

# NEWSLETTER

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## **Ethiopia would Continue to Adhere to the Ideals and Principles of Multilateralism**



In his remarks at the 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly being held in

New York, H.E. Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu, Minister for Foreign Affairs of The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia reaffirmed Ethiopia's commitment to adhere to the ideals and principles of multilateralism. "We are meeting at a time when multilateralism is facing serious challenges and yet there has never been a time when we need multilateralism more. This is why this gathering of nations under the umbrella of the United Nations is so important" the Minister stated.

The Foreign Minister further mentioned the October 1963 address of Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia to the General Assembly as saying: "The Charter of the United Nations expresses the noblest aspirations of man: abjuration of force in the settlement of disputes between states; the assurance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion; the safeguarding of international peace and security".

Regarding Ethiopia's contributions to international peace and security, Minister Workneh said that his country would remain totally committed to this noble endeavor as we reform and adapt to the new and challenging realities of peacekeeping. According to the Minister,

Ethiopia fully endorses the Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping initiative and the Declaration of Shared Commitments to United Nations Peacekeeping to tackle the challenges peacekeeping faces today.

It is also mentioned that six months ago, a peaceful transfer of power took place in Ethiopia. The Minister stated that this change has opened a new chapter in our country's political and social history, offering realistic and genuine possibilities of change that will meet the hopes and expectations of our youthful population; changes that are in line with the new political and democratic realities we are implementing; changes that have been welcomed and embraced by Ethiopians across the length and breadth of the country.

The new government led by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has been taking a series of measures, opening up the democratic space in every direction, liberalizing the economy, removing previous constraints on development such as corruption, human rights violations, and failures of administration and governance, the Minister underlined.

On regional matters, the Foreign Minister spoke about the recent agreement signed between Prime Minister Abiy and the President of Eritrea in Jeddah as well as the Presidents of Eritrea and Djibouti who shook hands and ending their decade of dispute. In light of these important and positive developments, Minister Workeneh said that it is only appropriate and timely that the Security Council now seriously considers lifting the sanctions imposed on Eritrea. A few days ago, the South Sudanese parties signed the Revitalized Peace Agreement for South Sudan at an Extraordinary Summit of IGAD Heads of State and Government in Addis Ababa. This offers the real prospect for peace in South Sudan after five years of civil war, he further stated.

Minister Workeneh also explained that Ethiopia is, and will always remain, firmly committed to exerting every possible effort towards creating peaceful, equitable and sustainable societies in our sub-region and our continent Africa. "As a non-permanent member of the Security Council, we have been doing everything we can to support this important and noble cause and we will continue to do so in the remaining three months." he underlined.

## **PVH Corp. has won the 2018 U.S. Secretary of State's Award for Corporate Excellence (ACE) for its exemplary investment in Ethiopia at the Hawassa Industrial Park**



The U.S. Department of State has announced that PVH Corporation has won the **2018 U.S. Secretary of State's Award for Corporate Excellence (ACE)** for its exemplary investment in the model Industrial Park in Hawassa, Ethiopia. PVH, one of the largest apparel companies in the world, was the lead investor in a model industrial park in Hawassa, Ethiopia. The park features state-of-the-art fabric mills and apparel factories powered by renewable energy, beside a zero liquid discharge treatment plant. This industrial park expects to provide approximately 60,000 Ethiopians with work over the coming years.

Currently, more than 80 percent of the employees are women, providing valuable opportunities given the country's high female youth unemployment rate. The ultimate goal for PVH's model industrial park is to provide a better future not only for the workers and their families, but also to inspire responsible industrialization across Ethiopia for the betterment of its entire population and the creation of a new market for U.S. goods.

PVH will be presented with the award on October 5, 2018 at a ceremony that will be held at the U.S. Department of State. Established in 1999, the award recognizes U.S. companies that represent American values well in their business practices worldwide. Each of the companies contributes to the growth and sustainable development of the local economies in which they work.

## Prime Minister Abiy's "Medemer" Concept was discussed in Washington DC



The Ethiopian Dialogue Forum held a day-long panel discussions on September 8, 2018, in collaboration with the Embassy of Ethiopia in Washington DC, on "Medemer" concept which was brought forth by the new Ethiopian Prime Minister, H.E. Dr. Abiy Ahmed immediately after assuming the leadership in April 2018. The concept Medemer which literally means: "Better Together" has become an inspirational dictum for Ethiopians at home and in the diaspora. According to the organizers of the conference, 'Medemer' is a grand concept which must be cherished by everyone, but applied with great prudence and care.



