

# Newsletter

of the Ethiopian Embassy in Brussels



7<sup>th</sup> of November 2014  
Issue N° 9



Ambassador Teshome Toga exchanging view with Belgian Deputy Prime Minister, on the 5<sup>th</sup> of November 2014

**Dear Reader,**

This week, our Newsletter is more consistent than usual, with a lot of important news ranging from the South Sudan Peace Talks to the topic of University to University cooperation. We hope you will enjoy reading these articles.

Sincerely,

**The Ethiopian Embassy in Brussels**

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## South Sudan Peace Talks: Session of IGAD-led process and Extra-ordinary Summit of the IGAD Heads of State and Government



Prime Minister Hailemariam at the IGAD meeting, on the 6<sup>th</sup> of November 2014

The Seventh Session of the IGAD-led Peace Talks for South Sudan opened on 27 October in Addis Ababa. The opening of the talks was preceded by a mini-IGAD Leaders Summit in Juba on 22 October 2014. The mini-Summit consultation that was attended by H.E. Mr. Hailemariam Desalegn, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and Chairperson of the IGAD Assembly; H.E. Mr. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya; H.E. Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda, Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda, and H.E. Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit, President of the Republic of South Sudan was called to review the outcomes of the Sixth mediation session that was held in Bahir Dar.

According to a statement that was issued by the mediation earlier, the Bahir Dar Session had made substantial progress in determining the arrangements necessary to implement a Transitional Government of National Unity-TGoNU in South Sudan. Issues discussed by participating stakeholders at the Bahir Dar Session included: the System of Governance, Function/Mandate of the TGoNU, Structures of the TGoNU, Size of the Cabinet in the TGoNU, Seat of the TGoNU, Structure and Size of the Legislature, Pre-transitional and Transitional Period as well as Decision Making Mechanism in the TGoNU among others.

Consequently, the mini-summit of 22 October considered some 'key outstanding issues' following the outcomes of Bahir Dar and came up with recommendations for a

full IGAD Summit that is expected to convene within the coming days. The mini-Summit consultations were also informed by a separate consultation between the IGAD Special Envoys and Leader of the SPLM/A – In Opposition Dr. Riek Machar. Meanwhile, the mediation continues to express deep concerns on the lack of implementation of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement. The latest statement issued by the IGAD Mediators on 29 October 2014 "strongly condemns the acts of SPLM/A – In Opposition for initiating conflict in the area of Bentiu, Unity State of the Republic of South Sudan."

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of November, the 28<sup>th</sup> Extra-ordinary Summit of the IGAD Heads of State and Government opened in Addis Ababa, with the attendance of the head of States of Uganda, Sudan, Djibouti, South Sudan, Somalia, Kenya. Welcoming the guests, the Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn made a speech during which he called the participants to do all they can in order to accelerate the peace process. According to the Prime minister, "the progress so far has frustrating if not gloomy indeed" and the "status quo is unsustainable", while the civilian population keeps paying the price of the conflict. He furthermore estimated that "the patience of the international community is wearing thin". Recalling the urgency of the situation, he said he was committed to use « all the influence we can to bring the two sides back to reason".

# Ethiopia and Egypt hold Joint Ministerial Meeting

Addis Ababa, 3 October 2014 (WIC) – During the fifth Ethio-Egyptian joint ministerial meeting, the two sides exchanged views on current regional political and security issues, including the situation in Somalia, South Sudan, Libya, Burkina Faso, and the Palestinian issue. Both countries agreed that all issues should be resolved through peaceful means. The final joint communiqué included the following points: 1. The Fifth Ethio-Egyptian Joint Ministerial Commission meeting was held from 1-3 November, 2014 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Ministerial Meeting was preceded by the Senior Officials and Experts' meeting which was convened from 1-2 November 2010. 2. The Ethiopian delegation was led by H.E. Dr. Tedros Adhanom, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, while the Egyptian delegation was led by H.E. Mr. Sameh Shoukry, Foreign Minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt. 3. The meeting was attended from the Ethiopian side by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Trade, Minister of Education, State Minister of Industry, State Minister of Health, and Director General for Investment Commission. From the Egyptian side by Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Trade and Industry, Minister of Higher Education and Minister of Health. 4. The two sides reaffirmed the importance of the meetings that have been held at the summit level in both Malabo and New York, and reaffirmed their commitment to the joint statement issued in Malabo in this regard as a momentum for their future cooperation. 5. The two sides exchanged views on current regional

