



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



President Isaias Afwerki held talks with the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi

President Isaias Afwerki met and held talks with Sheik Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces. The talks that took place on 11 October in Abu Dhabi, centered on enhancing the warm bilateral ties that exist between the two countries.

During the meeting, Sheik Mohamed bin Zayed expressed satisfaction at the robust ties of friendship and cooperation cultivated between the two countries for decades. Sheikh Mohamed further asserted his country's readiness to foster close ties on the basis of cooperation, friendship and mutual interest.



President Isaias, on his part, praised the progress made by the UAE in all sectors and expressed Eritrea's willingness to expand cooperation with the UAE.

The two sides also exchanged views on regional and international developments as well as on other issues of mutual interest.

Minister Osman Saleh Met with UN Secretary General



The Eritrean Foreign Minister, Mr. Osman Saleh, met and held talks with the UN Secretary General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon on 27 September in New York.

During the meeting, the Secretary General encouraged Eritrea to continue implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. He also congratulated Eritrea on the 25th anniversary of its independence which was celebrated on 24 May 2016.

The two sides exchanged views on a number of issues, including the cooperation between Eritrea and the UN and peace and security challenges in the Horn of Africa and other relevant issues.

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Inside this issue:

- Eritrea's Statement at the AU Maritime Summit** 2
- Eritrea Awarded for Outstanding Achievement in Immunization** 3
- Eritrea Expecting a Bumper Harvest** 3
- Eritrea Committed to Address Migration Comprehensively** 4
- Eritrea Participated at the 39th Session of the ICAO Assembly** 4
- Russia Granted Postgraduate Scholarship to 25 Eritrean Youth** 4

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**Eritrean Mission to
AU & ECA**



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Statement by H.E. Mr. Osman Saleh, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Eritrea, at the Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union on Maritime Security, Safety and Development, 15 October 2016, Lomé, Togo

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I wish to express my profound gratitude to the People and Government of the Togolese Republic for the warm hospitality accorded to us and for the excellent facilities put at our disposal.

Mr. Chairman,

Eritrea, as a coastal State with more than 3300 kilometers long mainland and island coast, more than 350 islands, about 50,000 square kilometers of territorial waters, combined territorial waters and Exclusive Economic Zone nearly the same size as its land mass, recognizes the need for prudent, effective and integrated maritime governance.

Our seas and oceans hold enormous potential for improving the standard of life of our populations and for developing our economies as envisaged in Africa’s Agenda 2063 and the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Coastal and island communities depend on the seas and oceans for their livelihood. The importance of maritime transport to international trade cannot be over emphasized, as up to 90% of world trade is transported by sea. Our seas and oceans are home to rich flora, fauna and mineral resources that can contribute towards ensuring food security and the transformation of our economies. They are also major tourist attractions.

Mr. Chairman,

Sustainable utilization of marine resources depend on putting in place sound policies, institutions and infrastructure capable of curbing international crimes such as piracy; illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing; human and drug trafficking; terrorism, and on equipping ourselves with the tools required to harness the resources in order to meet our nations’ development objectives. We should also remain vigilant of the ongoing scramble by external forces for African coast and territorial waters.

Mr. Chairman,

Although located in the volatile southern Red Sea,



Eritrea has developed capacity to effectively maintain the security of its territorial waters, thereby making enormous contribution to the security and stability of one of the busiest sea lanes.

While prioritizing the protection of its diverse marine ecosystem, Eritrea is putting efforts to increase the benefits drawn from its rich marine resources. The Eritrean Government is also developing the nation’s human resources, and expanding and modernizing the port facilities to meet national and regional demand.

Mr. Chairman,

Eritrea recognizes the need to deploy collective efforts in maritime governance, to enhance national endeavors. It is in this vein that Eritrea welcomes the holding of this Extraordinary Summit dedicated to maritime issues, as well as the preparation of the draft Charter on Maritime Security, Safety and Development.

My Delegation commends the work undertaken to draft the Charter in a short period of time. However, we have noticed that the ambitious objectives and scope of the current draft has not been matched by its contents. It is also critical to align the provisions of the draft Charter with existing African and United Nations legal instruments governing maritime issues. Taking these into account, my Delegation welcomes the consensus reached to continue refining the Charter and accompany it with sector-specific annexes.

