

Durable Solutions Initiative launched in Ethiopia



Ms. Muferihat Kamil, Minister of Peace, expresses Ethiopia's commitment to operationalize the Durable Solutions Initiative

The Durable Solutions Initiative, a platform for collective action with the Government in the lead to find durable solutions for internally displaced persons (IDPs), was launched in Addis Ababa on 6 December 2019.

Speaking at the launch, Ms. Muferihat Kamil, Minister of Peace for Ethiopia, made a commitment to operationalize the Durable Solutions Initiative.

"We will continue to respect the rights of internally displaced persons to make their own decisions about their preferred solutions," the

Minister said.

The Durable Solutions Initiative (DSI) has been developed by the Government of Ethiopia, the United Nations, international, national and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and donors for communities affected by recent internal displacements in the country.

Mr. Steven Were Omamo, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator a.i. for Ethiopia, also noted that the initiative is development oriented and fully respects the humanitarian principles.

"If our interventions are

conflict sensitive, investing in durable solutions for IDPs will help to prevent future conflict," Mr. Omamo said. "The Durable Solutions Initiative provides a platform to connect life-saving humanitarian action to the longer-term development efforts of the country."

Modeled after good practices in other countries, the DSI in Ethiopia seeks to provide a principled operational framework to guide the work of all partners on durable solutions in the country. Its ultimate objective is to enable conditions conducive for all internally displaced persons to rebuild their lives in a sustainable way.



United Nations Ethiopia congratulates PM Abiy Ahmed on receiving the Nobel Peace Prize

On the occasion of the award of the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize to Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, the United Nations in Ethiopia affirms its strong commitment to supporting efforts toward sustainable peace and development in the country.

Congratulating Ethiopia's Prime Minister on receiving the Prize, the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator a.i. Mr. Steven Were Omamo noted that, "The United Nations family in Ethiopia shares the joy and pride of millions of Ethiopians on this special recognition of Ethiopia's vital role in peacebuilding and international cooperation."



Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed

Reflecting on the Prime Minister's appeal to Ethiopians in his acceptance speech to "Join hands and help build a country that offers equal justice, equal rights, and equal opportunities for all its citizens," Mr. Omamo

underlined that "the United Nations will continue to work with the Government of Ethiopia and all its partners and supporters as the nation pulls together to build an inclusive and democratic Ethiopia."

UNOPS Procures Equipment for Agriculture Research to Help Reduce Crop Losses

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Agriculture is a leading sector and a vital source of economic growth in Ethiopia. UNOPS sustainable procurement service is, therefore, helping the country build up its national and regional capacity in this area.

As part of this initiative, UNOPS procured laboratory equipment valued at 463.5 million Birrr (18 million USD) on behalf of the Ethiopian Institute of Agriculture Research.

Funded by the World Bank and Multi-Donor Trust Fund, the project aims to increase agricultural productivity and market access of smallholder farmers through enhanced productivity of crop and livestock sectors and natural resources in targeted woredas.

The procured laboratory equipment is essential to strengthen the capacity of the national diagnostic center to provide better services in disease and pest identification and diagnosis with the aim of reducing small holder crop losses,

thereby ensuring the supply of safe food, and supporting plant health for domestic and international trade.

UNOPS has delivered 80% of the equipment to the designated warehouse in Addis Ababa. The remaining 20% is expected to be delivered as per the schedule in the next two months. UNOPS is further providing logistics support to deliver the equipment to 50 research centers in five regions. The items were procured through UN Web Buy Plus, UNOPS leading-edge eCommerce platform.

Ethiopia's democratic process is tied to free, independent, self-regulating and professional media - UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, Mr. David Kaye, said the future of the country's democratic process is tied directly to its ability to develop a free, independent, self-regulating and professional media -- broadcast, print, electronic.

In his statement issued at the end of his mission, Mr. Kaye said, "The media is now a place seen by many as a source of disinformation and incitement, particularly when connected to the perceived disinformation factory of social media,"

During his mission held from 2-9 December 2019, Mr. Kaye met government officials and representatives of the legislative branch, the judiciary as well as the civil society.