political and security issues, including the situation in Somalia, South Sudan, Libya, Burkina Faso, and the Palestinian issue. And both sides agreed that all issues should be resolved through peaceful means. 6. With regard to South Sudan, they reaffirmed the importance of resolving the problem between the two parties in conflict through peaceful means and appreciated the role of IGAD and AU. 7. On the situation in the Sudan, both countries supported Comprehensive National Dialogue. 8. On the Palestinian issue both countries reaffirmed their position calling for a just and lasting peace based on the two state solution; and the UN resolution. 9. On Libya, both countries expressed their keenness to achieve stability, unity and preserve territorial integrity and sovereignty of Libya. In this context, they welcomed the neighboring countries' initiative. 10. On Burkina Faso, both sides exchanged their views on the situation in Burkina Faso and called for peaceful resolution of the situation in the country and regain its stability. 11. On terrorism, both countries condemned all acts of terror and agreed to enhance their efforts to combat terrorism, organized crimes and control human trafficking. 12. Both sides stressed the importance of adopting a comprehensive vision and approach to deal with the Ebola epidemic and to collaborate with the regional and international efforts to deal with this grave and serious challenge facing the entire continent. Both sides, highlighted their contribution in the fight against Ebola; and raising the capacity of the continent in this regard.

## Egypt and Ethiopia study possibility for establishing industrial zone: Abdel Nour

Both countries are seeking to increase volume of trade to \$5 billion, says minister of industry and foreign trade. A potential Egyptian-Ethiopian industrial zone is being studied, Minister of Industry and Foreign Trade Mounir Fakhry Abdel Nour said on Sunday. The minister added that the Ethiopian government is welcoming the development. According to state-run news agency MENA, the minister's statements came during a press conference held with Egyptian reporters in Ethiopia. The minister pointed out that the

targeted trade volume between both countries is over \$5 billion, which is not a large figure considering the capabilities of both countries. He added that Ethiopia exports meat and coffee to Egypt, while Egypt has a competitive advantage in the fields of chemical, fertilisers, automotive, and engineering industries. Between 2004 and 2013, the volume of trade increased by 21%, edging up from \$41m to \$165m. He added that Egypt's share of the trade is around 77.5%. Abdel Nour said that Egypt is prepared to offer any assistance to

Ethiopia to develop its small and medium enterprises. The foreign trade minister said that around 60 projects are owned by solely Egyptians in Ethiopia while 43 are partnerships between Egyptians and Ethiopians. Officials from 11 Egyptian ministries headed to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to attend the fifth Egyptian-Ethiopian commission meetings earlier this week, including the ministers of investment, electricity, culture and education.



Egypt's President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi and Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn, meet at an African Union summit in Malabo in June 2014. Photo©Reuters

## Visit of Irish President in Ethiopia

Dr Higgins, President of the Republic of Ireland, was in Ethiopia this week during a three-country visit to Africa. The President and his wife Sabina were greeted in Addis Ababa by Ethiopian Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Tedros Adhanom and Irish Ambassador to Ethiopia Aidan O'Hara. Higgins visited the National Museum of Ethiopia ahead of attending an informal dinner hosted by Mr O'Hara. The aim of the President's visit to Ethiopia was to reinforce Ireland's political, economic and development relations with the country. During his stay, the President of Ireland witnessed the signing of three significant bilateral treaties between Ireland and Ethiopia :

- A double taxation agreement will encourage the growth of trade and investment between Ireland and Ethiopia.
- A bilateral transport agreement will clear the way for direct flights by Ethiopian airlines from June 2015 between Dublin and Addis Ababa. It will be the first-ever direct scheduled route between Ireland and Africa.
- A bilateral co-operation agreement will provide a framework for a five-year development partnership, estimated to be worth €136 million, focused on health, nutrition, agriculture and governance.

