

UN Staff Voice

Special Issue



9th UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres
UN Photo/Jean-Marc Ferré (file)

First Visit of
UN Secretary-General

Antonio Guterres

to the African Union and UN Organizations in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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UN Staff and Management should Protect the United Nations Charter and Support its Secretary-General

■ By Seble Demeke

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UNITED NATIONS (AP) — before taking the reins of the U.N. from Ban Ki-moon on Jan. 1 2017, Antonio Guterres pledged to make the pursuit of peace in a conflict-torn world his “over-arching priority”. Accepting his election by acclamation in the General Assembly as the ninth Secretary-General of the United Nations, the former Portuguese Prime Minister and UNHCR chief told the 193 members of the U.N. that the United Nations has “the moral duty and the universal right” to ensure peace. He would be doing his best to promote a new “diplomacy for peace” advocating dialogue in the settlement of disputes and was prepared “to act as a convener, an honest broker, someone trying to bring people together” in conflicts and crises from Syria and Yemen to South Sudan.



The 71st session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, which started on 13 September 2016, elected Antonio Guterres as the new Chief Administrative Officer of the Organization. In addition to that main function, the Secretary-General is entrusted by the UN Charter with other functions as requested by the Security Council, the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and other United Nations organs.

The UN family grapevine had been buzzing for quite a while as to who would become the new boss with political and gender groups expressing their preferences. At the end of the process, however, staff learned, to their relief, that the new boss was someone with whom they can communicate and do business. **It was also good news that the new Administrator-in-Chief had already proved to the system that things could be done in an efficient and responsive manner if everyone worked together.**

While the new SG had laid out his vision on his first day of assuming duty, the current world geopolitical landscape has overnight become a difficult one,

thanks to Brexit, right-leaning politics in Europe and the outcome of the US election. **Multilateralism is being questioned and could even be said to be in the process of being replaced by parochial national interests. Because the role of the UN could be undermined by those Member States who would prefer to focus primarily on their own interests, the time had come for UN staff and management alike to find ways and means of primarily protecting the Charter and supporting their Secretary-General.** Everything else should come second. The world, especially those who are still struggling with poverty and underdevelopment, and need the United Nations on their side, would certainly benefit from the determination and hard work of staff and management pulling together as one.



As we say goodbye to the Ban Ki Moon era, UN Staff Voice welcomes Mr. Antonio Guterres, the 9th UN Secretary-General.



“ I call upon individual citizens to make humanity our common cause. **Challenge your leaders** to make decisions that uphold and safeguard people’s humanity. ”

Ban Ki-moon

United Nations Secretary-General
From his report for the World Humanitarian Summit

#ShareHumanity

sgreport.whsummit.org

Photo: UN Photo Mark Garten

BIOGRAPHY

- **António Guterres**, the ninth Secretary-General of the United Nations, took office on 1st January 2017.
- Having witnessed the suffering of the most vulnerable people on earth, in refugee camps and in war zones, the Secretary-General is determined to make human dignity the core of his work, and to serve as a peace broker, a bridge-builder and a promoter of reform and innovation.
- Prior to his appointment as Secretary-General, Mr. Guterres served as United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees from June 2005 to December 2015, heading one of the world's foremost humanitarian organizations during some of the most serious displacement crises in decades. The conflicts in Syria and Iraq, and the crises in South Sudan, the Central African Republic and Yemen, led to a huge rise in UNHCR's activities as the number of people displaced by conflict and persecution rose from 38 million in 2005 to over 60 million in 2015.
- Before joining UNHCR, Mr. Guterres spent more than 20 years in government and public service. He served as prime minister of Portugal from 1995 to 2002, during which time he was heavily involved in the international effort to resolve the crisis in East Timor.
- As president of the European Council in early 2000, he led the adoption of the Lisbon Agenda for growth and jobs, and co-chaired the first European Union-Africa summit. He was a member of the Portuguese Council of State from 1991 to 2002.
- Mr. Guterres was elected to the Portuguese Parliament in 1976 where he served as a member for 17 years. During that time, he chaired the Parliamentary



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....the world body
is uniquely placed
to overcome global
challenges and
achieve sustainable
development.....”

UN SG, Antonio Guterres



Committee for Economy, Finance and Planning, and later the Parliamentary Committee for Territorial Administration, Municipalities and Environment. He was also leader of his party's parliamentary group.

- From 1981 to 1983, Mr. Guterres was a member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, where he chaired the Committee on Demography, Migration and Refugees.
- For many years Mr. Guterres was active in the Socialist International, a worldwide organization of social democratic political parties. He was the group's vice-president from 1992 to 1999, co-chairing the African Committee and later the Development Committee. He served as President from 1999 until mid-2005. In addition, he founded the Portuguese Refugee Council as well as the Portuguese Consumers Association DECO, and served as president of the Centro de Acção Social Universitário, an association carrying out social development projects in poor neighbourhoods of Lisbon, in the early 1970s.
- Mr. Guterres is a member of the Club of Madrid, a leadership alliance of democratic former presidents and prime ministers from around the world.
- Mr. Guterres was born in Lisbon in 1949 and graduated from the Instituto Superior Técnico with a degree in engineering. He is fluent in Portuguese, English, French and Spanish. He is married to Catarina de Almeida Vaz Pinto, Deputy Mayor for Culture of Lisbon, and has two children, a stepson and three grandchildren.
- SG, Antonio Guterres, shares new vision for United Nations
- Newly-elected United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres outlined a vision for addressing the enormous challenges facing the international community, including maintaining peace and security, promoting economic development, and combating climate change.
- **"The greatest shortcoming of the international community today is its failure to prevent conflict and maintain global security,"** he wrote. The new Secretary-General, whose five-year term began on 1 January, is urging the international community to respond to recent crises by committing to a more diplomatic and peaceful 2017. To do that, he argued, we must focus on the basics: stronger institutions and more resilient societies.
- To strengthen prevention efforts, he urged, the global community to put human rights at the

forefront of its national and international policies and ensure that women are free from violence and discrimination. This approach, he emphasized, was essential to sustainable development.

- In situations where prevention had failed, Mr. Guterres advocated for greater mediation, arbitration, and “creative diplomacy backed by all countries with influence.” He called for countries to settle differences through peaceful means and hailed the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a “blueprint for making our world more equitable, sustainable, and livable.”
- The Secretary-General also outlined a plan of reform for the United Nations itself, promising simplification decentralization, and flexibility within the Organization.
- **“The United Nations must focus on delivery rather than process and on people rather than bureaucracy,” he wrote. That vision, explained Mr. Guterres, included a “culture of accountability,**

strong performance management, and effective protection for whistleblowers.”

- In addition, the Secretary-General spoke of improvements to peacekeeping operations and a commitment to gender parity. He would ensure that women were appointed to senior positions at the UN and represented at all levels of the Organization.
- However, the reforms would depend upon trust among leaders, people, and institutions at national and international levels. Leaders, therefore, must prove that they care about their people as well as global stability and solidarity.
- “It is time for all of us to remember the values of our common humanity, the values that are fundamental to all religions and that form the basis of the UN Charter: peace, justice, respect, human rights, tolerance, and solidarity,” he urged.

Source: UN News Center

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“We live in a complex world. The United Nations cannot succeed alone. Partnership must continue to be at the heart of our strategy. We should have the humility to acknowledge the essential role of other actors, while maintaining full awareness of our unique convening power.”

Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations

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Secretary-General Antonio Guterres

Town Hall Meeting with all UN Staff based in Addis Ababa, ECA Sub-regional offices were connected via Video Conference



SG Mr. Antonio Guterres on his arrival at the ECA Conference Centre accompanied by Mr. Abdalla Hamdok, Executive Secretary a.i. ECA, Ms. Eziakonwa-Onochie, UN Resident Coordinator, UNDP Resident Representative and UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Ethiopia, Mr. Joseph Baricako, Chairman FUNSA and President of ECA Staff Union & Mr. Nassim Oulmane, Chairperson, ECA Staff Council.



