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News in brief

Africa and the African Union

The Investing in Africa Forum: Partnering to Accelerate Investment, Industrialization, and Results, was held on Tuesday and Wednesday this week (June 30-July 1) in Addis Ababa. Co-organized by the Government of Ethiopia, the China Development Bank, the China-Africa Development Fund, the World Bank, and UNIDO, the Forum was opened by Ethiopia’s Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn. **(See article)**

The Global Climate Change Alliance Intra-African-Caribbean-Pacific Program met this week in Addis Ababa to work on drafting a common position paper for the Paris Conference of the Parties (COP 21). Discussions focused on disaster risk reduction, adaptation, climate change, reducing emission from deforestation, and forest degradation.

Ethiopia

President Dr. Mulatu Teshome opened a new International Peace Support Training Center in Addis Ababa on Saturday (June 27). The center will train peace keeping officers from across Africa. **(See article)**

Foreign Minister Dr Tedros Adhanom, speaking on the occasion of Canada Day and the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Ethiopia-Canada diplomatic relations on Wednesday (July 1), pledged that Ethiopia was determined to make every effort to ensure the success of Ethio-Canada Strategic Partnership. **(See article)**

State Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Berhane Gebre-Christos led the Ethiopian delegation to Spain for the twelfth meeting of their Bilateral Consultation Mechanism. The meeting evaluated the implementation of existing bilateral agreements, identified new areas of cooperation and coordinated positions on issues of common interest. **(See article)**

State Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dewano Kedir, opened the Ethiopia-Cote d’Ivoire Business and Investment Forum in Addis Ababa on Thursday (July 2). Those attending included the CEO of Cote d’Ivoire’s Investment Promotion Center, the Ambassador of Cote d’Ivoire in Ethiopia

and of Ethiopia in Cote d'Ivoire, the President of the Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce and Sectoral Associations and the Director-General of the Ethiopian Investment Commission.

State Minister, Dewano Kedir, met with the Secretary-General of the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol), Dr Jürgen Stock on Tuesday (June 30). State Minister Dewano Kedir said Ethiopia had an interest to work with Interpol in three priority areas: human trafficking, terrorism and capacity building.

Ambassador Tekeda Alemu, Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations, detailed the lessons to be learnt from the operations of AMISOM to the UN Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping in New York (**See article**).

Djibouti

Djibouti celebrated the 38th anniversary of its independence on Saturday (June 27) with the annual military parade of the Djiboutian Armed Forces, the Police and Gendarmerie and the Coast Guard. President Ismail Omar Guelleh visited the grave of Djibouti's first President, Hassan Gouled Aptidon, and laid a wreath at the Martyrs Monument.

Eritrea

The UN Human Rights Council this week drafted a resolution to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur and of the Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in Eritrea after the interactive dialogue on the Commission of Inquiry's report last week. The Council asked the Eritrean Government to provide detailed information of detained persons, "including members of the G-15, journalists, those detained in the aftermath of the takeover on 21 January 2013 of the Ministry of Information [in Asmara], and 19 Djiboutian combatants."

Kenya

A Regional Conference on "Strengthening Co-operation to Counter Violent Extremism" was held in Nairobi last week (June 25-28). The conference, attended by delegates from over 40 countries, considered ways to respond to the threat of extremism and terrorism. (**See article**)

Somalia

Somalia celebrated the 55th anniversary of its independence on Wednesday (July 1) with celebrations across the country. Congratulating President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud and the people of Somalia, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Somalia Nicholas Kay said "As Somalia enters the 56th year of its independence, we look forward to a smooth transition to a new political dispensation in 2016."

The AMISOM Military Operations Coordination Committee met in Addis Ababa on Tuesday (June 30) to be briefed on the recent AMISOM Benchmarking exercise conducted by the AU and UN. General Samora Yunus, Chief of Defense Staff of the Ethiopian National Defense Forces, represented Ethiopia.

The AMISOM base at Leego village, 100 kilometers northwest of the capital Mogadishu, was over-run by Al-Shabaab fighters on Friday, June 26. Burundi troops manning the base suffered heavy casualties.

The Assembly of the Interim Administration of new Galmudug State in Somalia will elect a President on Saturday (July 4). The leading contenders are: Abdikarin Hussein Gulled, former Minister of National Security; Ahmed Abdisalan Adan, Ambassador of Somalia to Ethiopia; Ahmed Moallim Fiqi, former head of the Somali National Intelligence and Security Agency; and Abdi Hassan Awale “Qaybdiid” former president of the Galmudug administration.

The Africa Energy Corp. (AFE), previously the Horn Petroleum Corp., says it has given notice to the Puntland Government that it intends to withdraw immediately from its 2007 production-sharing agreements (PSA) over the Nugaal and Dharoor blocs, because of the uncertainty of the current political climate in Somalia and the disagreement between the Federal Government and the regional government of Puntland, Somalia over the legitimacy of PSAs.

On Friday June 26th Somaliland celebrated the 55th anniversary of independence from the UK. President Ahmed Mohammed Mohamud Silanyo once again called on the international community to officially recognize Somaliland. Five days after independence on July 1st 1960, Somaliland joined in a voluntary union with the former Italian Somalia to form Somalia; it declared its own independence again in May 1991.

South Sudan

IGAD’s lead Mediator, Ambassador Seyoum Mesfin said on Thursday last week that South Sudan peace talks are expected to resume after the end of the Holy Month of Ramadan and an IGAD-Plus Summit would be convened in Addis Ababa. The mediators will continue consultations with the two conflicting parties over their proposed draft agreement. **(See article)**

The UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) said in a statement on Tuesday that it found “evidence of widespread human rights abuses allegedly committed” by government troops and allied militias, including ” killing of civilians, rapes and abduction, in Unity state in Greater Upper Nile Region between April and June.

The capital of Upper Nile State, Malakal, was once again captured by the SPLM-in-Opposition forces at the weekend. South Sudan’s Defense Minister, Kuol Manyang, said government forces left to avoid damage and loss of lives, but were on the edge of the city. Malakal has changed hands on several occasions.

Sudan

The United Nations Security Council on Monday (June 29) extended for 12 months the mandate of the joint African Union United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID). It also tied the exit strategy for UNAMID to progress in the security and humanitarian situation in Darfur.