The documents were signed on Tuesday by Minister

of State for Development, Trade Promotion and North South Co-operation Sean Sherlock after a meeting between President Higgins and Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn. Speaking after the signing of the treaties, President Higgins said they would act as a catalyst in moving forward to a whole new set of achievements in different areas. He also said the bilateral treaties would now provide a framework for ever more contact between Ireland and Ethiopia. (RTE.ie and WIC)



President Higgins with the President of Ethiopia, Dr Malatu Teshome. Source: Chris Bellew/Fennell Photographe

# UNIDO Forum Expresses Cautious Optimism on Ethiopia's Economic Strides

VIENNA, 5th of November 2014 (IPS) - With annual economic growth rates of over 10 percent and attractive investment conditions due to low infrastructural and labour costs, Ethiopia is eagerly trying to rise from the status of low-income to middle-income country in the next 10 years.

Ethiopia, with some 94 million inhabitants, is the second most populous country in Africa after Nigeria, but it remains a predominantly rural country. Only 17.5 percent of the population lives in urban areas, mainly Addis Ababa. It is also one of the continent's fastest growing economies. Between 2015 and 2018 growth is expected to average 7.3 percent, according to a recent study by the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO).

While economic growth since 2006/2007 doubled per capita income to 550 dollars in 2012/13, and the percentage of people living below the national poverty line dropped from 38.9 in 2004 to 29.6 in 2011, government sources admit that eradication of poverty remains a compelling issue. "There is not a single country in the world which has reached a high state of economic and social development without having developed an advanced industrialised sector" said UNIDO Director General Li Yong.

The official target of rising to a middle-income country is considered to be realistic, but an East Asian diplomat accredited to the African Union in Addis Ababa says there is reason to be sceptical, partly because although the amount of foreign direct investment (FDI) rose from 0.5 percent in 2008 to 2 percent in 2013, investors continue to face trade constraints. According to UNIDO, these are mainly related to border-logistics. Djibouti, the main import-export seaport used by Ethiopia, is situated 781 km from Addis Ababa, which makes the cost of land transportation a critical factor.

It is against this backdrop that UNIDO has chosen Ethiopia, along with Senegal, as a pilot country for its ambitious inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) programme, which aims to achieve industrialisation in developing countries in order to eradicate poverty and create prosperity. According to UNIDO Director General

Li Yong, "there is not a single country in the world which has reached a high state of economic and social development without having developed an advanced industrialised sector". What distinguishes the ISID programme is that "current modes of industrialisation are neither fully inclusive nor properly sustainable", he added. UNIDO is therefore not merely promoting industrialisation but trying to approach the needs and challenges of the globalised world that demand future-oriented concepts.

Promoting the sustainability that should be inherent to industrialisation, UNIDO says that the ISID programme takes into account environmental factors together with its partner countries and organisations. It also fosters an industrialisation that is inclusive in sharing the benefits of the generated prosperity for all parties involved, thereby promoting social equality within populations as well as an equal distribution between men and women to ensure that nobody is excluded from the benefits of growth.

To show how these objectives can be met and to promote ISID, UNIDO organised the Second Forum on ISID from Nov. 4 to 5 in Vienna. In an opening statement, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said: "We have a vision of a just world where resources are optimised for the good of people. Inclusive and sustainable industrial development can drive success." The Secretary-General, who is a strong advocate of the sustainable development agenda, also said that in order to achieve this objective, "industrial development must abandon old models that pollute. Instead, we need sustainable approaches that help communities preserve their resources."

Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn of Ethiopia and Prime Minister Mahammed Dionne of Senegal – representing the two pilot countries chosen for ISID – commended UNIDO for implementing a partnership programme, and Ethiopia's State Minister of Industry, Mebrahtu Meles, emphasised that building industrial zones will accelerate industrialisation, as has been done by Asian countries such as China.

Forum participants expressed optimism about Ethiopia achieving economic growth through inclusive and industrial sustainable development

provided that leadership and vision focused on the country's comparative advantages while improving infrastructure. They said that regional integration could be key for the development of the country, and called for further exploration of UNIDO's role as a catalyst of transformational change. In particular additional efforts were required to enhance the productivity in existing light industries such as agro-food processing, textiles and garments, leather and leather products. There was also a need to diversify by launching new industries such as heavy metal and chemicals and building up high-tech industries like packing, biotechnology, electronics, information and communications.

The ambassadors of China, Japan and Italy to Ethiopia – Xie Xiaoyan, Kazuhiro Suzuki and Giuseppe Mistretta respectively – as well as business stakeholders and development banks assured their continued support

in helping Ethiopia take the path towards inclusive and sustainable industrial development, mainly through UNIDO.



## 3rd International Coffee Conference kicks off in Addis

Addis Ababa, 7 November 2014 (WIC) – The 3rd International Ethiopian Coffee Conference organized by the Ethiopian Coffee Exporters Association kicked off in Addis Ababa yesterday.

Ethiopian President Dr. Mulatu Teshome, United States Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission to Ethiopia Mr. Peter Vrooman, International Coffee Organization Executive Director Robério Oliveira Silva, and the Specialty Coffee Association of America CEO Ric Rhinehart opened yesterday's third international coffee conference, "Towards Quality and Traceability" with over 300 Ethiopian and international registered participants. Addressing the conference with a keynote, President Dr. Mulatu Teshome said it's high time to boost the country's coffee production and increase its export share.

US Deputy Chief of Mission Peter Vrooman remarked on the strategic significance of the coffee industry for Ethiopia's development and growth: "Ethiopia's coffee export sector has great untapped potential and the U.S. is working to help identify new markets and private

sector partners and investors, including from the U.S. Our dual purpose is to not only ensure the expansion of the coffee industry in Ethiopia but also the greatly improved livelihoods of a legion of small coffee growers whose entire families will benefit." Industry leaders, including Starbucks Coffee Company, Nestle Nescafe Dolce Gusto, Mondelez International and MIDROC-Ethiopia presented new perspectives on business opportunities.

The conference is convened yearly to discuss opportunities for and constraints on certifications, genetic mapping, improving quality, capitalizing on Ethiopia's unique heritage and varieties, and prospects for the sustainable expansion of Ethiopia's coffee sector and the livelihood benefits to female as well as male small growers or workers in the industry.

# Ethio-Belgian University to University Collaboration: A Strong Partnership

On the occasion of PhD graduations, the VLIR-UOS organization hosted a reception at the prestigious Neoclassical Academy Palace in Brussels on the 5th of November 2014. VLIR-UOS is a Flemish organization promoting cooperation between countries in higher education and research. A number of high level guests from Ethiopia and Belgium were present at the reception, among them the Ethiopian State Minister for Education, Dr Kaba Urgessa, the Belgian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Development Cooperation Alexander De Croo, the Chairman of the Ethiopian Election Board Professor Merga Bekana, Ethiopian Ambassador Teshome Toga, Vice Chairman of VLIR-UOS Professor Paul Janssen, Director of VLIR-UOS Mrs Kristien Verbrugghen, Ethiopian students, diplomats and representatives from different Belgian universities. Presentations were made by various participants, and this was followed by a brief but lively discussion on the fruitful university to university partnerships between the two countries.

The collaboration is being financially supported by VLIR-UOS, bringing together major Flemish universities with universities in Africa, South America and Asia, in order “to promote partnerships” and find “innovative responses to global and local challenges.”