Mr. Abdalla Hamdok, Executive Secretary of ECA, a.i., and Ms. Giovannie Biha, Deputy Executive Secretary of ECA for Knowledge Delivery waiting to receive the new UN Secretary-General at the ECA Conference Center

Arrival of the Secretary-General in Ethiopia



The SG's arrival at the Addis Ababa Bole-International Airport

Upon his arrival, the SG was met by high-level delegation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the UN System Organizations. On his right is a Senior Official from MOFA, and behind are Mr. Haile Menkerios, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU), Mr. Abdalla Hamdok, Executive Secretary, a.i. of ECA and Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa-Onochie, UN Resident Coordinator, UNDP Resident Representative and UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Ethiopia.

As shown in the above picture, the city of Addis Ababa has changed since the last visit of new UN Secretary-General, Mr. Antonio Guterres, as UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in 2015. Although the surrounding dusk atmosphere prevented this photo from showing the elegance of the city and the beauty of the expanded Addis Ababa-Bole International Airport (voted in 2014 as one of the top five airports in Africa), the warm welcome by those officials at the airport combined with the courtesy of the Ethiopian people made the welcoming of the S-G and his delegation from New York, a cheerful

arrival event. Consistent with his pledge during his first Senior Management meetings, the SG did arrive in Addis on 28 January 2017 for the Summit (with undoubtedly one of the smallest delegations in recent SG travel history of 13 from UNHQ). He was joined by Mr. Abdalla Hamdok, Executive Secretary, a.i. of ECA and Mr. Haile Menkerios, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office to the African Union (SRSG/UNOAU) for a total of 15. This symbolized the SG's acknowledgement that where there is significant UN presence for official visits, support can be done in situ.

The delegation comprised 1 USG (Maged/OSAA) and 2 ASGs (Taye/DPA and Wane/DPKO) as core members, and 2 Senior Political Officers; underscoring his emphasis on peace and security in Africa as one of his declared priorities. Highlights of his visit were a series of high-level bilateral meetings, including with AUC Chairperson Madam Zuma at which he conveyed certain messages as a new SG and eliciting AU priorities from the AUC Chairperson. Other bilateral meetings involved several African Heads of State/ Government delegation.

SG's meeting with Staff Representatives



The SG meeting with Staff Representatives, on his right Mr. Joseph Baricako, Chairman, FUNSA, President, ECA Staff Union, Ms. Agare Kassahun, Secretary, ECA Staff Union, Mr. Abdalla Hamdok ES, a.i., ECA on his left is Mr. Nassim Oulmane & Ms. Emebet Mesfin, Chairperson & Vice-Chairperson, ECA Staff Council and members of the delegations from New York.

During his meeting with staff representatives, issues of major concern to UN staff were briefly discussed.

The Staff Representatives appreciated the valuable time that the SG had spared to come to Addis Ababa and discuss with them the situation of all UN staff in Ethiopia. They commended his listening spirit and commitment to keep dialoguing with staff representatives and raised their concerns articulated around the following points while proposing alternative solutions to the S-G:

1. Working conditions of UN staff, particularly of

those deployed in the field;

2. Staff safety and security;
3. GSDM hub selection and its upcoming impact on staff in Ethiopia;
4. The transition in ECA; and
5. Mobility

At the conclusion of a fruitful meeting, the SG reiterated his commitment to maintain a permanent dialogue with his main pillar: the staff.

Town Hall at the ECA Conference Center





The meeting was moderated by Mr. Collen V. Kelapile, Chief of staff, ECA. He introduced the S-G, informing staff that he was here to attend the 28th African Union Summit from 22 to 31 January, 2017. That Summit featured three main sessions: The Permanent Representatives' Committee (22-24 January), the Executive Council (25-27 January) and the 28th ordinary session of the Assembly of the Union (30-31Jan).

Collen V. Kelapile, Chief of Staff, ECA & Moderator of the Town Hall

The moderator recognized first the S-G and welcomed him to Addis Ababa and to the Conference Centre of ECA. He informed participants that the S-G was here to attend the African Union Summit which would officially end on 31 January 2017. He was grateful that, despite a very busy schedule, the S-G had graciously accepted to address the town hall meeting. In accordance with the established programme, he had listed as speakers for the event Mr. Abdalla Hamdok, the acting Executive Secretary of UNECA, Ms. Ahounna Eziakonwa-Onochie, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Ethiopia, Mr. Joseph Baricako, representing the Federation of UN Staff Unions and Associations who would all make their statements before the S-G took the podium, not only to address staff but also to officiate the Staff Recognition Ceremony to acknowledge the dedicated services of some of long-serving colleagues. On behalf of those colleagues and retiring staff, Mr. Chukwudozie Ezigbalike would make some remarks before Mr. Hamdok closed the session and guided the S-G to the garden outside the Conference Centre where the colleagues retiring would have an opportunity for a group photograph with the S-G.

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More than ever before in human history, we share a common destiny. We can master it only if we face it together. And that, my friends, is why we have the United Nations.

Kofi Annan, former UN Secretary-General

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Statements/Remarks during the Town Hall Meeting

Remarks by Mr. Abdalla Hamdok, Executive Secretary, a.i., ECA



Mr. AntónioGuterres, Secretary-General,

Mr. Haile Menkerios, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU)

Ms. AhunnaEziakonwa-Onochie, United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Ethiopia,

Mr. Joseph Baricako, President of the Staff Union,

All Senior Advisers accompanying the Secretary-General,

Senior colleagues from one UN,

Dear colleagues, Staff members of the UN family in Addis Ababa,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. At the outset, on behalf of the UN family and on my own, I wish to extend a very warm welcome to the Secretary-General. We appreciate that, despite your heavy schedule of activities during the current African Union Summit, you have found it

befitting to dedicate some time for interaction with us at this Town Hall meeting.

2. Even more importantly, we feel much honored that Addis Ababa becomes the first duty station that you visit, so early on in your mandate.
3. Let me also thank the colleagues and staff of the UN family in Addis Ababa for having honored the clarion call to come and meet with you at this important event taking place on a beautiful Sunday late afternoon.
4. As you have already observed, the challenges ahead of us are numerous. In the context of the unfolding global politics, it is without doubt that the endurance and relevance of the United Nations are, more than ever before, under great scrutiny.

Mr. Secretary-General,

5. As you would know, since 1958, Ethiopia has graciously been hosting a massive presence of UN entities. Addis Ababa has thus become the third largest UN duty station, after much more

established stations like New York and Geneva

6. However, staff continue to face some locational constraints. I am aware that during recent Town Hall meetings and other interactions, the Staff Union Representatives have taken up directly with you the issues of concern.
7. On the part of management, I am happy to note that discussions are ongoing with a view to redress the pressing issues by way of revising the ECA-Ethiopia Headquarters Agreement. With ECA taking the lead in coordinating activities, I should point out that recent contacts at the highest levels of the Government have ignited an honest dialogue regarding our concerns, including on the Global Service Delivery Model (GSDM). I remain optimistic that continued constructive engagement with the Host Government should deliver the desired results.

Mr. Secretary-General,

8. **African people across this great continent have shown resilience to continuous disruptions brought about by market failures, climate change, weak governance, poor infrastructure, uneven terms of trade, poverty, malnutrition, war and conflict. The people of Africa do not want to make headlines for anomalies of underdevelopment, rather they want peaceful and stable governments that will support their ambition for freedom, democracy, prosperity and security for current and future generations. This is a continent where people want to trade, produce, learn and grow. These goals are those that the Economic Commission for Africa is looking to translate into robust policy orientations, strong institutions, and platforms for sharing and learning. This is likely to promote regional integration and trade, explore blue economies, agricultural transformation, energy security and access, youth entrepreneurship and opportunity, not least for women and marginalized communities.**
9. The African continent has a high threshold for endurance, but it also has a unique potential and capacity to design its development architecture as exemplified in Agenda 2063. This is compatible with the Sustainable Development Goals, resonates with the universal values of good governance and can be equated with rights, freedom, peace and stability. Our strive toward structural transformation and inclusive growth is about creating spaces where all these key

ingredients can create several melting pots for prosperity, diversity and peace.

