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# STAFF VOICE

No 6 : Issue 12 : June 2018

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Vera Songwe  
Executive Secretary

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## FROM THE EDITOR



Welcome to the May/June edition of the UN Staff Voice. After a brief publication pause, we are returning to our readers with a new fresh look and content we hope you will find relevant, informative and enjoyable.

Inside this issue, you will find a mix of carefully curated news, feature stories, interviews, and profiles. Ahunna Eziakonwa-Onochie talks to us about women's right and seeing each person on the basis of their humanity. Neo Jane Masisi, the now new first lady of Botswana, discusses her stay at the ECA and moving on to new endeavors. As the ECA turns 60, we take a brief look at current and past Executive Secretaries. Belgium spotlights important women in its history in our new Diplomatic Corner section. Family corner brings to us an 11-year old's thoughts on peace. To round it off, we include IT and health tips.

I hope you enjoy this issue. If there are any topics you'd like to see covered in the UN Staff Voice in the future, please let us know.

**Yemisrach Kifle**  
**Editor In Chief**

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# Message From The Union



Dear Readers,

I am happy to announce that the UN Staff Voice magazine has resumed publication with a new look and a different team of editors. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms. Seble Demeke for her hard work and stewardship of the magazine during her tenure as Editor in Chief. I would also like to extend a warm welcome to Yemisrach Kifle, our new Editor in Chief. Yemisrach holds a Master degree in Communication and a wide variety of experiences in the field. I have no doubt she will be successful at UN Staff Voice.

The magazine is coming in at a critical time of reforms both in the ECA and in the UN worldwide. During such times, staff need to keep abreast of developments in the organization. The Staff Union is committed to keep you informed as much as possible.

We would also like to hear from you. The Staff Corner in the magazine is available to you to share your thoughts, ideas, and experiences.

Feel free to submit your articles, comments, and / or suggestions.

**Joseph Baricako, President  
ECA Executive Committee  
& Chairman, FUNSA**

# Interview

## Exclusive Interview with Vera Songwe, Executive Secretary of UNECA



Vera Songwe  
Executive Secretary

“

Deepening capital markets is another way of doing it. There are not many functional stock exchanges on the continent.





We have relatively new leaders, relatively from the same generation, relatively working towards the same goals. I think the fact we have global agendas like the SDGs, climate change and Agenda 2063 allows us to all feed into that, so we don't all have to create something new.

**You've released a number of statements since taking office as Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) last August. What are the big ideas – what are the big projects you want to get involved in?**

First of all, ensuring the good work African countries have done to bring their macroeconomic environment into shape and have stable credible macroeconomic trajectories continues. There is a growing concern around our debt-to-GDP levels but I think that with the need to grow fast many countries are investing more. To continue to invest you need to raise revenue. We caution about macroeconomic stability, but we need long-term growth. So where is the balance?

Going contrary to received wisdom, which is either you are doing counter-cyclical or pro-cyclical policy, we are trying to see whether Africa can do both, which is basically saying we are going to continue to grow but we are going to be very fiscally disciplined.

**To do that you need to raise more resources. Can we take African countries to a 30% tax-to-GDP ratio? So the first point is macro-economic stability, the second is how can you raise the resources?**

There are a number of ways in which we can do it. One is collecting better taxes. A second is innovative ways of financing. Is there dormant capital within the continent that we can use for investment and regulate in a way that works?

And then there is the whole issue of bringing more of the private sector into solutions for the continent. We know that with the growing youth bulge if we do not find jobs for the youth we will never achieve the growth we want and we may be risking instability.

And finally we are thinking about continuing the work around governance. The African Union has picked anti-corruption as the big pillar of its agenda for 2018. That's something we also want to do. We also want to build stronger institutions for peace.

**In terms of domestic resource mobilisation, how can African economies better leverage monies trapped in banks? What is the main strategy for mobilising resources on the continent?**

There are three things that we will be working on. The first one is increasing the tax base. We have a large informal sector on the continent but we also have a large sector that just does not pay taxes even though they can. Most of our countries are stuck with decisions around fiscal policy and tax that were taken 15 years ago, coming out of structural adjustment. Our economies have substantially changed since then.

**Can we look again at the agricultural sector? There are pockets there that could contribute to the fiscal basket. Are we taxing all of the service sector?**

Many countries are rebasing their GDP. As we do that we should also look at getting more money into the tax base. We need to be sure we're capturing everything.

The second thing is looking at dormant areas of capital, at pension funds and insurance. A few countries allow pension funds to invest in their countries, one or two in cross-border investments. We would like to see if it is possible to do more and have a lot more cross-border investment.

Deepening capital markets is another way of doing it. There are not many functional stock exchanges on the continent.

We are now looking at creating ratings agencies,

“

Africa is new and I think with all the innovation that is happening, we can do things much faster. But you need to come to the continent to try it and we need policy which will allow you to do that.

because part of raising capital is getting a better sense of risk assessment. We are very dependent on sovereign risk ratings, but we do have corporates that could be rated equally well, so helping them understand how they get risk ratings is something we are looking at.

ECA has done a lot of work on illicit financial flows. How can we ensure that we can get some of the resources back? We have base erosion and price shifting that is happening particularly in the mining sector. Can we stop that? We need the governance systems in our countries to improve so we don't allow transfers of our resources that are not legal.

### **How has your work in the private sector informed your new role as policy chief?**

In the private sector you realise very quickly how much policy is needed to make the private sector work. Each time a business goes into a country you need to understand the tax regimes, whether you can take the capital out and stability of contracts, so there is a lot of policy around that.

Working very closely with the AU – we've just done the Continental Free Trade Agreement – you don't work for one business in one country. If there are some good ideas that can engender businesses across the continent then we put them forward. Having coordinated policies across the continent ensures that we have better trade and better foreign direct investment, but more importantly that intra-African trade goes better.

Take open skies policies, the common market for air transport. Those kinds of policies are important because the private sector doesn't come unless you have them. In some sense maybe it's working backwards, but it's ensuring you create that space to attract the private sector. But you need to do it together, because the public sector alone does not know what the private sector needs.

Africa is new and I think with all the innovation that is happening, we can do things much faster. But you need to come to the continent to try it and we need policy which will allow you to do that.

### **How are your relationships developing with the leaders of the African Union (AU) and the African Development Bank (AfDB)?**

The relationships are fantastic. We have the joint secretariat for what we call the three African agencies. You could say that the AfDB is the financing arm, the AU is the policy arm and the ECA is the research arm. We do the analysis and recommend the policies, then the governments put it in place and the AfDB finances the result. That's putting it simply. All of us do a little bit of all of that.

At the ECA, as part of the UN, we have the sustainable development goals (SDGs). The AU has Agenda 2063. How can we bring those together? The AfDB funds either one of those agendas, but we have done a lot of work to show the two agendas are the same. What we want is prosperity for everybody – as the UN secretary general says, leave no one behind.

The SDGs are a much broader remit – it's a development remit and a peace remit – so we are doing a lot more work that allows us to work a lot better and faster together.

We have relatively new leaders, relatively from the same generation, relatively working towards the same goals. I think the fact we have global agendas like the SDGs, climate change and Agenda 2063 allows us to all feed into that, so we don't all have to create something new.

We are essentially working towards the same goals but with different comparative advantages. But we meet very regularly and we're working very well together as bodies for the betterment of the continent.

SOURCE: African business magazine, 2018

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# AfCFTA an important step towards building a competitive Africa, says Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed



The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) should be shaped and implemented to enable Africa to create opportunities for its citizens; spur the continent's industrialization agenda; and ensure inclusive growth, says Ethiopia's Prime Minister, Abiy Ahmed. Speaking at the just-ended 51st session of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development in Addis Ababa, Mr. Ahmed said with the AfCFTA, Africa's economic integration was inevitable.

"Together we will grow; together we will give our young people a stake in the future of our continent. We will harness their energy and creativity for collective wellbeing," the Prime Minister said, adding; "We need to also increasingly engage the private sector in ensuring economic integration and introduce aggressive policies to broaden women's access to economic opportunities." He said governments on the continent were looking up to their Finance Ministers and Central Bank

Governors for leadership that will ensure that trade was not an end in itself but the means to advance the wellbeing of Africans. Mr. Ahmed said Ethiopia was fully aware of the opportunities that the free trade agreement offered and was ready to "follow Rwanda and Ghana for their pioneering role in the ratification of the AfCFTA". He urged other African countries to sign-up to the AfCFTA and those that have already done so, to ratify quickly so the agreement can soon come into force. At least

44 countries signed up to the agreement that will bring together 1.2 billion people with a combined gross domestic product (GDP) of more than US\$2 trillion. By creating a single continental market for goods and services, the continent hopes to boost trade between African countries.

### **ECA at 60**

Mr. Ahmed took the opportunity to wish the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) happy anniversary as the organization celebrates 60 years of existence this year.

"The ECA has indeed been at the forefront of cutting-edge policy research, thought leadership, and advice since day one," he said.

"In fact, it has been our very own in-house think tank that helped

us champion our continental aspirations with the zeal of a missionary. However, in the spirit of African unity, the ECA did not walk alone. There was also the Organisation of African Unity, now that African Union."

He continued: "As we all know, every anniversary involves a critical and reflective engagement with the past, the present and the future. It is with this sense of purpose that we should reflect on milestones achieved throughout the years to ensure we apply lessons learned and design a better ECA together."

Mr. Ahmed challenged African leaders to imagine the Africa they would create if they managed to silence all the guns; empowered their communities and built stronger institutions.

"Imagine if we don't invest all our resources to kill each other," he said.