The United Nations World Food Program and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to expand their response to the needs of displaced and vulnerable people in Darfur and other parts of Sudan and work together to enhance the capacity of non-governmental and community-based organization.

“Partnering to accelerate Investment, Industrialization and Results in Africa”

The Investment in Africa Forum took place in Addis Ababa on Tuesday and Wednesday this week (June 30-July 1) under the theme “Partnering to Accelerate Investment, Industrialization and Results in Africa.” The Conference, co-organized by Ethiopia’s Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, the World Bank Group, the China Development Bank, the China-Africa Development Fund and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), brought together senior government officials from Ethiopia, representatives of international organizations, and delegates from many countries in Africa and elsewhere.

The Forum was officially opened by Ethiopia’s Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn whose keynote address underlined that the forum embodied three important themes: Ethiopia’s, and Africa’s, commitment to economic transformation; the strong partnership between Africa and China; and the power of industrialization to deliver development results. The Prime Minister pointed out that the Government of Ethiopia, since 1991, has exerted every effort to structurally transform the country’s economy in order to extricate its people from abject poverty and insecurity. It had achieved much including a sustained an average 10% growth rate over the past twelve years. The GDP has tripled and the national poverty rate declined from 44 percent in 2000 to around 23 percent in 2014. Ethiopia had also registered remarkable achievements in the Millennium Development Goals.

The Prime Minister also noted that the country’s first Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP1) had been successfully implemented during the past five years. The Government envisaged making Ethiopia a middle income country by 2025 and was now preparing to launch GTP II to provide the foundation to realize this vision. This, the Prime Minister said, would “set out the power of industrialization and the role of the private sector as the engine of growth, both foreign and domestic firms, in delivering development results.” He said: “Securing resources and enterprise to deliver industrialization and the vibrant private sector will largely depend on the energy and innovative spirit of the Ethiopian people, “adding that “such an effort can lead to enhanced result if it is supported by FDI.” In this regard, he added, there was a need to diversify exports, accelerate growth of manufacturing industries and the transformation of agriculture.

In order to unleash Ethiopia’s potential, the Government is setting up Industrial Parks equipped with sufficient facilities to act as platforms for job creation and to trigger export-led manufacturing industrial development in which Small and Medium Enterprises could play a central role. To realize this, it was indispensable to eliminate cross-cutting constraints to the growth of the private sector by eliminating entry barriers, putting in place suitable policy frameworks and training manpower. The Prime Minister noted further that the Ethiopian

Government has made significant efforts and registered substantial success in terms of infrastructure development and trade logistics. Currently it was working to improve access to finance for Small and Medium Enterprises, and address other challenges relating to land, power supplies, tax administration, and other issues.

Prime Minister Hailemariam noted that China and Africa enjoyed a longstanding history of partnership. The Forum, he said, was the culmination of this partnership, which was gathering new momentum. He noted that Chinese Traders and trade have been one of the key drivers of economic growth in Africa but as China-Africa trade cooperation moves into the next phase, Chinese investment could be instrumental in addressing structural and logistical constraints. He noted Chinese FDI was present in a broad range of African countries and sizeable inflows from China were going into manufacturing, construction and services including financial services, ICT and electricity. More than 2200 Chinese firms, mostly private, were operating in African countries. He welcomed the fact that Ethiopia was a significant partner in this regard and that in recent years China had emerged as one of the major trading partners of Ethiopia. It was, he added a relationship that was underpinned by growing Chinese investment.

The Prime Minister said key elements in the relationship of China and Africa included Chinese investment in infrastructure which had helped address the physical constraints faced by many African countries. It had also brought skills and technology to Africa and provided a significant source of job creation. African countries, he said, were interested to learn from China's own experience in generating growth and reducing poverty. Joint ventures and other links could provide that learning and help to expand the private sector, and if the right partnership could be built this would be a process "in which all partners win."

China's Deputy Minister of Finance, Liu Jianhua, said as Chinese businesses were investing abroad and African countries were attracting foreign capital, technology, and development experience, there was great room for cooperation. She said China was willing to help Africa build infrastructure networks and achieve industrialization by scaling up financial, technological, and human resources support to Africa. She said that China would increase its cooperation with multilateral institutions like the World Bank in its engagement with Africa. She revealed that China is planning to set up a US\$50 million trust fund with the Bank to support infrastructure development in developing regions including Africa.

Makthar Diop, World Bank Vice President for Africa, highlighted China's experience of dedication, long-term planning, and pragmatism as three major lessons from which Africa could learn in order to industrialize. He said Africa's economy has been growing on average of 5% over the past decade and had proved resilient during the 2008-2009 global economic crisis. However, the negative impacts brought about by recent falls in commodity prices signified the need for Africa to diversify its economy. Other speakers included Sufian Ahmed, Ethiopia's Minister of Finance and Yuan Li, Executive Vice President of the China Development Bank.

The Forum, which was the first of its kind, aimed to assess ways of accelerating industrialization with particular emphasis on manufacturing industries in Africa by emulating best practices, notably China's remarkable achievements over the past three decades. Discussions covered practical steps to accelerate industrialization and manufacturing; creating Special Economic

Zones and Industrial Parks in Africa; accelerating improvements in infrastructure and trade logistics; creating conditions to accelerate private sector investment as rapidly as possible; skills development for improved competitiveness and job creation; transforming agricultural productivity and accelerating agribusiness opportunities. Panelists shared their practical experiences and emphasized the challenges and possible suggestions to deal with these.

Participants noted that accelerating manufacturing and industrialization processes in Africa was timely because of the low labor cost and duty free access to the US under AGOA framework, EU, COMESA and China export markets. Bilateral and multilateral economic agreements to reduce or avoid investment and trade barriers and encouraging Chinese companies to engage in the industrialization of Africa should be encouraged. Skill development, knowledge transfer and infrastructure development were also among the most important factors to accelerate the process in addition to financing and leadership commitment as well as an effective policy and strategy. Creation of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and Industrial Parks was valuable but it was also necessary to overcome infrastructure impediments and logistical problems. To create successful SEZs a conducive and inclusive industrial policy was required; the experience of Ethiopian economic zones in the last five years was a good example. SEZs should incorporate basic infrastructural elements, energy, transport and IT links; they should be carefully planned, integrated, ecologically-friendly and market-oriented. Using public-private partnerships enhanced their effectiveness since this enabled competition and development of skills and diversification. Tripartite agreements among the labor force, government and the private sector are also important components and regional harmonization of logistics, custom systems and cross border infrastructure development were also valuable. Since 2007, the Chinese government has been supporting six Chinese company-initiated industrial zones in Africa, in Egypt, Zambia, Nigeria, Ethiopia, and Mauritius. Economists including the World Bank's former chief economist, Justin Lin, highlighted the success of these, especially the Eastern Industrial Park in Ethiopia for facilitating the relocation of China's labor-intensive light manufacturing. He said Africa was an ideal place to relocate the light manufacturing sector of China as the trend of global value chain moves. He urged the governments of China and African countries to seize this opportunity that can help both China and Africa move a step up the global value chain.