Mr. Secretary-General,

10. At ECA we continue with our core mandate of working alongside other Pan-African institutions to shape the desired trajectory of Africa's socio-economic development. We are very proud that a series of flagship initiatives being presented at the current AU Summit have been developed through the input and technical support of ECA staff.
11. While we await your confirmation of future longer-term leadership, ECA is presently going through a transition which I am honored to lead. Upon my designation as Acting Executive Secretary since 1 November 2016, I have challenged both senior managers and staff alike that the transition process be purposely pursued and anchored primarily onto two broad features.
12. First, we have adopted a consultative approach to the decision-making process. This includes open sharing of information as a measure of transparency; an approach that I believe helps ensure that staff avoids speculation and potential misunderstanding.
13. Second, at a recent Senior Management Retreat, we as senior managers worked in consultation with all the staff to collectively identify pressing issues and concerns; some of which would require immediate and informed action.
14. Moving forward, and as it has been repeatedly reaffirmed, our human resources (i.e. the staff) is our fundamental asset. As senior managers, while we seek to ensure that staff duly exercise their rights and respect their obligations, it is incumbent upon senior management to also uphold the highest standards of integrity and accountability.

Mr Secretary-General,

Dear Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

15. I would like to conclude by calling upon all of us to continue reflecting on some of these important questions; and to work collaboratively to find the most ideal answers, as we carry on together on this challenging yet so rewarding path of serving the world through the United Nations under the able leadership of our new Secretary-General.

I thank you for your kind attention.



Statement by Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa-Onochie, UN Resident Coordinator, UNDP Resident Representative and UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Ethiopia, on the occasion of the Town hall meeting with the UN Secretary-General Addis Ababa, 29 January 2017



Mr. António Guterres, UN Secretary-General,

Mr. Menkerios, Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the African Union,

Mr. Hamdok, Acting Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa,

Colleagues from the UN system,

I would like to warmly welcome you, Mr. Secretary-General, to Addis Ababa. We are happy and privileged to have you with us in this Town Hall meeting during your first official visit as the Secretary-General to Sub-Saharan Africa – *EnkwanDehnaMetah!* (Amharic for: welcome / we are glad you arrived safely).

Mr. Secretary-General,

I would like to applaud your very early message to staff, I quote, “...if the UN is the main pillar of multilateralism, UN staff is the main pillar of the UN.” In Ethiopia, we are a strong UN family, with

close to 3000 dedicated staff members, each of them contributing to realise our collective vision. I am humbled to speak on behalf of this family – to convey that we are committed to upholding and promoting the values of the United Nations. Our staff members in Addis Ababa and in the field have worked hard to ensure life-saving relief assistance reached to 10 million drought affected people in 2016-2017.

Other colleagues, who are focused in development work, are making persistent efforts to ensure the UN support to Ethiopia yields development results that are sustainable, and that they create positive impact on the lives of most vulnerable people we work for. In delivering both the UN humanitarian and development assistance, we are finding new ways to work more effectively and efficiently. To create a lasting impact and set a meaningful new trend, coordination alone is not enough; the UN development system and humanitarian actors in Ethiopia have decided to take concrete actions to better bridge the humanitarian



and development divides. It can be working towards preparing a joint analysis, or developing a shared vision, or introducing multi-year planning, bringing development and humanitarian partners on the same table.

Mr. Secretary General,

I am very delighted to note that – in Ethiopia, we are a Delivering as One team, implementing joined-up approaches to help the country address its critical development challenges. The UN joint work provides greater focus on cross-sector critical issues that can affect many. One such emerging priority issue for the UN in Ethiopia - is 'youth'. With 65 % of Ethiopia's 100 million population below 24 years, there is a real opportunity to invest on unleashing potential and power of young people. This demographic is critical to the attainment of Ethiopia's development vision to become a middle income country by 2025.

On this occasion, we couldn't be more delighted to report to you Mr. Secretary General, that the wider UN family in Ethiopia is progressing step-by-step in harmonizing our business practices, supporting each other. The presence of 29 different UN agencies, funds and programmes as well as UN Liaison Team makes Ethiopia family unique. Members of the team are building on individual entity's comparative advantages and applying their best efforts in advancing UN reform agenda at the country level. They have demonstrated strong resilience in difficult times in 2016, and stayed the course, delivering UN operational activities. However, we do have challenges to address in order

to deepen our inter-agency cooperation and to ensure seamless collaboration.

Colleagues,

I would like to acknowledge dedication of each staff member that enabled the UN Country Team in 2016, to assist Ethiopia roll out the Sustainable Development Goals. We have been able to foster new partnerships with policy makers, civil society, private sector and young people; and further consolidate our relations with government counterparts at federal and regional levels. Ethiopia is already among those presenting the first national voluntary report to the High Level Political Forum on SDGs in July. I would like to reiterate that each staff member has great potential as well as opportunity to contribute to foster 'global development solution' (*as the Secretary General underlined in his very first message to staff earlier this year*). The UN in Ethiopia will continue to draw on the commitment and innovations of staff at all levels; and I urge us all to continue the good work we are doing in Ethiopia, and in the region, and set an example of what it means to serve the global community as a part of the UN. I would like to reiterate with what the Secretary-General reminded us earlier this year – that, this “must be our collective engagement”.

Mr. Secretary-General,

On behalf of the UN Country Team and UN staff in Ethiopia, I would like to thank you for making time to meet with us, to share your vision, and to inspire us to continue making the UN an important partner for government and the people of Ethiopia!

Remarks by Mr. Joseph Baricako, Chairman, Federation of United Nations Staff Unions and Associations (FUNSA), President, ECA Staff Union



Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the UN

Mr. Haile Menkerios, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU)

Mr. Hamdok, Acting Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa,

Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa-Onochie, United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Ethiopia,

Dear members of delegation accompanying the Secretary-General,

Dear heads of UN agencies,

Dear colleagues, both Staff members of the UN family physically present here in Addis Ababa as well as those connected to this VTC across the continent,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear colleagues,

On behalf of the UN family here in Ethiopia and ECA subregional offices across the continent, I am very pleased to extend a warm welcome to the Secretary General, Mr. Antonio Guterres, and all staff members present at this Town Hall meeting today. At the onset, please allow me to wish you happy New Year again even though we are end of January and I had

the opportunity to say it in previous meetings. It is a special year, your first year, Mr. S-G, at the helm of this respectable Organization and we wish you success in this endeavor. One of the ways to achieve success is the right use of the asset that you have in the Organization, particularly the main pillar of the UN, precisely its staff as you, our S-G, have said yourself.

Mr. Secretary-General,

I would also like to take this opportunity to express the appreciation of the Federation of United Nations Staff Unions and Associations (FUNSA) in Ethiopia for your initiative to have a meeting with all staff representatives around the world during your first working day of the year 2017 and your first official day to the office since your appointment. The meeting as well as the outcomes of the discussions are self-explanatory signals of how you value your staff, an affirmation of the high priority attached to them.

Furthermore, your valuable and deep experience with UNHCR, dealing with Humanitarian affairs across the world, makes us more hopeful than other times to expect substantial changes in the UN administration. Today, we want to assure you that the UN family here in Ethiopia is committed to share your vision and address the challenges that the UN is facing in today's changing world.

Mr. Secretary General, without expecting immediate

and complete responses to issues raised in this town hall, I would like to take this opportunity to bring to your attention and consideration some of the issues and critical concerns of the UN staff in Ethiopia:

The selection of hub and upcoming impact of GSDM on staff in Ethiopia. We noted with satisfaction the model has been sent for review. But, since 2015, Addis Ababa is ranked 3rd biggest UN duty station of the world in terms of investments and infrastructure. However, according to the criteria used to decide **hubs** on which staff representatives have not been consulted, Addis is not part of the six locations. The reasons seem to be the lack of an attractive HCA and the general perception of this duty station.