"On this anniversary, ECA shall look back with pride and look forward with hope. ECA shall marshal all its resources to support the AfCFTA. ECA has been with us for 60 years and I'm confident it will be there for Africa's next phase of development," the Prime Minister added.

The meeting was held under the theme; 'African Continental Free Trade Area: Creating Fiscal Space for Jobs and Economic Diversification' and was attended by Africa's Finance, Economic and Planning Ministers as well as Central Bank Governors.

SOURCE: ECA Communication, 2018

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## Africa's free trade and FDI- a case of the good, the bad and the ugly?

A passionate debate on the place of the private sector in the arrangements of the African continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) has shored up tensions in thinking around foreign dominance of big business in Africa, especially in terms of investments. "Private sector and the implementation of the African continental free trade area" was the theme of the round table that spun the said debate at the 51<sup>st</sup> session of the UN Economic Commission for Africa.

"What private sector are we talking about, when we know that in most of our countries, whole shares of the economy are escaping the nationals?" quizzed a delegate, in reaction to the discussions chaired by the Minister of Economy and Finance of Mauritania – Mr. Moctar

Continued on Page 15

## Mobilize African citizens for a successful continental free trade area, says Kaberuka



The people of Africa need to be mobilized for the success of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and the ongoing African Union (AU) reforms, former African Development Bank (AfDB) President, Donald Kaberuka, said Monday. Speaking during a high-level roundtable, which discussed issues around fiscal space and financial sustainability in the context of the AfCFTA, Mr. Kaberuka said the continental free trade area and AU reforms were both critical for Africa's future, adding, nothing

should be taken for granted. "For the AfCFTA we need to get it out of the high level conference halls to the people at all levels. This is critical to the success of this historic enterprise," the former AfDB Chief, who gave the lead presentation in the high-level panel said. "Part of the problem is that we do not mobilize the African citizenry enough. We can't afford to slide back. It is sincerely my hope that

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## AfCFTA a milestone in Africa's journey towards prosperity, says Morocco's Finance Minister



The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is a major milestone that will no doubt lead to a prosperous integrated Africa that is less dependent on outside sources for its wellbeing, Morocco's Economy and Finance Minister, Mohamed Boussaid, said Monday. Mr. Boussaid was contributing to debate in a roundtable discussion at the 51st session of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development that focused on fiscal space and financial sustainability in the context of the AfCFTA. The Minister appealed to countries that are yet to sign-up to the agreement to do so, saying 'there are no losers, we are all winners' with the AfCFTA, especially when it becomes fully operational, opening the way to free trade throughout Africa, facilitating

member countries' industrialisation and economic diversification and ensuring sustainable, employment generating growth for the whole region.

He said intra-African trade will increase once the agreement comes into force.

"Since we will be less dependent on outside sources for the value of our commodities, trade will allow the continent to catch-up in many ways with the rest of the world," said Mr. Boussaid, adding beyond economic advantages, the AfCFTA should give African citizens a sense of pride to belong to a global block that will improve conditions of life across the continent.

"I believe that inter African trade is currently at less than 15 percent but when we look at the regional market in some places, it goes up to 66 percent. Therefore, there

is a great potential - enormous potential for inter-African trade as a result of the AfCFTA and we'll be less dependent on external actors. The AfCFTA is a milestone for a prosperous Africa. There are no losers, we will all win as long as we have the right instruments in place." For her part, Niger's Planning Minister, Aichatou Boulama Kane, said the benefits of the AfCFTA were innumerable hence the need for countries that are yet to sign-up to the agreement to do so. She also urged member countries to quickly ratify the instruments of the AfCFTA so the agreement can go into force for the benefit of the African people.

"As a continent we really do not have a choice - we need to grow our economies and be less dependent on the outside world by mobilising domestic resources to



fund our developmental issues,” said Ms. Kane. Emmanuel Nnadozie, Executive Secretary of the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) said he was worried that African countries had a history of not ratifying treaties and agreements they sign-up to. This, he said, may endanger the AfCFTA. “Ratification of CFTA is only the beginning. To make sure countries benefit from the maximum outcomes, it means that implementation will have to be accelerated through a strong strategy,” he said, adding higher domestic resources would make it easier for countries to implement the AfCFTA.

“The AfCFTA itself will promote the mobilisation of resources that are needed to fund development across the board and it will also help create a more sustainable fiscal space in Africa.” Professor of Economics at Warwick University, Herakles Polemarchakis, shared his experiences as an adviser to Greece during the Greek financial crisis which was a series of debt crises that began with the global financial crisis of 2008. He said some countries incurred huge debts because they consumed more than what they produced. The Conference of Ministers ends Tuesday.

SOURCE: ECA Communications, 2018



## Africa's free trade and FDI...

Ould Djay. The argument raised was that foreign companies dominate the big business sectors in Africa and reap the most of accruing benefits or the dividends of growth. But in the view of panelist – Mr. Admassu Tadesse who heads the Trade and Development Bank (TDB), Africa should welcome foreign direct investment but create the environment for locals to benefit from it by mapping out forward and backward linkages to the concerned ventures.

“We live in an era where global value chains dominate, hence Africa cannot do it on its own,” argued Mr. Tadesse. He added that “we have to embrace international capital but make sure it creates these linkages. It is all about the in-betweens.”

A somewhat middle ground in the tension was obtained in the position of the Chief Economist of the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) – Dr. Hippolyte Fofack who underscored the need to consider raising financing for the private sector on the continent as key. He said credit to Africa's private sector is only 46 per cent as against

100 per cent for the sector in the Euro Zone and 150 per cent for the sector in China.

In his opinion, general support to Africa's private sector would be a very important and rational choice especially in this era of increasing reliance on private-sector-led growth across the world. Aside from supporting businesses with credit, states need to create special economic zones to quicken the development of industrialization and improve regional value chains, he said. When the private sector gets such support, it would need efficient distribution systems to make use of the openings to be ushered in by the AfCFTA, posited the Chairman of Rail Working Group, Mr. Howard Rosen. “The cost of trade is something to be tackled urgently,” Mr. Rosen mooted, while adding that there is need to support building of infrastructure in this area. In a play of ‘first-things-first,’ Rwanda's Ambassador to Ethiopia – H.E. Hope Tumukunde Gasatura said it was important for governments to first ratify the AfCFTA and the protocol on free

Continued from Page 12

movement in Africa, without which their private-sector actors would have no inroads into the Area. She noted that good reforms on ease of doing business was essential for all kinds of players to thrive – the large companies, medium-sized ones and small ventures.

The smaller operators in the game were of concern to UN Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser to the Secretary General on African Affairs – Ms. Bience Gawanas. She urged governments to pay attention to the very small players especially those of the informal sector, small-holder farmers and women. “When Government is trying to involve the private sector, it must tailor support packages for each group; not a one-size-fits-all,” she reasoned.

In all of these, leadership, governance and synergy between government departments will be key in making support to the private sector meaningful in the context of the AfCFTA, concluded Ms. Gawanas.

SOURCE: ECA Communications, 2018

## Mobilize African...

every country in this room should make it a solemn pledge that the AU, the only continental political instrument we have and need, should be a top priority.”

The discussion followed the official opening of the ministerial segment of the 51st Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and another high level roundtable that covered a variety of topics related to the

implementation of the AfCFTA, in particular reforms needed for member countries to fully benefit from the agreement.

Mr. Kaberuka said the AfCFTA was much more than a tariff elimination exercise, adding it should be “a quantum jump in how our continent repositions in the context of a weak multilateral system and a time of a potential demographic cliff for us, for a lack of a better word”.

Continued from Page 12

But for that to happen, he said, Africa has to deal with fears expressed by countries that are still to sign-up to the AfCFTA, convince doubters, or even cynics who think the agreement is utopia. Mr. Kaberuka said AfCFTA negotiators should address the fears and come up with a package tackling all matters being raised. “This package should in principle

Continued on Page 25

# NUMBERS



# 17.5

17.5 million people die per year from cardiovascular disease, including heart attacks and strokes.

SOURCE: WHO, 2017

# 48,000

babies to be born on New Year's Day in Eastern and Southern Africa UNICEF

UNICEF says that babies born in Eastern and Southern Africa will account for 12 per cent of the estimated 386,000 babies to be born globally on New Year's Day. Almost 58 per cent of these births will take place in five countries within the region, with the largest number of births on New Year's Day projected for Ethiopia:

- Ethiopia — 9,023
- The United Republic of Tanzania — 5,995
- Uganda — 4,953
- Kenya — 4,237
- Angola — 3,417

SOURCE: UNICEF, 2018

# 40-50%

Only 40-50% of people drive under the speed limit.

SOURCE: WHO, 2017

# 47%

47% of girls aged 15-19 have undergone Female Genital Mutilation.

SOURCE: Ethiopia Demographics and Health Survey (EDHS) 2016

# 570,000

Air pollution causes 570,000 deaths in children under age 5 annually. This includes indoor, outdoor and second-hand smoke.

SOURCE: WHO, 2017

# 910,000

Ethiopia is home to almost 910,000 refugees.

SOURCE: UNHCR, 2018

# 15,000

15,000 refugees have arrived since the beginning of 2018.

SOURCE: UNHCR, 2018



# +1,500

Since the new policy on vital events registration was launched in Ethiopia in Oct, 2017 +1,500 certificates have been issued for refugees across the country.

SOURCE: UNHCR, 2018

# 52,000

In last 16 months, over 52,000 children found safety in Ethiopia's Nguenyiel Camp.

SOURCE: UNHCR, 2018

# 25mln

An estimated 25 million child marriages were prevented in last decade.

