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**News in Brief:**

**African Union**

In advance of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Afro-Arab Summit in Kuwait next week, senior officials have been meeting in Kuwait this week. Other preparations have included an Africa-Arab Economic Forum on Monday and Tuesday this week. **(See article)**

**Ethiopia**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has sent a high level delegation to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to ensure safe repatriation of thousands of Ethiopians who failed to legalize their refugee status. The Ministry has also raised the issue of treatment of Ethiopian citizens, three of whom have died in recent days. Foreign Minister Dr. Tedros said the deaths were “completely unacceptable”. **(See article)**

Prime Minister Hailemariam reiterated Ethiopia's firm commitment to expanding family planning services at the opening of the 3rd International Conference on Family Planning held this week at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa under the theme of “Full Access, Full Choice.” 3300 participants drawn from 120 countries took part in the four day conference, co-hosted by The Bill & Melinda Gates Institute for Population and Reproductive Health and the Federal Ministry of Health **(See article)**

Prime Minister Hailemariam met with Kenya's Deputy President, William Ruto, at the weekend to discuss bilateral and regional issues, including Somalia, as well as the ICC and security along the common border. Ethiopia is keen to partner with Kenya in creating an economic zone in the border town of Moyale as part of the Lamu Port and South Sudan Ethiopia Transport (LAPSSET) corridor.

The Prime Minister said at the weekend that Ethiopian troops would join the AMISOM forces of Kenya and Ugandan troops in fighting Al-Shabaab. He said Ethiopian security chiefs were engaged in strategy talks on proposed joint operations. He said there was a renewed terror threat in Ethiopia and “the war against terror should continue on all fronts.”

Ethiopia hoisted the Mo Ibrahim Foundation Annual Governance weekend last weekend, November 8 -10, in Addis Ababa under the theme of " An African Conversation Africa Ahead: the Next 50 Years." (**See article**)

Environment Protection and Forestry Minister, Belete Tafari, opened the 2nd International Population, Health and Environment conference in Addis Ababa on Tuesday (November 12). Participants from various parts of the world to exchange best experiences in Population, Health and Environment integration

The three day annual meeting of the African Science Academies in Addis Ababa ended Wednesday (November 13). The meeting, under the theme: "Biotechnology for Africa's development" brought together leaders and representatives of science academies from African countries. It called on African governments to use biotechnology as a crucial technological input to national development.

### **Djibouti**

A regional maritime training exercise "Cutlass Express 2013" started Tuesday (November 12) in Djibouti, with participation of Ugandan, Somali and Sudanese naval forces, as well as the foreign forces based in Djibouti. It is intended to boost the capacity of regional forces to fight maritime piracy and is being conducted in Tanzania, the Seychelles and Djibouti. Week-long theoretical training will be followed by activities at sea under the supervision of American marines.

The second annual Islamic Banking Summit Africa was held November 6-7 in Djibouti. Attended by over three hundred participants from the Islamic banking sector and governors of central banks from several countries, the summit recommended that Africa make greater use of Islamic finance to close the gap in development finance.

### **Eritrea**

Three Eritrean military officers have asked for political asylum in Saudi Arabia after Saudi air force jets forced their aircraft to land in the southern part of the kingdom.

### **Kenya**

At the weekend Kenya signed an agreement with Somalia to repatriate Somali refugees in Kenya. Mr. Ruto said "The refugees in Kenya continue to pose a security threat to us in Kenya and we hope to eliminate that threat through repatriation." He said Kenya was hosting 610,000 documented refugees, of whom 520,000 were Somali living in refugee camps, adding there were also an estimated 500,000 more undocumented refugees in Kenya. The returns are to be voluntary.

### **Somalia**

The United Nations Security Council on Tuesday (November 12) authorized an increase of over 4,000 troops for the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM) as well as an expanded logistical package of support to the Somali National Army and deployment of a UN security unit to protect UN compounds in the country. **(See article)**

The Puntland Government declared a state of emergency and appealed for international aid after the region was hit by a tropical cyclone at the weekend. High winds and heavy rains caused flash floods and cut off roads to the coastal areas, leaving many people without access to food, water and medical care. Over a hundred people have been confirmed dead but hundreds more are missing.

Somalia's Prime Minister, Abdi Farah Shirdon said on Tuesday (November 12) that he was in a "constitutional" dispute with the President and was ready for parliament to intervene to settle it. The Prime Minister and the President reportedly disagreed over the choice of ministers.

The head of Puntland's armed forces, General Abdullahi Ali Mire, declared his intention to run in Puntland's 2014 presidential elections.

Liquid Telecommunications has built the first fibre-optic link into Somalia crossing the Kenya-Somalia border, and connecting to the network of Hormud Telecom.

### **South Sudan**

South Sudan's Central Bank announced a devaluation of nearly 35% for the South Sudan pound this week, but withdrew the announcement a day later following criticisms from members of the National Legislative Assembly and from the public.

The fifth session of the Sudan/South Sudan Joint Security Committee is being held in Juba today (November 15). It is co-chaired by the Chiefs of Intelligence in Sudan and South Sudan, General Siddiq Amer Hassan, and Major General Majj Paulee. It is expected to review the outcome of the zero line committee's work and its implementation. The Presidents of Sudan and South Sudan at their recent summit said setting the zero line and demarcating the secure and demilitarized area on the joint border should be expedited.

### **Sudan**

The Sudanese Defense Minister, Abdel-Rahim Mohamed Hussein, announced the beginning of military operations aiming to end rebellion in Darfur, South Kordofan, and Blue Nile this week. He said "We made huge and excellent preparations and our troops are moving to end the rebellion once and for good."