Discussions also focused on the necessity of enabling policy environment and development-oriented investment to accelerate private sector investment. Developing long term national macro- and micro-economic policies and institutional frameworks were identified as essential elements. The importance of reforms in other areas, land use, educational, health and social development in civil society are also underlined as important elements. Building strategic framework cooperation including wider political, social, economic and environmental factors between Africa and China, the wider application of investment promotion schemes, and building the credibility of companies were also noted as vital issues to be encouraged. The experience of Ethiopia was acknowledged as proactive during the discussion. The Forum underlined the significance of skills development for improved competitiveness, productivity and employment opportunity. Cooperation in vocational school training and higher education institutions between Africa and China could bridge skills' gaps and enhance the capacity of African employees. Chinese assistance in vocational school development, establishing regional center of excellence in Africa, as well as science and technology development were important.

The Forum also addressed the leading element in the economy of Africa: agriculture. It identified Government supported policy tools to stimulate the smallholder farmers, agricultural infrastructures, institutional development, environmental considerations, training and education as the most important elements to be considered in order to transform agricultural productivity and accelerate agribusiness opportunities. It agreed that a model that could enhance the value chain, provide micro-financing and commodity specialization as well as create a conducive working environment, advance public private partnerships and offer a strong regulatory framework for quality insurance was what was needed. Overall, cooperation among farmers, private enterprises and public and international organizations was considered vital for agricultural transformation. Equally important were public-private partnerships to enhance value chains. Encouraging investment and mobilizing internal and external resources from the private sector were easy ways to unlock the vast African market and offer export opportunities to China to enable the sector to provide inputs to industry. The Forum also decided that the round of the Forum should take place in Guangdong Province, China, in September 2016.

50 Years of Ethiopian Canadian Friendship celebrated at the African Union

The Embassy of Canada hosted a reception to celebrate Canada Day and the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Ethiopia and Canada at the AU Commission Hall in Addis Ababa on Wednesday (July 1). This was the 148th anniversary of Canada Day and AU Commissioners, Ambassadors, Canadians, representatives of Canadian companies in Ethiopia, and invited guests were present. Dr. Tedros Adhanom, Foreign Minister of Ethiopia represented the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. The occasion also marked the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Canada and Ethiopia. Ambassador David Usher, Canada's Ambassador to Ethiopia, the Republic of Djibouti and the African Union, guests to the celebration of Canada Day in Ethiopia, also emphasized that this reception was one of the events to celebrate the 50 years of friendship that were being celebrated throughout the year.

Dr. Tedros extended his warmest congratulations to the People and Government of Canada on their National Day and on this auspicious 50th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Ethiopia and Canada. He pledged that Ethiopia was determined to make every effort to ensure the success of the Ethiopia -Canada Strategic Partnership, and stressed that the special friendship and cooperation that has existed between Ethiopia and Canada for over half a century was based on a firm foundation of mutual assistance and genuine respect. Ethiopia, he said, was and remained deeply grateful for Canada's support over so many years: in setting up the College of Addis Ababa, later Addis Ababa University, in founding Ethiopia's public school system, in rebuilding the Ethiopian Air Force and in providing the leadership for the genesis of banking services in Ethiopia.

Dr. Tedros noted the re-opening of the Ethiopian Embassy in Ottawa as a visible sign of Ethiopia's engagement with Canada. He said Government of Ethiopia was determined to further strengthen and broaden bilateral relations for the benefit of the two countries and peoples. He stressed that the number of exchanges of official visits and the signing of bilateral agreements, covering different areas, had provided opportunities to nurture friendly relations and explore

different ways to encourage bilateral cooperation. Dr. Tedros also mentioned that Ethiopia has successfully completed the first Growth and Transformation Plan. It was now beginning to implement the second Growth and Transformation Plan, looking forward to the success of the vision of transforming Ethiopia into a carbon-free green economy and a middle level income country by 2025 with real enthusiasm. With this as the roadmap, he invited Canadian investors and Canada's business communities to participate; to come to Ethiopia, invest and take advantage of the huge potential and the opportunities that Ethiopia could offer. This, he said, would help transform Ethiopia and Canada's relations into a more substantive and significant partnership.

Ambassador Usher mentioned that Canada's development assistance program in Ethiopia began in 1967 and still continued. Ethiopia, he said, remained a priority country for Canadian development assistance. In 2013, Canadian development aid to Ethiopia totaled over CDN\$130 million. Ethiopia was the single largest recipient country of Canadian development assistance. Canada was also, Ambassador Usher added, the only bilateral donor country participating in Ethiopian food security and agricultural growth flagship programs. These included the Productive Safety Net Program, the Agricultural Growth Program, the Sustainable Land Management Program, and the Women's Economic Development and Entrepreneurship Development programs.

On the political side, Ambassador Usher pointed to Canada and Ethiopia's regular high level consultations and senior officials meetings, most recently at the G-7 meeting last month. He said as Canada was home to many cultures and religions, following a federal and democratic path to development, Ethiopia and Canada had much in common, adding that the two countries also had a common interest and commitment to deal with the increasing global challenges of terrorism and refugees.

Ambassador Usher also noted that it was in the interest of both countries to further strengthen their commercial relationship and improve trade and investment. He took the opportunity to thank those Canadian companies which were active in Ethiopia. They include Africa Oil Corp, East Africa Metals Inc, LEA Group, Grant Inc, Swisspharme Inc and Sellet Hulling PLC – some of the leaders of a growing trade and investment relationship. The Ambassador also mentioned the Q400 aircraft manufactured by Bombardier of Canada which is used by Ethiopian Airlines.