SOURCE: UNICEF, 2018



# 12,000

women and girls participated in the UN 2018 WOMEN FIRST RUN



# HEALTH

## 10 WAYS TO CONTROL HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE WITHOUT MEDICATION

**By making these 10 lifestyle changes, you can lower your blood pressure and reduce your risk of heart disease.**

If you've been diagnosed with high blood pressure, you might be worried about taking medication to bring your numbers down.

Lifestyle plays an important role in treating your high blood pressure. If you successfully control your blood pressure with a healthy lifestyle, you might avoid, delay or reduce the need for medication.

Here are 10 lifestyle changes you can make to lower your blood pressure and keep it down.

### **1. Lose extra pounds and watch your waistline**

Blood pressure often increases as weight increases. Being overweight also can cause disrupted breathing while you sleep (sleep apnea), which further raises your blood pressure.

Weight loss is one of the most effective lifestyle changes for controlling blood pressure. Losing even a small amount of weight if you're overweight or obese can help reduce your blood pressure. In general, you may reduce your blood pressure by about 1 millimeter of mercury (mm Hg) with each kilogram (about 2.2 pounds) of weight you lose.

Besides shedding pounds, you generally should also keep an eye on your waistline. Carrying too much weight around your waist can put you at greater risk of high blood pressure.

In general:

Men are at risk if their waist measurement is greater than 40



# HEALTH

inches (102 centimeters).

Women are at risk if their waist measurement is greater than 35 inches (89 centimeters).

These numbers vary among ethnic groups. Ask your doctor about a healthy waist measurement for you.

## **2. Exercise regularly**

Regular physical activity — such as 150 minutes a week, or about 30 minutes most days of the week — can lower your blood pressure by about 5 to 8 mm Hg if you have high blood pressure. It's important to be consistent because if you stop exercising, your blood pressure can rise again.

If you have elevated blood pressure, exercise can help you avoid developing hypertension. If you already have hypertension, regular physical activity can bring your blood pressure down to safer levels.

Some examples of aerobic exercise you may try to lower blood pressure include walking, jogging,

cycling, swimming or dancing. You can also try high-intensity interval training, which involves alternating short bursts of intense activity with subsequent recovery periods of lighter activity. Strength training also can help reduce blood pressure. Aim to include strength training exercises at least two days a week. Talk to your doctor about developing an exercise program.

## **3. Eat a healthy diet**

Eating a diet that is rich in whole grains, fruits, vegetables and low-fat dairy products and skimps on saturated fat and cholesterol can lower your blood pressure by up to 11 mm Hg if you have high blood pressure. This eating plan is known as the Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension (DASH) diet.

It isn't easy to change your eating habits, but with these tips, you can adopt a healthy diet:

Keep a food diary. Writing down what you eat, even for just a week, can shed surprising light on your

true eating habits. Monitor what you eat, how much, when and why.

Consider boosting potassium. Potassium can lessen the effects of sodium on blood pressure. The best source of potassium is food, such as fruits and vegetables, rather than supplements. Talk to your doctor about the potassium level that's best for you.

Be a smart shopper. Read food labels when you shop and stick to your healthy-eating plan when you're dining out, too.

## **4. Reduce sodium in your diet**

Even a small reduction in the sodium in your diet can improve your heart health and reduce blood pressure by about 5 to 6 mm Hg if you have high blood pressure.

The effect of sodium intake on blood pressure varies among groups of people. In general, limit sodium to 2,300 milligrams (mg) a day or less. However, a lower sodium

**Continued on Page 20**

# 10 WAYS TO CONTROL...

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**If you can't eliminate all of your stressors, you can at least cope with them in a healthier way.**

intake — 1,500 mg a day or less — is ideal for most adults.

To decrease sodium in your diet, consider these tips:

Read food labels. If possible, choose low-sodium alternatives of the foods and beverages you normally buy.

Eat fewer processed foods. Only a small amount of sodium occurs naturally in foods. Most sodium is added during processing.

Don't add salt. Just 1 level teaspoon of salt has 2,300 mg of sodium. Use herbs or spices to add flavor to your food.

Ease into it. If you don't feel you can drastically reduce the sodium in your diet suddenly, cut back gradually. Your palate will adjust over time.

## **5. Limit the amount of alcohol you drink**

Alcohol can be both good and bad for your health. By drinking alcohol

only in moderation — generally one drink a day for women, or two a day for men — you can potentially lower your blood pressure by about 4 mm Hg. One drink equals 12 ounces of beer, five ounces of wine or 1.5 ounces of 80-proof liquor.

But that protective effect is lost if you drink too much alcohol.

Drinking more than moderate amounts of alcohol can actually raise blood pressure by several points. It can also reduce the effectiveness of blood pressure medications.

## **6. Quit smoking**

Each cigarette you smoke increases your blood pressure for many minutes after you finish. Stopping smoking helps your blood pressure return to normal. Quitting smoking can reduce your risk of heart disease and improve your overall health. People who quit smoking may live longer than people who never quit smoking.

## **7. Cut back on caffeine**

The role caffeine plays in blood pressure is still debated. Caffeine can raise blood pressure up to 10 mm Hg in people who rarely consume it. But people who drink coffee regularly may experience little or no effect on their blood pressure.

Although the long-term effects of caffeine on blood pressure aren't clear, it's possible blood pressure may slightly increase.

To see if caffeine raises your blood pressure, check your pressure within 30 minutes of drinking a caffeinated beverage. If your blood pressure increases by 5 to 10 mm Hg, you

may be sensitive to the blood pressure raising effects of caffeine. Talk to your doctor about the effects of caffeine on your blood pressure.

## **8. Reduce your stress**

Chronic stress may contribute to high blood pressure. More research is needed to determine the effects of chronic stress on blood pressure. Occasional stress also can contribute to high blood pressure if you react to stress by eating unhealthy food, drinking alcohol or smoking.

Take some time to think about what causes you to feel stressed, such as work, family, finances or illness. Once you know what's causing your stress, consider how you can eliminate or reduce stress.

If you can't eliminate all of your stressors, you can at least cope with them in a healthier way. Try to:

Change your expectations. For example, plan your day and focus on your priorities. Avoid trying to do too much and learn to say no. Understand there are some things you can't change or control, but you can focus on how you react to them.

Focus on issues you can control and make plans to solve them. If you are having an issue at work, try talking to your manager. If you are having a conflict with your kids or spouse, take steps to resolve it.

Avoid stress triggers. Try to avoid triggers when you can. For example, if rush-hour traffic on the way to work causes stress, try leaving earlier in the morning, or take public

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# Microsoft OneDrive tips and tricks to make the cloud work for you

In the ever-evolving workplace, the expectations of having instant access to reports, projects and files cease to plateau. The concept of only being able to view your documents that live on your office computer from the computer itself is all but gone. Our information is as portable as we are.

Remote access to your work means that you can be productive and collaborative from anywhere. Your local storage remains uncluttered, enabling you to not have to worry about files you may access less frequently. Depending on your daily driver you may not want to invest in another storage card option, or perhaps you're simply unable to expand.

There are quite a few popular and powerful cloud storage service providers in the world, including Dropbox, Google Drive and Box. Microsoft's OneDrive, formerly SkyDrive (formerly Live Folders, Essentials and other iterations), is a well received and widely accepted cloud-sync option that's not to be overlooked. Natural and complete integration with Office is by far one of it's most powerful advantages over other solutions. If you're considering trusting OneDrive to help you manage your projects on the go, or you already use it, take a look at these tips and tricks. They just may help you "become one" with OneDrive.

Anything you store in OneDrive is private until you decide to share it. One of the easiest and most creative

ways to do so is using OneDrive.com. After signing in with your Microsoft account, you get access to all of your items. You simply have to choose the items and select the share icon. You have the option to choose a link to post or send an email invitation to specific individuals or distribution groups. Either method gives you the ability to choose a "view only" option (where your work can be viewed, copied or downloaded) or an "edit option" (allowing people to edit, forward, rename or delete your work or even add their own). It's a rather convenient way to share files without the need to simply email attachments, and you can rescind permissions at any time.

## How to share an item using OneDrive.com

1. Locate the file or folder in question.
2. Right click on the folder and select Share or hover over the folder icon to make the checkmark circle appear.
3. Select Share from the tool tray.
4. In the pop-up window, select whether or not you want to allow the recipient to make edits to your work.
5. Select Get a link to generate a shortened URL that can be copied.
6. Select Email to send directly to the recipient by adding the email address and an optional message.

## IFTTT and Microsoft Flow for effortless automation

Who doesn't want to get the most amount of work done while making the least amount of effort?

That may sound lazy, but it's more about simplifying the small tasks so that you can maximize your time and effectiveness for the more challenging items. One of the more popular web-based services that allows for online automation is IFTTT (an acronym for If This Then That). The service sports "applets" that allow various services to connect and perform functions nearly effortlessly. Users have been known to use IFTTT to upload images to social media automatically after taking them, or request their smart home setup to turn on the lights when the sun sets. With IFTTT, you can choose to automatically save images and screenshots, back up mail attachments or upload images posted to social media to your OneDrive.

Alternatively, you can use Microsoft Flow to save attachments from Outlook, copy files from other cloud-storage services, send files to an email address or connect to other services such as Wunderlist and Facebook. While these services manage behavior around managing your files, you can then focus on putting the files to work for you.

SOURCE: <https://www.windowscentral.com/tips-and-tricks-make-you-one-onedrive>



**“VIOLENCE FREE LIFE IS MY RIGHT”**

Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa-Onochie, the UN Resident Coordinator, UNDP Resident Representative and UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Ethiopia



We sat down with Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa-Onochie, the UN Resident Coordinator, UNDP Resident Representative and UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Ethiopia, to talk about her participation in the Women's Run in March but we ended up discussing so much more. From the #metoo movement to the role of teachers in fostering gender equality, there was a lot of ground to cover.