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## ***Government efforts to repatriate Ethiopians from Saudi Arabia***

This week several hundred Ethiopian migrants arrived back in Addis Ababa, the first of many to be repatriated as soon as possible. Over the week, the situation of Ethiopian migrant workers in Saudi Arabia has been very much the concern of government and ministerial officials. Following the expiry of the amnesty period which ended on Sunday (November 3), embassy officials had been providing support to Ethiopian workers residing in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with no work permits, and the government had been actively working through the Ethiopian Embassy in Riyadh to repatriate Ethiopian citizens. At the end of the grace period for overseas workers without legal status, there were reports that an Ethiopian migrant was killed and other Ethiopians were subject to mistreatment by the Saudi authorities as they started to round up illegal migrants and take them to holding camps. These illegal workers came from many countries including Bangladesh, India and the Philippines as well as people from Chad, Ethiopia and the Sudan. Unfortunately many of the detentions were carried out in a manner that failed to respect the rights of the migrant workers and detainees.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs summoned Mr. Muhammed Ibrahim Alshugairan, Chargé d'affaires of the Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Addis Ababa, to demand an explanation regarding the killing of an innocent Ethiopian national and the treatment of other Ethiopian nationals. Foreign Minister, Dr. Tedros Adhanom, said "This is unacceptable. We call on the Saudi government to investigate this issue seriously. We are happy to take our citizens back but they should be treated with dignity while they are there." The Ministry expressed its strong belief that any problems occurring in relation to Ethiopian citizens residing in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia should be handled in the light of long-standing relations between the two friendly countries. The Ministry emphasized its respect for the laws of Saudi Arabia and the decision of the Saudi Authorities and the policy of deporting illegal migrants, but at the same time, it strongly condemned the killing of an Ethiopian and strongly condemned any unlawful and inhuman acts against migrants and any mistreatment of its citizens residing in Saudi Arabia. The Chargé d'affaires said he would bring the matter to the attention of his government and promised an explanation soon.

At the weekend, riots broke out in Riyadh's Manfouha district resulting in two more deaths of Ethiopian citizens and the death of a Saudi man in a night of violence. Many others were reported injured as security forces struggled to stop illegal workers, including many Ethiopians, protesting over the way the authorities were handling the crackdown against visa violators. Dozens were reported to have been roughly treated, abused and manhandled by security forces while being taken to holding centers. Fresh violence erupted in the Manfouha district on Wednesday (November 13) resulting in the death of a Sudanese resident, and other were reported injured as expatriate workers clashed with local residents. According to the police, protesters, mainly Africans, started harassing motorists and members of the public, hurling rocks at passersby and cars, before the security forces intervened to control the situation.

Since the weekend, thousands of Ethiopians residing in the Manfouha district have submitted themselves to the authorities in order to be repatriated. Some claim to have valid visas and work permits but have opted to return home following the violence. The authorities have placed these

people in holding camps where they are said to be provided with food and accommodation. At the deportation center, authorities have been issuing exit visas to undocumented workers after approval from their foreign missions. Foreign missions have been allotted specific days to submit passports for processing and provide emergency passports to enable people to get through embarkation and disembarkation points. The Saudi authorities are providing the tickets but the numbers involved run into thousands. In the meantime, round ups of migrants without visas or relevant authorization is continuing.

The government has been closely following the conditions of Ethiopian nationals. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has deployed extra staff to help in the legal work required by the Saudi authorities. They are also providing support for Ethiopian workers who have been residing in Saudi Arabia without work permits as well as assisting migrants as necessary. Embassy and consular officials are providing the necessary information to Ethiopian citizens on how to deal with their problems and helping citizens, visiting deportation centers, and the police stations where any Ethiopian nationals are being held to ensure that people's rights are fully respected. The Embassy has also given wide publicity to the telephone numbers of the Embassy in Riyadh and the Consulate in Jeddah to reach out to Ethiopians.

Following the Manfouha rioting, the Embassy in Riyadh also held discussions with community members how they might help with repatriation, assisting in speedy registration and processing of travel documents. It has opened a new registration center in Mureba and started registering Ethiopian citizens. It is issuing laissez passer to Ethiopians who failed to legalize their status in the four months grace period allowed by the Saudi government. The embassy reports that it is also working with voluntary community members to repatriate Ethiopians in "a safe and dignified manner."

Ambassador Mohammed Hassen and other embassy staff have met with the Governor of Riyadh and the head of the police force to discuss ways to work for the safe repatriation of Ethiopians. The Jeddah Consulate also is working to ensure the safety of its citizens, through providing counseling to Ethiopians, calling for them to respect the law of the country, to avoid clashes and stay calm until arrangements for repatriation can be made. The Ambassador has confirmed that Ethiopians without resident permits are now moving to the deportation centers without problem. The Saudi Ministry of Foreigners has urged them to go to the nearest Embassy, Consulate office or registration center to process their repatriation in an orderly fashion. The first group arrived back on Wednesday, followed by more on Thursday; 560 have returned so far.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which has set up a Command Post, chaired by the Minister, to deal with the crisis, organize repatriation of citizens in an orderly manner and deal with them on arrival, has reiterated its reassurance to all concerned Ethiopian citizens that it is working with the Saudi authorities to repatriate Ethiopians and protect them from any form of abuse. The Ministry is also working with other stakeholders, local and international institutions. Indeed, since the deadline for legalization of status for migrant workers in Saudi Arabia was announced, the Government has been active in working through the Embassy in Riyadh to organize the repatriation of Ethiopian citizens and in discussing the appropriate methods with the Saudi authorities. It accepts the right of the Saudi government to take measures against illegal migrants,

Ethiopians or other nationalities. It strongly condemns any violence or abuse in the course of enforcing these measures. It insists that the rights of detainees must be fully respected.

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***Somalia: the UN Security Council approves additional troops for AMISOM***

On Tuesday (November 12) this week the United Nations Security Council authorized an increase for the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM) of over 4,000 troops as well as an expanded logistical package of support to the Somali National Army and deployment of a UN security unit to protect UN compounds in the country. The resolution came four days after Al-Shabaab bombed a hotel in Mogadishu, the most recent of a series of attacks which have included an attack on a UN compound in Mogadishu in June and the attack at the Westgate Mall in Nairobi in September in which at least 67 civilians and security personnel died.

