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Ethiopia, Sudan to Transform All-round Relations

18 Aug 2017



Addis Ababa August 17/2017 The leaders of Ethiopia and Sudan have affirmed their commitment to work together to transform the existing all-round relations of the countries to a higher level.

An Ethiopian high-level delegation led by Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn is on official three-day visit to Sudan where it held bilateral consultations with Sudanese high officials.

Among the Ethiopian officials, Minister of Government Communication Affairs Office Negeri Lencho has conferred with his Sudanese counterpart Dr. Ahmed Bilal on media cooperation between Sudan and Ethiopia.

State Minister of Foreign Affairs Hirut Zemene also held discussion with Sudanese Foreign Affairs Minister Ibrahim Ghandou about ways of strengthening ties.

In a joint press conference the leaders of the two countries gave they affirmed their commitment to collaborate in transforming the relationship of the countries and ensuring the prevalence of peace and stability in the region.

Prime Minister Hailemariam said that the countries are working to benefit citizens and make trade and investment efficient through the economic integration they create.

He said the two countries have similar position on resolving both the problem of peace and stability in the region and the Gulf countries.

Hence we will exert joint effort to peacefully solve the instability in Somalia and South Sudan as well the Gulf countries, the Premier added.

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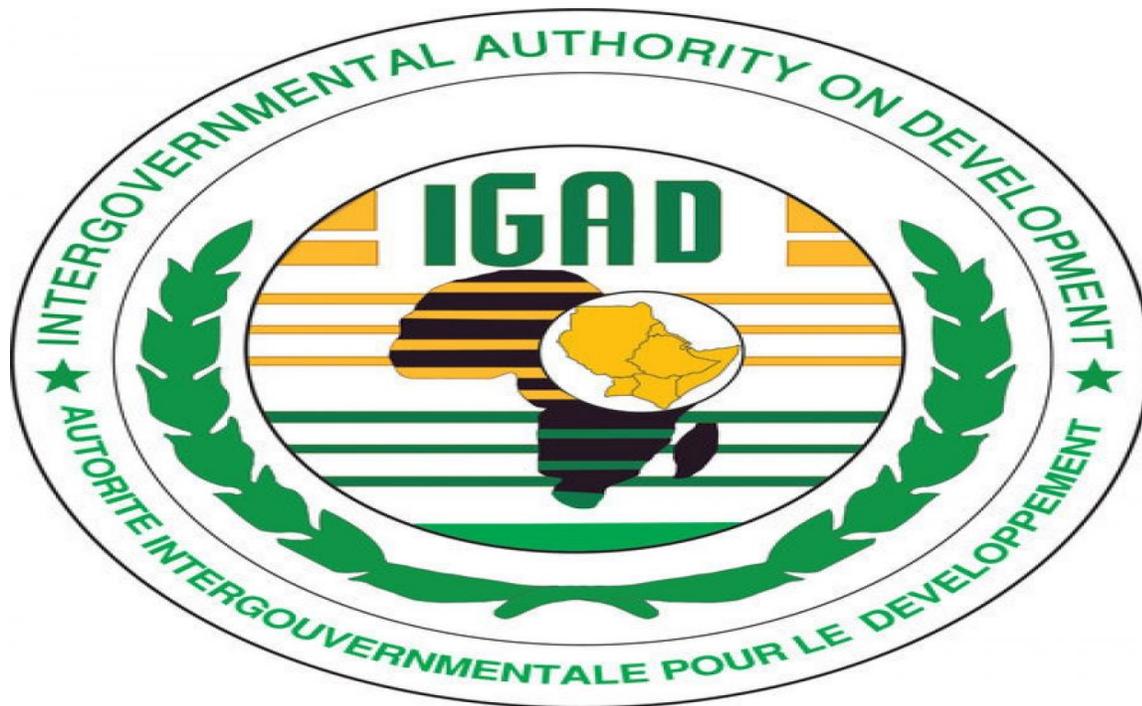
According to Hailemariam, the security forces of the two countries are working together to maintain peace not only in the nations but also in the region.

