

High-level Policy Dialogue: Leveraging Diaspora Resources for Growth and Structural Transformation of the Ethiopian Economy

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
(23-24 December 2015)

DRAFT PROGRAMME

First Day - Wednesday, 23 December 2015

8:30-09:00 **Registration**

09:00-09:50 **Opening session**

Moderator: Mr Tesfachew Taffere, Director, Division for Africa, LDCs and Special Programmes, UNCTAD

- Welcoming statement: **Dr. Tewodros Adhanom**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia,(TBC)
- Opening remarks: Ambassador **Berhane Gebrekristos**, Special Envoy of the Prime Minister, with the rank of Minister (Invited –TBC)
- Keynote addresses: **Mr. Gettu Tegegnework**, USG and Associate Administrator of UNDP(Invited -TBC)

09:50-10:00 **Coffee break**

Theme I **The role of the diaspora in promoting trade and development as well as fostering productive capacities and structural economic transformation: policy implications to the second Ethiopian Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP-II)**

Moderator: **Mr.Negash Kebret**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Ethiopia, Geneva

- 10:00-10:15 **The role of diaspora in fostering productive capacities and structural economic transformation: Policy implications to the second Ethiopian Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP-II)**
- Mr. Tesfachew Taffere, Director, Division for Africa, LDCs and Special Programmes, UNCTAD*
- 10:15-10:30 **Migration, investment and trade: Assessment of the potential contribution of the Ethiopian diaspora to investment flows and expanding bilateral and international trading opportunities.**
- Mr. Mussie Delelegn, Chief, Landlocked Developing Countries' Section, UNCTAD*
- 10:30-11:00 **Interactive discussions**
- 11:00-11:15 **Why diaspora mapping matters? Opportunities and challenges in the context of the Ethiopian diaspora:**
- Mr. Makonnen Tesfaye, UNCTAD Consultant*
- 11:15-11:30 **How can Ethiopia harness knowledge, information and other intangible assets from its diaspora population for its transformative development agenda?**
- Dr. Tewabech Bishaw, Founder and Managing Director of Alliance for Brain-Gain and Innovative Development (ABIDE)*
- 11:30-11:45 **National priorities and local limitations to enhance the potential of the Ethiopian diaspora for socio-economic development: Implementation of the Ethiopian diaspora policy**
- Mr. Demeke Atinafu, Director, Diaspora Information and Research Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia*
- 11:45-12:20 **Regional perspectives on challenges, opportunities and prospects for the implementation of the Ethiopian national diaspora policy:**
- Mr. Awlache Masrie, Representative from Amhara Regional State Diaspora Coordination Office*
- Mr. Zelalem Asrat, Representative from SNNP Regional State Diaspora Coordination Office*
- Mr. Wakuma Fite, Representative from Oromia Regional State Diaspora Coordination Office*

Mr. Fisihaye Alemayehu, Representative from Tigray Regional State Diaspora Coordination Office

Mr. Hirsi Abdi Ahmed, Representative from Ethiopian Somali Regional State Diaspora Coordination Office

Mr. Mohammed Aman, Representative from Benishangul Gumuz Regional State Diaspora Coordination Office

Mr. Ujulu Uchala, Representative from Benishangul Gumuz Regional State Diaspora Coordination Office

Mr. Aseffa Kassa, Representative from Dire Dawa City Bureau Administration for Diaspora Coordination Office Affairs

12:20-12:40 **Interactive discussions**

12:40- 14:00 **Lunch break**

Theme II The case of Ethiopia: Challenges, opportunities and prospects for harnessing the potential of the Ethiopian diaspora for socio-economic development of the country: presentations and discussions on the UNCTAD studies on Ethiopian diaspora and remittances.

