



22 August, 2012

Addis Ababa

EXPRESSION OF DEEP CONDOLENCES TO THE NATION

It is with great sadness that the Forum of Federations (Ethiopia Country Office) marks the passing of H.E. Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of Ethiopia (1995-2012).

Prime Minister Meles was a great supporter of the Forum of Federations' work both inside Ethiopia and across the continent, especially since Ethiopia became a member of the Forum of Federations in 2006. At his initiative the Forum co-organized with the GOE the 5th International Conference on Federalism in Addis Abba in December 2010, the first such event in Africa. Ato Meles was and will continue to be recognized as one of his generation's visionaries and a role model for leaders in all of Africa.

Ato Meles was the leading architect of Ethiopia's federal system since it came into being in 1995. He more than anyone understood that the creation of a federation was necessary to move Ethiopia toward legitimate governance, sustainable peace and development – to build a national identity based on equality.

His tenure was the beginning of a previously unimaginable transformation of Ethiopia into a country that could rid itself of perennial civil war and crippling poverty; and thanks to his leadership as a nation builder this transformation can now be taken up by all Ethiopians in every corner of the country.

The Forum of Federations expresses its deepest condolences to his family and to the people of Ethiopia.

Most Sincerely,

Shawn Houlihan, Senior Director for Africa
Forum of Federations