The GSDM will be devastating for the local staff, both General Service and National Officers. Allow me, Mr. SG, to use the numbers of ECA which reflects the situation of the UN family in Ethiopia to illustrate the point. The GSDM is built on the assumption that UMOJA works well while it needs further refinement to be more stabilized and fully operational. We need to build on lessons learned and best practices to maximize benefits, ensure coherence and avoid possible duplication and overlap.

The recommendations of the GA (71st session, agenda item 134 on 8 December) on the model is a self-explanatory proof that it requires more consultation and development before its full implementation. For instance, in ECA, as of today, we have 260 international staff and 514 support staff and related categories (GS +NO), almost twice the international staff. As of today, we have more than 100 G7 in ECA. What is being done to mitigate the impact of the model? There is a great deal of fear and uncertainty amongst the majority of staff about this model. The numbers of ECA reflects the situation of the UN family in Ethiopia. Bearing in mind the need for efficiency and effectiveness, we suggest a concrete strategy to be elaborated and concrete actions should be planned to soften the impact of the model on the staff?

Your commitment at the highest level to have the Host Country Agreement (HCA) signed is highly appreciated and should mitigate the adverse effects of this model. We are not demanding too much, we are requesting an alignment to that of the AUC. Furthermore, it is urgent to start preparation for soft transition to the model and your assistance, leadership and guidance to the management of UN organizations in Ethiopia is essential.

As a corollary to the HCA, Addis Ababa is ranked B duty station. The security allowance was about to be removed effective end of November 2016. In the

meantime, the country entered a state of emergency. We do think the upcoming review should increase the security allowance for staff, especially females living alone, instead of removing it.

Mr. Secretary General,

Now that I have addressed selected issues of concern of the UN family in Ethiopia, I would like to bring to your attention two more key issues discussed with the staff representatives who are critical: Mobility and morale rebuilt.

Mobility, we know, is one of your key set objectives. In terms of mobility across the continents, however, the data show that Africans are underrepresented in other commissions and secretariats. For instance, while Africans represent almost 62 in ECA, staff members at P level and above from regional countries are 93% in ECE, 75% in DESA are from OECD countries to mention just a few. Bearing in mind the complexity surrounding this exercise, we propose for your consideration a strategy to foster mobility across all the regional commissions and secretariat.

In terms of mobility within Programmes and Funds, that is addressed in their respective scheme.

Regarding the mobility of staff within ECA, from SROs to HQ and vice versa, several staff are serving in the same duty station, particularly in SROs for years and cannot be transferred most of the time despite clear reasons. Others are staying at the HQ all their careers long. A systematic mobility framework should be easy to implement.

The UN has just passed a transition with your appointment. AUC will have its new leaders tomorrow and it would be highly appreciated if ECA graduates quickly from transition to tackle immediately the development challenges of the continent, building widely to the huge talents of the staff we have, provided the morale is raised, trust is restored and management is held accountable at all levels.

ECA is the reflection of the UN to the continent. Our two strategic Pan African partners (AUC and AfDB) are now stabilized and moving quickly on the continental agenda. We need to leverage quickly our comparative advantage and play fully our role in a changing development landscape.

To close Mr. SG, we wish you a pleasant stay in Ethiopia, a safe trip back to New York and every success in your new functions.

Thank you

Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres praises ECA for role in changing negative narrative about Africa



Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary General

Dear Colleagues,

It is a great pleasure to be here today in this Town Hall meeting (even if I must say I thank the organizers for the fact that the intention was for this to be a solemn first session. I will be back and next time we will follow the dialogues with my colleagues to make it more lively, interactive and talk about your concerns, your ideas and about the UN on how to go forward. My first words will be a word of solidarity and recognition. First of all solidarity. I know that the colleagues have been working under complex circumstances, in state of emergencies, the lack of presence of internet connections for many the problems of security that you are not used to and those working far away in different locations, I remember to have come here in the past to Gambella and other places colleagues work here in circumstances that are very difficult. Because of that I would like to express my solidarity and deep appreciation for doing your best, sometimes in difficult circumstances, not only on behalf of the UN but also on behalf of the people who we care for, the people of Ethiopia and the people of Africa. But regarding recognition, I came to Ethiopia several times in my past capacity. I have seen, because we work as UNHCR in partnership with all the UN Country Teams, I have seen the work of the Country Team across the country. I can say that your work was of an extraordinary quality and I want to express to all colleagues, all the agencies

and departments that work in Ethiopia supporting the Ethiopian people in the moments so difficult, so complex during the past drought and drought is going-on in different circumstances. I want to express to all of you my very deep appreciation. I think you can be proud of the work done in Ethiopia. Ethiopians, the most generous people I have seen, open their doors, their lands for refugees and Ethiopians deserve all the work that has been done in this country.

Dear colleagues in the Office of the African Union. Our relation with the African Union is absolutely vital for the success of the UN and absolutely vital for the success of the endowment of the security problems in Africa. The work of cooperation that has been established here in Addis I think is a paramount importance and exemplary work that I like to recognize here. And also we are in ECA to recognize the extremely important contributions ECA has given to formulate the African-wide policies and to contribute to the capacity of establishing strategies to make this continent able to face all the challenges and at the same time overcome those challenges. Most of the time we see the continent with crises and sometime we in the UN are also responsible for that. We start talking about the crises in Africa bringing out the problems of South Sudan, DRC, Somalia or Mali. But Africa was the continent which had the highest economic growth of 10% in the world. ECA has tried

to change this image. When I was campaigning, I met several Heads of State and I had a meeting with the African Union Group of Ambassadors in New York, all the ambassadors and you can't imagine the praises I heard about the work of ECA, about the formulation of African policies, There is a different opinion of ECA among Heads of State in New York. When I was in New York, I met all staff representatives of all the duty stations in Africa have remarkable success stories but we do not hear about that.

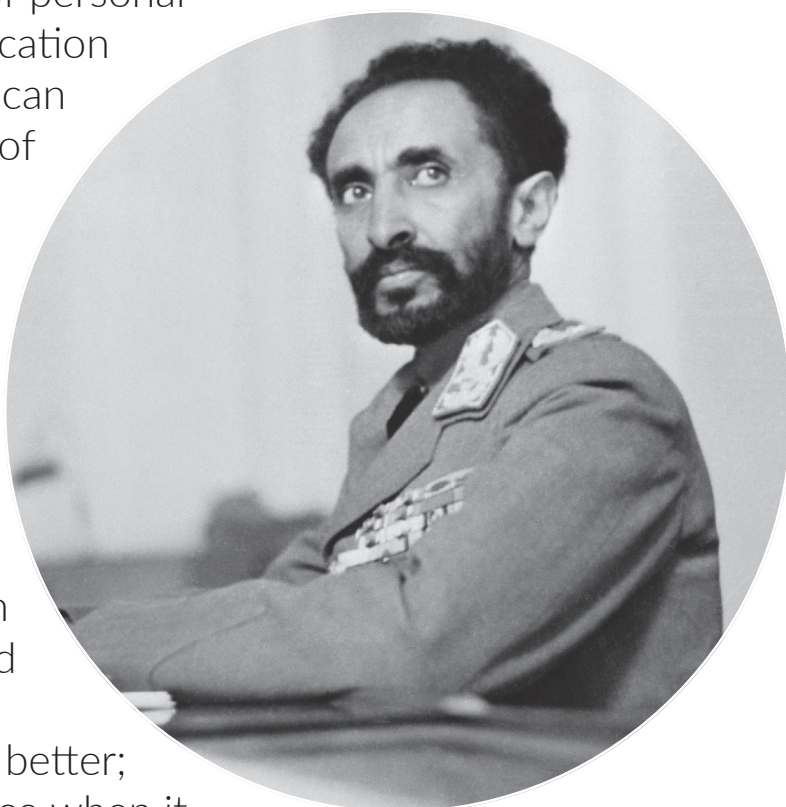
The S-G then took specific questions from about four staff members, including one who wished to know how he intended to address gender balance in staffing, especially for senior positions.

Mr. Hamdok gave a word of thanks to the SG after his address, which was followed by the Staff Recognition Ceremony, where the SG took the opportunity to acknowledge the services of long-serving staff in the UN system and awarded certificates to staff retiring in 2017.

