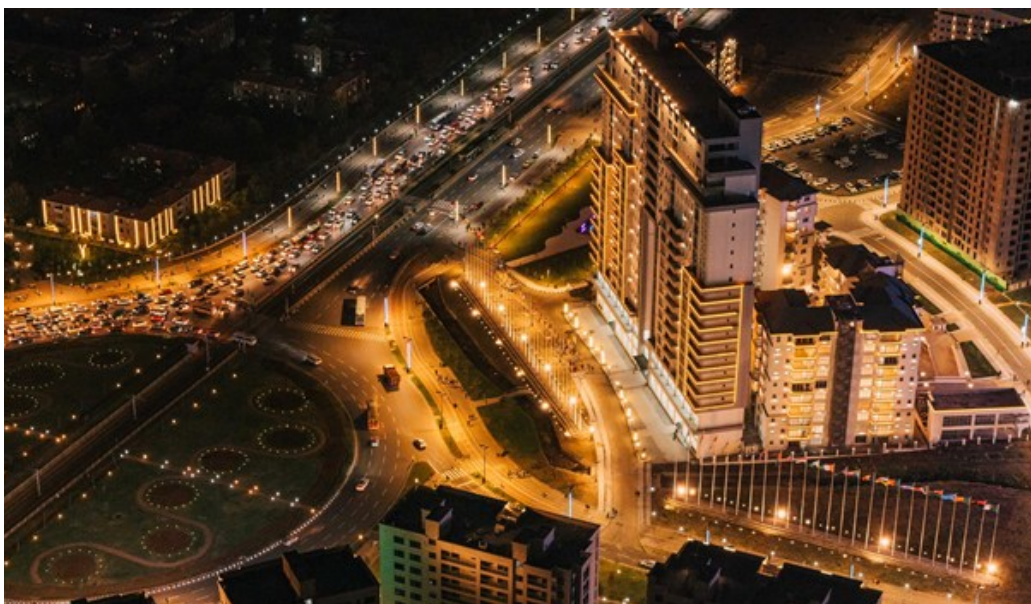
The new airport is expected to handle over 60 million passengers annually by 2029, with plans for expansion to accommodate up to 100 million passengers per year.

Furthermore, the airport will serve as a magnet for foreign direct investment, enhancing Ethiopia's position as a business-friendly destination in East Africa. Its improved infrastructure will facilitate smoother trade routes, benefiting key exports like coffee, flowers, and textiles, while also making Ethiopia a central player in regional and international commerce.

As the African Union's political capital, Addis Ababa is already a hub for diplomatic activity, with numerous embassies and international organizations. This new airport will further boost Ethiopia's diplomatic clout by providing a state-of-the-art gateway for international visitors, officials, and business leaders traveling across Africa and beyond.

A major step forward in this monumental project was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Ethiopian Airlines and the African Development Bank (AfDB) on March 14, 2025. This partnership is set to be a game-changer not only for Ethiopia but for Africa as a whole.

The AfDB's robust support underscores the importance of the airport as an African flagship project, aligning with its broader vision of enhancing Africa's economic integration and connectivity. By supporting Ethiopia's new mega airport, the AfDB is fostering infrastructure that will serve as a critical link in regional and international trade, improving Africa's competitiveness on the global stage. ■



AICC: A Hub Where Trade and Diplomacy Collide

Ethiopia has officially unveiled its largest conference venue to date—the Addis International Convention Center (AICC)—marking a pivotal moment for both the country and the broader African continent. In a grand ceremony on March 1, 2025, attended by key government officials and dignitaries, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed inaugurated the state-of-the-art facility, underscoring Ethiopia’s vision to become a central hub for international conferences, exhibitions, and trade fairs.

A New Era for Ethiopia’s Convention and Tourism Sectors

Situated on an expansive 40-hectare site in Addis Ababa, the AICC represents a significant leap in Ethiopia’s ambition to strengthen its global position in the Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions (MICE) sector. With its modern infrastructure and spacious facilities, the center is poised to accommodate a wide array of events—from corporate gatherings to cultural festivals—bolstering Ethiopia’s hospitality and tourism industries in the process.

This impressive new addition features two expansive halls, each with a seating capacity for up to 4,000 individuals, alongside eight medium and small meeting rooms, allowing for a total capacity of 10,000 people. The center also includes two

hotels, each offering top-tier accommodations with a combined 1,000 rooms, ensuring a seamless experience for international delegates and guests. With an outdoor exhibition space capable of hosting up to 50,000 people, the AICC stands as one of Africa’s largest and most versatile event venues.

Beyond the main conference spaces, the AICC offers a range of additional amenities designed to enhance the experience for both business and leisure visitors. The center is equipped with two amphitheaters for outdoor performances, as well as two shopping malls, restaurants, and commercial shops. There is ample parking space, with a capacity for up to 2,000 vehicles, ensuring convenience for attendees and organizers alike. This comprehensive set of facilities ensures that the AICC is not only a place for conferences but a vibrant space for social and business interactions.

A Landmark for Public-Private Partnership

The Addis International Convention Center is a shining example of Ethiopia’s public-private sector collaboration. While largely government-funded, the center’s development also benefited from contributions by private investors, further highlighting the nation’s commitment to creating a dynamic and mutually beneficial environment for both sectors. This partnership will help to create new opportunities for business development, tourism, and job creation, reinforcing the center’s potential to drive long-term economic growth.

Mayor Adanech Abebie of Addis Ababa emphasized that the AICC’s inauguration marks a step forward for Ethiopia and Africa as a whole, positioning the city as a competitive venue for global events. Not only will it facilitate high-profile international conferences, but it will also serve as a critical platform for trade integration, tourism, and diplomacy. The center’s modern facilities are designed to foster collaboration, making it a space where business transactions, idea exchanges, and cultural dialogues can thrive.

A Strategic Asset for International Cooperation

In the coming years, the AICC will play an instrumental role in positioning Ethiopia as not just a regional, but a global player in the MICE industry. It is more than a convention center—it is a symbol of Ethiopia’s aspirations, its commitment to economic development, and its role in connecting the world. ■

Should you require any of the embassy's services, find the names and contact details of our dedicated staff members here.

Name of Diplomats	Title in the Embassy	Email	Phone Number
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