In a unanimously adopted resolution, the Security Council extended the deployment of AMISOM until 31 October 2014. It also requested the African Union to increase AMISOM's force strength from 17,731 to a maximum of 22,126 uniformed personnel, as part of overall efforts to combat the increasingly asymmetrical tactics of Al-Shabaab. It also decided to expand the logistical support package for AMISOM for this number of troops. The Council said that this increase in force strength was to provide enhancement of AMISOM's military capacity for 18 to 24 months, and that this should also be considered as part of the Mission's overall exit strategy, after which a decrease in force strength would be considered. It agreed on the critical need to source contingent-owned equipment, including force enablers and multipliers, either from existing AMISOM troop contributors or other States, citing the particular need for up to 12 military helicopters. It encouraged Member States to respond to AU efforts to mobilize such equipment.

The resolution requested the United Nations Support Office for AMISOM to provide food, water, fuel, transport, tents and "in-theatre" medical evacuation to front-line units of the Somali National Army, the funding for which would be provided from an appropriate United Nations trust fund. It reiterated its call for new donors for the provision of additional funding for AMISOM troop stipends, equipment, technical assistance and unconditional funding for AMISOM to the United Nations Trust Fund for AMISOM, and supported the AU's call for Member States to provide financial support to AMISOM.

The Council made it clear it agreed with the Secretary General that conditions in Somalia were not yet appropriate for the deployment of a UN peacekeeping operation, but it requested him to keep progress against the benchmarks set for such a move under continuous review. It urged increased collaboration between the AU, UN and the Federal Government of Somalia, "including on a comprehensive approach to peace, security and development which integrates political, security, peace building and development activities, recognizing that none can succeed in isolation."

The Security Council requested the Secretary-General to work with the African Union to improve strategic management of AMISOM by strengthening command and control structures, the coordination of contingents, joint operations with the Somali National Army and information management by the beginning of next year. This should lead to an effective resumption of the military campaign against Al-Shabaab and rapidly reduce its capacity to control key strategic locations. The Secretary-General should also continue to provide technical and expert advice to the AU in the planning, deployment and management of AMISOM through the United Nations office to the AU, and enhance the provision of technical advice to the AU through existing United Nations mechanisms. It requested the AU to advance efforts to implement a system to address allegations of misconduct and for AMISOM to develop further an effective approach for the protection of civilians. It also underlined the importance of AMISOM abiding by all requirements applicable to it under international human rights and humanitarian law, to ensure any detainees in its custody, including disengaged combatants, are treated in strict compliance with international humanitarian law and human rights law. It requested the Federal Government of Somalia to ensure the protection and well-being of all internally displaced persons, paying particular attention to ensuring that the human rights of internally displaced persons in Somalia were respected in relation to relocation, and ensure a fully consultative process, as well as full, safe and unhindered access for humanitarian organizations.

The Council noted the Secretary-General's intention to deploy a guard force to strengthen security at the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSAM) and requested details on its deployment "as soon as possible" and emphasized, in that context, the importance of AMISOM's protection of Mogadishu International Airport Compound. On the political front, it urged increased collaboration among the African Union, United Nations and Somali Government towards a comprehensive approach to peace, security and development.

The Security Council reaffirmed respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and unity of Somalia. It underlined its gratitude for the work of AMISOM, and the extraordinary sacrifices made by AMISOM forces. It welcomed the support of the international community to peace and stability in Somalia, and of the European Union for its substantial contribution to AMISOM. It underlined the importance of delivering on any support pledged. It condemned recent Al-Shabaab attacks in Somalia and beyond. It expressed concern over continuing violations of the Security Council's charcoal ban and underlined the importance of the Federal Government and Member States complying with all aspects of the arms embargo.

The Council urged increased collaboration between the AU, United Nations and the Federal Government for a comprehensive approach to peace, security and development integrating political, security, peace building and development activities. It recalled its welcome for the agreement between the Federal Government and the Interim Jubba Administration, and emphasized the importance of keeping to the timelines, and for the Federal Government to ensure the right political conditions are put in place. It therefore encouraged the Federal Government to continue to lead an inclusive national dialogue, to clarify relations between the Federal Government and existing and emerging local administrations and initiate processes of national reconciliation to establish sustainable, legitimate and representative local governance structures, especially in areas recovered from Al-Shabaab. It encouraged the Federal Government to finalize

and adopt a federal Constitution by December 2015, to prepare for and hold credible elections in 2016; and ensure the equitable participation of women, youth, minority groups and other marginalized groups in national political processes. It called on the Federal Government to implement its “Vision 2016” agenda which sets out the importance of a Somali-owned, inclusive, and transparent political process and economic recovery, consistent with the Provisional Constitution and including an effective federal political system and a comprehensive reconciliation process that brings about national cohesion and integration.

The resolution has been welcomed by the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Somalia, Ambassador Mahamat Saleh Annadif. He said the decision to increase the AMISOM authorized troop strength came at the right time to secure the liberated areas while advancing into areas still under Al-Shabaab control. The resolution was in response to the request made by the African Union Peace and Security Council in its communiqué of October 10. The Special Representative said the resolution was also a strong indication of the importance that the world attached to the AU’s efforts in Somalia and recognition that AMISOM’s work was vital to global and regional security, including the fight against terrorism and piracy.

Somalia’s Prime Minister Abdi Farah Shirdon has also welcomed the resolution: “I welcome and thank the Security Council for backing the recommendation for greater support to the SNA and increase in AMISOM troops, enabling us to build on the security advances already made.” He added that Somalia encouraged “the UN, member states and international partners to ensure that sufficient and regular finance is made through the trust fund. This will allow the SNA, alongside AMISOM, to expand their scope and area of operations, bringing peace and stability to the whole of Somalia. This increased support and manpower will help to bring about a final end to the fighting, allowing Somalia to get on with reconstructing our country and rebuilding our economy. The long-term security and stability of Somalia will ultimately lie with the Somali National Security Forces.”

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### ***'Pirate Trails' tracks ransom money from Horn of Africa piracy***

A report released last week said the pirates operating off the coast of Somalia and the Horn of Africa between 2005 and 2012 took between US\$339 million and US \$413 million in ransoms. These came from the hijacking of 179 ships off the coast of Somalia and the Horn of Africa during that time. The report entitled "Pirate Trails" was carried out by the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Bank, and it analyzes the illicit financial flows from pirate activities off the Horn of Africa. Focusing on Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Seychelles, and Somalia with research also carried out in London, Copenhagen and Washington, the report looks at the amounts of how much money has been collected in ransom payments; how and to whom this money is distributed and how the proceeds are used. It uses evidence from interviews with former pirates, government officials, bankers and others involved in countering piracy, investigates the flow of ransom money paid

out to the pirates and examines the way funds are passed into the *khat* trade in Kenya, into human trafficking and other illegal activities that hinder development.