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Education is the great engine of personal development. It is through education that the daughter of a peasant can become a doctor, that the son of a mineworker can become the head of the mine, that a child of farm workers can become the president of a great nation. It is what we make out of what we have, not what we are given, that separates one person from another.

Throughout history, it has been the inaction of those who could have acted; the indifference of those who should have known better; the silence of the voice of justice when it mattered most; that has made it possible for evil to triumph.



Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia

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Certificate of Recognition Awarded by the SG to UN staff in Addis Ababa who are retiring in 2017 and those beyond 20 years of service



The SG with some of the retirees and those who have served the UN beyond 20 years



Thirty-one retiring staff members from various UN agencies in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on Sunday 28 January, received Long Service Awards from Secretary-General António Guterres while on his first official visit to the continent on the margins of the African Union Heads of State Summit.

Among them was Chukwudozie Ezigbalike who, speaking on behalf of the staff members, paid a special tribute to the group of retirees for the work they had done over the years in contributing to the UN's work on the continent.

He felt a need for the UN to start organizing exit interviews in the form of retreats to allow for rich discussions that would lead to the improvement of the work of the United Nations around the globe.

“We are retiring but not tired. We will continue somehow, to contribute to the development of the continent from outside,” said Mr. Ezigbalike.

The Secretary-General thanked the UN staff in Ethiopia for working hard to ensure African countries developed policies to structurally transform the continent.

It was a full house at the UN headquarters in Addis with staff members ululating to celebrate the retiring members of staff as they lined up to receive their certificates from Mr. Guterres. A number of those honored, representing nine nationalities, had worked with the UN for more than two decades.

The Secretary-General promised to look into the range of issues raised by the Staff Union as presented by President Joseph Baricako prior to the staff recognition ceremony.

SG awarding Certificates of Recognition





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The purpose of the United Nations should be to protect the essential sovereignty of nations, large and small.

Nikita Khrushchev

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SG's meeting with the UN Country Team and UN liaison team in Ethiopia



Secretary-General accompanied by UN Resident Coordinator, UNDP Resident Representative and Humanitarian Coordinator in Ethiopia

Most of the UN Country Team were staff that the SG had met several times earlier during his previous UN tenure as Head of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). It was like catching up with former colleagues. The discussions, though brief due to lack of time, were fruitful with much more vigorous commitments by all in serving the country and people of Ethiopia.



SG, RC & Senior Adviser at the UNCT/UNLT Meeting

Some of Heads of UN Agencies welcoming the Secretary-General



The SG greeting personally some of the Heads of Agencies present during the Town Hall





Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres met with High Officials on Humanitarian Situation in Ethiopia



Deputy Prime Minister, H.E. Ato. Demeke Mekonnen expressed his gratitude for the generosity and partnership of the international community

On 29 January 2017, a High-Level event on the Humanitarian Situation in Ethiopia, led jointly by the Deputy Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Mr. Demeke Mekonnen and UN Secretary-General, Mr. António Guterres and hosted by Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa-Onochie, RC/HC for Ethiopia, was held at the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). Other speakers at the event included Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator (USG/ERC), Mr. Stephen O'Brien, Secretary of State for International Development of the United Kingdom, Ms. Priti Patel, European Union Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Mr. Neven Mimica, and FAO Deputy Director General/Coordinator for Natural Resources, Ms. Maria Helena Semedo. The event discussed the successes of the 2015/2016 Ethiopia drought response, which was unprecedented in terms of funds mobilized, volume of food assistance, and the level of partnership and coordination with Government and humanitarian and development partners. The combined Government and partners' effort

helped save countless of lives and averted a major humanitarian catastrophe. However, Ethiopia today is facing a new drought in its eastern and south eastern lowlands and in pocket areas across the country.

While commending the Ethiopian Government and the humanitarian community for the successful response last year, the Secretary-General called for solidarity with the Government and the people of Ethiopia as the country faces a new challenge. On his part, **the Deputy Prime Minister expressed his gratitude for the generosity and partnership of the international community stating, "under Government leadership, we planned together, and we responded together, delivering the biggest drought response operation globally in history."** The Deputy Prime Minister vowed continued leadership and commitment to address humanitarian challenges presented by the Horn of Africa drought this year. Mr. Demeke also expressed the Government of Ethiopia's commitment to work with regional institutions like IGAD on short and longer-term responses to recurrent drought emergencies in the Horn of Africa region.

Secretary-General's remarks at High-level event on the humanitarian situation in Ethiopia



Secretary-General's remarks at High-level event on the humanitarian situation in Ethiopia Addis Ababa, 29 January 2017

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

All protocol observed.

It is to me an honour and a pleasure to be here today in this High-level event on the humanitarian situation in Ethiopia.

This High-level event must express our total solidarity with the Ethiopian people and the Ethiopian Government at the present moment.

And let's be clear: that solidarity is not a matter of generosity. It is a matter of justice and of self-interest.

First of all, it is a matter of justice... Justice in relation to the enormous generosity of the Ethiopian people themselves: I have [witnessed], during ten years as High Commissioner for Refugees, the way Ethiopia became not only the largest African refugee-hosting country but the country with the most determined policy of keeping all its borders open, even in the most difficult security situations; an example that, I would say, needs to be thought about in a world where unfortunately, so many borders are being closed.

But not only did it keep its borders open; it kept the doors of the houses and the hearts of the people open. And in a country with huge challenges of development, you see thousands of young Eritreans, Somalis and

South Sudanese that have received already a diploma or are now in Ethiopian universities supported by the Ethiopian Government.

But it is an act of justice also because this crisis has not caught the Government and the people of Ethiopia unprepared, even if the magnitude of the crisis clearly is above the capacity of the country to resolve.

Ethiopia has persistently applied a policy of building resilience in relation to the natural disasters that unfortunately with climate change have come to be more and more frequent and intense. And not only a consistent policy of strengthening resilience but of creating the reserve necessary for Ethiopia itself to respond to the crisis.

Of last year's appeal that was mentioned, it was the largest in relation to the response to the appeal in the world [that was provided]: 90%. It's 90% because half of it was provided by the Ethiopian Government itself.

And it is absolutely remarkable that a Government is able to respond to half of the humanitarian needs that are presented to the international community in such a devastating crisis like the one [we have seen] in Ethiopia.

On the other hand, I think this is also something that pays tribute to justice when you recognize that here we do not have the usual gap between humanitarian and development actions. If there is a Government



where humanitarian and development actions are perfectly integrated, it is the Ethiopian.

We have of course provided food and water to people in need, yes, it's true! But this is now done in the context of building resilience and preparing the future development of the country.

Here the Government, Agencies, donors, all hands work to address both the most pressing needs on the humanitarian perspective and the long-term development and resilience response to the challenging problems that the Ethiopians are facing.

If this approach was copied in many other parts of the world, we would be much more effective not only in humanitarian aid but also much more effective in relation to building resilience and to promote development.

But this is also a question [of] self interest: because the link between humanitarian and development with peace and security is growing everywhere. And to invest in building resilience of populations and to invest in the best humanitarian needs in situations of stress like the one we are facing is also to contribute to strengthen peace and security.

And nobody in the world is more relevant from this point of view. Around Ethiopia, we have a number of countries in deep crises: Somalia, of course South Sudan, Eritrea with a situation that we all know. Ethiopia has been a pillar of stability in this region and the very important factor to allow the international community to be able to, I would say, soften the impact of these crises without major stress to global peace and to global security.

But we cannot allow the effect of drought to be a promoter of additional instability, to be a promoter of social unrest, to be a promoter of conflict because that would have dreadful consequences not only in relation to the conflicts in the area but in connection to displacements of populations, in a world that is so little inclined to receive more migrants, and to global terrorism that is now a threat everywhere in the world.

So let's transform this session of solidarity in a commitment to work together not only to address the pressing humanitarian needs of Ethiopia but to join efforts in addressing the huge challenges from a development perspective, a sustainable development perspective and from a peace and security perspective the world faces today.

Thank you very much.

