



**Bi-Weekly Newsletter  
Permanent Mission of the State of Eritrea to AU  
and UNECA  
Press Section**



## **President Isaias Conducted a Working Visit to Qatar**

President Isaias Afwerki conducted a three-day working visit to the State of Qatar starting from the 15<sup>th</sup> of March 2016.

During the visit, President Isaias and the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani, met at the State Palace and discussed bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest.



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## **A Side-Event on the Role of Eritrean Women in Development, Gender Equality and Empowerment held in Geneva**



A side-event on the role of Eritrean women in development, gender equality and empowerment was held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, on 11 March 2016, on the occasion of the 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council.

The presentations made at the event outlined the challenges of nation build-

ing and the efforts made to maintain the achievements of the liberation struggle in gender equality and empowerment. The event also highlighted the successful development partnership between the Government of Eritrea, the UN country Team and the National Union of Eritrean Women (NUEW).

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### A Side-Event on the Role of Eritrean Women ...(Continued from page 1)

The event also included a photographic exhibition and a video presentation depicting and chronicling the Eritrean women and their role in Eritrean society, including during the armed struggle.

The participants gave their reflections and comments and the event concluded with the following recommendations:

- Consolidate further the effort and achievement in women’s emancipation and empowerment;
- Empower the NUEW to expand and consolidate

the realization of its mission as an organization representing women;

- Expand partnerships, in particular the ongoing partnership with the UN country team in Eritrea;
- Create a platform to share Eritrea’s experiences and achievements with neighboring and other African countries;
- Mobilize more resources in support of Eritrea; and
- Conduct more side events on various issues to reflect the Eritrean reality and its development achievements and challenges.



### Eritrea Taking Part at the 60<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women



The Delegation, through two statements it made at the Session, shared Eritrea’s experience in the eradication of all forms of discrimination and violence against women. Below are excerpts:



An Eritrean Delegation led by Ms. Tekea Tesfamichael, President of the National Union of Eritrean Women (NUEW), is participating in the 60<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women taking place in New York, from 14-24 March 2016.

**Role of the NUEW:** The National Union of Eritrean Women, a grassroots organization with more than three hundred thousand members and offices all over the country and outside has been at the forefront of the efforts towards gender equality and the empowerment of women. *(Continued on page 3)*

## Eritrea Taking Part at the 60<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN CSW (Continued from page 2)

**Adhering to International Norms:** Eritrea as a signatory to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Right of the Child, has been making strides through relentless efforts to combat and eradicate violence against women and girls, and addressing the conditions that contribute to such violence.



**Combating FGM:** Awareness raising campaigns and legal ban has contributed to its sharp decrease. Since 2007 FGM has been banned by law. The campaign involved religious and community leaders, including committees specifically created for this purpose. As a result, the FGM that affected 95% of girls in 1995 today has dropped to 12% for ages 5 and under.

**Combating Rape and Sexual Harassment:** Rape and sexual harassment against women are considered immoral and intolerable acts in the Eritrean society. Rape is a crime and a serious offence punishable with definite terms of imprisonment. The advocacy efforts of the NUEW has been geared towards combating rape as well as ensuring that the victims are empowered enough to report acts of rape, and those who commit the crime are held accountable. The advocacy activities also involve law enforcement agencies in order to ensure the implementation of laws on rape crimes. These campaigns have been critical in increasing the reported cases of rape and in holding the perpetrators of the crime responsible.

**Ending Underage Marriage:** One of the first amendments made to the colonial codes after independence in 1991 was amending the legal age of marriage from 15 to 18 years and prohibition of forced marriage. In cooperation with government institutions and civil societies, the National Union of Eritrean Women and international partners conduct extensive social and media campaigns. Building on the success of these programs, the NUEW with the AU Commission, plans to launch in Eritrea the AU Campaign to End Child Marriage in June 2016.



### Azel Meets 45% of Eritrea's Pharmaceutical Demand



Azel Pharmaceutical Sh. Co. is jointly owned by the Government of Eritrea and the Jordanian Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Company (JPM). It was founded in 2003 in the city of Keren to meet the demand for quality pharmaceutical products.

The Company has the mission of producing, distributing and selling high quality essential drugs at competitive prices and in widening market coverage.

Azel is currently producing 45% of the pharmaceutical products required in Eritrea thereby making enormous contribution to the improvement of the health and wellbeing of the society.

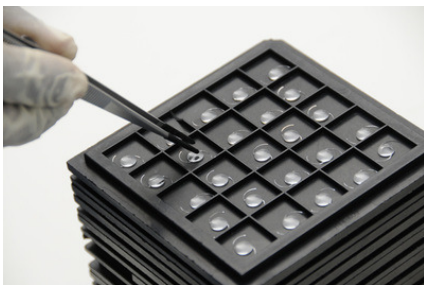
The products of the company include, among others, antidiabetic, gastrointestinal, cardiovascular, antifungal, anti-inflammatory, and malarial medicines.



### Fred Hollows IOL Laboratory Exporting State of the Art Lenses

The Fred Hollows IOL Laboratory was established in Asmara in 1994 with the financial and technical support provided by the Fred Hollows Foundation in Australia with the express intention of providing high quality affordable intra-ocular lenses (IOLs) for use in extra-capsular cataract extraction and lens replacement surgery.

the art IOLs produced by Fred Hollows Laboratory have been used throughout the world and also been tasted by leading international authorities in ophthalmology.



Since entering into commercial operations in 1995, the Laboratory has exported millions of IOLs to Asian, European and African countries. The state of



The Laboratory is certified by Société Générale de Surveillance (SGS) for compliance with the highest Standards of Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) in manufacturing devices and is proud holder of quality certificates: ISO 13485, ISO 9001& MDD 93/42/EEC and CE Mark from SGS.