**We were pleased to hear that you run the Women's Run this year. How long did it take you to finish?**

Just under an hour.

**Did you enjoy the run?**

It was wonderful - so refreshing and energizing. There were over 12,000 participants. It was an incredible experience to be around mostly young women. Normally, I wouldn't run all the way but I actually did run. The energy all around me was palpable. The last time I had this feeling of excitement was when I went to the Beijing Women Conference in 1995.

**There are always people on the sidelines watching during these events. How did you view these bystanders?**

I actually paid attention to this. I wanted to know who was watching and what they were thinking as they were watching. The one thing I noticed is that there were a lot of guys selling various things to the runners. The event presented a commercial opportunity for them. I also noticed a group of young women, nurses I think, who were obviously on duty but came out to cheer. They couldn't be part of it because they were on duty but they were sharing in the celebrations somehow. Next time, we should get men to line up and cheer the women, not just sell water to us!

**What is the role of these types of events? What type of goal do they meet?**

These types of events increase the visibility of issues. This year's theme was "Violence Free Life Is My Right." We purposely chose an active theme instead of a passive one. It creates awareness that women have the right for violence free lives. The idea is to have a theme everyone can rally behind. During the run, I saw

CEOs, singers, artists, olympic medalists and heads of international organizations. Until the issue actually gets better, we have a yearly event that reminds us that it is still a problem.

**What do you do in order to motivate yourself, friends, family, colleagues, and members of your community to be sensitive to the issue gender equality?**

For me, this is personal. I come from a family of 9 children 6 of whom are girls. I grew up at a time when it was not popular to have many girls. My parents were under a lot of pressure because their girls outnumbered the boys. I remember my father clearly saying to us that it made no difference to him. He made no difference in the way he treated his boy children and girl children. This comes across even in the names he gave us. In defiance of his own community, he gave us really validating names. When I came along, he named me Ahuna - it means the body of the father. He claimed his girls and placed value on them and I never forgot that.

The fight begins with the validation of people's humanity irrespective of who they are. I teach my daughter everyday to recognize everyone's humanity because once you are face to face with another person on the basis of their humanity, you are less likely to be violent or to devalue them. I also teach her to be aware of her rights. You have teach kids when they are young not only to respect others but to also themselves.

We are trying to change the world to become a place where half the population isn't left out from contributing to its betterment. Our world is much poorer today because of the devaluation of women. Violence has a huge impact on limiting womens

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potential. When someone faces violence, it penetrates their entire system of humanity - their mind, their body, their spirit and soul. It isn't just a woman got hit and she now has bruises, her spirit is infinitely affected when her entire humanity faces an abuse like that. It takes a long time to recover, if at all. It limits her view of herself and her strength. It kills her dreams and confidence. A woman in this situation can't live out her potential. We should focus on preventing violence from happening because once it does, a lot of the damage has already been done.

## **What are your thoughts regarding women recognizing our own humanity and value?**

It all starts at home. If you give birth to a boy and a girl and you keep saying to the girl go get something for your brother or don't disturb your brother while he is studying - this really plants in your daughter's head that she is of less value. Once that seed has been planted, it is difficult to remove. Parents have enormous responsibility to ensure that the right seed has been planted in girls. Once that is planted, her sense of value can be cultivated. Teachers play an important role in cultivating self-value in girls. Gender awareness must be at the core of any teacher training.

I talked earlier about my name - Ahuna. I actually didn't like my name when I was young. My Africanist father didn't give us English names even though by tradition you are supposed to be given an English name after baptism. When I was young, I

wanted English names just like other kids. I actually gave myself an English name without my parents' knowledge. Then one day, I walked into class at my university and began introducing myself to my professor. He asked what my name was and when I said Ahuna, he sat back and exclaimed, "Ahuna! What a beautiful name!" From that day on, I owned my name but I was 18 before I did so. This is why teachers are so important. They can make a tremendous difference in validating the humanity of children from very diverse backgrounds.

## **How far do you think the world, in particular our continent, has come in regards to gender issues and justice?**

It is a mixed picture, to be honest. If I compare myself to my mother, for example, when she was growing up she was one of the most brilliant girls in her community and she got a scholarship to go on and further her education but she was deprived of this opportunity even though she had a very progressive father. Fast track to me - I had every opportunity to go to school. There was no question at this time about girls going to school. It is clear we have made progress when compared to the previous generations.

About two months ago, I was in the Afar region here in Ethiopia visiting a school in a pastoralist area. I talked to two girls, both in their teens. They told me that it was possible for them to go to school because they have an aunt that

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Continued on Page 28



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“It all starts at home. If you give birth to a boy and a girl and you keep saying to the girl go get something for your brother or don't disturb your brother while he is studying - this really plants in your daughter's head that she is of less value.”

# 10 WAYS TO CONTROL...

Continued from Page 20

transportation. Avoid people who cause you stress if possible.

Make time to relax and to do activities you enjoy. Take time each day to sit quietly and breathe deeply. Make time for enjoyable activities or hobbies in your schedule, such as taking a walk, cooking or volunteering.

Practice gratitude. Expressing gratitude to others can help reduce your stress.

## 9. Monitor your blood pressure at home and see your doctor regularly

Home monitoring can help you keep tabs on your blood pressure, make certain your lifestyle changes are working, and alert you and your doctor to potential health complications. Blood pressure monitors are available widely and without a prescription. Talk to your doctor about home monitoring before you get started.

Regular visits with your doctor are also key to controlling your blood pressure. If your blood pressure is well-controlled, check with your doctor about how often you need to check it. Your doctor may suggest checking it daily or less often. If you're making any changes in your medications or other treatments, your doctor may recommend you check your blood pressure starting two weeks after treatment changes and a week before your next appointment.

## 10. Get support

Supportive family and friends can help improve your health. They may encourage you to take care of

yourself, drive you to the doctor's office or embark on an exercise program with you to keep your blood pressure low.

If you find you need support beyond your family and friends, consider joining a support group. This may put you in touch with people who

can give you an emotional or morale boost and who can offer practical tips to cope with your condition.

SOURCE: <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/high-blood-pressure/in-depth/high-blood-pressure/art-20046974>

# Mobilize African...

Continued from Page 15

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The AfCFTA is a lot more than goods and merchandise; the services sector are probably as important, from logistics, telecommunications, to trade, finance and non-bank financial services,”

bring everyone to the zone of comfort. However, even with all these guarantees, success depends on a shift in the mindset,” he said, adding the continent needs to understand that trade today is not what it was thirty years ago. “The AfCFTA is a lot more than goods and merchandise; the services sector are probably as important, from logistics, telecommunications, to trade, finance and non-bank financial services,” Mr. Kaberuka said, adding tariffs were only one part of the problem. “At the end of the day it is by promoting economic growth through trade and investment that fiscal space will emerge - that is the promise of the AfCFTA,” said Mr. Kaberuka, adding through the

AfCFTA, “we will boost intra-Africa trade, increase market size, depth and diversity increase opportunities for business, consumers, producers, diversify our economies to complex products thereby expanding fiscal possibilities”.

He said it was only by so doing that the continent can build resilience in the current global systems and avoid the demographic cliffs.

Forty-four African countries signed the AfCFTA in Rwanda in March, an agreement establishing a free trade area seen as vital to the continent's economic development. At least 22 member countries should ratify the agreement before it goes into force.

SOURCE: ECA Communications

# EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES UNTIL NOW

Mr. Robert Gardiner is a national of Ghana. He was the Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) from 1961 to 1975.

**Mr. Robert K.A Gardiner (Ghana)**



Mr. Issa Ben Yacine Diallo is a national of Guinea-Conakry He was the Under- Secretary General and Executive Secretary of the United Nations ECA from 1991 to 1992.

**Mr.Issa Diallo (Guinea)**



(1959 - 1961)

(1975 - 1991)

(1992 - 1999)

(1961 - 1975)

(1991 - 1992)



**Mr. Mekki Abbas (Sudan)**

Mr. Mekki Abbas was born in Sudan. He was the first Under- Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the United Nations ECA from 1959 to 1961.



**Mr. Adebayo Adedeji (Nigeria)**

Professor Adebayo Adedeji is from Nigeria. He was the Under- Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the United Nations ECA from 1975 to 1991.



**Mr. Layashi Yaker (Algeria)**

Mr. Layashi Yaker is from Algeria. He was the Under- Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the United Nations ECA from 1992 to 1999.



Economic  
Commission for  
Africa  
1958 - 2018

Mr. Kingsley Y. Amoako is a national of Ghana. He was the Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the United Nations ECA from 1995 to 2005.

Mr. Lopes was appointed UN Assistant-Secretary-General Executive Secretary of the United Nations ECA from 2012-2016

**Mr. Kingsley Amoako  
(Ghana)**



**Mr. Carlos Lopes  
(Guinea-Bissau)**



(2005 - 2012)

(2017 - Present)

(1995 - 2005)

(2012 - 2016)



**Mr. Abdoulie Janneh  
(Gambia)**

Mr. Abdoulie Janneh is from the Gambia. He was the Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the United Nations ECA from 2005 to 2012.



**Mrs. Vera Songwe  
(Cameroon)**

Mrs. Vera Songwe is from the Cameroon. She is the Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the United Nations ECA from 2017 to present.



does their chores for them. One of them said she also has a cousin that encourages her; this cousin has finished high school and is now at the University. Even now these changes that are happening in societies are quiet organic.