Feedback on the Town Hall meeting from different Sectors of the UN

General: Preliminary feedback is that the visit was well organized and thus a success. In fact, upon departure on 30 January, the SG's team expressed satisfaction. Both ECA, UNOAU and UNRCO teams that worked on the visit under ECA's Chief of Staff appreciated the cooperation amongst the UN Family on the visit.

Specific Comments by:

Ahunna Eziakonwa-Onochie, UN Resident Coordinator

1. What is your assessment of the Town Hall meeting?

Well organized and well attended. However, format could have been more informal, enabling greater interaction between staff and the SG. This for future consideration.

2. Lessons learned from the Town Hall meeting and the visit of the SG?

Negotiate more time for engagement

More prepared and well thought out questions

Pictorial feature of UN in Ethiopia – a gallery walk for the SG

Collen V. Kelapile, Chief of Staff, ECA and Moderator of the Town Hall Meeting

1. What is your assessment of the Town Hall meeting?

Despite it being a late Sunday afternoon/evening, the attendance by the UN Family staff was quite impressive. I can therefore confidently say that the Town Hall meeting was a great success, both in terms of its organization, the attendance and the enthusiasm the staff showed in seeking to freely and openly engage with the Secretary-General. Time permitting, I am pretty sure more staff beyond the four who got the opportunity would have liked to address issues with the Secretary-General.

2. What were the challenges encountered in the organization?

Well, hosting any high-level presence such as a Secretary-General of the United Nations does

obviously bring a lot of anxiety and nervousness especially during the planning process; until the plan is put to test. But when all was over with this particular visit, I am not aware of any challenges of note. Most importantly, the Secretary-General displayed utmost prudence in bringing along an unusually small delegation which greatly facilitated our task. Whatever minor logistical huddles were encountered such as accreditation and access issues particularly at AU premises, these are to be expected and are beyond our control while also not insurmountable.

3. Lessons learned from the Town Hall meeting and the visit of the SG?

Drawing from the Secretary-General's own observation, it is indeed true that Town Hall meetings become more meaningful when the interaction is deformalized. For the future, there could certainly be less or no formal speeches to give room to direct interactions. Overall, the Secretary-General's visit afforded us the opportunity as ECA and colleagues at our other UN Family organizations who were actively involved to put to test our ability to deliver as one UN. From the feedback received, including from our seniors, strong coordination and harmonious dealings amongst ourselves emerged as a major contributor to the success achieved in hosting the Secretary-General; and it is agreed that spirit must surely be maintained moving forward.

Joseph Baricako, Chairman, FUNSA and President, ECA Staff Union

1. What is your assessment of the Town Hall meeting?

The meeting from the outset was well organized and could be said successful 100%, given so many factors such as it was on a Sunday and people could have been



easily out of town, and that staff arrived on time and the Conference Room was full before the SG's arrival. The programme of the event was clear as to who should speak? when and for how long? For the given time frame, the number of speakers were carefully taught out and well used by them. The SG himself kept strictly the time.

The meeting was also a success in bringing together all stakeholders, staff and Heads of Agencies. Most of all it gave a change to the new SG to know in a short period, the extent of staff interest on his new plan for the organization. In return, the Town Hall also provided the opportunity to the staff to raise main questions of their concern, although in limited time. The awarding of recognition certificates to retirees and to those who served the organization beyond 20 years or more was an event which happened on a historical day – the first meeting of the new SG, Antonio Guterres, with UN staff based in Addis Ababa and it was filled with smiles and happiness. All in all, the Town Hall was beneficial to all attendees but in particular for staff morale – “The SG cares”

2. What were the challenges encountered in the organization?

The main challenge was time but one cannot do better under such circumstances. The SG had several programmes lined up with important partners and government officials. Staff, especially those connected via VTC as well as those present here wanted to engage the SG but the time was limited. In a situation like this you could only do the best you can.

3. Lessons learned from the Town Hall meeting and the visit of the SG?

In the future, the SG's visit as well the programme of his stay should be communicated to the staff as earlier as possible so that they can prepare themselves for a fruitful dialogue with the SG. Other activities could also be organized to welcome the new SG if the Staff were informed of his schedule before hand. Furthermore, it should be in the future to split the time between short formal speeches and more informal exchanges, as he expressed it himself. After all, Africa has been one of the first duty station visit after taking his mandate. Therefore, could have been celebrated in a wider sense by involving the beneficiaries of the United Nations, the people of Ethiopia, who the SG considered generous and giving.

28th African Union Summit 22-31 January 2017, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Theme – Harnessing the Demographic Dividend Through Investment in Youth

UN Chief participated for the first time at the historical AU Summit



UN Secretary-General Mr. Antonio Guterres with H.E. Dr. Nkosazana Clarice Dlamini Zuma, outgoing *Chairperson of the African Union Commission* (photo Google search engine)

Antonio Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General, attended the 28th African Union (AU) Summit held in Addis Ababa. Although the S-G has been in Addis Ababa several times before during his previous position as UN High Commissioner for Refugees, this was the first time for him to participate at the historical summit of the AU as Secretary-General of the United Nations. Africa expects that the new S-G would be their ally and supporter in the area of conflict prevention and peacekeeping, the promotion of democracy and human rights and, most of all, the building of a sound foundation for fruitful cooperation as the two institutions implement the SDGs and AU's own Agenda 2063.

Addressing the Summit, the SG pledged the Organization's full support in implementing both Africa's regional component of the SDGs and Agenda 2063. He further specified ways and means of building partnerships between the AU and the UN for mutual benefit, based on respect and solidarity.

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The United Nations system is still the best instrument for making the world less fragile.

Carlo Azeglio Ciampi

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SG's address at the 28th African Union Heads of State Meeting



At African Union Summit, UN chief Guterres spotlights need to strengthen cooperation

Secretary-General António Guterres (3rd right, front row) poses for a group photo with African Union leaders at the opening of their Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. UN Photo/Antonio Fiorente

30 January 2017 – In his first address to the African Union since taking office, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres underscored the importance of a strategic AU-UN partnership for building sustainable development and advancing peace and security on the continent.

Speaking in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in English, French and Portuguese, the Secretary-General told African leaders that **“I am here to listen to you, learn from you and work with you for the people of Africa and the wider world.”**

He expressed gratitude to African countries for providing the majority of UN peacekeepers around the world, for being “among the world’s largest and most generous hosts of refugees [with its] borders remaining open for those in need of protection, when so many borders are being closed,” and among some of the world’s fastest growing economies.

“I am convinced we have much to gain from African wisdom, African ideas, African solutions,” Mr. Guterres told the 28th African Union Summit.



Secretary-General António Guterres briefs the press in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. UN Photo

He said he was open to the AU’s ideas on how best to strengthen cooperation and partnership between the two organizations, as well as Africa’s eight Regional Economic Communities.

One of the main goals for both the AU and the UN is to promote peace and security and human rights. Mr. Guterres noted that the AU is working to find ways to break the cycle of conflicts caused by a race for power and competition for resources, as well as inequality and sectarian divisions.

The UN, in turn, would “spare no effort” to more systematically provide the AU with the assistance

needed to strengthen counter-terrorism capacity and aid populations threatened by conflict.

The most effective means of prevention and the surest way to achieve lasting peace, however, was inclusive and sustainable development.

He noted the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and called for global commitments to be respected “at all costs” because Africa needs and deserves international solidarity. In addition, Africa has its own development plan known as ‘Agenda 2063,’ which is being carried out by the AU’s development arm, the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD).

Mr. Guterres reiterated the UN’s support for these international and national goals through the UN and its agencies working in country, known as the UN Country Teams.

He also highlighted the role young people and women play in the continent’s development.

Africa remained a young continent, with more than three out of five Africans under the age of 35. Investment in education, training and jobs for youth constituted one of the priorities for the continent, as it did for the UN. As a result, the AU had declared

2017 as the international year for ‘Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investment in Youth.’

The empowerment of women was also a shared priority for both the AU and the UN. Mr. Guterres noted that his Deputy is Amina Mohammed of Nigeria, who has previously led the UN’s work on sustainable development.