It also looks at who benefits from the proceeds of piracy, and identifies these mostly as the pirate ‘financiers’ at the center of the piracy network. These are the investors and beneficiaries of the piracy business, collecting on average 30% to 50 % of total ransoms. The ordinary pirates, the “foot soldiers”, typically receive a standard fee of US\$30,000 to US\$75,000 per ship, no more than 0.01% - 0.025% of an average ransom payment. The local communities provide goods and services, including food, repair services and *khat*. The report suggests that much of the proceeds of piracy have been invested in Somalia itself into both legitimate business activities, in order to launder money, and criminal activities. Proceeds are typically moved by cross-border cash smuggling, trading activities, bank wire transfer and abuse of Money of Value Transfer Services. They are also recycled into financing criminal activities, including further acts of piracy, human trafficking, including migrant smuggling, and investment in militias, including Al-Shabaab, and military capacity on land in Somalia. The report also notes that profits have found their way into the *khat* trade, particularly in Kenya.

One of the report’s co-authors, Stuart Yikona, a World Bank Senior Financial Sector Specialist, emphasizes that the findings highlight the dangers posed not only by the hijackings themselves but also the proceeds of this criminal activity. Unchallenged piracy, he says, is not only a menace to stability and security, but it also has the power to corrupt the regional and international economy, undermining global growth prospects. Piracy costs the global economy about \$18 billion a year in increased trade costs. Because the outbreak of piracy has reduced maritime activity around the Horn of Africa, East African countries since 2006 have suffered a significant decline in tourist arrivals and fishing yields. International remittances - a lifeline for the poor - have been affected by the decision of some banks to cease their operations with money remitters working with Somalia, which some financial institutions associate with risks involving the funding of terrorist activities. "Pirate Trails" also illustrates the effect of the hijackings on the local Somali economy in terms of the employment of “foot soldiers” and the purchase of goods to sustain the piracy operations.

"Pirate Trails" notes that up until now little attention has been paid to tracking and disrupting the financial flows from piracy. Stuart Yikona notes the international community has mobilized a naval force to deal with the pirates and argues that a similarly managed multinational effort is needed to disrupt and halt the flow of illicit money that circulates in the wake of pirate activities. A coordinated effort by international financial authorities is needed to address the threat, he says. Tofik Murshudlu of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime agrees. He says that while the international community may be winning the battle against pirate “foot soldiers” at sea, it should be careful not to lose the war against the criminal kingpins on land. The vast amounts of money collected and the lack of constraint in moving their assets has meant the pirates have thrived and been able to develop their capacities on land. These criminal groups, he adds, will continue to pose a threat to the stability and security of the Horn of Africa “unless long-term structural solutions are implemented to impede their current freedom of movement."

The report calls for coordinated international action to address the issue, and it sets out how the flow of illicit money from the Indian Ocean can be disrupted. It calls for a range of practical measures, including strengthening the capacity of countries in the Horn of Africa to deal with illegal cross-border cash smuggling; risk-based oversight of Money Value Transfer Service Providers; and the development of mechanisms to monitor international financial flows into the khat trade. Breaking the cycle calls for a strong commitment by countries in the region to work together to provide better monitoring of the financial flows from piracy and increased sharing of regional financial intelligence; improved cross-border controls, especially border entry and exit points, and above all, improved regional cooperation and international support.

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### ***Ethiopia hosts the 3rd International Conference on Family Planning***

The 3rd International Conference on Family Planning was held in Addis Ababa this week (November 12-15) under the theme: "Full Access, Full Choice." It was jointly organized by the Bill and Melinda Gates Institute for Population and Reproductive Health at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and the Ministry of Health, and attended by a diverse range of international and national health professionals, advocates, political leaders and researchers. Among the speakers were Ethiopia's Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn, the current Chairperson of the African Union, and Dr. Kesetebirhan Admasu, the Minister of Health, as well as the Chairperson of African Union Commission, Dr. Dlamini-Zuma, and the President of Global Development at the Bill and Melinda Gates Institute, Dr. Chris Elias.

This year's conference focused on the benefits of expandable access to contraceptive information and tools to the people of the world, to allow them to their lives in accordance with socio-economic development and their environment, to reduce morbidity and mortality. A new resource unveiled to the conference's 3,300 participants - Programming Strategies for Postpartum Family Planning. This is a joint effort by the World Health organization, USAID, the UN Population Fund and Ethiopia's Ministry of Health, and others. It is a 'roadmap' for designing effective postpartum family planning programs at both local and national level. It is expected to change how family planning is provided to women after birth.

At the opening ceremony, Prime Minister Hailemariam specifically recognized the work of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) for their continuous assistance to Ethiopia's family planning as potential arms of the development of the reproductive health sector. He told conference participants that Ethiopia has made great progress in attaining the Millennium Development Goal on Family Planning by providing access to reproductive health services to match the rate of population growth with the rate of socio-economic development of the country. This impressive move has been widely recognized by the people who can now enjoy the fruits of family planning, he said.

The Prime Minister said the use of family planning is now highly regarded as one of the more crucial elements of human rights embedded in Ethiopia's constitution and other Government policies. He said the Government was committed to provide family planning services to at least

11 million women by 2020, and pointed out that the Government would be allocating more resources to further expand and broaden family planning services through a major "government-led" and "country-wide" Health Extension Program. This has already produced, and deployed, over 38,000 health extension workers in communities across the country; there are two for every village. The Prime Minister also noted that Ethiopia is promoting women's participation through the Women-Centered Health Development Army to achieve the Millennium Development Goals on reproductive health and family planning services.