The presentations and statements by the Belgian and Ethiopian government representatives and by the university professors of both countries described the major progresses Ethiopia made during the last two decades in higher education. According to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Development Cooperation Alexander De Croo, the partnerships established with Ethiopian Universities in the framework of VLIR-UOS are true examples of complementarity benefiting both countries, in addition to proving that this unique collaboration is an effective platform to produce qualified PhD researchers/trainers in quantity and quality. The Minister acknowledged that this kind of collaboration enabled both countries to evolve together and to achieve durable results in higher education, moving from the previous ‘give and take’ aid paradigm to a more collaborative and peer to peer partnership, which is an ideal situation to the current reality in developing countries like Ethiopia. During the last 10 years, 16 million of euros were spent on 15 cooperation projects, while 899 scholarships were awarded to Ethiopian masters and PhDs students for a total of 29 million of euros. In terms of program financing, Ethiopia is described as the number one beneficiary country from the VLIR-UOS support.



On the left: Ambassador Teshome Toga greeting State Minister of Education Dr Kaba Urgessa



On the right: State Minister of Education Dr Kaba Urgessa briefing the audience on the recent developments of higher education and research in Ethiopia.



On the top: Belgian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Development Cooperation Alexander De Croo exchanging views with Ambassador Teshome Toga

On the left: Belgian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Development Cooperation Alexander De Croo exchanging views with State Minister of

On his part, the State Minister of Education, Dr Kaba Urgessa explained that the partnership could be taken as one of the best and important examples of cooperation supporting Ethiopia to better develop its higher education capacity, especially in Jimma and Mekelele Universities. While Jimma University had almost no PhD students back in 2006, it has now developed the capacity to undertake important research projects and is today providing 25 PhD programs. Dr Kaba indicated that the challenge was now to retain the trained researchers in Jimma and in the country and he recognized that this requires a continuous effort to upgrade the research facilities, which his country is striving to accomplish. More broadly, the State Minister said that the partnerships with Flemish universities important for supporting the achievement of the core mission of higher education in Ethiopia: to ensure provision of quality education in quantity with the aim of “producing competent citizen”. In this light, he described the cooperation with VLIR-UOS as “very successful” and “effective in terms of value for money”. This idea of effectiveness was later echoed in Minister De Croo’s words: development is not only about the amount of money allocated for a project, but it is about having the maximum impact by focusing on what “we are good at” and what works. According to him, the development relations between Belgium and Ethiopia should thus continue to support partnerships in higher education. Professor Paul Janssen, Vice Chairman of VLIR-UOS, gave an overview of the partnerships, and further presentations by professors and researches

highlighted different examples of successful projects. Professor Kora Tushune (Jimma University) and Professor Luc Duchateau (UGent) presented a research project on the impact of the Gilgel Gibe Dam, and Dr Moti Yohannes talked about his PhD research case on “Combating sleeping sickness in cattle” in the southern part of Ethiopia. Finally, Dr Karen Van Campenhout (KU-Leuven) presented a project on “Land and water research for sustainable livelihood”. In her statement, she highlighted the progresses made in Ethiopia in terms of research capacities: the Mekelle University was founded in 1993 under a tree, and had 40 students at the time. Today, it is a fully-fledged university with 20,000 students stretched along a vast and modern campus. This striking example made the participants of the conference realize how Ethiopia made a huge investment in its education sector in the past twenty years years, and come a long way from having just two public Universities to more than 33 public and private universities today, accompanied by academic partnerships like VLIR-UOS. The informal discussions between the scholars, government representatives and participants following the presentations was lively and filled with enthusiasm and positive vibes. The program was concluded with the traditional Ethiopian coffee ceremony and other cultural specialties, courtesy of the Belgian NGO Misgana, that works in Ethiopia.



The State Minister, the Ambassador, a diplomat and members of VLIR-UOS and of the NGO Misgana, at the end of the Conference.

## Agenda

Second Banking and ICT summit in Addis Ababa  
21<sup>st</sup> of November 2014 Read more: <http://t.co/CAqBcgGCJ>

Ethiopian Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Day  
December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014

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