President Omar al-Basher said on his part the visit of the Ethiopian high-level delegation would boost relations between the two countries and strengthen their economic integration.

The leaders have conferred on creating favorable condition that enables the countries to collaborate and work closely in trade, investment, national defense and security as well as information and cultural exchange, he revealed.

President al-Basher further stated that both countries will play a leading role in creating mutual understanding and common agreement about the Great Ethiopian Renaissance Dam among all countries.

IGAD Revitalizes South Sudan Peace Process



Bishoftu August 16/2017 The Inter Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) on Wednesday concluded the two-day meeting held in the town of Bishoftu on the revitalization of the South Sudanese peace process.

The IGAD high level independent experts meeting was attended by 22 South Sudanese experts from the academia, civil society organizations, as well as renowned practitioners.

NEWS FROM ETHIOPIA

The objective of the meeting is to independent South Sudanese experts in dialogue so as to enable them make recommendations as an input for the revitalization process, according to a press release IGAD issued to ENA.

UNIDO Lauds Ethiopia's Move in Promoting Agro-processing Industry



Addis Ababa August 17/2017 The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) appreciated Ethiopia's efforts towards promoting agro-processing industrial parks across the country.

In an exclusive interview with ENA UNIDO Country Director Gustavo Aishemberg said "Ethiopian government really assumed this responsibility to drive the movement of promoting agro processing industries in the whole country".

Ethiopia has engaged in the development of integrated agro-industrial parks (IAIPs) following the feasibility studies that identified 17 agro-industrial growth corridors (AIGC).

One integrated agro-industrial park is planned to be developed in each of the identified corridors. In the first implementation phase, four pilot parks are set to be developed in Oromia, Amhara, Tigray and Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples states.

While the construction of the IAIPs in Amhara, Tigray and Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples states have already launched, preparations are finalized to launch construction in Oromia.

Noting that agro-industries are important for countries like Ethiopia with huge agricultural potential, the Director lauded the commitment of the government to utilize this potential.

NEWS FROM ETHIOPIA

“I have never seen this kind of strong commitment of the government in the developing countries toward an industrialization agenda”, he said.

UNIDO is working with the government of Ethiopia in the establishment of those industrial parks through its Program for Country Partnership (PCP) for Ethiopia. It focuses on agro-food processing; textiles and apparel; and leather and leather products.

“Agro-industry makes the agricultural production sustainable because it guarantees a flow from farm to the market. It is also a big motivation for rural population to get engaged.”

As integrated agro-industrial parks will enable to establish backward and forward linkages; foster strong linkages between agriculture and agro-industry; and increase value addition and reduce wastages, they will help to improve farmer’s quality of life.

“The only way to bring development to the whole population is through agro-processing industry, to add value to the farm production and this is the only way to drain the wealth and possibility.”

Noting that building competitive industries should comply with environmental standards, Aishemberg acknowledged that the practice is already started in Ethiopia.

Alongside the development of IAIPs, Ethiopia has given priority to the environmental standards that the parks should comply with, said Mebrahtu Meles, State Minister of Industry.

"All the industrial parks that we are building in the country have to be environmental friendly and consider social compliance. At the moment environmental and social studies are underway”.