At the same time some of the things that still happen to women shock me. The abuse and harassment of women is something that persists not just in rural areas but even when the woman is educated. So, it is a mixed picture but definitely much better than my mom's time.

**Any thoughts in regards to the wider implications of the recently trending #metoo movement? How did you feel watching it unfold?**

When I saw what was happening, I didn't know whether to laugh or cry

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The fight begins with the validation of people's humanity irrespective of who they are. I teach my daughter everyday to recognize everyone's humanity because once you are face to face with another person on the basis of their humanity, you are less likely to be violent or to devalue them.”

because the fact that it is coming out now doesn't mean it is a new thing; it is actually something that has always been there. The bigger question is, why there was so much silence around it? Now that it is being voiced, we need to celebrate! You can't really solve something nobody is willing to talk about and put on the table.

It is important to also note who is talking about it - the victims. I am thrilled that it is now in the open and the victims' voices are being heard. What is happening is powerful and I certainly think it is a healthy trend. To be honest, it is also depressing that these issues exist on the levels we are seeing!

**Social media has become a huge tool for activism. Could these conversations be useful even in a country like Ethiopia where**

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# Annual Professor Adebayo Adedeji Lecture



2018 Conference of Ministers special side event in honour of the late Professor Calestous Juma. The deliberate and purposeful deployment of science, technology and innovation to achieve and improve development outcomes remains a central challenge in Africa. Countries have grappled with this challenge ever since their immediate post-independence years. Africa's persistent low ranking on all measures of economic development shows that success on this score has been rare and that a great deal still has to be done for African countries to successfully harness science, technology and innovation to achieve their development objectives and transform, in far-reaching ways, the lives of their people. Confronting and overcoming this challenge has instigated many national and continental science, technology and

innovation action plans, strategies and policies. The African Union's latest science, technology and innovation master plan, the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa 2024 (STISA 2024), places science, technology and innovation at the centre of the continent's social and economic development and growth. The theme of this year's annual Adebayo Adedeji Lecture is "Envisioning a science, technology and innovation future for Africa in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063". The lecture honoured Professor Juma, an ardent advocate of an African future shaped by science, technology and innovation, who died in December 2017. The lecture explored an Africa of the future where science, technology and innovation play an important role as impetus and underpinning of structural and

social transformation. This Africa of the future will be constructed with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (Agenda 2030) and Agenda 2063 of the African Union as important driving forces. Both agendas assign a leading role to technology and innovation, identifying these as important means of implementation. Frontier technologies such as artificial intelligence, pervasive computing, biotechnology, nanotechnology and new energy storage technologies will play a role in shaping that future. New continental integration arrangements, notably the recently signed African Continental Free Trade Agreement, are also likely to play an important role in shaping that future. The lecture was followed by a moderated panel discussion with audience participation.

# A Golden Anniversary of UNSSCA



Abeje Belew  
UNSSCA

Five decades ago in April 1968, a Financial Club was established by the Staff of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) known as the ECA Staff Savings Club. That was the first memorable moment for today's United Nations Staff Savings and Credit Association (UNSSCA) which was subsequently enlarged in 1978 when the Staff of the other UN family of Organizations working in Ethiopia joined it.

Twenty Eighteen is also one of the unforgettable years in the history of UNSSCA. It is more remarkable since the Association will celebrate its Golden Anniversary this year. The Association is very proud to reach this stage without breaking its objective for which it was originally created for – i.e. “to promote thrift amongst its Members by affording them an

opportunity to make savings and to create for them a source of credit for provident purposes”. Therefore, UNSSCA's establishment, growth and assertiveness have served a purpose in demonstrating to UN community in Ethiopia just what can be achieved through perseverance and commitment, when the cause is an impartial one.

Since the time of its establishment, the Association has seen exponential growth in its membership as well as in its total assets and its financial base to meet Members' loan demands. Today, UNSSCA serves more than 3,000 Members not only working in Ethiopia but also those who are at the various ECA Sub Regional Offices (SROs) and UN Agencies Field Offices.

The UNECA Staff Savings Club, as it

## UN FAMILY CORNER

Do you have passionate children's or family member to tell their own story over different matters? If yes, then this page is designed for them so that they can share their views with the staffs of UN. email us on [svm@un.org](mailto:svm@un.org)

## Peace on Earth

Life has its ups and downs because we need a lot of things in our daily lives. Among these things, having peace in our lives is the most important. Peace is the state of being where there is no violence. These days, war has become a common daily topic all over the world. People go to war when a solution that brings peace can't be found. According to my observation, there are three ways to follow. But almost everyone in these war areas take one side or

the other. So an argument arises due to inability to compromise and gradually leading to a fight. As a solution to this, I believe the “middle way” is the road to peace. Because most people are ignorant, they do not see this middle road and take extreme sides based on their beliefs. This brings war. People who see the middle way are activists who feel responsible to show the way but get dwarfed or overwhelmed by the insanity of the majority and get in trouble or

threatened with their lives. So I suggest we stop taking extreme sides and move towards the middle ground that holds parts of everyone's interest. Thinking as humanly as possible will bring peace to all of the world. We can change our world by positively thinking towards the middle ground which can make us all happy.

**By: Kaleb Bruck**  
**Age: 11**



was originally named, was founded on the principles of assistance and a desire to bring affordable financial services to its Members. Few would have believed half a century ago that the Association would have risen to the heights it has reached today.

The last fifty years have been rich

**UNITED NATIONS  
STAFF SAVINGS AND CREDIT  
ASSOCIATION**

contributed over the past 50 years to make UNSSCA the success it has accomplished. I wish to, therefore, take this opportunity to express, on behalf of my predecessors, my colleagues currently working and on my own behalf, my profound and heartfelt “thank you” to all those who have contributed to UNSSCA’s success during this



**NATIONS UNIES  
ASSOCIATION D'EPARGNE ET DE  
CREDIT DU PERSONNEL**

have served UNSSCA in various capacities as well as a programme for charitable contribution and entertainment, among others. This event would help all stake holders to look at the past and re-examine our direction to put strategy for the way forward so that UNSSCA will continue to have a strong presence in the UN community in Ethiopia

with significant achievements and change for UNSSCA. These landmark records are all the result of the relentless efforts made by the Board of Directors, Members of the various Organs and the Employees. Of course, the lion share of the credit goes to all the Members for their significant collaboration.

No occasion like this would be complete without a full appreciation of the efforts of all those who have significantly

long journey. I also wish to extend my special thanks to the Division of Administrations of all the collaborating UN Agencies and ECA for their continued assistance.

This 50Th Anniversary is, therefore, an opportunity to celebrate UNSSCA’s success, reinforce connections between Members and the office of UNSSCA and reaffirm our core values. The program includes recognition of the founding Members and those who

and SROs. It also serves as a venue to strengthen its continued aim of providing financial services for its Members with the firm cooperation of ECA and all other UN Agencies located in Addis Ababa who have greatly assisted UNSSCA since its inception. I am confident that all distinguished Members will join us on May 8, 2018 as we remember and celebrate the beauty of small things and what they have accomplished for you and your family since 1968.

## My Ambition

I remember when I was about seven years old my father used to take me outside, at night, to watch the sky. We used to gaze up the stars and he’d tell me to focus on the sky as hard as I could and tell him what I saw. He thought me how to recognize a few constellations, Orion’s belt, a trio of stars that shine a bit more brightly compared to other stars with his finger, he’d indicate the luminous venues, a planet and Sirius, a very bright star. He also told me that I used to cry begging him to bring down

the moon for me, so I could hold it. I don’t know if I look this as a stepping stone, I wanted to learn more about our universe.

Seeing my interest, my parents bought me various books about space and astronomy, and of course, I continuously bombarded them with questions. I read about basic stuff like our solar system and stars. I particularly remember aspiring to be the Neil Armstrong of Saturn and sit on its rings and spin around till I got dizzy. Sadly,

two years later I discovered that Saturn’s rings were made of gas and minuscule fragments of ice (Which totally dumped my hopes) So, I read more books and watched more documentaries I decided I wanted to be an astrophysicist, not an astronaut. To add fuel in my passion, my parents took me to Canada and I visited a space center, and here in Ethiopia the Entoto observatory.

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# TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR ADEBAYO ADEDEJI

The entire staff of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) mourns the passing of Professor Adebayo Adedeji, who passed away on 25 April 2018.

Professor Adedeji served as the Executive Secretary of ECA from 1975-1991. He was greatly respected for his leadership and contribution to changing the discourse of Africa's development agenda. He was a visionary and proponent of Pan-Africanism. He vigorously advocated for a more integrated Africa, whose development foundation is based on national self-reliance and home-grown solutions.

Professor Adedeji was a true icon, an outstanding scholar, thinker and activist, who was passionate about Africa's development. He will always be remembered for his unique contributions to the sustainable development of Africa.

For over four decades, he was one of the foremost promoters of regional integration in Africa. In the early 1970s, as Nigeria's Minister for Economic Development and Reconstruction, he led the negotiations that gave birth to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), earning him the title "Father of ECOWAS".

His ardent belief in Africa's integration led to the development of the Lagos Plan of Action. His contributions to regional integration are embodied in Africa's development framework, Agenda 2063, for the realization of 'An

integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in international arena'.



He worked tirelessly to reverse the adverse impact of the Structural Adjustment Program (SAP) on economies and led the development of Africa's Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programs for Socio-Economic Recovery and Transformation (AAF-SAP), which charted a new course for Africa's development.

Prof. Adedeji also supported efforts at democratization in Africa. The Arusha Declaration on the African Charter on Popular Participation in Development and Transformation in Africa of 1990 had ECA playing a major role under Adedeji's leadership.