Ambassador Usher also drew attention to Canada's work with Africa and the African Union and underlined the country's long history of investing in Africa's development. He noted that 41% of Canadian development assistance went to programs in Africa in 2013. He underlined Canada's continued efforts to improve the health of mothers, newborns and children in developing countries, he pledged an additional CND\$3.5 billion over five years to help strengthen health care systems for women and children. He also promised increased support for efforts to end child, early and forced marriages. Canada, together with Zambia, co-led the first substantive resolution on this issue, unanimously adopted by the United Nations General Assembly.

Bilateral political consultations between Ethiopia and Spain

The Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia and Spain held a bilateral political consultation meeting on Friday (June 26) in Madrid. The Ethiopian and Spanish delegations were led by State Ministers, Ambassador Berhane Gebre-Christos and Mr. Ignacio Ybanez, respectively. This was the twelfth meeting of the bilateral consultation mechanism which has been held regularly every year since 2004 and its objective was to evaluate the implementation of existing bilateral agreements, identify new areas of cooperation and coordinate positions on issues of common interest.

During the consultation wide range of bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest were raised and discussed. The two sides welcomed the continuation of their excellent political and diplomatic relations and agreed on the importance of their continuation. They also noted that relations in the economic sphere needed to be further strengthened as the volume of trade between Spain and Ethiopia and exchanges in investment remain low.

Ambassador Berhane briefed the Spanish delegation on the current situation in Ethiopia, emphasizing that it was fundamentally a stable country and had registered double-digit economic growth for the last 13 years. The Government was, he said, committed to maintain the same level of growth for the coming decades and its development policies were geared to this. Ambassador Berhane pointed out that Ethiopia has set itself a goal of joining middle income countries by the year 2025. The country was therefore engaged in implementation of a number of major infrastructural projects, including energy, railway and road developments, to prepare the ground for the new economic trajectory. He said the Government has completed the first five-year Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP 1) and was now preparing for the start of its GTP-2 for the period 2016-2020. The overall aim of the GTP-2 was to transform an agriculture-dominated economy and firmly establish the major role for industry and manufacturing. Ambassador Berhane also provided an account of the recently held national elections in Ethiopia.

Mr. Ignacio gave an account of the current economic and political situation in Spain where the economy was picking up after a difficult period of high unemployment and economic crisis. The Government had taken a number of steps to reverse the situation and Spain has managed to create half-a-million jobs. The economy had grown by 2.5% annually since 2012. He briefed the Ethiopian delegation on Spain's next general elections which will be held before the end of the year.

In following discussions, the two delegations agreed to further deepen existing cooperation. They underlined the need for high level exchanges and on the importance of coordinating policies at bilateral, regional and international level. After considering their economic relationship, they also agreed that the level of economic transactions was not commensurate with their overall relations or indeed their past relationship. They agreed to work together to encourage the private sector to participate in direct investment in Ethiopia and encourage innovative financial instruments to support the private sector. They also emphasized the need to create a satisfactory overall economic environment for Spanish investors in Ethiopia. This would include completing the process of ratifying the Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement signed in 2009 and negotiating an Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement. The Ethiopian delegation noted that

the Ethiopian government continuously took measures to improve the economic framework and investment environment in the country as appropriate.

The two delegations stressed the importance of holding joint business promotions and exchanges of business delegations as well as encouraging their respective Chambers of Commerce to work as partners. The members of the Madrid Chamber of Commerce delegation are due to visit Ethiopia in September to assess the business environment. They recalled the discussion between the Spanish King and Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam last January and their agreement to promote economic relations. The role of Ethiopian Airlines to facilitate people- to- people relations was recognized. Both sides expressed the hope that as economic relations increased, the airline would increase the flight frequency and enhancing the link between the two peoples.

The delegations also evaluated the implementation of financial and technical cooperation between the two countries. Ethiopia is one of the priority countries for Spanish assistance and a framework for development cooperation was signed in 2011 for the period to 2015. The Spanish delegation said that future cooperation would be aligned with GTP 2. A new agreement will be signed to cover the next five years .The current budget for assistance is US\$114 million and the Spanish side promised to enhance cooperation.

The delegations also considered the issue of terrorism and how to counter it. They noted the challenge had to be dealt with collectively and agreed on the importance of cooperation in sharing intelligence and capacity building programs. The Spanish side pointed out that as a member of the Security Council Spain closely followed the issue and many resolutions had been adopted to help tackle the problem. Spain was also very much engaged on terrorism in the European Union and in NATO. It had deployed naval units along the coast of Somalia and the Gulf of Aden under the EU deployment against piracy that has been operating since April 2009.

The Ethiopian delegation briefed the Spanish side on the current efforts for conflict resolution, peacemaking and peace building on Somalia and South Sudan as well as on responses to terrorism. They discussed cooperation on peace and security in the Horn. Ambassador Berhane welcomed the contribution of the European Union to the ongoing peace efforts in Somalia, especially in the financing of AMISOM, but he also emphasized the vital importance of continuing this support until the country could stand on its own feet. Building up the Somali National Army and the capacity of state institutions to insure the provision of social services were also critical priorities for bringing lasting stability in Somalia. He asked Spain to help to create these conditions in Somalia and to encourage other European countries to act in a concerted and united manner to avoid duplication of effort or the sending of mixed messages. He noted that with the emergence of other hot spots in Africa, there was a possibility that European countries might neglect or reduce current efforts in Somalia; he warned this could result in reversal of the progress already made in the country. On South Sudan, Ambassador Berhane detailed the efforts Ethiopia has been making and its involvement in the IGAD- Plus process which aims to strengthen the Mediation by bringing other parties on board. While peace had yet to be achieved, IGAD had managed to contain the conflict and prevent it from escalating more widely. Ambassador Berhane also underlined his confidence that Spain's membership of the Security Council would increase the Council's ability to consider African issues from an informed perspective.

During the visit to Spain, the Ethiopian delegation also met and held discussions with representatives of Spanish business. Ambassador Berhane briefed the President of the Spanish Investors and Exporters Club, Mr. Balbino Prieto, on business opportunities in Ethiopia and asked for his assistance to encourage Spanish investors to consider the promising business environment and the substantial investment opportunities in Ethiopia. He promised that the Ethiopian Government would assist in any way possible. Mr. Prieto indicated his interest to lead a business delegation to Ethiopia. In separate meetings with the management of Elecnor, a Spanish Company involved in the renewable energy sector, and of Indra, a company engaged in IT solutions for transport signaling, power transmission and distribution, customs and border security, Ambassador Berhane encouraged the companies to look into the possibilities of working in Ethiopia. He invited them to send a fact finding mission to Addis Ababa and hold discussions with the relevant government officials and business organizations. He noted Ethiopia's interest for Spanish companies to engage in business partnerships that would also allow for technology transfer and capacity building.

