

Issues In Brief

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Monthly

March, 2016

Official Launching of Ethiopian campaign for a seat in the UN Security Council

Countries are expressing their support

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Ethiopia has officially launched its campaign for a seat as a non-permanent member in the United Nation Security Council for the period of 2017-2018 at the beginning of march.

Ethiopia's candidacy endorsed by the African Union during its 26th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Governments held from 30-31 January 2016 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.



The launch was just the beginning of a campaign that will last, until the date of election. The election will take place at the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in June 2016.

On the official lunching ceremony commencement Dr. Tedros Adhanom said Ethiopia's desire to be a member of the Security Council emanates from a strong and very genuine belief that Ethiopia's solid record of continued contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security puts the country in a well-placed position to shoulder the necessary responsibility. Ethiopia has always responded to UN calls for collective action on international peace and security said Dr Tedros Adhanom.

After the Approval of Ethiopia's candidacy by African Union members her bid for a seat has been gaining impetus with endorsements by Brazil and Italy.

The President Sergio Mattarella of Italy and Foreign Minister of Brazil, Ambassador Mauro Viera who had recently been in Ethiopia for an official visit revealed that their country support Ethiopia's bid for a non-permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council.

Chinese Ambassador to Ethiopia, Ambassador La Yifan also expressed his support to Ethiopia's bid for a non-permanent seat at the UNSC. He said Ethiopia if elected as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) will be successful in discharging its responsibilities in the promotion of global peace and development.



Ethiopia is a founding member of the United Nation. Plus it has already held two times a seat in the UN Security Council, and thus actively contributed to the development of several innovative tools for conflict management, mediation and peace keeping, peace building.



The Ethio-South Africa Business And Investment Forum was held in Addis Ababa (March 14-15, 2016) brought together senior government official and more than 50 companies from the private sector of South Africa and their counter parts in Ethiopia.

Opening the Forum on March 14, Industry State Minister Dr. Mebrahtu Meles said that the nation has already created enabling business environment which attracts foreign investment and the variety of agro-ecological zones, abundant natural resources and labor could be utilized as an input for wealth creation. Hence, investors from wherever they come could benefit maximizing their profit margin.

He further said ,Currently, the nation has embarked on its Second Growth and Transformation Plan with emphasis on the expansion of manufacturing sector and South African firms have a better chance to establish agro-business which produce food and beverage supplying to local and foreign markets

On the bilateral trade ties, the State Minister mentioned Ethiopia exports agricultural products such as flowers and coffee to South Africa and imports pharmaceuticals, automotive and technological products in return, while also underlining that much needs to be done to enhance the trade volume and investment flow between the two countries.

Ambassaor Ndumiso N. Ntshinga, Ambassador of South Africa to Ethiopia, African Union and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, said Ethiopia is well placed as one of the best performing economies despite global economic slowdown. He said his government attaches a great deal of importance to trade and investment partnership with thiopia. He also said the Government of South Africa will continue encouraging the private sector players to maximize the prospect of using the ample investment opportunities in Ethiopia.

The Ethio-South African Investment and Business Forum also included a number of deliberations, and government-to-business (G2B) and business-to-business (B2B) sessions and round table discussions.



Rwanda and Ethiopia Signed Open Skies Agreement

Rwanda and Ethiopia have signed an air service agreement, where the two countries agreed to open their airspace allowing their national carriers to operate without restrictions.

According to the agreement, signed between the Rwanda Civil Aviation Authority (RCAA) and Ethiopia Civil Aviation Authority, all air service operations will be conducted under the fifth freedom arrangement. This provides the two airlines to carry passengers from one country to another and from that country to a third country.

The African Union Commission (AUC) Chairperson, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, has congratulated the two countries on the recently reached open skies agreement.

Dr. Dlamini Zuma further said “A critical step towards the full implementation of the Yamoussoukro Declaration, geared toward improved regional and economic integration hoping many other champions will follow”.

The Ethio-Brazil Business Meeting

The Ethio-Brazil Business Meeting was another significant bilateral issues held in march . The Business Meeting was attended by Ethiopia’s Minister of Foreign Affairs and his Brazilian counterpart, Ambassador Mauro Viera as well as members of the business community drawn from the two countries.

Opening the meeting ,Dr. Tedros said that the visit of the Brazilian delegation will scale up the longstanding relations between the two countries. He further noted the Ethio-Brazil Business Meeting offers the opportunity for Brazilian companies to invest in Ethiopia, a country on the rise. The Foreign Minister of Brazil, Ambassador Mauro Viera pointed out that the two countries should increase their economic ties and continue working on areas of trade and investment. Brazil is one of the emerging global power that has been actively building BRICS grouping where South Africa is a party.