Thank you!



Eritrea Awarded for Outstanding Achievement in Immunization

Eritrea received an award for outstanding achievement in the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI).

The award organized by WHO and UNICEF was handed over at a Conference held in the first week of September 2016 in Entebbe, Uganda, in which 22 countries from the Horn and Southern Africa participated.



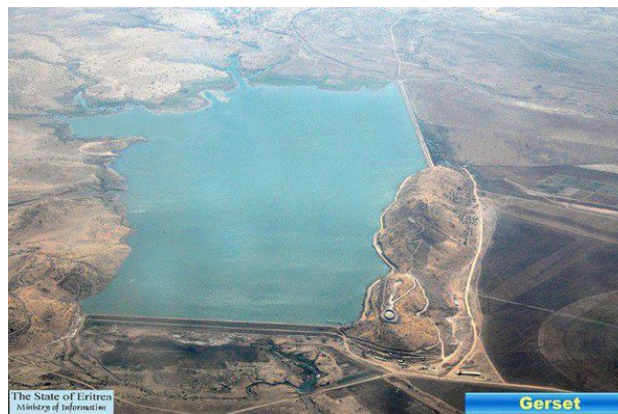
The achievements Eritrea has registered in the vaccination programs is a result of the strong commitment on the part of the government and the active participation of the public.

It is to be recalled that Eritrea received awards for high immunization coverage in 2009 and for efficiency in controlling measles in 2012.



Eritrea Expecting a Bumper Harvest

The Minister of Agriculture of Eritrea, Mr. Arefaine Berhe, disclosed that thanks to the above average rainfall registered in most parts of the country, Eritrea is expecting a very good harvest.



Highlighting that this year's theme could not be more appropriate for Eritrea, Minister Arefaine pointed out that Eritrea is situated in the Sahelian part of Africa and thus the rains are usually insufficient and erratic. Hence, for Eritrea, climate-smart agriculture is a matter of survival, he added. The Minister stressed that is precisely why Eritrea takes very seriously soil and water conservation, in general and water harvesting in particular.



The Minister made the statement during the commemoration of the World Food Day held on 16 October 2016 in the Hamelmalo College of Agriculture under the theme "Climate is Changing Food and Agriculture must too."

Eritrea Committed to Addressing Migration Comprehensively

Speaking at the 67th Session of the Executive Committee (EXCOM) of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) held in Geneva from 3-8 October 2016, Ambassador Tesfamicael Gerahtu, the Head of the Eritrean Delegation to the Session, reaffirmed Eritrea's commitment to sustain its ongoing internal development dynamics and address its real challenges including that of migration.

He also underscored that Eritrea will continue to contribute and cooperate in the strengthening of a viable system for the governance of migration and refugees at the global level.



The full text of the Statement is available at: <http://www.shabait.com/news/local-news/22709--eritrean-delegation-statement->

Eritrea Participated at the 39th Session of the ICAO Assembly

An Eritrean Delegation led by Mr. Paulos Kahsay, the Director General of the Civil Aviation Authority, participated at the 39th Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) that took place in Montreal, Canada from 27 September to 7 October 2016.



The Session was held under the theme 'Working Together to Ensure No Country is Left Behind!'

The Assembly established the worldwide policy of the organization for the upcoming triennium and adopted the first ever global market-based measures by any industry sector covering CO2 emissions from international activity.

Moreover, the Assembly reviewed ICAO's work plan in the technical, economic, legal and technical cooperation fields, as well as elected 36 new members of the Council for 2017-2019 period.

Russia Granted Postgraduate Scholarship to 25 Eritrean Youth

The Government of the Russian Federation granted scholarship to twenty five Eritrean youth to continue their studies in Master's and PhD levels in Russian Universities in the fields of Geology, Neurosurgery, Physics and Astronomy, Agro-Engineering, and Medicine.

Eritrea and Russia agreed to strengthen their cooperation in the education sector during a meeting held in Moscow in June 2014 between the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the two countries. The first batch of five postgraduate students are already pursuing their studies in Russian Universities since 2015.