Ambassador Berhane and his delegation also had a meeting with members of the Ethiopian Diaspora residing in Spain. He briefed them on current developments in Ethiopia and encouraged them to participate in the country's continuing and growing economic transformation.

The IGAD Mediation's draft agreement for a South Sudan settlement

South Sudan peace talks are expected to resume later this month after the end of the Holy Month of Ramadan. IGAD's lead Mediator, Ambassador Seyoum Mesfin announced this on Thursday last week (June 26) in Addis Ababa. He said that he hoped an IGAD-Plus Summit would then be convened in Addis Ababa with both of the warring parties participating. Until talks resume, he said, the mediators will continue consultations with the two conflicting parties.

Following the adjournment of the IGAD Mediation in March and the failure of South Sudan's warring parties to reach any final agreement over a number of the major issues in dispute, Prime Minister Hailemariam, the Chair of IGAD, proposed an expansion of the Mediation, creating IGAD-Plus. This new mechanism incorporates the African Union, the UN, EU, China, the Troika (UK, US, Norway) as well as the five African countries, South Africa, Nigeria, Algeria, Chad, and Rwanda, of the AU's High Level Ad Hoc Committee on South Sudan. The new IGAD-Plus mechanism was adopted by the AU Peace and Security Council at its Heads of State and Government level meeting in Johannesburg during the AU Summit last month. The High Level Ad Hoc Committee was launched at the same time.

Subsequently, following the completion of an extensive round of discussions, the Mediation produced a seventy page draft agreement for both sides to consider. This, said Ambassador Seyoum, was a compromise document which the Mediation believed "the two sides could live with and continue to the establishment of a transitional government." Ambassador Seyoum said the mediation had incorporated the reflections of the two parties and the results of the consultations they had with their own constituencies.

The synopsis of the draft agreement covers all of the issues in dispute, including the issues of governance and power sharing in central institutions as well as power sharing in the areas of conflict, particularly the Greater Upper Nile state. It calls for major reforms on governance, the political system, the economy and use and distribution of resources, including oil revenue. The draft agreement “offers a comprehensive, balanced compromise settlement to end the civil war in South Sudan, ongoing since December 2013, and institute transitional arrangements sufficient to consolidate peace and stability for all South Sudanese”. It is to be implemented over a period of 33 months. It also provides for the establishment of an oversight mechanism, the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission, with powers to oversee implementation and take corrective action if necessary. The draft covers the six thematic areas negotiated over the past 14 months: transitional governance arrangements; permanent ceasefire and transitional security arrangements; humanitarian assistance and reconstruction; resource, economic and financial management; transitional justice, accountability, reconciliation and healing; and parameters for the permanent constitution making process.

The draft provides for a broad-based, all-inclusive Transitional Government of National Unity comprising the four negotiating Parties: In addition to the four negotiating Parties: the Government of the Republic of South Sudan, the Sudan Peoples’ Liberation Movement/Army in Opposition, the SPLM Leaders (Former Detainees) and Other Political Parties. This Transitional Government would be in office for 30 months, implement reforms, and lead South Sudan to general elections. A 3-month Pre-Transition would precede this to complete the tasks necessary to operationalize the Transitional Government. The Agreement also suggests the division of positions between the parties with the incumbent President serving as President and Executive Head of State for the Transition Period. The term of the current Transitional National Assembly should be extended till the end of the transitional government and its numbers expanded. The judiciary should be reformed to ensure its independence. The state governments of Unity, Upper Nile and Jonglei will be reconstituted. National elections should be organized by a reconstituted elections commission, and held 60 days before the end of the Transitional Government.

A ceasefire should come into effect within 72 hours of the Agreement and be followed by the withdrawal of all allied foreign forces and militias in South Sudan. The unification of security forces under a single command should take place within 18 months of the Agreement. In the meantime, the Mediation proposes deployment of troops, from either IGAD countries, the Africa Union or the UN, and sanctioned by the Africa Union Peace and Security Council. The parties could choose which option they preferred. The IGAD Monitoring and Verification Mechanism, as a Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism, would monitor this. Juba should be demilitarized and third party security units under a UN, AU or IGAD mandate should provide protection there or elsewhere.

The Transitional Government shall institute programs of relief, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration and rehabilitation. All displaced persons will be enabled and facilitated to voluntarily return home.

The Transitional Government will undertake legal and institutional reforms of key institutions in terms of leadership, composition, independence, powers, functions and operations; and oil

revenue funds prudently managed. New institutions should include a National Revenue Authority and a Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Authority, and an Economic and Financial Management Authority set up. The Transitional Government should also set up an independent national commission for truth, reconciliation and healing; and to end impunity, the Transitional Government, the African Union and the United Nations will jointly establish the Hybrid Court for South Sudan to have jurisdiction with respect to genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. South Sudan will adopt a Permanent Constitution during the Transition Period with the transitional Government overseeing permanent constitution-making process. This will be complete not later than twelve months before the end of the Transition period.

The Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission will oversee the implementation of the Agreement and will have the power to take corrective action as necessary. It will also oversee institutions created or operating during the Transition. Its members will include representatives from the Parties to the Agreement, other South Sudanese stakeholders, and the regional and international guarantors and partners of South Sudan.

Heads of Somalia's South West and Jubaland administrations reach agreement

The Presidents of the Interim Administrations of South West and Jubaland states both visited Addis Ababa during the last two weeks, between June 16 and 27. Both held discussions with Prime Minister Hailemariam of Ethiopia and Foreign Minister, Dr. Tedros. The discussions covered a variety of topics including the issue of representation in the Jubaland assembly and the way forward to ensure the success of Somalia's Vision 2016, as well as the best way to fight Al-Shabaab. During their visit, both Sharif Hassan and Ahmad Mohamed Islan 'Madobe' held discussions with the officers of the Ethiopian National Defense Forces on training and capacity building for their forces, and on joint operations with the Somali National Army and with AMISOM forces against Al-Shabaab.