Dr. Kesetebirhan Admasu, Minister of Health, told the conference that Ethiopia has shown significant progress in improving access to family planning services in its battle against maternal and infant mortality rates to achieve the goals of human development in the health sector. He said the role of the government was unlimited in providing political and financial support for these services, along with foreign development partners. The Government of Ethiopia has been following a pro-poor approach to reproductive health community-centered services by implementing the Health Extension Program and addressing the fundamental challenges of expanding family planning, and dealing with socio-economic and programmatic blockades. The result is that significant progress has been made in family planning as well as in maternal and child health.

Dr. Chris Elias, the President of Global Development at the Bill and Melinda Gates Institute, welcomed Ethiopia's steady progress and its efforts in attaining the Millennium Development Goal in reducing child mortality. He commended Ethiopia's unwavering commitment to expand and the access to family planning services and the broadening use of contraceptives over the past decade. He recommended Ethiopia's exemplary role in family planning could be emulated by other developing countries to bridge the gap between high population growth and low economic productivity. Pape Gaye, Chief Executive Officer of Intra-health International also acknowledged that Ethiopia had transformed its reproductive health and family planning services. He suggested others might take lessons from this and Ethiopia's best practices to deal with the issue of increasing population growth and socio-economic development. He also applauded the devoted leadership of the health sector in implementing the Health Extension Program and its achievement in deploying so many health extension workers in the rural parts of the country to reduce maternal and child mortality.

Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, the executive director of UNFPA, emphasized that many countries still had to work hard to attain the MDGs for the provision of modern contraceptives before 2015. He recommended that states should invest more in the education of youth and women to reduce infant and maternal mortality rates considerably. He also suggested that states must also concentrate on education and capacity building to improve the rates for teenage pregnancies.

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### ***Addis Ababa hosts the Mo Ibrahim Foundation Governance weekend***

The Mo Ibrahim Foundation Annual Governance Weekend was held from November 8 -10 in Addis Ababa under the theme of " An African Conversation Africa Ahead: the Next 50 Years." It brought together many high-level public and private stakeholders from Africa and Africa's partners to discuss fundamental issues of human development, sustainable economic opportunity, safety and rule of law and participation and human rights in various sessions, including a forum and panel discussions. Those attending included Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn, Foreign Affairs Minister Dr. Tedros Adhanom, African Union Commission Chairperson Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, the President of African Development Bank Mr. Donald Kaberuka, and other high level officials from various public and private organizations.

Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn reminded the forum of the air of ecstasy and exultation that filled Africa at the time of independence. However, he noted, the joy rapidly ended when the apostles of neo-liberalism preached and then imposed the ideas of market fundamentalism and alien political reforms which have resulted in so much political and economic decadence in Africa. It has only been over the last 15 years that Africa has become to recover from these ills and started on the path towards real development. Even so, much still needs to be done in clamping down on the political turmoil and the economic distortions that grew up in those years. Ethiopia, he stressed, has changed its image by continuing its economic development and democratic governance, entrenching these through the basic tenets of federalism which has helped the Government to protect individual and group rights. He noted that the Government had steadily followed a pro-poor economic development model and he reiterated its unremitting commitment to democracy. These, he added, fairly addressed the interests of the people.

The Prime Minister said that other African countries, like Ethiopia, had gone a long way in establishing democratic governance and in producing rapid economic growth. "Participation of ownership by our people", he said, "is and should be the heart of our quest to improve our political as well as economic governance structures in order to hinder the roots of poor governance, rent-seeking behavior and corruption." He, therefore, welcomed the initiatives which work on improving African governance and to genuinely advance the interests of the peoples of Africa. These included the Mo Ibrahim Foundation. Civil society groups, he said, could play a vital role in combining efforts with key actors in African governance to attain the goals of sustainable development. This, he said, would be far more effective than "naming and shaming African governments based on ideological difference to deny them policy space in the name of democracy and good governance."

Mo Ibrahim, founder and chair of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, noted that Africa was moving forward in education, health, rule of law, economic development, security and participation. He noted that Cold War had been a critical time for Africa in which its people had been ruled by dictators who had served the interests of the superpowers. The real development of the continent, he said, had only started after the demise of the Cold War. He appreciated the leadership of African states in reducing the cross-border conflicts that had for so long driven the continent into a pit of poverty and disintegration. At the same time, he noted that there had been an escalation of internal conflicts as a result of increasing inequalities in income. Development, he said, had to

be inclusive. The distribution of wealth should be fair and equal for all citizens. This would deter both increasing inequality and internal conflicts. African states, he said, should pay high attention to the needs of youth to help move forward towards a better continent. They should also focus on education to serve the needs of populations to overcome poverty, inequality, instability and bad governance.

Dr. Dlamini Zuma, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, suggested that the governance of Africa must place the development of youth and women at the heart of its operations in the next 50 years. She said the forefathers of independent Africa came to Addis Ababa to form the Organization of African Unity fifty years ago in order to accelerate the decolonization process. At that time, Kwame Nkrumah firmly insisted on the significance of unity to fully liberate Africa from the shackles that had brought the continent to its knees; Julius Nyerere identified the three enemies, of disease, ignorance, and poverty that Africa had to surmount to end the long night of economic marginalization and political oppression. Dr. Dlamini Zuma said throughout the second half of the last century, debt crises, conflicts, and diseases had combined to confine and control the development of Africa. So the OAU was transformed into the African Union to address the necessary social, economic, and cultural transformation of Africa.

Dr. Dlamini Zuma said the next 50 years would be a tough time. The leadership of Africa "must not bequeath conflicts" but rather build an architecture of peace and security, for future generations. She urged that women and youth must be involved in research, technical skills, science, innovation, education, and technology to hasten and expand a skills revolution for the continent. She suggested that the private sector should engage itself with the governments and the people to transfer the relevant skills to both women and youth. She underlined the importance of giving women land and capital to produce food. Countries, she stressed, have to make agriculture attractive to the youth in order to produce, process, and export sufficient food. She emphasized that the development model of Africa should be that of the 'green' economy, and these developments should include African control of the areas of maritime resources and of infrastructure. All must be handled by Africans in the next 50 years. Africans could then be the captains of their own future destiny.