In retirement, Prof. Adedeji continued to serve the continent in various capacities, notably, as Chair of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) Panel of

Eminent Persons. He continued to engage in debates and discussions on pathways and strategies for Africa's development. In 2007, Prof. Adedeji was appointed as Chair of a panel by the African Union to audit the various organs of the AU and make recommendations, a responsibility that was discharged creditably well.

Africa will miss, but fondly remember Prof. Adedeji as an illustrious son, who gave his life, energy, passion and intellectual gift to the Continent.

For us at ECA, he was our inspiration for the delivery of flagship outputs, such as the Assessing Regional Integration publication and the African Governance Report. As ECA Executive Secretary from 1975 to 1991, he actively promoted the creation of other regional initiatives, including the Preferential Trade Area (PTA), which subsequently became COMESA. Other notable achievements of ECA under his leadership include the Final Act of Lagos (1980). His tenure at ECA saw the institution become a leading Pan-African platform and an intellectual think tank.

It, therefore, goes without saying that we must credit the historical signing of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) on 21 March 2018 to the influential leadership of Professor Adedeji.

The Annual Adebayo Adedeji Lecture Series, an annual discourse on contemporary issues that frame his vision, is a commemoration of

# My Ambition...

Continued from Page 31



So, I read more books and watched more documentaries I decided I wanted to be an astrophysicist, not an astronaut. To add fuel in my passion, my parents took me to Canada and I visited a space center, and here in Ethiopia the Entoto observatory.

Nowadays, I am reading numerous books on space, science fiction, and actual reality by Stephen Hawking and other scientific works by other authors. I want to be like Stephen Hawking perhaps even better. I ask myself... why do we exist? Why do things exist instead of vacuum? If the universe is expanding (as a student show) into what? Nothingness? Do aliens exist? Do I have an initial purpose in this Universe? Why does the universe work the way it does? Are there any other universes? My heads spins with questions.

I wondered about the singularities of the universe (the Big Bang, Big crunch, etc...) The Big Bang seems like a plausible theory except that things explode out of nowhere. There are several theories about the universes end.

The universe would expand till reached maximum size and began shrinking but the time arrow and the thermodynamic arrow (Thermodynamic arrow – the arrow of direction in which the universe expands) travel in the same direction, time would start going backwards and you would die before you were born and things like that and the universe would shrink back to zero size and end. Other theories say that as time goes all nuclear forces and fuels would end in the Universe and it'd freeze to its end.

Some say at the end all things from the biggest galaxies to the smallest atoms the universe would rip apart and cause a disaster. No one completely groks Quantum physics and Dark Matter, Staring theories, etc... Also, what if aliens exist?

Unless the internet lies then there are many different testimonials to the fact extraterrestrial civilizations exist. Things like messages from the Andromeda and buildings and skeletons on the moon, UFO's in Ancient Egyptian Hierglyphics. Who knows, they could be out there...

I pray that my dreams and aspirations materialize and I'd become a famous Astrophysicist representing Ethiopia, waving my Ethiopian flag. I want to decode all these mysteries since antiquity and I want to sign. my name as 'Amani from Ethiopia'

Amani Adem  
Age 11  
6<sup>th</sup> grader  
Flipper International school

# “VIOLENCE FREE...

Continued from Page 28

## internet penetration is so low?

Social media has created an unparalleled platform for activism but it doesn't mean that there aren't other media that can be tapped into while internet usage grows in

places like Ethiopia. Radio is a good example. We need to leverage what is already there and has a wide reach. However, when we eventually have 100 percent coverage, it is going to be transformative.

**If someone were to give you a magic wand and it can change one thing in order to improve the lives of women around the world, what would you do?**

Educate every girl!

▶ his contribution to development on the African continent.

As we mourn this immense loss, we commit to honoring his legacy and

continuing the work he started.

We at ECA offer our deepest condolences to his family, to the Government, the people of Nigeria,

as well as the people of Africa and to all who have been impacted by his life and grieve with us.

**Vera Songwe**

## Opening of the Conference of Ministers 2018

The 51st session of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development in Addis Ababa



## STEPS: Analysis of five countries

Structural Transformation with a focus on Employment, Production and Society (STEPS) Analysis of five countries: Ethiopia, Cameroon, Morocco, Zambia and Benin A Side event of the Conference of Ministers 2018, 13 May STEPS Profiles aim to be a strategic vehicle to produce and disseminate country and region-specific data and policy analysis on structural transformation, with a view to promoting sustainable economic and social development in member States. This side event introduced the STEPS4SD framework and presents the pilot STEPS Profiles that have been produced to date.





Snapshot from the opening of the Conference of Ministers 2018



A woman with dark hair, smiling broadly, stands on a stage. She is wearing a dark navy blue blazer over a black and white lace dress. She is also wearing a pearl necklace and small earrings. The background is a colorful, abstract pattern of lights and shapes. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

**“THE GREATER  
GOAL IS ACHIEVING  
HAPPINESS”**

Photo by Sol Image

NEO JANE MASISI

“

I knew that education was the key to a successful life. My father passed away when I was only seven, so I viewed my mother as head of the family from then on. She is hardworking, extremely principled, supportive, and a firm believer in self – discipline. I learned to set a high standard for myself from my parents.

#### **Briefly introduce yourself to us.**

I was born 46 years ago in Francistown, Botswana to the late Mr. Baruki Maswabi and Mrs. Irene Maswabi. I am the first of six children. I spent most of my life in Botswana where I studied and worked in the Private Sector. In 2004, I joined the United Nations - first at the Headquarters in New York and then at the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. I also worked briefly in Central African Republic.

I got married to Mr. Mokgweetsi Masisi in 2002 and we have a beautiful daughter, Atsile, who is now twelve years old. I also have a large extended family from both my parent's sides, who have also been an integral part of my upbringing.

#### **Where did you grow up?**

I grew up and went to school in Gaborone, Botswana where my parents were working. Most of my formative experiences were in the city I grew up in. Staying in one place provided stability but I later

decided that I needed to venture not only out of Gaborone but of my country.

#### **Where did you go to the university and what did you end up studying?**

I am an accountant by profession. I attained Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) – from the Debswana Accountancy Training Centre and MBA from De Monfort University. Currently, I am not pursuing any degrees, but I am certainly interested in studying further.

#### **How has your work at the ECA been like?**

My job at UNECA has been very interesting. Moving from UNHQ where one tends to work in a very specialized environment, UNECA afforded me exposure to the client areas i.e. I now have a fair appreciation of the Programmes at the Commission and I am familiar with the Programme Management Cycle within the substantive areas. My job was also very exciting

during the eighteen months pre Umoja deployment up until a few months after deployment. I enjoyed being on the Deployment Team and ultimately joining the UNHQ Deployment Team for Grants.

Above all, what better organization can one work for, being part of the UN family gives me so much satisfaction; although I am in a support function I know I am contributing to the continent's development right from my desk.

#### **Do you take work home with you?**

In early days I used to take work home, but after I had my child I learned about work-life balance; one needs to balance. I achieve maximum productivity at work to have quality time with family.

#### **Who is your role model, and why?**

I was fortunate because both my parents were university graduates; which meant they had good jobs and were able to expose us to an



averagely decent life. From an early age, I knew that education was the key to a successful life. My father passed away when I was only seven, so I viewed my mother as head of the family from then on. She is hardworking, extremely principled, supportive, and a firm believer in self – discipline. I learned to set a high standard for myself from my parents.

My husband, who comes from a political family, has also been a powerful role model. He is extremely hardworking and possesses a strong conviction that anything is possible if you really want it. He supports and encourages me to challenge myself to achieve more.

**What has been the greatest disappointment in your life?**

The realization that people do not always mean what they say, unfortunately for me this awakening came at a very late stage of my life and gave me quite a knock.

**What do people most often criticize about you?**

I could be criticised for striving for too much perfection and hence being over cautious at times. My daughter criticizes me for being ‘an animal of habit’!

**What kind of decisions do you find are the most difficult to make?**

I do not find it difficult to make decisions at all; both in my professional and personal life. I am generally a very decisive person; most times I make deliberate

decisions even at the risk of being unpopular.

**Do you see yourself as a successful person? How do you evaluate success?**

I believe success is a relative term; the main thing is ensuring I achieve the life goals that I have made for myself at all levels: personal, career, financial etc. I am content with what I have achieved thus far and I live by the ‘gratitude mantra’. Naturally, one can never say they are successful, we always want to achieve more; behind all this, the greater goal is achieving happiness.

**Are you involved in any community organizations?**

I am a member of the International Evangelical Church based here



in Addis Ababa, where I have served as a Sunday School Teacher in the past.

**Do you have a nickname?**

At home, yes I have numerous nicknames ranging from, Nono, Newi, Neuza. In the office, I have no idea- it would be interesting to know!

**Your favorites things.**

**Books** - self-development type

**Quote** – ‘Whatever the mind can conceive and believe, the mind can achieve’ Napoleon Hill

**Poem** – ‘Still I Rise’ by Maya Angelou

**Food** – Botswanan beef

**Music Genre** – as I transition into old age, I find I enjoy African Music a lot

**What are your greatest stresses and what causes you the most anxiety in your life?**

I have been very fortunate that I have never allowed stress to befriend me. If issues do arise, surrounding myself with positive people who love life has been particularly useful.

**What is most rewarding about your job; what makes it all worthwhile?**

Knowing that at the end of the

day, every effort I make adds to the reason for the existence of the United Nations makes me feel good. In particular, being one of the few nationals within the Secretariat from Botswana who are serving in this noble organization makes me feel great.