The regional assembly of Jubaland was inaugurated in May 2015 but almost immediately disagreements emerged over the clan representation in the assembly between the Jubaland administration and South West state. The Federal parliament also expressed its dissatisfaction over the clan representation in the Jubaland assembly. This development led to political wrangling among the leaders in Mogadishu, in Kismayo the capital of Jubaland, in Baidoa capital of South West, and even in Garowe, the capital of the Puntland state. Concerned about the negative impact that this might have on the cohesion created among Somali leaders earlier, the Government of Ethiopia invited Sharif Hassan, head of the South West Administration and Ahmed Mohamed Islan 'Madobe', head of the Jubaland Administration to meet in Addis Ababa so that any disagreements could be amicably resolved and would avoid giving Al-Shabaab any opportunity to exploit their differences.

In their discussions with the two regional leaders, both Prime Minister Hailemariam and Dr. Tedros emphasized that this problem of representation had to be managed between the Somali leaders themselves and through peaceful dialogue. The two leaders were quick to see the possible advantages; they held two rounds of friendly discussion and did Ramadan *iftar* together.

The meetings, involving their delegations as well as the leaders themselves, concluded with a resolution for the two leaders continue to hold direct talks as necessary. They agreed not to allow any hostile propaganda to be directed against each other. In addition, they settled that the disagreement over representation in the Jubaland assembly should be resolved with the Federal Government of Somalia playing the leading role in the process of forming Federal member states.

The Government of Ethiopia welcomed the agreement reached by the two Somali leaders. As guarantor of the Addis Ababa agreement of August 2013 between the Somali Federal Government and the Interim Jubaland Administration, it assured the leaders that the Government of Ethiopia was committed to assist in the success of Vision 2016 which provides for the basis of completion of the constitutional process and the holding of elections in Somalia.

While this meeting in Addis Ababa helped provide for a resolution to the problem between South West and Jubaland, Somalia has also been facing other political and security problems. It remains important for IGAD, the AU and the UN, and other international community stakeholders to assist Somalia to finalize the formation of the Federal member states which will provide the basis of a full fledged and peaceful federal Somalia. The formation of the regional state of Galmudug in Central Somalia is still in progress. The Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Somalia, Nicholas Kay welcomed the Galmudug assembly's election of a Speaker and deputy speakers at the end of last week, Saturday (June 27); and urged the Assembly to carry out the equally important task of electing a state president in a similarly transparent and credible manner this weekend. The process still needs close attention and assistance to ensure it can be finalized in line with the provisions of the Federal constitution. The same needs to be done to start the process of regional state formation in Hiiraan and Middle Shebelle regions. Somali leaders, at federal and state level, and the Somali people, have been concentrating on forming federal entities before 2016, but it is important that the international community and other stakeholders also remain focused to ensure the political down-grading of Al-Shabaab continues.

Kenya hosts a Conference on Countering Violent Extremism

A Regional Conference on Countering Violent Extremism was held at the end of last week (June 25-28) in Nairobi under the theme: "Strengthening Cooperation to Counter Violent Extremism". It was a follow-up to White House Summit to Counter Violent Extremism which was held in Washington in February this year. It aimed to extend understanding of violent extremism in Africa, look at its various forms and drivers and see how these merged into regional and global terrorist campaigns. It investigated the way violent extremism arose from a complex interplay of factors both at local and national levels and looked at governmental and non-governmental actors might work effectively to counter it. The conference looked at the full range of activities that constitute violent extremism, from the local dynamics of radicalization, the structure of extremist ideologies, recruitment, community engagement and social media and technology, as well as counter narratives and the creation of effective horizontal and vertical partnerships in countering violent extremism. It also considered these issues in the context of the continuing threats from

groups such as the Al-Qaeda linked Al-Shabaab, Boko Haram, ISIS and other extremist networks.

Sarah Sewall, US Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights told the conference that no region, country or community was immune to the threat of violent extremism. It was necessary to stand together and strengthen collective efforts against the threat. The region, as well as other stakeholders outside the region, should work closely not only to defeat Al-Shabaab militarily, but also to eradicate the roots of violent extremism throughout the region and prevent the next generation of threat emerging. She stressed that only a truly comprehensive strategy, mobilizing a broad range of stakeholders, could address the underlying drivers of violent extremism, though military, intelligence and law enforcement tools remained vital defeating it in its current forms.

The conference discussed the issue under nine sub-themes. The first of these was “Typologies and Drivers of Violent Extremism in Africa”, locating these in Africa within a global context, and exploring divergences and convergences between violent extremism and terrorism. Under “Understanding the Local Architecture and Dynamics of Radicalization and Recruitment”, the conference considered recruitment networks particularly at the local level as they related to national, regional and global terrorist campaigns. It offered insights into the resilience, cohesion and adaptability of extremist groups, and into factors that could disrupt their ability to evolve into terrorist organizations, and which could lead to their eventual disintegration. The discussion also provided insights into the motivation of joining extremist groups and the means by which recruits are kept.

Deliberating on “De-legitimizing Violent Extremist Narratives”, the conference discussed ways through which pro-democratic forces, within states and civil society, could engage communities in ‘de-legitimizing’ extremism, particularly when this promotes violence as a legitimate path to attain the goal of suppressing the rights and prerogatives of other social, cultural and religious groups. The session underlined the importance of, and ways to promote and entrench pluralism, the defence of minority rights and constitutionalism in local, national and regional contexts.

On “The Role of the Private Sector in Countering Violent Extremism”, the conference noted the increasing evidence of the way extremist groups damaged economies and the private sector. The service industry, and in particular tourism, travel and insurance companies, were especially vulnerable to the effect of extremist attacks. The impact was particularly serious in developing countries. The private sector was also affected more generally. At one level, technological advances, largely driven by the private sector in cyberspace have, inadvertently, allowed extremist groups to recruit followers and obtain funding globally. The private sector was therefore in a position to play an important role in supporting countering violent extremism, for instance by identifying and disabling or blocking sites used for the recruitment of sympathizers, promoting hate speech or inciting to violence, as well as facilitating the tracking of financial flows to terrorist groups. The conference discussed how effective NGO and CBO Programming could be implemented for this. It underlined the importance of these non-governmental groups and stressed that cooperation and collaboration with state action was a critical component to defeat violent extremism in local communities.