Foreign Minister, Dr. Tedros Adhanom participated in a panel discussion entitled "Safety and rule of law," and he opened his remarks expressing his deep sadness over the deaths and injuries to Ethiopian migrant workers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He said the Government of Ethiopia strongly condemned the deaths and ill-treatment of Ethiopian nationals in Saudi Arabia, adding that Ethiopia was asking the government of Saudi Arabia for explanations and for it to handle the issue with great care and within the rule of law. On the current peace and security situation in Somalia, he said Somalia was writing a new history of peace and stability. He noted the reconciliation between the Federal Government of Somalia and the Juba administration as an example of peace building to re-establish a "renewed" Somalia. He said huge progress was being made as the walls of instability were breaking. He stressed that Ethiopia's role in Somalia should be characterized as that of a "facilitator" because the problems of Somalia could be best cured by the solutions produced by the Somali people themselves. He added that the light of national cohesion was now rising over the horizon in Somalia as Somalis reiterated the words of "unity,

development, and peace." Ethiopia's objective, he emphasized, is to see a peaceful Somalia that will join Ethiopia and the IGAD region in the fight against poverty. With respect to the wider challenges of the continent, Dr. Tedros urged Africans to embrace "the power of unity", to boldly confront the potential threats they faced. He said that a major problem that had crippled Africa was fragmentation. We have been divided, he said; we have failed to produce a single voice to articulate the basic fundamental issues of the peoples of the continent. For the next fifty years, we must produce a united voice to allow Africa to be heard as equal partners in world affairs.

Other speakers included Frannie Leautier, the Executive Secretary of the African Capacity Building Foundation, who, referring to human development, suggested that African governments and the private sector should work together to create more jobs by promoting innovation and entrepreneurship. Digital generation, she emphasized, must be the focus of African education in the future. Benita Diop, President of Femmes Africa Solidarity, stressed that the gender revolution should go hand in hand with a skills revolution to better the future of African women.

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### ***Preparations for the Third Africa Arab Summit in Kuwait next week***

The 3rd Africa-Arab Summit will be held in Kuwait City from November 19-20, under the theme: "Partners in Development and Investment". It is being preceded by the meeting of the Joint Council of Ministers on Sunday (November 17), and a Senior Officials Meeting, this week on Thursday and Friday (November 14-15).

Preparations for the Summit have been going on months with meetings of the Coordination Committee of the Africa Arab Partnership and of the Joint Drafting Team, composed of the African Union Commission, the League of Arab States and the State of Kuwait. The draft documents considered and endorsed by the Coordination Committee have included the Joint Activity Report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States, the Report on the Performance of the Africa-Arab Cultural Institute and the Kuwait Declaration and the Draft Agenda of the Summit and pre-Summit meetings as well as the working and final documents of the Summit, presented by the Joint Drafting Team.

The two day Senior Officials' meeting opened on Thursday in Kuwait under the theme of "Beyond the Promise: Moving forward toward an effective Africa-Arab partnership" to discuss items included in the agenda of the Preparatory Meeting of the Foreign Affairs Ministers in preparation for the Summit. Decisions about these items will be submitted to Arab and African leaders next week at the Summit at the Bayan Palace. They have also been reviewing the draft resolutions, the Kuwait Declaration and the joint report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary General of the League of Arab States, as well as the report and decisions of the second meeting of the Arab and African Ministers of Agriculture on the development of agriculture and food security that took place in Riyadh on October 2, 2013; and the recommendations of the Africa-Arab Economic Forum held in Kuwait on Monday and Tuesday this week (November 11-12).

Other issues discussed included proposed measures to enhance the institutional capabilities to implement the 2010-2016 Afro-Arab Action plan, as well as ways to rationalize mechanisms of action and ways to follow up the Afro-Arab partnership, proposals for promoting African-Arab cooperation in trade, investment, transport, energy and immigration as well as an African-Arab funding mechanism for joint projects and activities. They have been looking into the proposal for reviving the Committee of Africa-Arab Partnership and reviewing the assessment report of the performance of the African-Arab Cultural Institute.

Addressing the Senior Officers meeting, Ambassador Kongit Sinegiorgis, Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the AU and UNECA and Chairperson of the Permanent Representatives Committee, said they had been entrusted with the responsibility of preparing the ground work for the success of the Third Africa-Arab Summit. They had to carry out an overall assessment of the Africa-Arab Partnership and submit a comprehensive report with appropriate recommendations for strengthening the partnership of the Arab world and Africa. Ambassador Kongit reminded the meeting that the Joint Africa-Arab Partnership Strategy and the 2010-2016 Action Plan adopted during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Africa-Arab Summit in Sirte in 2010, identified four major areas of cooperation: Political Cooperation; Economic, Trade and Financial Cooperation; Cooperation in Agriculture and Food Security; and Socio-Cultural Cooperation. The theme of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Africa-Arab Summit was highly pertinent in providing an overarching framework for the exchange of views on ways and means to strengthen the partnership on trade, investment and socio-economic development issues. She noted that relations have strengthened in recent years through “increasing people-to-people interaction, development assistance, commercial transactions, investment flows and flourishing air links between Africa and the Arab world.”

There had also been a number of challenges, not least the issue of ‘Migration’. At the moment, she pointed out, an unknown number of African migrants are faced with extremely difficult conditions. This was a matter of serious concern to both regions. Organizations including the International Organization for Migration and others have consistently underlined the contribution international migrants make to the development of the countries of origin, of transit and of destination. Indeed, the UN High-level Dialogue on Migration last month, held on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York, acknowledged that human mobility was a key factor for sustainable development. This underlined “the need to work in a spirit of mutual partnership for the better management of migration in our regions in a comprehensive and holistic manner.” Both sides have to agree to end human suffering and take effective measures to protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants regardless of their status, especially those of women and children.

Earlier in the week, the Africa-Arab Development Forum in Kuwait noted that while China and India were competing to invest more in Africa, Arab governments and capital did not match this. Commercial exchanges between China and African countries amounts to up to US\$200 billion a year; between Arab and Africa countries the figure is only US\$21billion. It was pointed out that Africa offered great opportunities for returns and profits from investments by the sovereign Funds of the Gulf region countries. According to the International Institute for Sovereign Wealth, the combined sovereign funds of the Gulf region states stood at US\$1.775 trillion at the

beginning of 2013 , with UAE's sovereign fund at US\$813bn, Saudi Arabia's at US\$582bn, Kuwait's at US\$296bn and Qatar's at US\$115bn.