**Name one thing about yourself that most people don’t know.**

I have been conservative in talking about the fact that my husband is a politician. Most people do not know that next month, come April 1, my husband will ascend as President of Botswana; which means I will be the First Lady, hence my departure at the end of March.

**What are your hobbies?**

I enjoy traveling, dancing, swimming, I do Zumba on days when I am disciplined, eating out with friends and spending quality time with my family.

**Any closing thoughts?**

It is so gratifying working at the UN! It is an organization that definitely transforms you into embracing humanity more. It also converts one into an automatic ambassador of service across the world.



## STAFF CORNER

### MISSION EXPERIENCE



## THE DISEASE WAS UNFORGIVABLE

Mama Keita joined the ECA in 2011 and works for the Macro-economic Policy Division.

#### **Tell us about your mission.**

I was designated as a focal point for the Macro-economic Policy Division to undertake field missions to the Ebola-affected countries in 2014. The main objective of the mission was to go and express ECA's solidarity to the authorities of the affected countries - Guinea, Liberia, and Guinea. At the time these countries were seen as "no-go areas". Some airlines had even suspended flights there and travel advisories telling citizens to avoid these countries were put out. In this context, ECA's senior management found it extremely important to go and express solidarity with these member states.

The other objectives of the mission included collecting data for the elaboration an ECA report that explores the socio-economic impacts of Ebola in Africa and to assess the needs of the countries in the aftermath of that crisis.

The mission took us to Freetown, Monrovia, and Guinea. It was a bit scary to be going there, given all that could be read from the press. The disease was unforgivable: you touch something wrong and you

can be infected immediately, with almost no chances to be cured.

once we arrived and saw hotels-full of civil society organization members and UN Staff that came to assist, we felt at ease. Life felt normal in exception of the extreme hygiene measures everyone had to take at all times. As soon as we arrived at the airport and thereafter anywhere else, we were given sanitizers. The authorities of the countries we visited were very welcoming and pleased to have us.

#### **Tell us about the team you worked with.**

On the ground, we first met with the UN country teams to assess and understand the context, the complexity of the situation, and the means and the commitment of the government and its partners to attend fast to the most urgent needs. We then met with several ministers to express ECA's solidarity with their countries.

In addition, we got together with technical people from several public administration departments, and with CSOs and other non-state actors in order to assess the economic and social impacts of the outbreak. We wanted to know who were the most affected, through



what channels, and the impact of the disease on the macroeconomic level of each country.

At a macroeconomic level, we found that some fruit and vegetable producers lost a major part of their production because the situation occasioned the suspension of commercial exchanges across some countries of the region. We also found that the outbreak had caused food insecurity in several places, particularly affecting women and children. Most health centers had stopped functioning because people were too scared to go there.

#### **What challenges did you experience during your mission or afterward?**

I did not have major challenges during the mission. My main challenges started upon return. First, when I came back home, the idea that I could have been infected was always present in me, and I was terrified of the thought that I could transmit the disease to my family. Second is that Ethiopia adopted this preventive measure whereby every person who had visited Ebola-affected

countries should be subject to monitoring for a period of 21 days. Doctors would then come to your house every day and take the temperature of you and all family members. I know it was a necessary measure for the country, but I felt guilty to have to impose that on my family members.

#### **What inspired you during your mission?**

I felt that African people are brave. Despite all the drama and risks that was taking place and these three countries, life still continued following its course. People continued to fight for their living.

I also felt the expression of solidarity is an important African value we should try to preserve for generations. For example, Royal air Morocco was one of the few airlines that did not stop their activities in the affected countries during the outbreak. Having airlines willing to fly into the countries were crucial because that is how the affected areas received medical kits and other aid from the international community. The movement of medical goods was paramount if they were to prevent the outbreak from

spreading further. It was therefore extremely important to have air transport means to carry all this material.

#### **Please share with us one of your favorite memories from your mission.**

On our way back, we had a stopover in Casablanca, Morocco. It was unbelievable how well they treated us, knowing that we were coming from the Ebola-affected countries. Then they explained to us that they would have to monitor our health remotely, that they would be calling us every morning and we should be on standby to respond. They gave to each of us a mobile phone with a sim card to enable daily communication. When leaving Casablanca, we tried to return the telephones but they said it was a gift.

Before I conclude I have to say that I visited Ebola-affected countries twice. After the second visit, when I came back to Addis, my family and I had to go through the 21 days monitoring every morning again. The doctor who was assigned to us that time around was so kind that we built an excellent relationship.

# AREGASH LODGE



Leave  
the  
office  
behind

The purpose of this corner is to give some important information and tips to the staff of UN, where you can mingle with others and have some fun after you leave the office. Additionally, this corner also will entertain suggestion from UN staff. Send [svm@un.org](mailto:svm@un.org)

## Direction

Aregash lodge lies 317 kms south of Addis Ababa in the small town of Yirgalem in the Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples Regional State. Take the addis ababa - Moyale/ Kenya international road, pass the city of Hawasa till you get to the Aposto junction. Yrgalem is located 8 kms northeast of Aposto junction. Cross the town until the asphalt road ends, then keep going for another kilometer and take the first turn on the left. Aregash lodge is situated 400 meters along this road. The road is accessible all year long with any type of vehicle.

Nestled between coffee fields and lush vegetation in Yirgalem town Aregash lodge is a peaceful heaven for those who seek relaxation and a welcome break from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. The bamboo thatched tukuls of Aregash lodge are built in the style of a traditional Sidama village. Each bungalow is decorated with vibrant colors and furnished in traditional Sidama style to give a warm, luxurious feel

## Restaurant

Built from traditional Sidama bamboo, the restaurant can seat up to fifty people . There is also an open-air terrace with a spectacular view where you can enjoy your meal accompanied by the sound of birds. The restaurant can also be used as a conference hall upon arrangement.

Aregash lodge provides a wide variety of Italian-influenced continental cuisine, traditional Ethiopian food, as well as traditional Sidama food prepared by our chef. A corkage fee will be charged for any drink brought into Aregash lodge. Bringing food is not allowed.

Scenery these include guided treks to the nearby forest; horseback and mountain bike riding and visits to historical caves, sacred sites and natural hot and cold water springs.



## Attractions & activities

The coffee plantation and the nightly visits of jackals and hyenas are further attractions to be found in the surrounding area.

Whatever your preference , aregash lodge organizes a variety of activities to allow you to explore the surrounding countryside.

These include guided treks to the nearby forest; horseback and mountain bike riding and visits to historical caves, sacred sites and natural hot and cold water springs.



## Facts about yirgalem

Yirgalem (also spelled Yrgalem and yrga alem) is a town in southern ethiopia. Located 260 kilometers south of addis ababa and 40 kilometers south of awasa in the sidama zone of the southern nations, nationalities, and peoples region (or kilil), the town has a latitude and longitude of  $6^{\circ}45'N$   $38^{\circ}25'E$  and an elevation of 1776 meters.

Based on figures from the central statistical agency of ethiopia published in 2005, iragalem has an estimated total population of 43,815 of whom 21,840 were males and 21,975 females. According to the 1994 national census, the town had a population of 24,183.



SOURCES: Different Sources



# DIPLOMATIC CORNER

The main purpose of this page is to promote, introduce and acquaint one another to the cultures, attires, food and beverages of countries that have an embassy or representative office in Addis Ababa. Through this page the featured countries will get an opportunity to introduce their culture, attire, food and beverages, but not limited only to these issues. You can send your issues through to the editors through, [svm@un.org](mailto:svm@un.org)

## NINE WOMEN that Changed the Face of Belgium

Women have played a huge role in shaping Belgium. While it is impossible to include every Belgian heroine in this list, we would like to highlight some women who were pioneers in their field.



### **Isala Van Diest**

Having studied medicine in Switzerland and practised for a while in England, Isala Van Diest became the first female Belgian doctor in England in 1879 and in Belgium in 1884.

### **Marie-Anne Libert**

In the 19th century, Marie-Anne Libert, the first Belgian botanist and mycologist, identified the cause of 'mildew' - diseases affecting many plant species - as well as the fungus that causes potato disease.





**Isabelle Gatti de Gamont**

The education system saw the first secondary school for girls founded by Isabelle Gatti de Gamont in Brussels in 1864. No fewer than 18 liberally-inspired schools were founded under her name.



**Hélène Dutrieu**

In 1910, former cycling champion Hélène Dutrieu became the first Belgian pilot when she obtained her pilot's licence from the Belgian Aeroclub.



**Marie Popelin**

In the legal sphere, Marie Popelin made a real name for herself as our country's first lawyer (1888), despite constantly being turned down by the Belgian bar to practise law.

**Margerite de Riemacker-Legot**

In politics, Margerite de Riemacker-Legot was the first woman to rise through the ranks in our country, from attachée in the cabinet of Minister Henri Pauwels to member of the Belgian Chamber of Representatives; she was also a delegate to the United Nations, member of the European Parliament, Minister for Family and Housing and, lastly, the first Belgian Minister of State in 1965.



**Germaine Van Parijs**

Germaine Van Parijs, the first Belgian photojournalist, worked for the newspaper Le Soir, among others. She was elected best photographer in Belgium after the First World War and founded her own agency, Van Parijs Media in 1956.

**Danielle Levillez**

In Defence, it was not until 1970 that jobs in the Belgian Army finally opened up to women, and in 1979 Danielle Levillez launched her military career as a pharmacist. She later became the first female Major General in the Belgian Army.

**Rosa Mercx**

Rosa Mercx was the first Belgian woman to forge a career in the very traditional and male-oriented beer

industry. She went on to manage the Liefmans brewery and is still a key icon respected throughout the beer industry.

