



COMMUNIQUE FROM THE HIGH-LEVEL DEVELOPMENT FORUM

Chapeau of Communiqué

The 2024 High Level Development Forum meeting took place in Addis Ababa on March 14 2024, co-hosted by the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the Development Partners Group - currently co-chaired by the United Kingdom and the United Nations - with the participation of officials from federal ministries and agencies, Ethiopian Regional States, Ambassadors, Heads of Development Cooperation Agencies, as well as representatives from international organizations, the Private Sector and civil society organizations.

The meeting took place at a crucial time for the country as it embarks on the path to stability, recovery, reconstruction, and sustainable development after two years of conflict in the northern part of the country and a number of other internal and external shocks. At the event, the Government of Ethiopia made high-level presentations on three key thematic areas, namely Ethiopia's macroeconomic reform agenda as outlined in the Homegrown Economic Reform (HGER) 2.0, peace building and consolidation efforts, and resilience building.

The forum welcomed the leadership demonstrated by the Ethiopian Government working with other stakeholders in implementing the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA) as well as enabling further progress towards an inclusive National Dialogue for a lasting peace. It also reaffirmed the strong commitment by all Parties to supporting Ethiopia's efforts towards economic recovery, growth, and prosperity to the benefit of all Ethiopians. The participants committed to reconvene in 2025 to review progress towards the mutual commitments outlined in this communiqué.

Content of the Communiqué:

1. We, the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (hereafter called the Government of Ethiopia) and the Development Partner Group with other partners underline our commitment to establish a renewed partnership to strengthen a democratic and peaceful Ethiopia that is on a path towards prosperity. In this context, *we strongly welcome* the reconvening of the regular High-Level Development Forum (HLDF), serving as an important platform for a high-level strategic dialogue between the Government of Ethiopia and international development partners.



2. *We underscore the importance* of the Government of Ethiopia’s efforts, with the support of the international community, to fulfilling its commitment to peace, social and economic development, human rights and prosperity. *We recognize the importance of* our joint commitment to support the implementation of the November 2022 Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA) to achieve lasting peace based on delivering a peace dividend quickly for conflict-affected populations through recovery and reconstruction support, disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration of ex-combatants, support to victims of sexual violence, ensuring transitional justice in line with international standards, and implementation of durable solutions for Internally Displaced People (IDPs).
3. *We further recognize* that peace dividends must be based on, and stem from, the significant economic, social, political and development gains already achieved by Ethiopia and be based on an inclusive implementation of CoHA with a meaningful participation of women and youth, as well as ethnic, religious, and other minorities. *We also emphasise* the necessity of increased progress towards the resolution of other sources of on-going insecurity and instability in Ethiopia, including the fragile situation in the Amhara and Oromia regions. *We concur* that the restoration of peace and stability across Ethiopia will be an essential pre-requisite for progress on vital governance and economic reforms and for the country to continue to play its indispensable role in promoting peace and stability in the Horn of Africa and other regions of the continent.
4. *We collectively recognize* the challenges posed by shocks triggered by the compounding effects of climate change, conflict, COVID-19 pandemic and global economic downturn and express continued readiness and commitment to support the Government of Ethiopia in its effort to ensure climate resilience, as well as inclusive and sustainable development in all its dimensions.
5. *We welcome the progress* made in implementing the Home Grown Economic Reform Agenda and the Ten-Year Development Plan, facilitating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and commit to be mutually accountable in supporting the national efforts to sustain peace, uphold human rights, ensure quality growth, improve productivity and competitiveness, undertake institutional transformation, promote the role of the private sector in driving sustainable economic growth, ensure equitable participation of women and children and build a climate resilient green economy.
6. We acknowledge the importance of the on-going discussions with the IMF, World Bank and G20 Credit Committee, to support a major package of economic reform with substantial debt relief and adequate external financing. We are committed to supporting the implementation



of the reforms and the adequate financing, which will be essential for restoring favourable macroeconomic conditions for the Ten-Year Development Plan and HGER 2.0 as well as making an important contribution to sustaining peace.