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### ***Private sector's role in Ethiopia's economic performance***

Ethiopia's economic performance over the last decade has often been labeled as strong, broad based, pro-poor. The IMF recently described it as one of the six fastest growing economies in Africa. Indeed, the state of Ethiopia's macro-economy has come to symbolize a major point of departure from its previously unflattering past, a new beginning for the country's future, and even an exemplar for the renaissance of the African continent. The general consensus of the near future is also largely positive, with forecasts estimating essentially a continuation of the performance of the last decade.

Ethiopia's recent economic revival is mainly the result of a set of policies designed to achieve results on multiple fronts, from infrastructure to education, from energy development to urban development, from health to agricultural productivity. All these areas have seen significant developments, translating into transformation of entire sectors. In all these areas, the country's state-led economic development policies are usually singled out as instrumental, and that has led critics to argue that the state has been too active, too involved, too big, too controlling. They have argued that this has led to the undesirable result that the state's numerous activities have been suffocating the private sector and squeezing out possible finance. These criticisms have often been attended by calls for liberalization of all and every sector of the economy, opening up every area to foreign competition, deregulation and privatization. These measures, so the argument goes, are the only valid basis for a working economy to achieve a faster rate of growth.

The Ethiopian government has taken poverty reduction and the achievement of sustainable development as its guiding principles since the coming into force of the current constitution in 1994. To accomplish these goals it has designed a series of effective policies based on an extensive process of consideration of the needs, challenges and priorities of what had been a stagnant economy on the edge of collapse during the previous regime. This process revealed that at that time the private sector was hanging between a state of weakness and nonexistence, and the state was the only viable institution in the country that could bring about the necessary changes in the economy. This, in fact, required that the country's policies be framed in such a way that they could afford the state an active and leading role in laying the foundations for a working economy. It was, indeed, imperative that the state assumed the task of jumpstarting and reviving the war-depleted economy. This policy direction was, however, charted not on the basis of the exclusion of the private sector but on the assumption that the government's role was indispensable to help build up the capacity of the private sector and to make it relevant to the economy.

The Ethiopian government's position on the role the private sector should take in the economy was very clear from the outset. In the two policy documents the government adopted prior to the current Growth and Transformation Plan (2010-2015), the Sustainable Development and Poverty

Reduction Program (SDPRP) and the Plan for Accelerated and Sustained Development to End Poverty (PASDEP), it spelt out the importance it attached to the development of the private sector and specified agriculture, manufacturing, export promotion and education as the main areas where the private sector could play a critical role. The Growth and Transformation Plan also underlined the importance of the private sector's development and its contribution to the rapid growth of the economy. As a result, private investment, particularly in manufacturing and commercial farming has been promoted and supported over the last two years and the fundamentals for private sector development were further enhanced during 2010/11 and 2011/12. The government has continued to strengthen peace and stability, guarantee property rights, and ensure macroeconomic stability with prudent fiscal discipline and sensible exchange and interest rate policies. In fact, in formulating these policies and defining the respective roles undertaken by the state and the private sector, the historical setting that had left the private sector weak, hugely uncompetitive, and essentially incapacitated and unproductive was given due attention. The government committed itself to the development of key sectors necessary for any meaningful change in the economy while also working to build the capacity of the private sector.

The lead time required to build up a competitive and productive private sector from such a low base is admittedly considerable, but in fact the Ethiopian private sector has shown remarkable and encouraging improvement over the past decade as the overall economy has grown. There is now considerable private sector presence in sectors previously avoided as well as a growing confidence in engagement in value addition, and an encouraging start to export orientation. Out of the nearly 260 state enterprises that have been privatized by the government over the years, the share of Ethiopian businesses is significantly high, and post-privatization assessments show that they are performing positively.

This does not, however, mean private sector contributions have been uniformly satisfactory. In fact, the private sector's performance has left much to be desired. Equally, the oft-repeated claim that the private sector's access to finance has been limited is a misperception of the situation. In a capital-constrained economy like Ethiopia, it is necessary to allocate available resources efficiently, and the government's policies of prioritizing finance to sectors like manufacturing and export businesses were part of the effort to ensure efficient and effective allocation. From that perspective, a significant portion of the finance available for private sector businesses willing to engage in priority areas has been left unused. The need for improving the capacity and competitiveness of the private sector is in fact still a work in progress. Much remains to be done.

A functional partnership between the government and the private sector requires that the necessary infrastructures and institutions are in place. Here, investments in infrastructure and human resource development continued to expand in order to make the domestic market more profitable for investment and attractive for private investment. The investment code has been revised to further increase incentives for investment with particular emphasis on the prioritized sectors. Trade and credit policy incentives, better facilitation in licensing, registration, customs and taxation, as well as provision of land, including industrial zone development, particularly for selected areas of investment such as manufacturing and agriculture have also been steadily expanded to encourage private sector development. The privatization program has been

continued with clear transparency and accountability, to enhance the role of the private sector in the economy.

Overall, the participation of the private sector in the economy has been steadily growing. This in turn has helped to drive the country's accelerated economic growth. In the 2010/11 and 2011/12 fiscal years the Federal Government granted investment licenses for 4734 projects for domestic investors and 3341 projects for foreign investors. During these two years, a total of US\$2.3 billion in Foreign Direct Investment came into the country. A total of 433 projects became operational in those two years and of these, 30 were in agricultural activities and 171 projects were engaged in the manufacturing sector. The remaining 232 projects were for the provision of services.