Speaking about the hate speech and disinformation draft proclamation, Mr. Kaye said, "Combating hate speech is a delicate endeavour, which requires an in-depth knowledge of the local context, proficiency in local languages, and understanding of social and cultural habits, among so many others. Social media should be part of the solution."

"I would strongly encourage social media companies to engage in regular contact with Ethiopian authorities and civil



Mr. David Kaye, UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression

society to better understand the local context and specific issues faced in the country. At a minimum, social media companies should establish regular and rapid-reaction mechanisms to enable civil society to report the most concerning kinds of content on their platforms."

"What is needed is not necessarily more law but more speech -- that is, more professional sources of verifiable information -- and a broad and deep national dialogue aimed at creating an agreed process for addressing grievances and building democratic institutions," said Mr. Kaye.

"In fact, the Government is obligated under Article 20(2) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to prohibit by law "advocacy of national, racial and religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination,

hostility and violence."

"In that sense, part of the approach to the problem of hatred in the media should involve legal steps. But that is only part of the approach, for hate is very much a function of politics and, as such, it requires first and foremost a political, national solution," he said.

Mr. Kaye also noted that deepening internet penetration would be essential both for freedom of expression and economic development.

"Internet shutdowns have been widely condemned as disproportionate measures under international human rights law, and I am particularly concerned that such actions are undertaken without constraint under law or policy," he said.



Human Development Report 2019 launched in Ethiopia

Despite unprecedented progress against poverty, hunger and disease, many societies are not working as they should, and the connecting thread, argues a new report from United Nations development Programme (UNDP), is inequality.

Ethiopia Highlights

The 2019 Human Development Report (HDR), published with a theme 'Beyond income, beyond averages, beyond today: inequalities in human development in the 21st century,' argues that inequality is not beyond solutions.

The report, which pioneers a more precise way to measure countries' socioeconomic progress, observes that African countries have made significant strides in advancing human development, gaining ground on the key indicators of primary education and health. Between 1990 and 2018 life expectancy increased by more than 11 years. However, new inequalities are becoming more pronounced particularly around tertiary education, seismic effects of technology and the climate crisis making it harder for those already behind to catch up.

As the inequality in a country increases, the loss in human development also increases and in the case of Ethiopia, inequality is having a profound cost to the country, with the data showing a loss of 28.4 percent as the country's Human Development Index (HDI) falls to 0.337. The HDI measures long-term progress



The launch of Human Development Report 2019 in Ethiopia

in three basic dimensions of human development; a long and healthy life, access to knowledge as well as a decent standard of living.

Ethiopia's performance on Human Development Index (HDI)

Ethiopia's HDI value for 2018 is 0.470 – which puts the country in the low human development category positioning it at 173 out of 189 countries and territories.

Although Ethiopia's HDI value show a 65.8 percent increment between 2000 and 2018 (from 0.283 to 0.470), it is still below the average of countries in the low human development category, most of them in Sub-Saharan Africa. Life expectancy at birth increased by 19.1 percent between 1990 and 2018.

In terms of Gender Inequality Index (GII), Ethiopia is ranked 123 out of 162 countries with a value of 0.508, while only 37.3 percent of parliamentary seats are held by women, and only 11.5 percent of adult women have reached at least a secondary level of education

compared to 22.0 percent of their male counterparts.

Thinking beyond income, the report puts emphasis on early childhood and lifelong investment including investing in young children's learning, health and nutrition to tackle inequality. It recommends investments in policies that enhance productivity, fair taxation and improved public spending.

The report also highlights how 'averages' often hide what is really going on in society and the need for a much more detailed information to tackle inequality effectively and to address multiple dimensions of poverty.

Looking beyond today, the report asks how inequality may change in future, looking particularly at two seismic shifts that will shift life up to the 22nd century: the climate crisis and technological transformation.