Moderator: **Dr. Tewabech Bishaw**, Founder and Managing Director of Alliance for Brain-Gain and Innovative Development (ABIDE)

14:00-14:15 **The nexus between norm-setting, institutional (operational), policies and an enabling environment: Ethiopian diaspora policy and strategy:**

Mr. Tesfachew Taffere, Director, Division for Africa, LDCs and Special Programmes, UNCTAD

14:15- 14:30 **Socio-economic contributions of the Ethiopian diaspora to development: How important are remittances, investment and other diaspora assets for Ethiopia?**

Mr. Makonnen Tesfaye, UNCTAD Consultant

14:30-14:45 **The role of diaspora remittances and investment in socio-economic development of Ethiopia**

Mr. Biruk Asmelash, Consultant

- 14:45-15:00 **Institutions involved in the Ethiopian Diaspora matters and existing coordination mechanism: The role of the Ethiopian embassies and permanent missions abroad in mobilizing diaspora engagement in the country's socio-economic development**
Mr. Negash Kebret, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Ethiopia, Geneva
- 15:00-15:15 **Interactive discussions**
- 15:15- 15:30 **Coffee/Tea break**
- 15:30-16:00 **Understanding key challenges, opportunities and prospects for enhancing the potential contribution of the Ethiopian Diaspora:**
Mr. Makonnen Tesfaye, UNCTAD Consultant
- 16:00-16:30 **Opportunities and policy challenges associated with migrant transnational economic engagement:**
Dr. Mehari Tadele, Consultant African Union (AU) & Inter-Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD)
- 16:30-17:00 **Interactive discussions and summing up of Theme II**
- 18:00 **Cocktail**

Second Day - Thursday, 24 December 2015

Theme III Successful experiences from other developing countries with implications to Ethiopia: What worked well and why?

Moderator: **Mr. Tesfachew Taffere**, Director, Division for Africa, LDCs and Special Programmes, UNCTAD

- 9:30- 9:45 **Policy lessons of relevance to the case of Ethiopia and recommendations from best practices in diaspora economic engagement and development strategies:**

Mr. Mussie Delelegn, Chief, Landlocked Developing Countries' Section, UNCTAD

9:45-10:30 **Understanding the role of financial inclusion to sustainably support the instrumental role of remittances: policy actions of relevance to Ethiopia:**

Mr Mekonnen Tesfaye, UNCTAD Consultant

10:30-11:15 **Interactive discussions**

11:15-11:30 **Coffee/Tea break**

11:30- 12:20 **Beyond policies and institutional arrangement, how can Ethiopia improve an enabling environment for enhancing the role of the diaspora in development?**

Mr. Awlache Masrie, Representative from Amhara Regional State Diaspora Coordination Office

Mr. Zelalem Asrat, Representative from SNNP Regional State Diaspora Coordination Office

Mr. Wakuma Fite, Representative from Oromia Regional State Diaspora Coordination Office

Mr. Fisihaye Alemayehu, Representative from Tigray Regional State Diaspora Coordination Office

Mr. Hirsi Abdi Ahmed, Representative from Ethiopian Somali Regional State Diaspora Coordination Office

Mr. Mohammed Aman, Representative from Benishangul Gumuz Regional State Diaspora Coordination Office

Mr. Ujulu Uchala, Representative from Benishangul Gumuz Regional State Diaspora Coordination Office

Mr. Aseffa Kassa, Representative from Dire Dawa City Administration Diaspora Coordination Office

Mr. Tesfa Bisrat, Representative from Addis Ababa City Administration Diaspora Coordination Office

12: 20-12:30 **Interactive discussions and summing up of Theme III**

12:30-14:00 **Lunch break**

Theme IV Recommended initiatives for concrete, sustainable and successful development strategy for enhancing the contribution of the Ethiopian diaspora to development: The way forward

14:00-15:00 Open dialogue and discussions

Moderator: Mr Negash Kebret, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Ethiopia, Geneva

Guiding questions:

- What is the scope for improvement to further tap into the potential of the Ethiopian diaspora potential?
- What are the key recommendations for improving the link between norms, operational policies and an overall enabling environment?
- What form of institutional framework is necessary to promote and mainstream the diaspora policy into national development priorities and strategies?

15:00-15:15 Coffee break

15:15 -16:00 Roundtable discussions (II)

Speakers list will consist of Ethiopian and United Nations staff (to be identified)

Guiding questions

- What are the key home country measures to enhance the role of the Ethiopian Diaspora in the development of the country?
- What mechanism of institutional and policy coordination with regard to diaspora is feasible to the case of Ethiopia?
- What are the key priority actions? What are the means for implementation and verification?

16:00 Wrap up and closing remarks

End of High level policy dialogue