Along with current pace of massive public sector investment in energy development, transport infrastructure expansion, increase in education coverage and other similar areas today, it is now expected that the private sector will also re-evaluate and revamp its participation. The public sector focus on massive infrastructural projects will not be ideal if the private sector fails to make full use of the possibilities available to it, exploit the opportunities and align its investments with the priority sectors. High-level government and private sector dialogues are being conducted regularly to further augment participation of the private sector in the overall economy. These dialogues and this partnership is crucial to seek common solutions for the problems that hinder private sector development, particularly those directly related to the provision of government services which can be reduced by investing in the development of government institutions. The government is also planning to redouble its efforts to address problems in logistics and transport as well as in the delivery of industrial land to encourage further promotion of private investment in priority sectors of the economy. The government will continue to ensure the private sector is and remains a significant and very necessary element in Ethiopia's developmental democratic state and economy.

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### ***The role of Ethiopia in peacekeeping operations***

Ethiopia has a long and proud history of supporting United Nations peacekeeping operations, and its participation in peacekeeping operations has won it continental and global recognition. According to the 2013 United Nations' report, Ethiopia is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest contributor to the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations, behind Bangladesh, Pakistan and India. It is a leading contributor to peacekeeping operations in Africa, and has also engaged with several African Union and United Nations peacekeeping missions on the continent, underlining its support for enhancing both regional and continental security.

Over the past sixty years, United Nations peacekeeping has evolved into one of the main tools used by the international community to manage complex crises that can pose a threat to international peace and security. Since the beginning of the new millennium, the numbers of military, police and civilian personnel deployed in UN peacekeeping operations around the world have reached unprecedented levels. UN peacekeeping has grown in size and has also

become increasingly complex. It is no longer a case of simply monitoring a cease-fire. Today's multidimensional peacekeeping operations combine military, police, civilian and humanitarian components and missions are often called upon to facilitate political processes through the promotion of national dialogue and reconciliation, to protect civilians, assist in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of combatants, support organization of elections, protect and promote human rights, and assist in restoring the rule of law.

As of December last year, 115 countries had contributed 97,200 peacekeepers to the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations. Ethiopia has contributed around 7000 peacekeepers to UN and African Union peace-keeping missions. It is, incidentally, a leading contributor of female contributors, with 375 women peacekeepers deployed. The country's participation in peacekeeping goes back to the early 1950s when an Ethiopian contingent was deployed to Korea under the United Nations under the principle of collective security. Since then, Ethiopia has engaged in peacekeeping operations in Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, Liberia and in Darfur and Abyei in Sudan. On every occasion, the Ethiopian forces have discharged their responsibilities with high levels of professionalism, dedication and courage. The Ethiopian army has won repeated appreciation for its performance and for the way it has shown consideration of the culture and values of the people in the areas in which it has been deployed.

Ethiopia contributed some 3,000 military personnel to the United Nations Operations in Congo (UNOC) between 1960 and 1964. It was engaged in the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) from 1994 to 1995, established to help implement the Arusha Peace Agreement signed by the Rwandese parties on August 1993. UNAMIR's mandate was to contribute to the security and protection of displaced persons, refugees and civilians at risk in Rwanda; to provide security and support for the distribution of relief supplies and humanitarian relief; and to take action in self-defense against persons or groups threatening protected sites and populations, UN and other humanitarian personnel. Ethiopia twice provided a battalion-size unit for the operation. The people of Rwanda demonstrated confidence in the Ethiopian peacekeeping force, and the troops participated in the resettlement of over 50,000 returnees. Rwanda, it might be added, was a successful mission demonstrating clearly that Africans can effectively help solve their own problems.

Subsequently, a thousand Ethiopian soldiers were also deployed in the UN operations in Burundi (ONUB) from 2004 to 2009, to support and help implement the efforts undertaken by Burundians to restore lasting peace and bring about national reconciliation, as provided under the Arusha Agreement. Following the effective completion of its mission, Burundi's President publicly hailed the commitment, determination, and sense of duty of the Ethiopian contingent. In order to support the implementation of the ceasefire agreement and the peace process in Liberia, Ethiopia contributed 1,800 troops in 2003 under the command of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL). In 2007, the Ethiopian troops were presented with UN Peacekeeping medals for their "invaluable contribution to the peace process", winning admiration from both the UN and the Liberian people and government.

In recent years, Ethiopia has also deployed over 2,000 blue helmets in Sudan's troubled Darfur region under the auspice of the AU/UN hybrid operation, the United Nations/African Mission in

Darfur (UNAMID). UNAMID's core mandate is protection of civilians but is also tasked with contributing to security for humanitarian assistance, monitoring and verifying implementation of agreements, assisting an inclusive political process, contributing to the promotion of human rights and the rule of law, and monitoring and reporting on the situation along the borders with Chad and the Central African Republic. Ethiopia is the third largest contributor to UNAMID which has been described as one of UN's largest and most difficult missions in the world. Its troops have also been honored with medals in recognition of their outstanding service in bringing relative peace and stability in western Darfur.

Ethiopia's significant role in stabilizing the Horn of Africa and the capability its troops demonstrated in various international peacekeeping missions, meant it won the trust of the UN and of both the Sudan and South Sudan. This was shown when the United Nations Security Council approved, on July 27 2011, the establishment of the UN Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) the disputed area claimed by both Sudan and South Sudan. Both countries asked for the 4,200 strong force to be composed entirely of Ethiopian troops. The operation monitors the flashpoint border between the two countries and its mandate allows for the demilitarization of the region and the creation of conditions for a lasting political settlement.

Ethiopia has now announced its intention of joining the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) alongside Kenyan, Ugandan, Burundi, Sierra Leone and Djibouti troops, as part of the battle against Al-Shabaab extremists, once again underlining its commitment to peacekeeping in Africa.

Peacekeeping has been an essential part of Ethiopia's view of its international duty for a long time. Active participation in peacekeeping demonstrates its historically strong endorsement of cooperation in matters of security in Africa. In fact, Ethiopia also believes its internal security is dependent on the security of its neighbors in the sub-region as well as in the region and more widely. In sending its troops on these peacekeeping missions, Ethiopia has proved its capacity to sustain its military strength in the service of international peace and security. All the missions on which Ethiopian contingents have been deployed have been successful. The overall commitment of its forces have been commendable and their participation in assisting local populations in rebuilding and reconstructing essential facilities notable. Their efforts at social interaction have greatly simplified regular UN peacekeeping missions.