President Dr.Mulatu confers with Saudi king



The Ethiopian President Dr.Mulatu Teshome met King Abdullah bin Abdul al-Saud of Saudi Arabia at Al-Yamamah Palace, Saudi Arabi on march 8,2016 .

The two sides discussed bilateral relations and the latest developments in the region.

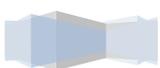
High level Saudi government officials attended the discussion, according to alriyadh.com.

Italian President Sergio Mattarella’s Visit to Ethiopia

President Sergio Mattarella of Italy who had been on a five-day official tour of Ethiopia (March 14-17, 2016) revealed that his country supports Ethiopia's bid for a non-permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council.



During the visit President Sergio had discussions with Dr. Mulatu Teshome, the President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn and His Holiness Abune Mathias I, Patriarch of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, Archbishop of Axum and Ichege of the See of Saint Taklehaimanot. Discussions focused on a range of issues, including Italy's new African engagement, migration, and the fight against terrorism and peace and security concerns in the region.





Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD)

Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), Africa's largest dam upon completion, has reached a height of 75 meters. It now has a total height of 145 meters and it is more than halfway completed.

Intensive work is being done to complete the dam as per the schedule, Engineer Simegneu Bekele, Project Manager of the dam, said.



The project includes construction of the main dam in Roller Compacted Concrete (RCC) that is equipped with 21 power stations installed at the foot of the dam. On the other hand, the power stations will have 16 Francis turbines that are equipped with 6000 megawatt and estimated production of 15,700 GWH in a year.

The dam is being built in Benishangul Gumuz State, which is 500 kilometers North West of Addis Ababa.

The newly launched Growth and Transformation plan (GTP II) sets out, ambitious targets for infrastructure, energy generation and economic growth, and gives an even stronger focus on the promotion of industry. It also requires further expansion of the energy sector to fuel up industrial activities on a wide scale and the electrification of rural areas.



Tourism

Land of Origin

Ethiopia has unveiled new tourism brand "Land of Origins"



Tourism in Ethiopia currently generates about US\$2.9 billion annually, close to a million jobs and about 4.5% of GDP. The Government, however, is determined to significantly increase the number of tourists during the 2nd Growth and Transformation Plan (2015–2020). The Ministry of Culture and Tourism plans to triple foreign visitors to more than 2.5 million by 2020. This would make Ethiopia one of the top five tourist destinations in Africa.

There are immense natural, cultural, and historical attractions in Ethiopia . It has eleven registered world heritage sites by UNESCO, with most recently the Konso Cultural Landscape, Meskel Demera Festivities and Fiche-Chambelala, the Sidama people's New Year celebrations, added to the list.

Ethiopia is the origin of humanity, the birthplace of 'Lucy', the world's oldest known almost-complete hominid skeleton, more than three million years old. It is the land of the Queen of Sheba, home of the Ark of the Covenant, the origin of coffee and of the Blue Nile.

It is also the home of Erta Ale, a unique active lava lake, in the beautiful Danakil Depression, in part below sea level and the hottest place on Earth. It has beautiful scenery including the Simien Mountains, a spectacular chain of mountains that are sometimes called "the roof of Africa." There are four biosphere reserves registered by UNESCO. There are numerous Rift Valley lakes, hot springs and highland lakes even around Addis Ababa. There are various national and regional parks, such as the Awash National Park and the Simien Mountains National Park, among nine other national parks and two beautiful sanctuaries. It has spectacular sites dedicated to the some of the earliest buildings of three great religions, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam; with old cities, beautiful ancient mosques and churches, monuments. Axum, Lalibela and the Nejashi mosque are major sites that attract many tourists and, indeed academic researchers. There are extensive national archives and a national library with rare and beautiful manuscripts.



Sport

World Indoor Championships: Genzebe Dibaba

Once again, on (March 20 ,2016) it all went to script for Genzebe Dibaba, as it has so many times in recent years.

The Ethiopian cruised to victory and her third world indoor title, unchallenged, in 8:47.43 ahead of teammate Meseret Defar (8:54.26) and Shannon Rowbury (8:55.55).

Ethiopia's Genzebe Dibaba has successfully defended her 3000m World indoor title at the 2016 Championships in Portland, USA.



“It was easy for me because the field was not that strong. My family and my whole country are happy,” the world 1500m record holder said.

Dibaba will return to Oregon in late May for the IAAF Diamond League meeting in Eugene, and has more record plans in her sights for the summer.





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