The conference emphasized that countering violent extremism needed to be driven by evidence and to adapt and change measures as necessary. This requires activities to be anchored in firm conceptual approaches and for empirical research rooted in the particularities of regions, countries, and local neighbourhoods and communities. It was a matter of urgency for Africa, and indeed everywhere else, to develop and deploy locally relevant research that placed a premium on being responsive to qualitative evidence and data. This required engaging different methodological approaches and the compilation of appropriate data to be made available for researchers inside and outside government. Ultimately, it needed the development of networked research communities. State and non-state actors must rethink paradigms of violent extremism and constantly adjust their approach to respond to the online ideologies, methods and networks advancing violent extremism and terrorism. It was noted that with decreasing communication costs, it was easy for African actors to gain capabilities to counter extremism on the internet.

In the session “On Developing National Counter Violent Extremism Plans”, the conference explored the potential advantages of a national plan and considered what common elements should go into developing and deploying this effectively. Related to this was consideration of the need to create strong, lasting and effective partnerships in intelligence and experience sharing, developing a learning and research culture that could be developed into countering extremism and undertaking community-level developmental efforts that immunize communities to the appeal of violent extremism globally and regionally.

African security ministers who met on the sidelines of the conference resolved to revitalize the war against terrorism to strengthen peace, stability and sustainable development. The ministers pledged new and decisive measures to defeat terrorism in a communiqué adopted during the closure of the conference. Kenya’s Cabinet Secretary for Internal Security, Joseph Nkaissery, said African countries would now be strengthening cooperation to re-boot counter-terrorism measures. He said violent extremism had gained a foothold in the Horn of Africa, the Sahel and northern Africa region’ and terrorists were seeking “to harm our cherished ideals while reversing the latest socio-economic progress in the continent.” He said regional fora would reignite the war against terrorism through sharing of best practices to root out the factors that might encourage extremism like youth unemployment, governance lapses and weak policing. Terrorist groups, he said, had exploited a vacuum created by civil strife and the collapse of nation states. African countries would implement the recommendations endorsed at the Nairobi conference to re-invent the war against terrorism and launch a joint strategy to combat terrorism effectively.

Closing the three day conference President Kenyatta said that the Kenyan Government was working with civil society, the private sector, neighbouring states, and the international community to counter violent extremism and terrorism. He said he was "happy that Kenyans from all walks of life have appreciated the precious values that we are all fighting for." He noted the Kenyan Government had scaled up efforts to rehabilitate and reintegrate those who were recruited into terror groups, particularly those that have returned home voluntarily. Kenya, he pointed out, offered unconditional amnesty to all youths that might have been radicalized and the people take advantage of this window of opportunity. The president said the nation was united in its determination to fight for a way of life defined by a celebration of pluralism, religious freedom and free association.

The conference, attended by delegates from over 40 countries, came up with a number of specific recommendations to counter violent extremism. These included: enhancing engagement to clarify the parameters of war against violent extremism, clarifying the values which needed to be promoted and protected; and involving all stakeholders in the conceptualization, design and implementation of comprehensive strategies and plans to be deployed. Others were periodic reviews of progress in countering violent extremism; forging international partnerships to add value to local and national efforts to counter violent extremism; and increased research on strategies and plans to counter violent extremism. Overall conference delegates agreed the meeting strengthened capabilities, and increased awareness and collaboration, as well as generating an outcome that would provide useful input into the Summit-level deliberations to be held on the side-lines of the 70th Session of the UN General Assembly in September.

Capacity Building for peacekeeping operations....

The opening of an International Peace Support Training Center in Addis Ababa last week marks a major advance in Ethiopia's long-standing commitment to the support of collective peace and security in Africa and in the world. It provides for the birth of a new regional peace and security infrastructure to support regional, continental and global efforts for collective security, with the objective of creating a secure region and continent. The International Peace Support Training Center, co-financed by the governments of UK and Japan, will provide a new platform to provide Africa with modern and qualified military, police and civilian personnel, trained and equipped with relevant experience and expertise for international peacekeeping. The center aims to train peacekeeping officers drawn from African countries in all the relevant fields required.

President Dr. Mulatu Teshome, speaking at the inaugural ceremony, emphasized that the opening of the center was a testimony to Ethiopia's leading role in peacekeeping operations, and a testament to its commitment to strengthen its peacekeeping activities in Africa. This also allows for the creation of key enabling conditions for a regional development agenda. The President said that the center will contribute to the regional and continental march towards prosperity as well as complementing the regional security architecture of Ethiopia, of IGAD and of Africa. It would lay a real foundation for security and development. The President pointed out that Ethiopia had a long history of participating in a wide range of peacekeeping missions for the United Nations and the African Union. He added: that the Centre would serve as a training facility for peacekeeping organizations within and around the Horn of Africa. This would assist the African Union Commission's ability to respond to a wider international consensus that the AU should be the first to deploy peacekeeping missions wherever conflict situations arise.

Ethiopia's Defense Minister, Siraj Fegessa, noted that Ethiopia's National Defense Force had itself designed both short and long term plans for capacity building and the creation of modern training mechanisms. He said the establishment of the Peace Support Training Center would go well beyond revitalizing and elevating Ethiopia's own long history of peacekeeping. It would also enabled peacekeeping units to be trained to achieve goals set by regional and continental security institutions. The Head of the Peace Support Training Center, General Hassen Ibrahim emphasized that Ethiopia's own inspiring and proud history of peacekeeping in Africa would be

redoubled and enhanced in various ways over a wide range of issues by the Centre. General Hassan said the setting up of the Center would help the country to move from deployment of peacekeeping troops into provision of peacekeeping training for all of Africa. It would also be able to provide peace and security research policy and strategy considerations to the African Union and Eastern African Standby mechanisms. General Hassen said the Center would support the activities of the African Union and of other African states and of the African Peace and Security Architecture. Speaking on the occasion, Brigadier General T.K. Gwal, representing the African Union Commission, recognizing Ethiopia's efforts in peacekeeping, underlined the AU Commission's commitment to support the Center.

