

AU Summit Urges Member States Develop Innovation Strategies

The Eighth African Union Ordinary Summit held here from January 28 - 30, 2007, strongly urged member states to promote Africa's research and development and develop innovation strategies.

It also declared 2007 as the launching year of building constituencies and champions for science, technology and innovation in Africa.

The Summit attended by leaders, heads of state and government officials stressed that the success of the Millennium Development Goals /MDGs/ depend on the continent's ability to harness science and technology.



Prime Minister Meles Zenawi addressing the Summit

The Summit also labeled Ethiopian Millennium as truly African and called upon Africans to seize the opportunity to highlight their resolve to make difference in their struggle against poverty.

The AU Heads of State and Government meeting also declared the year 2007 as the International year of African football.

The idea of year of African Football was first initiated by Ethiopia. Speaking at the launching ceremony, Prime Minister Meles Zenawi said that it was Ethiopia's proposal to observe the year 2007 as the Year of African football.

Meles said the contribution of Yedinekachew Tessema, father of modern sports in Africa, to the development of Africa football was remarkable and would be remembered.

The declaration appreciated the recent positive developments in Somalia which have resulted from Ethiopia's intervention upon the invitation of the legitimate Transitional Government of Somalia /TFG/, and which has created unprecedented opportunity for lasting peace.

The Summit also welcomed the decision of Ethiopia to withdraw its troops from Somalia and called for the immediate deployment of African Union Mission in Somalia /AMISOM/

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MoFA, FAO Seal Agreement

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization /FAO/ signed agreement to open sub-regional coordinating office in Addis Ababa.

Signing the agreement with FAO Director, Jacques Diouf, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Seyoum Mesfin, said FAO is a reliable partner of the government of Ethiopia.



FAO has significant contribution in attaining food security in Ethiopia. Seyoum said, "FAO is not only part of us but in us."

Diouf on his part said the opening up of a regional office in Addis Ababa is part of ensuring integrated approach of FAO by decentralization at regional level.

FAO, MoFA Signing the agreement

Ethiopia hosts a regional seat for East Africa owing to excellent cooperation in programme and projects and willingness of the government of Ethiopia to work with FAO.

The coordinating office will use Ethiopian experts in its capacity, he said.

UN Calls for Support to Somalia

The Secretary General of the United Nations called up on the international community to assist the Somali Transitional Federal Government.

Ban Ki-Moon told MoFA Newsletter that the international community has the moral responsibility to speedup the deployment of peacekeeping force.

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The Secretary General also appreciated the efforts of Ethiopia to bring peace and stability to Somalia.



Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon

In his address to the Summit of African Union held here from January 26 - 30, 2007 Ki-Moon pledged to mobilize financial and political will among world leaders and international institutions to work with African Governments to reach the Millennium Goals (MDGs).

He said Africa has made remarkable progress in ending armed conflict and many African countries are able to move towards reaching the MDG's.

Seyoum Holds Talks with Somalia President

Foreign Minister Seyoum Mesfin held discussions with the president of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia /TFG/, Abdulahi Yusuf.

In his visit to Somalia on January 22, 2007, Seyoum and Yusuf exchanged views on the current situation of Somalia.

Seyoum said Ethiopia is desirous for sustainable peace and stability in Somalia.

The efforts of TFG to reach political and clan leaders, elders, civic organizations, youth and women groups among others are commendable.



*Seyoum conferring with
President Yusuf of TFG*

Peace prevailed in Somalia not because of the presence of Ethiopian or TFG forces but for Somalians are peace-loving people.

Yusuf also said he received useful and important message sent by Prime Minister Meles Zenawi.

In his daylong visit Seyoum met and discussed with Ayer clan leaders and elders.

Meles Invites Turkish Investors to Come to Ethiopia in Good Numbers

Prime Minister Meles Zenawi called up on Turkish investors to come to Ethiopia and make use of the investment opportunities.

Prime Minister Meles Zenawi during an official visit to Turkey recently called on Turkish investors to come to Ethiopia in good numbers.

Speaking at a joint press conference with Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan Meles said "We wholeheartedly support your initiative to strengthen cooperation with Africa."



***Prime Minister
Tayyip Erdogan***

Meles said, "The recent arrival is Ayka in Textile, one of our priority areas for expanding our export sector. I wish to assure Ayka that you will be in good hands, as will others that might follow your footsteps."

Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan on his part pledged increased Turkish support to development projects in Ethiopia as part of Turkey's efforts to forge closer ties with African nations.

"We are prepared to offer Ethiopia every kind of support," Erdoğan said.

He added that Turkish development agency would widen its involvement in Ethiopia by supporting education, health and vocational training.

Ethiopian Day, which coincides with the visit by Prime Minister Meles, was observed in Istanbul, Turkey.

In his speech at the Ethiopian Day celebration Prime Minister Meles said a firm and secure political foundation was laid for the business people of the two countries to engage each other with a great deal of mutual confidence and sense of security. The event brought together business people of the two countries.

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Meles assured the Turkish business community of his government's firm commitment to making the environment for doing business in Ethiopia as attractive and mutually advantageous as possible.

Ethiopia, he said, would continue also to be an advocate for the further consolidation of partnership between Africa and Turkey, which he said would have a direct bearing on Turkish-Ethiopian relations.

High level government delegation led by the premier paid a four-day visit to Turkey from February 9 - 12, 2007.

The Federal Food Security Coordination Office has allotted birr 57 million for the procurement of oxen and quality seed. In the past few years, some 550,000 family heads have been beneficiaries of the resettlement program conducted in three rounds. More than 132,000 among those farmers are now food self-sufficient.