(Read HDR 2019 <http://hdr.undp.org/en/2019-report>)

Ethiopian Chapter of the African Women Leaders Network Officially Launched

The Ethiopian Chapter of the African Women Leaders Network (AWLN) was officially launched on 23 October 2019 by Her Excellency President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Mrs Sahle-Work Zewde at a high-level event graced by the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed and UN Under-Secretary-General and UN Women Executive Director Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, among other, high-level dignitaries and Ethiopian Women Ministers.

The AWLN aims to advance, train and support female leaders in Africa. The network also aims to push for policies that empower and enable women on the continent across the political, economic and humanitarian fields to reach their full potential.

Speaking at the launch in Addis Ababa, United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Ms. Amina J. Mohammed said, "I am confident that this newest national chapter will generate greater technical and financial support for women's leadership and the women's movement in Ethiopia, building on the remarkable gains of the past few years. We are with you, behind you and at your side."

President Sahle-Work on her part said the launch of the chapter was a major milestone



President Sahle-Work Zewde, UN Deputy Secretary-General Ms. Amina J. Mohammed and UN Under-Secretary-General and UN Women Executive Director Dr. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka launch the Ethiopian Chapter of the AWLN

that would benefit all Ethiopian women and ensure their voices are heard and their issues addressed in a national development planning and policy making.

"We now have the Ethiopian Chapter of the AWLN which will contribute to ensuring women's financial inclusion in the country. It will also empower rural women, mentor young women, with the goal of achieving gender equality. We have to achieve the Africa We Want, where women have the same economic, political and social rights as men," said President Sahle-Work.

Ms. Bineta Diop, the African Union Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security, on her part said, "solidarity among women is important, especially now as women across the continent seek to be involved more in decision-making from grassroots level. "The AWLN is

a global mover. This is about solidarity among women," she said.

Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) Executive Secretary, Ms. Vera Songwe, also congratulated Ethiopia on the launch and applauded Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Dr Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Ms. Madame Diop and other AWLN founding members for starting the network two years ago as a joint initiative of the African Union Commission and the United Nations.

"An idea is only as good as the number of followers you have. We are here because you brought us together. Thank you very much for the idea and for showing us what leadership is," said Ms. Songwe.



Ethiopia joins UNODC Blue Heart Campaign against Human Trafficking



Ms. Amina J. Mohammed launches of the Blue Heart Campaign

The Blue Heart Campaign against human trafficking was launched in Ethiopia on 24 October in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The Campaign, an initiative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), was launched in the context of Ethiopia's ongoing support on the issue of ending human trafficking.

During a week-long series of events related to the campaign in the country, United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed, who was on a mission in Ethiopia, applauded the leadership of Ethiopia for being the first Sub-Saharan country to join 30 other countries in supporting the United Nations Blue Heart Campaign and recognizing the importance of movements such as #EthiopiaHasAHeart.

At the breakfast dialogue held at the Residence of the Royal Norwegian Ambassador to Ethiopia on the transformational role of women in responding

to human trafficking on 21 October, the Deputy Secretary General recalled that "multiple targets under the SDGs call for addressing human trafficking, to prevent abuse and exploitation, eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls, eradicate forced and child labour, and stop transnational organized crime."

"Harnessing the energies, skills and resources of all parts of our societies to address global challenges and achieve the SDGs means enabling women to have a voice and an active role," she added.

In his remarks to the event on behalf of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Mr. Amado Phillip de Andrés, UNODC Regional Representative for Eastern Africa, also stressed the importance of meaningfully engaging women in the design and implementation of interventions and services in order to generate solutions and policies that are pro-women, pro-poor, pro-families and

pro-children, which in return generate safe environments that decrease the risk of women and girls being trafficked.

At the launch held at the Millennium Hall with thousands of residents of Addis Ababa on 24 October, Ambassador Mahlet Hailu, who spoke on behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia, expressed her government commitment to fight against human trafficking.