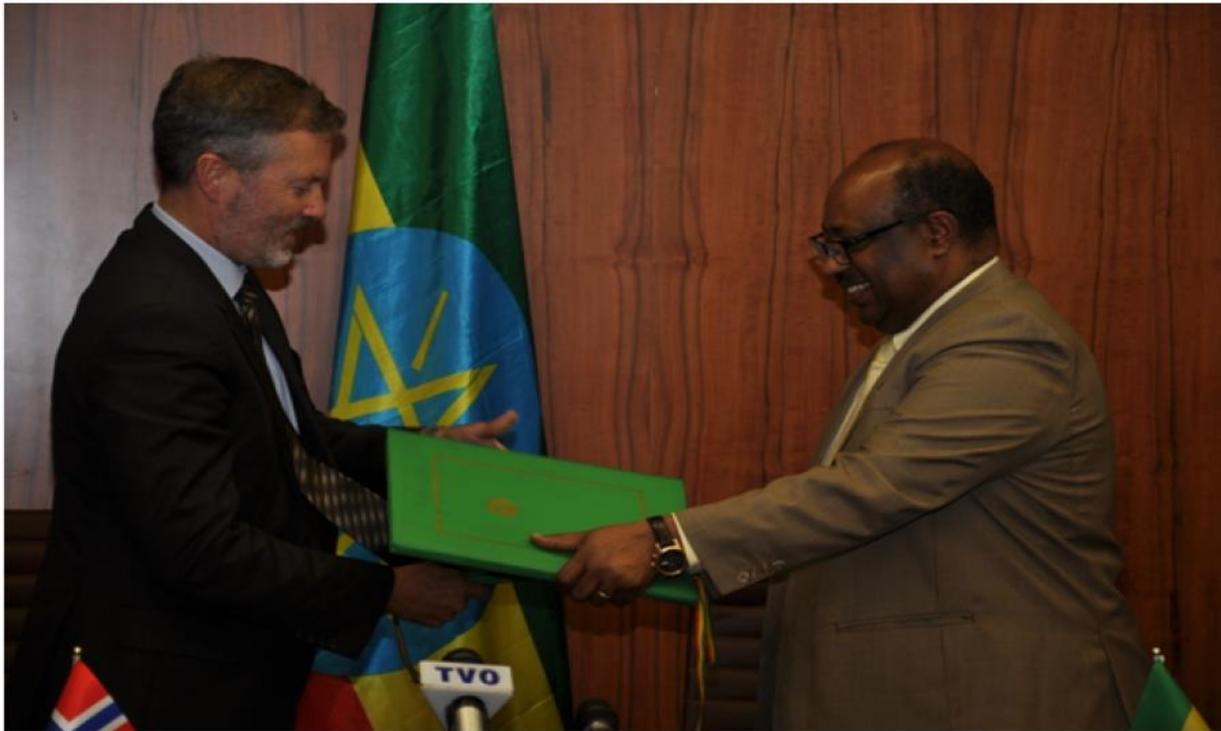
Through the parks, the nation has set target to ensure backward and forward linkage, improve export of value added products thereby realize its vision of becoming middle income economy by 2025.

By developing agro-processing parks, Ethiopia has aimed to drive structural transformation, reduce rural poverty and create a better environment for increased investment in agro-food and allied sectors.

Norway Extends 1.7bn Birr for REDD+ Project Implementation

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Addis Ababa August 16/2017 Norway has extended a 1.74 billion Birr financial assistance on Wednesday to support the implementation of Ethiopia's Climate Resilient Green Economy through the REDD+ project.

This is the first financial assistance for Norway to the REDD+ project and is expected to make significant contribution to reduce emission from forests.

During the occasion, Admasu Nebebe, State Minister of Finance and Economic Cooperation stated that Norway and UK are the countries who officially pledged continued support to realize Ethiopia's vision of building carbon neutral and climate resilient middle economy by 2025.

Noting that Ethiopia remains committed to realize its vision, Admasu said "we have mainstreamed CRGE into our Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP-II) and combating climate change is one of the key pillars of the GTP".

Noting that Ethiopia's green development ambition is huge, Admasu said it needs continued and strong financial, technical and technological support from development partners.

Today's support is not only an indication of the Norwegian government's commitment towards Ethiopia's vision of building climate resilient and net zero emission economy, but also confidence in the prevailing system of the country.

Admasu assured the ambassador that the government of Ethiopia will continue to efficiently utilize the resources and demonstrate notable results.

NEWS FROM ETHIOPIA

Ambassador Andreas Gaarder on his part said Ethiopia's CRGE has for more than five years influenced the country's development plans, giving hope for a future of green growth.

He said that this will be the largest investment that his country will be engaging in the years to come.

Ethiopia has been a front runner and largely contributed to developing and promoting the concept of green economy, Gaarder underlined.