The morning session was opened by H.E Kassa Tekeleberhane, Special Envoy,

Ambassador Extraordinary, and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. In his opening speech, Ambassador Kassa expressed his profound appreciation and sincere gratitude to the Ethiopian Dialoged forum for taking the initiative to organize the conference on a topic which deserves due attention. He also thanked the participants for coming from far and wide to the Embassy which is their home in the country where they live now. He also emphasized that the concept of "Medemer" must be thoroughly discussed and its implications in social, political and economic terms need to be grasped as well as critically expounded. "With a composition of such outstanding and diverse participants of this conference" Ambassador Kassa said, "I am confident that your deliberations will be thoughtful and will have a profound impact on our future efforts."

On his part, Alemante Gebresilassie, Professor of law emeritus at William and Mary university law school, examined the concept of 'Medemer' as it pertains to the FDRE Constitution and provided his

invaluable insight into the unique opportunities that the concept offers to Ethiopians to build a democratic and united country. He specifically explored how the concept should be seen in the constitution, and the challenges it has in applying in the country given the configuration of the federal system which is based on ethnicity. Some of the participants, however, alluded to the fact that the Constitution has essential articles which can propel Ethiopia towards democracy, while others agreed that there are provisions that should be amended.

Dr. Aklog Birara, a prominent Economist with 30 years of experience as a senior advisor at the World Bank, looked at the concept from an economic development vantage point and advised that economic development be inclusive. He also mentioned that tangible and intangible resources are potentials for growth in Ethiopia and an inventory should be conducted to know these resources. On the other hand, Professor Getachew Metaferia pointed out that Dr. Abiy's leadership style is a potential for change in Ethiopia and he commended the Premier for what he has done so far. He also advised the Prime Minister to keep

making positive changes and take bold steps to undergo more structural changes. In his presentation on Nation Building, Ato Geletaw Zeleke examined the issues of identity conflicts and the levels of trust throughout the country and within the government as well as the need to address the political narrative that prevails across the country.



In the afternoon session Professor Achamyeleh Debela, Ato Kone Feseha, and Professor Haile Lareba spoke more on the broad implications of the themes. Professor Achamyeleh stressed common values that Ethiopians known for and said that these shared values are the ones that will, fundamentally, be considered together to renew Ethiopian passions while Ato Kone Feseha gave emphasis to the conundrum of ethnic-politics as a trend which poses future problems while recommending identities be viewed in a different way and political interests be united for better future of Ethiopia.

Professor Haile Lareba talked about how history shows that Ethiopians have a common past and are a united people through their ups and downs.

The conference was attended by over 75 participants from all over the United

States and provided a unique opportunity for scholars and activists to meet and discuss various issues related to the concept of ‘Medemer’ and the way forward.

### **US House Foreign Affairs Committee Hearing on Ethiopia**



The US Congress - House Foreign Affairs Committee held a hearing on

September 12/2018 under the theme “Reviewing Current Developments in Ethiopia”. Assistant Secretary for Bureau of African Affairs, Tibor Nagy, made a statement during the hearing in which he explained U.S. national interests in developments in Ethiopia.

Assistant Secretary Tibor Nagy stated that H.E. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has initiated groundbreaking reforms across every area of Ethiopian society since becoming Prime Minister on April 2, 2018, hence deserves tremendous credit for his boldness in tackling issues that previous governments have not addressed. The Assistant Secretary further explained that the United States has a strong relationship with the highest reaches of the new administration, which reflects not only the century-long US diplomatic relations with Ethiopia

– the only country in Sub Saharan Africa that was never colonized – but also its great support for Dr. Abiy’s reform vision.

The Assistant Secretary also stated that implementing the Prime Minister’s reform vision is not without its challenges, and to make such broad and rapid changes will require reinforcing the foundation for the relationship between the Ethiopian people and government. Yet strengthening institutions, setting the economy on a firm footing, and restoring stability to areas facing humanitarian disaster and ethnic conflict will not be done overnight, he emphasized. The expectations of the Ethiopian people are also incredibly high, and many of them are young, he stressed. The United States has a tremendous opportunity to support Ethiopia as a friend and partner in the process, and now working to provide support to Dr. Abiy and his administration across all of these challenges as he continues his work in years ahead, the Secretary Assistant further stated.

Regarding the remarkable breakthrough on the relationship between Ethiopia and Eritrea, the

United States enthusiastically welcomed Dr. Abiy and Eritrean President Isaias Afework working together to end 20 years of conflict between the two countries. There is still much work to do to repair the consequences of the conflict for the peoples of both Eritrea and Ethiopia, especially in border regions, he reminded. He further stated that the United States has already seen a tremendous outpouring of emotion on both sides supporting peace, and both governments have highlighted the positive consequences this will bring for the entire Horn of Africa.

The United States supports both sides as they explore possibilities for peace, and continue to encourage and support their long-term success. But guaranteeing the full benefits of peace for years to come will depend on the strength of all parties' efforts to restore friendship and prosperity to both countries and this must be done as inclusively as possible, including with other important partners in the region and beyond, he underlined.