These women, and many others, played an active role in improving the status of women, as evidenced, for example, by the 60% of women in the first year of medical studies, or the - still very low - 7 to 8% of women in the Army. There is also a link between some of these women, with Van Diest and Popelin founding the Belgian League of Women's Rights together and appearing side by side on thousands of two-euro coins. Popelin also taught in one of Gatti de Gamont's schools.

SOURCE: Story suggested by The Embassy of Belgium in Addis Ababa. Reprinted from Focus on Belgium.

# Word Puzzle

## ACROSS

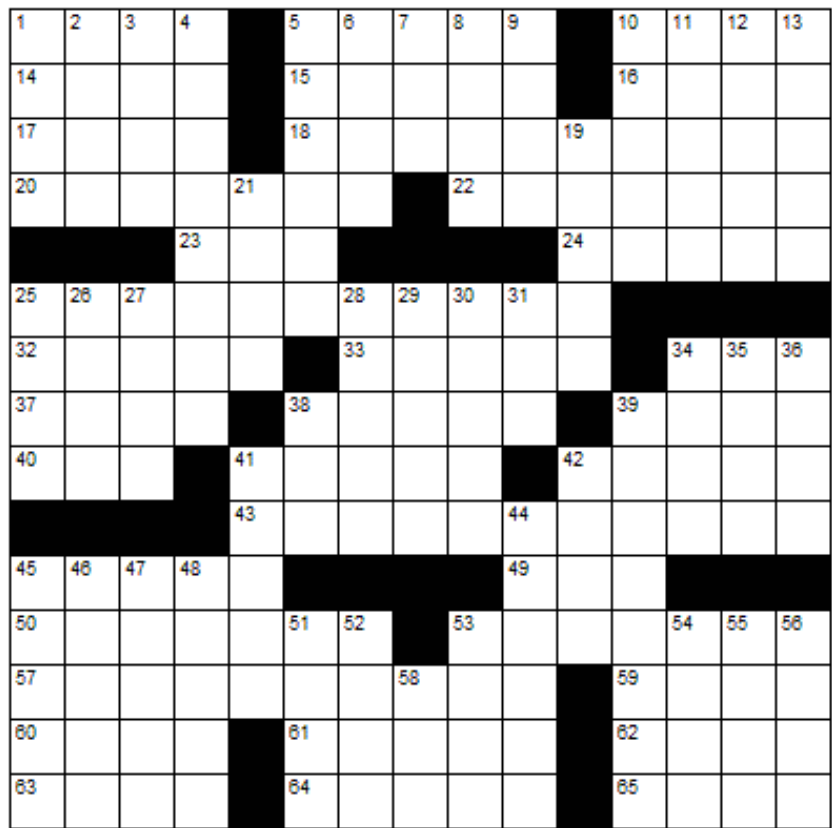
1. Contributes
5. Small amount
10. Counterfoil
14. Farm building
15. Serf
16. Prong
17. Decorative case
18. Designed to be filled with air
20. Dawdler
22. Artist's workroom
23. Obtain
24. Interprets written material
25. The distribution of forces
32. Extraterrestrial
33. Love intensely
34. Not bottom
37. Applications
38. Hot
39. Overhang
40. What we sleep on
41. S-shaped moldings
42. Master of ceremonies
43. Belongings
45. Something of value
49. Children's game
50. Endurance
53. Griever
57. Chopper
59. Relating to aircraft
60. At one time (archaic)
61. Earthquake
62. Badgers
63. Oceans
64. An analytic literary composition
65. "Iliad" city

## DOWN

1. Cain's brother
2. Information
3. Medication
4. Catches eels
5. 30
6. Cleave

7. Alien Life Form
8. Soft drink
9. French for "State"
10. Not fresh
11. Leg bone
12. Lacking leadership
13. Ales
19. Brusque
21. Many millennia
25. Apply
26. If not
27. Multicolored
28. Flowing tresses
29. Borders
30. Like the Vikings
31. Attempt
34. Meal in a shell
35. Baking appliance
36. P P P P
38. Since
39. Emigree
41. Sight-related
42. Brother of Jacob
44. Tempestuous
45. Fire residues
46. Cubic meter
47. Chip dip
48. Gives forth

51. Schnozzola
52. Mimics
53. Plateau
54. Close
55. Therefore
56. Optimistic
58. It is (poetic)





## Celebrating Ethiopia's Enterprises : Renewable Energy Technologies for the Rural Community

Fourteen enterprises from across Ethiopia have been selected to receive small grants for their promotion of renewable energy technologies for household and productive use, particularly in the rural areas.

Each enterprise was given US 5,000 at a special ceremony held in Addis Ababa following the first round of national competition open to enterprises from all regions that attracted 47 submissions. The jury included staff from Ministry of Water Irrigation and Electricity (MoWIE), Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Climate Change (MoFECC), Ministry of Science and Technology Entrepreneurship Development Centre (EDC), Federal Small and Medium Manufacturing Industries Development Agency, Federal Urban Job Creation and Food Security Agency, Addis Ababa University, Bahir Dar University, Hawassa University and Mekele University.

"Small and Medium Enterprises (SME's) are recognized as significant generators of jobs and play particularly significant role in relation to enhancing the competitiveness and productivity of RET in the country" noted MoWIE State Minister Dr. Frihiwot W/Hanna highlighting the focus on the private sector.

The grant is part of a wider five-year project on Promoting Sustainable



The fourteen enterprises selected in the first round of national competition were provided with USD 5,000 in grant to help them enhance their innovative ideas on renewable energy technologies

Rural Energy Technologies (RETs) for Household and Productive Use and is in line with the global Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) initiative. It also complements national priorities, such as those encompassed within the Ethiopia's energy policy as well as climate resilient green economy strategy.

"There is no doubt that renewable energy is key for Ethiopia's transformation – especially given the fact that the country has the second highest population number in Africa and the fastest growing economy," according to Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa-Onochie, UN Resident Coordinator, UNDP Resident Representative & UN Humanitarian Coordinator.

The UNDP supported project is implemented by MoWIE in collaboration with MoFECC, the Devel-

opment Bank of Ethiopia (DBE) and UNCDF. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is channeling US\$4.1 million in financing through UNDP.

Ethiopia currently has one of the fastest growing economies in Africa and is also second most populous country in the continent with both factors making addressing energy needs a top priority.

Almost 90% of Ethiopia's current energy consumption comes mostly from biomass energy sources such as fire wood and charcoal. More than 18 million Ethiopian households need to switch to improved cooking technologies for the country to be able to capture major carbon abatement potential.

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## EU and UNICEF launch a photo book on the success story of reducing malnutrition in Ethiopia

Today, the European Union (EU) and UNICEF launched a photo book entitled “Ending malnutrition in Ethiopia – A SUCCESS STORY” which illustrates Ethiopia’s success story in ending malnutrition, through the voices, stories and images of Ethiopians.

The nutrition photo book launch and photo exhibition held in the presence of Dr Abreham Alano, Head of the SNNP Regional Health Bureau, H.E Ambassador Johan Borgstam, Head of the European Union Delegation to Ethiopia, Ms Gillian Mellsop, UNICEF Representative to Ethiopia and other key stakeholders from the Government and other partners is a celebration of the success achieved so far in the reduction of malnutrition in Ethiopia while advocating for continued multi-sectoral efforts since malnutrition among children and women in Ethiopia remains a major concern.

It is also a celebration of how Ethiopia has managed to sustain improvements in nutrition, yet also a reminder of all the work that needs to be done to ensure everyone enjoys optimal nutrition.

On the occasion, Dr Abreham Alano, Head of the SNNP Regional Health Bureau thanked the EU and UNICEF for their support in results

gained thus far in reducing stunting and malnutrition, on the health care utilization as well as maternal and child mortality reduction and urged them to continue their support until the targeted results are achieved.

Ambassador Johan Borgstam, Head of EU delegation to Ethiopia on his part said, “It is an honour for me to open this photo book and exhibition launching event today on a topic of malnutrition which is a priority of both the Government of Ethiopia and of the EU’s development cooperation policy. Malnutrition is not only a major health problem affecting children and adults in partner countries, it also has important economic and social dimensions challenging their development by deteriorating the well-being of their entire population.”

Ethiopia has experienced rapid and sustained improvements in nutrition during the past 15 years. For instance, the country has seen a steady reduction in stunting – the fastest rate of improvement in Africa – as well as a significant decline in the percentage of underweight and wasted children. Yet, Ethiopia remains in a precarious situation, with large absolute numbers of affected children: 5 million children are stunted and 1.3 million children under five suffer wasting.

“I would like to highlight the importance of long-term investments to ensure that progress is sustained in ending malnutrition in Ethiopia. While the achievements we recognize today are indeed a success story, we cannot afford to rest on our laurels. Undernutrition still remains a challenge and it requires us all to redouble our efforts to ensure that every child enjoys better health and nutrition,” said Ms Gillian Mellsop, UNICEF Representative to Ethiopia. With the Government’s leadership and the strong commitment of partners, this goal is achievable. Let’s walk together with the same single-minded determination, zeal, and focus to end undernutrition in Ethiopia.”

To further reduce these numbers, the EU has provided €10,000,000 to support vulnerable populations in 17 woredas (districts) in Oromia, SNNP and Amhara regions of Ethiopia through a project entitled “Multi-sectoral interventions to improve nutrition security and strengthen resilience.” This joint action plan which is being implemented by UNICEF and FAO aims to contribute to the improvement of nutritional status of children, adolescents, pregnant and lactating women using the life cycle approach.

**SOURCE UNICEF, 25 APRIL 2018, HAWASSA**

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