Amina Mohammed of Nigeria

“I have witnessed this throughout my life: when we empower women, we empower the world,” Mr. Guterres said.

Source: UN News Centre

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“This is no time for ease and comfort. It is time to dare and endure.”

Sir Winston Churchill

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Meeting of the SG with African Heads of State and Heads of Delegation



With the notable exception of meeting also with Palestine's Mahmoud Abbas in the margins of the Summit, the SG did accord priority to holding bilateral meetings primarily with African leaders, as a show of respect that this was indeed an African Union Summit. The list of Heads of States and Governments are indicated below.

H.E. Ato Hailemariam Desalegn, Prime Minister of the **Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia**

H.E. Mr. Uhuru Kenyatta, CGH, President of the **Republic of Kenya**

H.E. Mr. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the **Republic of Uganda**

H.E. Mr. Salva Kiir, President of the **Republic of South Sudan**

H.E. Mr. Ramtance Lamamra, Minister for Foreign Affairs and

International Cooperation of the **People's Democratic Republic of Algeria**

H.E. Mr. Idriss Deby Itno, President of the **Republic of Chad**

H.E. Mr. Roch Marc Christian Kabore, President of the **Republic of Burkina Faso**

H.E. Mr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli, President of the **United Republic of Tanzania**

H.E. Mr. Mahmoud Abbas, President of the **State of Palestine**

H.E. Mr. Leonard She Okituindu, Vice Prime-Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Integration of the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**

H.E. Mr. Modibo Keita, Prime Minister of the **Republic of Mali**

H.E. Mrs. Ajah Fatoumata Jallow Tambajang, Vice President of the **Islamic Republic of The Gambia TBC**

H.E. Mr. Manuel Vicente, Vice-President of the **Republic of Angola**

H.E. Mr. Macky Sall, President of the **Republic of Senegal**

H.E. Mr. Muhammadu Buhari, President of the **Federal Republic of Nigeria**

H.E. Mr. Benjamin Mkapa, Former President of the **United Republic of Tanzania TBC**

H.E. Mr. Gaston Sindomwo, First Vice President of the **Republic of Burundi**

H.E. Mr. Jacob Zuma, President of the Republic of **South Africa**

H.E. Mr. Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, President of the

Republic of Equatorial Guinea

H.E. Mr. Alpha Conde, President of the **Republic of Guinea and newly appointed Chairman of the African Union**

H.E. Mr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the **Republic of Zambia TBC**

Other programmed activities included a Working Breakfast meeting organized by Chad's President General Idriss Deby and outgoing Chair of the AU for the SG and a few select African leaders. A peace and security event on South Sudan was co-organized by the SG together with the AU and IGAD.



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FAKI MAHAMAT**

Chad

CHAIRPERSON
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Thomas Kwesi**

Ghana

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African Union Commission



**H.E. CHERGUI
Smail**

Algeria

Commissioner for
PEACE AND SECURITY



**H.E. SAMATE
Cessouma Minata**

Burkina Faso

Commissioner for
POLITICAL AFFAIRS



**H.E. ABOU-ZEID
Amani**

Egypt

Commissioner for
**INFRASTRUCTURE
& ENERGY**



**H.E. ELFADIL Amira
Elfadil Mohammed**

Sudan

Commissioner for
SOCIAL AFFAIRS



**H.E. MUCHANGA
Albert M.**

Zambia

Commissioner for
TRADE AND INDUSTRY



**H.E. SACKO Josefa
Leonel Correa**

Angola

Commissioner for
**RURAL ECONOMY
& AGRICULTURE**

The remaining two (2) portfolios of Commissioners be elected from either one (1) male from Eastern Region or one (1) female from Central Region at the Thirty-First Ordinary Session of the Executive Council to be appointed during the Twenty-Ninth Ordinary Session of the Assembly in July 2017 in accordance with Article 16 (6) of the Statutes of the Commission of the African Union

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia 1st February 2017: During the 28th Ordinary Summit of the African Union which concluded on 31st January at the African Union Headquarters, elections for the Bureau of the Chairperson, The Deputy Chairperson and Commissioners were held as well as appointment of members to the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption, the appointment of judges of the African Court on Human and People's Rights (AfCHPR) and appointment of a member of the African Union Commission on International Law (AUCIL).

Chairperson of the African Union Commission
H.E Mr. Faki Moussa Mahamat (**Chad**)
Deputy Chairperson
H.E. Mr. Thomas Kwesi Quartey (**Ghana**)
Commissioner for Peace and Security
H.E. Mr. Smail Chergui (**Algeria**)
Commissioner for Political Affairs
H.E. Ms. Minata Cessouma Samate (**Burkina Faso**)
Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy
H.E. Ms. Amani Abou-Zeid (Egypt)
Commissioner for Social Affairs
H.E. Ms. Amira Mohammed Elfadil (**Sudan**)
Commissioner for Trade and Industry
H.E. Mr. Albert M. Muchanga (**Zambia**)
Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture
H.E. Ms. Correa Leonel Josefa Sacko (**Angola**)
The Commissioners for Economic Affairs and Human Resources Science and Technology will be

communicated at a later date.

The appointed Members of the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption are:

Mr. Begoto Miarom (**Chad**),
Mr. John Kithome Tuta (**Kenya**),
Mr. Paulus Kalomho (**Namibia**),
Ms. Florence Ziyambi (**Zimbabwe**),
Mr. Pascal Bamouni (**Burkina Faso**),
Mr. Daniel Batidam (**Ghana**) and
Ms. Elisabeth Gnansounou Fourn (**Benin**).

The appointed judges of the African Court on Human and People's Rights (AfCHPR) are:

Ms. Chafika Bensaoula from Algeria
Ms. Rose Tujilane Chizumila from Malawi

The appointed member of the African Union Commission on International law is:

Ms. Kathleen Quartey Ayensu from Ghana.

“

I was profoundly moved to be the first United Nations Secretary-General to attend the Peace Memorial Ceremony in Hiroshima. I also visited Nagasaki. Sadly, we know the terrible humanitarian consequences from the use of even one weapon. As long as such weapons exist, so, too, will the risks of use and proliferation.

Ban Ki-moon

”

Kagame Proposes Changes to Make AU Relevant to Africans

By KT Press Staff Writer



A retreat of Heads of State and Government on proposals on AU reforms conducted by President Paul Kagame

Africa has to mobilise its own resources to finance activities of the African Union Commission to scale back dependence on donor money, President Paul Kagame has told colleagues.

Kagame is in Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa where he this afternoon presented a report on proposed reforms that would guide the establishment of a governance system capable of addressing challenges facing the AU. Leaders are holding the 28th Ordinary African Union Heads of State and Government Summit.

Last year during the 27th African Union summit in Kigali, Kagame was assigned by his counterparts to come up with reform proposals for the AU as part of transforming it into a self-reliant continental body by 2018.

He assembled a nine-member committee including: Amina J. Mohammed – former Nigerian Minister of Environment; Mariam Mahamat Nour – Chadian Minister of Economy, Planning, and International Cooperation; Cape Verde's Cristina Duarte –Former Minister of Finance and Planning, and Cameroonian economist Vera Songwe, the Regional Director for West and Central Africa at the International Finance

Corporation.

In his report, President Kagame said that chronic failure to see through African Union decisions had resulted in a crisis of implementation and a perception that the AU was not relevant to Africans.

The AU is a fragmented organisation with a multitude of focus areas, and with over dependence on partner (donor) funding, said Kagame.

"We cannot leave implementation of institutional reforms to chance or treat it as routine. Both in the Assembly of Heads of State and the AU Commission, the responsibility for delivery of the reform agenda must be clearly assigned," he said, according to accounts from media reports.

Kagame urged his counterparts to focus on key priority areas with continental scope; realign the AU institutions to deliver against those priorities; manage the AU efficiently at both political and operational levels; and get Africans themselves to finance the AU Commission.

Meanwhile, the AU Commission Deputy Chairperson Erastus Mwencha told media that; "Africa with its own resources, AU must carry all operational costs, 75% of development programs and 25% of peace and security."