7. *We note with appreciation the leadership and demonstrated commitment of the Government of Ethiopia to the implementation of the green growth agenda in the country as well as in the East Africa region as outlined in the African Leaders Nairobi Declaration on Climate Change and Call to Action-Africa Climate Summit 2023.*
8. *We emphasize the importance of continued regional cooperation to support Ethiopia in utilizing its unique position on the African continent and globally as a bridge to promote continental, regional and global peace, cooperation and connectivity, based on transparency, openness, win-win solutions, and inclusiveness aiming at enhancing dialogue and collaboration to advance the global push towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the lead-up to the Summit of the Future in 2024.*
9. *We recognize that the protection and promotion of human rights and respect for the Rule of Law is crucial for sustainable peace and development in Ethiopia and welcome the Government of Ethiopia's commitment to continue making progress on human rights, including through the development of a transitional justice policy. We also recognize the need to further strengthen the relevant institutions, and the importance of swiftly endorsing and enacting the policy aimed at accountability, redress for victims and survivors, reconciliation, and healing, consistent with the stipulations of the CoHA.*
10. *We recognize the urgent and growing need for humanitarian assistance to avert a serious humanitarian catastrophe and note that humanitarian aid is needed now more than ever. We call on sustained and predictable financial flows from all Parties to support the delivery of life saving aid and commit to transparent, accountable, and protected delivery of the required assistance to all vulnerable groups in the country in accordance with international principles and standards. We will work together to mobilise additional support from a wide range of donors.*
11. *We welcome the continued and sustained commitment of the Government of Ethiopia to host refugees from the neighbouring countries and meet the needs of communities affected by internal displacement. We also recognize the need to address the longstanding issue of internal displacements and provision of durable solutions under government leadership, at federal, regional and local levels with strong support from the international community. We*



acknowledge that while vital humanitarian assistance is required, more attention needs to be given to development and durable solutions to provide a nexus approach that supports livelihoods, creates economic opportunities, and ensures social protection.

12. Pursuant to the shared views expressed in this communique, we commit to working together to advance the following shared objectives over the next twelve months:

- Create an enabling environment for sustainable development and investment to encourage increased development assistance as well as domestic and foreign private investment. Scale-up development support to ensure this, along with all other available resources, align with national priorities with a view to reducing humanitarian needs and implementing transformative and accelerated actions for reaching the Sustainable Development Goals in the lead up to the Summit of the Future in 2024.
- Promote peaceful resolution of disputes to sustain and expand support for an independent, credible, and inclusive National Dialogue that offers Ethiopians from all walks of life an opportunity to chart a shared vision.
- Join forces to implement policy, legal and regulatory measures and accompanying institutional reforms for the TYDP and HGER 2.0 to accelerate on-going transition to an open, market-oriented and private sector-led economy.
- Collaborate and work closely on programmes that offer Ethiopia a pathway to macroeconomic stability, improved external financing and debt relief, and accelerated and inclusive growth and prosperity.
- Reach agreement on measures needed to ensure predictable funding flows to, and full delivery of, the humanitarian assistance to those in need. Promote durable solutions for communities impacted by internal displacement, in line with the UN Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement.
- Take action to fund, from both domestic and external sources, lasting peace support and stabilization programs on demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants and recovery and reconstruction programs in conflict-affected regions as outlined in the Resilient Recovery and Reconstruction Framework (3RF) and implement the forthcoming Transitional Justice Policy Framework.

13. In conclusion, *we thank* all participants for their constructive engagement and commitment to implementing the measures and actions agreed upon and review the overall progress



made in the implementation of the commitments outlined in this communique on the basis of the principle of mutual accountability at the next High-Level Development Forum in 2025.

Signed on behalf of the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the Development Partners Group (DPG) by

Minister of Finance
H.E. Ahmed Shide

DPG Co-chair
Dr. Ramiz Alakbarov

DPG Co-chair
Mr. Paul Walters

Addis Ababa, 14 March 2024