"I would like to reaffirm that Ethiopia is committed to working in collaboration with UNODC and the international community in the fight against human trafficking," she said.

Deputy Attorney General of Ethiopia, Gedion Timothewos, also addressed the audience and reaffirmed the national resolve to fight and to ultimately end this crime, saying that "We need to attack human trafficking with all of our might" and that the Campaign would help move Ethiopia's ongoing fight against human trafficking one step forward.

She for Business: High Level Event on Women's Economic Empowerment in Ethiopia Links Ethiopian and Finish Businesswomen

Hosted by the Government of Finland and UN Women, a high-level event on Women's Economic Empowerment was held on 15 October 2019 in Addis Ababa in the presence of H. E. Sauli Niinistö, President of the Republic of Finland, Ms Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Under Secretary General (USG) and Executive Director of UN Women, and H. E. Sahle Work Zewdie, President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

The aim of event was to inspire action in support of women's economic empowerment and entrepreneurship by bringing together Ethiopian and international best practices.

At the event, H.E. Sauli Niinistö, President of Finland and champion of UN Women HeForShe Campaign said, "Inclusion of women in economic development is key in maintaining peace and security. Women economic empowerment is part of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. The goals will not be achieved without economic participation of women."

In her statement delivered at the event, Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Under-Secretary-General (USG) and Executive Director of UN Women, underlined the critical role of ensuring women's participation in development



President Sahle-Work Zewdie

initiatives. "No country will ever grow without fully engaging its women," she said.

"We also know that in the past 25 years there has been significant effort in addressing gender inequality. In Ethiopia, we work to build women in agriculture, and we are supporting women in their quest to be in leadership. We couldn't manage to do that without generous partners like Finland."

H.E. Sahle-Work Zewdie, President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, also underscored the need to take persistent action in achieving gender equality. "Economic empowerment for underprivileged women is key to achieving gender equality in Ethiopia," said the President.

The event also included an Ethio-Finnish panel of successful women in business who shared about their



Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka (UN Women)

experiences on their journey related to their business undertakings. The panelists include Lelise Neme, CEO, Industrial Parks Development Corporation, Marjo Miettinen, Chairperson of the Board of Technology Industries of Finland, and Betelhem Tilahun Alemu, Founder, SoleRebels & Garden of Coffee, and Nina Kopola, Director General, Business Finland.

An exhibition that showcased successes of the Women Economic Empowerment (JP-RWEE) and Women in Leadership Programs by UN Women was also part of the event.



United Nations Day celebrated

The United Nations Day was colorfully celebrated in Addis Ababa in the presence of the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Ms. Amina J. Mohammed.

The Deputy Secretary-General, who was on a mission in Ethiopia, delivered UN Secretary-General Message on this year's UN Day.

Ms. Mohammed also launched 'Greening UN Ethiopia' campaign which was initiated by the UN Communication Group in Ethiopia.

"I hereby kickstart 'Greening



UN staff, diplomatic corps and Ethiopian Government officials mark the UN Day

UN Ethiopia' campaign and hope that each and every one of you, as UN staff members have taken upon the call from your principals to join the online 'ActNow' Climate Action Campaign and the 'Greening

the Blue' campaign as well." "I will be looking forward to receiving a report on progress UN Ethiopia will have made towards climate action during the next UN Day in 2020," The Deputy-Secretary General said.

UN Deputy Secretary-General meets UN Country Team, Women for Peace' Group



UN Deputy Secretary-General, Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, had discussion with the UN Country Team on the UN support to Ethiopia's reform and the role of women in peace and security in the Horn of Africa while on mission in Ethiopia on 24 October 2019.



UN Deputy Secretary-General also met Ethiopia's 'Women for Peace' Group that has been promoting peace and reconciliation across the country and encouraged the group members to continue to work for achieving lasting peace. 'We need to have the heart of forgiveness to heal our wounds and realize aspirations for peace,' said the Deputy Secretary-General.

UN Ethiopia

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