Morocco rejoins the African Union after 33 years of absence



The decision to admit Morocco back into the AU came on Monday at the African leaders summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia [Reuters]

Among the most important decisions that took place during the Summit was the coming back of Morocco to the African Union after three decades of absence over the disputed territory of Western Sahara. “Morocco’s King Mohammed VI, who had been campaigning since last year to join the bloc, told African leaders at the AU summit in Addis Ababa: ‘Africa is my home, and I am coming back home’.”

The African Union has decided to allow Morocco back into the fold after a 33-year absence, despite stiff resistance from some member states over the status of Western Sahara. After an emotional and tense debate, member states decided by consensus to leave the question of the disputed territory of Western Sahara for another day, and resolve it with Morocco “back in the family”.

“Morocco has been admitted to join the AU with a view that it will become the 55th member of the continental body. That’s made with the understanding that Western Sahara will remain a member of the AU,” said Lamine Baali, ambassador of Western Sahara to Ethiopia and the AU.

“All the debates were focused on [the issue] that Morocco should respect the internationally recognised border of Western Sahara.”

The only African country not to belong to the AU, Morocco left its predecessor, the Organisation of African Unity, in 1984 after the body recognised the independence of Moroccan-occupied Western Sahara.

Morocco submitted its bid to rejoin last year,

reportedly in the hope that being inside the AU would bring it diplomatic gains against Western Sahara’s independence movement - the Polisario Front - and allow it to lobby against Western Sahara’s membership in the AU. But Baali said Morocco had been re-admitted “with the understanding that Western Sahara will remain a member of the AU”.

The membership of relatively wealthy Morocco was welcomed by many members of the AU, which has been criticised for being overly dependent on non-African donor funding. There was also some opposition from countries supporting the Polisario, observers said.

An African Union source, who followed the debate for Morocco to return to the continental body, said that 39 countries supported Morocco’s bid but nine voted against it. Polisario leader and member of the Sawhrawi delegation Minister Mohamed Beiset told Al Jazeera that while there was a lengthy debate, “the wisdom of the African leaders made it possible to reach a consensus that was acceptable to everyone”.

The delegation decided, said Beiset, that “it was better to have Morocco inside the house, inside the family, and to try to reach African solutions to African problems”. He congratulated Morocco for joining the AU, and said it was “a new opportunity that we should all seize in starting a ... genuine dialogue between us to reach a solution to the long-standing conflict that has separated us”.

Reporting by Hamza Mohamed in Addis Ababa.

Source: Al Jazeera and news agencies

Statement by the Outgoing Chairperson of the African Union Commission, H.E. Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma to the 28th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union

Your Excellency, Professor Alpha Conde, President of the Republic of Guinea and Chairperson of the African Union

Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government,

Excellencies, Former Heads of State and former Secretaries General and Chairpersons of the OAU and AU

Excellencies, Ministers, Leaders of Organs, RECs, Representative offices, Ambassadors, Officials

Excellencies, President of the AfDB, Ag. Executive Secretary of UNECA

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Let me begin by thanking you, Chairperson and all Your Excellencies, for giving me this opportunity to address you.

Congratulations on a very successful summit, that dealt with important issues critical to the well-being of Africa and African people, especially its youth.

You entrusted me to head the African Union Commission, whose mandate you extended for 6 months.

Our sincere congratulations to the new members of the Commission, led by our brother H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, as incoming Chairperson of the AU, on your election and to wish you success in the important work on behalf of all the citizens of Africa. Congratulations to the Deputy and all Commissioners elected.

For me and the out-going Commission members, it has been an absolute and humbling privilege. For us as African to serve, there is no service more important,



Outgoing Chairperson of the AUC, H.E. Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma

more honourable or more rewarding than to serve our Continent and the citizens of Africa.

Excellencies,

Throughout our tenure, we enjoyed the support and cooperation of all Heads of State and Government, the Governments and citizens of Africa.

The Executive Council, the NEPAD Agency, the PRC, the RECs, Organs and our strategic partners, the AfDB, UNECA and ACBF all cooperated with us to push forward our mission of an effective, self-reliant, integrated, cohesive and people-centred Union. We work together in Strategic partnership with the RECs, ADB, UNECA, ACBF to forward our goal of a people centred, integrated Union.

We also thank the African civil society in its diversity, especially the women's movement of the continent, for their support and enthusiasm to work with us to build a People's Union. We thank business people, workers, academics, faithbased organisations, artists, who worked with us.

We also thank the AU Partners Group for their cooperation and support, on many critical issues, throughout our term.

The out-going Commission owes a big debt of gratitude to the staff of the African Union Commission and I want to take this opportunity to salute and thank each and everyone of you. Whatever achievements we

have made could not have been possible without your tireless efforts, dedication, hard work and commitment to Africa. I always believe that any leadership is as good as its team, so thank you to Team AU. I urge that you continue to give your best to Africa as our anthem said and in the same spirit with the in-coming Commission.

Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen

Distinguished Guests

Whatever we have accomplished as a Commission could not have been done in a calm and good atmosphere, without the support of the Government and People of the Federal Democratic of Ethiopia and particularly the People of the City of Addis Ababa and the local Administration. In their usual quiet, courteous and generous ways they welcomed their sisters and brothers from all over Africa and have taken in stride together, to work towards the burdens of responsibility that come with hosting the We are proud of this Headquarters. I once said to the Prime Minister of Ethiopia is a sovereign state, but not as sovereign as others, because you are our capital and we have a stake in this country. We thank you Mr. Prime Minister, Hailemariam Desaglen and Ministers, Government. I thank Ethiopia most sincerely.

We joined the Commission coming from different backgrounds, cultures and experiences. Each with a different perspective and each with a personal vision of what the African Union should be. We strived to be coherent, to work as one, as a team.

I thank all Commissioners for the cooperation and the work they did. A special thank you to Deputy Chairperson Erastus Mwencha who had responsibility for our finances and administration. We thank him.

Your Excellencies;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen:

As I take the final bow as Chairperson of the African Union Commission, I am satisfied with the strong foundations in place for Africa's success.

We leave behind a Union that has Agenda 2063 which reflects the aspiration of African citizens; a Union on its route to self-reliance; a Union pushing ahead on integration and a Union engaged in fundamental reforms to enable it to better serve the African agenda

and Peoples. We are a Union on the way to silencing the guns.

This Summit took a historic decision to reunite the African community of states, with its decision on the membership of the Kingdom of Morocco by consensus. This provides a platform to strengthen African solutions to African problems, in furtherance of the principles and objectives of the Constitutive Act of our Union. We leave a Union with all African states present, a Union of 55 Member states. A warm welcome to the Kingdom of Morocco.

We leave behind a Union, whose voice in the international community is stronger, especially when we adopt and promote common African positions.

Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen

Distinguished Guests

The strength of Africa lies in its unity and its Pan-Africanism. When our forebears united, Africa was able to win its independence from colonialism against countries with armies and economies far bigger than ours. We should, therefore, never allow ourselves to be divided by anyone, or by anything. We should, as much as possible, coordinate our positions and adopt common positions. Let us stand or fall together! But we will not fall. Forward ever, backward never!

I have no doubt that the in-coming Commission will continue to strengthen and build upon these foundations, just like we build on the foundations that we found in 2012.

For sure, there will continue to be challenges. I believe, however, that no challenge is insurmountable in the face of determination, persistence and self-belief.

For my part, and for my fellow Commissioners wherever I shall be and in whatever capacity, I shall forever remain soldiers of the African cause.

I thank you

Merci beaucoup,

Mucho Obrigado,

Shukran,

Asante Sana,

Ame se gna lehu!



9th UN SECRETARY-GENERAL, ANTONIO GUTERRES - HOW TO GO FORWARD

“THE UNITED NATIONS MUST FOCUS ON DELIVERY RATHER THAN PROCESS; AND ON PEOPLE RATHER THAN BUREAUCRACY. I AM COMMITTED TO BUILDING A CULTURE OF ACCOUNTABILITY, STRONG PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AND EFFECTIVE PROTECTION FOR WHISTLEBLOWERS”.