The opening of the International Peace Support Training Center in Addis Ababa underlines Ethiopia's own firm conviction of the importance of providing for revitalizing the principle of collective security through domestic capacity building efforts in framing local security architecture. It is also supportive of Ethiopia's co-prosperity agenda for the Horn of Africa and more widely. Ethiopia's Foreign and National Security Policy Strategy firmly underlines the idea that Ethiopia's development and security is inseparable from that of its neighbors or indeed from other African countries. The opening of the Center is a timely reminder of the importance of not letting the region or Africa fall hostage to various common and emerging security challenges. Without a home-grown, modern, efficient and innovative peacekeeping model, the region's development agenda is likely to be threatened. This in turn threatens to let loose humanitarian, political and security crises.

The provision of peace support training will provide efficient and qualified military, civilian and police personnel with proper understanding of the political and security rationale behind peacekeeping missions in Africa. Importantly, the institutional basis for the Center offers wider benefits to Ethiopia and other African countries. The continent faces a myriad of traditional and new security challenges. The risks range from intra-state war to terrorism. Africa badly strengthened regional security infrastructure to support the building up of the five regional operational arms of the peacekeeping elements of the African Peace and Security Architecture, established by the 2002 Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union. As the African Peace and Security Architecture is now concentrating on the need to build up and expedite capacities for managing and resolving conflicts on the continent, the Center will serve as a highly important element in the production of efficient and qualified peacekeeping troops that can serve Africa's need for greater stability and development.

Within the African Peace and Security Architecture, there is a continental and multi-disciplinary peacekeeping force, the African Standby Force (ASF) with military, police and civilian contingents. This is under the auspices of the African Union. To complement ASF peacekeeping operations, the Regional Economic Communities of the AU are also establishing regional standby forces, as part of the efforts to offset security challenges. The East African Standby Force, mandated to enhance peace and security in the East African region, has its military, police and civilian components and a mechanism to provide capacity for rapid deployment of forces to carry out preventive deployment, rapid intervention, peace support and peace enforcement. The East African Standby Force, the first to be ready, will be fully operational by the end of the year. The International Peace Support Training Center will have the ability to significantly increase the capacity of the efforts of the East African Standby Force and other regional forces in building

up capacity to respond to security needs, using an integrated approach that will bring the military, civilian and police components together to train in peace support operations.

The opening of the Center also underlines the importance of a cherished African principle, African solutions for African problems. This is particularly important with reference to countering current and future regional security challenges. Africa needs to take charge of its collective security and steer the people of Africa away from the threats of inter- and intra-state conflicts, terrorism and state collapse. The inauguration of the International Peace Support Training Center is a demonstration of the political will and practical resolve demonstrated by Ethiopia to support operations against security threats.

The active role of Ethiopia in peacekeeping operations, both in Africa and globally, has gained international recognition. The United Nations awarded Ethiopia a medal in honor of its peace keepers who have sacrificed their lives during the line of duty in different peacekeeping missions at a ceremony last month at UN headquarters in New York to mark International Day of UN Peace keepers. Ethiopia, the world's fourth largest contributor in terms of the number of peace keepers deployed under the United Nations peacekeeping missions, is committed to active participation in UN peacekeeping operations on the basis of the principle of collective security enshrined in the UN Charter since the establishment of the United Nations. Ethiopia, with 12, 968 peacekeepers currently serving in UN Peacekeeping Missions around the world, is playing a leading role as Africa's leading contributor, underlining Africa's growing strength and ability to the continent's peace and stability. Ethiopian troops involved in peacekeeping missions have always demonstrated a high degree of dedication, professionalism and courage as well as an impressive ability to operate within a framework in harmony with the culture and values of the people in the areas where they have been deployed. The International Peace Support Training Center will allow these factors to continue and be given wider dissemination within peacekeeping missions.

...AMISOM and peacekeeping operations

One of the most successful, if still ongoing, peacekeeping operations that Ethiopia has been involved in, is that of the African Mission to Somalia. Last week Ethiopia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Tekeda Alemu addressed a meeting of the UN Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping, briefing the Working Group on AMISOM's experience. He also pointed out that the operations of AMISOM offered unique insights not only for peacekeeping operations overall but also on cooperation between UN and regional and sub-regional organizations in dealing with peace and security.

Ambassador Tekeda pointed out that AMISOM was deployed in Somalia under particularly difficult circumstances as, unlike conventional peacekeeping operations, it began operating in a situation where there was actually no peace to keep. The African Union and the troop contributing countries took an enormous risk to deploy AMISOM. AMISOM's mandate had, of course, evolved and expanded and it was now tasked with the responsibility of taking all necessary measures in coordination with the Somalia National Defense Forces, to reduce the threat posed by Al-Shabaab as well as assisting on the consolidation and expansion of the control

of the Federal Government of Somalia and establish conditions for effective and legitimate governance across the country.

AMISOM, said Ambassador Tekeda, had defied all odds to effectively carry out its mandate and contribute largely to reduce the threat posed by Al-Shabaab and consolidate peace and stability in Somalia. He suggested that a number of issues had contributed to AMISOM's success, among them the support of the Somalia Government. AMISOM was deployed upon the invitation and consent of the then transitional government of Somalia and has had full political support from the present Federal Somali Government. Secondly, the regional organization of IGAD has played the leading role in facilitating the peace and reconciliation process in Somalia and has fully supported AMISOM. Equally, in turn, the European Union, the United Nations and other international partners, supported the efforts of IGAD and the African Union by providing political as well as financial and logistical support packages. In addition, these organizations and bodies had shown an innovative and flexible application of the principles of subsidiarity and division of labor. In other words, Ambassador Tekeda underlined, "AMISOM has been operating within the context of a political consensus on the approach to peacemaking in Somalia, with Somalia authorities in the lead."

Ambassador Tekeda said the main lesson from AMISOM's peacekeeping operations was, therefore, that there is a better chance of success when there is ownership by the host country, greater coherence between regional and sub-regional mechanisms and an innovative partnership with the United Nations and other international partners. He said this lesson was one of the important inputs submitted to the high level panel on the review of peace operations as part of the Common African Position. He also pointed out that Al-Shabaab still maintained the capacity to carry out asymmetrical attacks. The fight against Al-Shabaab was therefore still "unfinished business". IGAD, the African Union, the European Union, the United Nations and other partners still needed to maintain their focus and unity of purpose. AMISOM, he added, was not going to stay in Somalia forever. The ultimate responsibility of maintaining peace and stability had to rest with Somalis. Therefore it was absolutely critical to build up the capacity of the Somalia National Army and Police force. Coordinating the efforts of the international community in the provision of training and support were vital elements of any long-term peacekeeping operation.