



Vision Ethiopia ESAT Fourth Conference

Building Democratic Institutions in Ethiopia

September 23 & 24, 2017

US Navy Memorial - Naval Heritage Center; 701 Pennsylvania Ave, NW Suite 123

Washington, DC 20004

Penultimate program and guidelines for presenters

Saturday, September 23

8:30 Registration and Coffee (venue and foyer availability before 9:00?)

9:30 Welcome, Master of Ceremonies for Day #1 (ESAT)

9:35 Prayer & Remembrance of the victims of conflict

9:40 Welcome, Ato Abebe Gelaw, Executive Director, ESAT

***9:50 Opening and welcome, Professor Getachew Begashaw, Harper College, Chicago, and
President of Vision Ethiopia***

10:00 Special Session #1

***Session Theme: United States' policy towards the Horn of Africa and the rationale for the draft Bill
before U.S. Congress, H.R.128 "Supporting respect for human rights and encouraging inclusive
governance in Ethiopia", 115th Congress 2017-2018.***

Moderator: Professor Minga Negash, MSU Denver and University of the Witwatersrand

Introduction of Speakers by:

***Deacon Yoseph Tafari, Colorado, Member of the Advocacy Network for H.R. 128 and Witness before
the House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health,
Global, March 9, 2017***

Speaker #1: To be announced

Speaker #2: To be announced

11:00 Panel #1

***Theme: Outmigration, the diaspora & its role in building democratic institutions in
Ethiopia***

Moderator: Professor Abu Girma Moges, Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Tsukuba, Japan

Panelists

Dr. Araya Amsalu, Ohio, Ethiopian Advocacy Network, **“The role of the Diaspora in building democracy in Ethiopia”**

Ato Dinberu Zenebe, OGDOSUNMU Certified Public Accountants, **“Role of the ግዴታ in building democracy.”**

Professor Getachew Metaferia, Morgan State University, **“The push and pull factors of outmigration in Ethiopia and Government’s attitude of send us your money ... and stay out of politics”**

12:45 Lunch Break

13:45 Panel #2

Panel theme: Conflict, Institutions, Transition & National Unity

Moderator: Dr. Ashenafi Gossay, Former Asst. Professor at Addis Ababa University, and Fulbright Fellow & Faculty at University of Washington, Seattle

Panelists:

Dr. Abadir Ibrahim, International Law Consultant, **“Born to be Free but only where, when, and how Big Brother Decides: A Critical Review of Judicial Independence and the Future of the Judiciary in Ethiopia”**

Dr. Semahagn Gashu, Visiting Professor, School of Arts and Sciences, Endicott College, Massachusetts, Author of *The Last Post-Cold War Socialist Federation: Ethnicity, Ideology and Democracy in Ethiopia*, Ashgate Publisher, 2014. **“The Future of Federal System in Ethiopia”**

Professor Sisay Assefa, Distinguished Service Professor & Director of the Center for African Development Policy Research, Western Michigan University, **“The Challenges and Opportunities to Freedom and Democratic Unity in 21st Century Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa: Toward Breaking the cycle of Dictatorship by promoting Unity in Diversity, Justice and the Rule of Law”**

3:30 Coffee break

3:45 Panel # 3

Panel Theme: Redefining Ethiopian-ism amid the resurgence of regionalism and region focused institutions

Guest Moderator: *Dr. Erku Yimer, Chairman of Ethiopiawinet: Council for the Defense of Citizen Rights (ECDCR) and Former Director of Ethiopian Community Association in Chicago*

Panelists

*Dr. Aberra Molla, Colorado, Inventor and Patent Holder for “Ethiopic Character Entry and Phonetic Keyboards”. **Writing Ethiopian languages using phonetic keyboards (ፈፍል).***

*Commander (Ret) Assefa Seifu, United Kingdom, Former President of the Ethiopian Red Cross Society and a former officer of the abolished Ethiopian Navy, **Rethinking Ethiopian-ism in post conflict Ethiopia**”.*

*Professor Mammo Muchie, Research & Innovation Chair, Tshwane University of Technology (South Africa) & Visiting Professor at Oxford University and Adama Science and Technology University, **“Re-visiting to re-anchor Ethiopian-ism to Move Away from the Prevailing Ethnic Political Games in Ethiopia”***

5:30 End of Day #1

19:00 Dinner and socialization (on your own; preferred restaurants, TBA)

Sunday September 24

8:30 Registration and Coffee

9:30 Welcome, Master of Ceremonies (ESAT) & Sunday morning prayer

9:40 Panel #4 PART A

Panel theme: Citizens’ rights, institutions and the emerging geopolitics in the Horn of Africa

Moderator: Ato Yilma Zerihun Environment Program Coordinator, City of Dallas (Texas).

Panelists:

W/T Fasika Woldesenbet, Canada, **“Equitable food policy in post-conflict Ethiopia”**

Ato Metmku Yohannes, Maryland, Former Member of Legal Department, Ethiopian Electric Power Corporation, **“How Ethiopia treats its people with disability.”**

Ato Lulseged Belayneh Teka, Former Minister Counsellor for political affairs, Ethiopian Embassy in London, **“Ethiopia Among Nations:- Geo – Political Dynamism in the Red Sea and the need for flexing Ethiopian Foreign Policy in the Horn Region”**

11:25 Coffee Break

11:45 Panel #4: PART B

Panel theme: Further Discussion on Citizens rights, institutions and the emerging geopolitics in the Horn of Africa

Moderator: Ato Gizaw Legesse, Director of Information Technology at OSHA, U.S. Department of Labor, Washington DC

Panelists

Dr. Yohannes Zeleke, Research Collaborator at the Smithsonian Institute, National Museum of Natural History and licensed Tour specialist. Washington DC, **“The Myth and reality of the Ethiopian elite in the making of Ethiopia”**

Dr. Ayele Tadesse, Formerly Auditor, Price Waterhouse Hungary and Expert in Finance and Tax, Nashville Tennessee, **“የደግሞክራሲ ሽግግር በኢትዮጵያ”, Lessons from other Successful Transitions**

Ato Geletaw Zeleke, Ethiopian Dialogue Forum and Research Institute, **“Ethiopian political organizations and the need for a new code of allegiance”**

13:30 Lunch Break

14:30 Special Session #2

Session theme: Perspectives from Ethiopian political organizations

Moderator: Professor Getachew Begashaw, Harper College, Chicago.

Speakers

Dr. Mesfin Abdi, Oromo Democratic Front and Member of the Ethiopian National Movement

Dr. Aziz Mohammed, Patriotic Ginbot 7 Movement for Unity and Democracy

Ato Tazebew Assefa, Amhara Democratic Movement Force (ADMF)

Lt (Ret) Berhanu Woldesenbet, Southwestern Ethiopia Democratic Forces

16:15 Coffee break

16:30:00 Panel # 5

Panel theme: Corruption, public trust, institutions and economic development

Moderator: Dr. Ashenafi Gossay, Former Asst. Professor at Addis Ababa University, and Fulbright Fellow & Faculty at University of Washington, Seattle

Panelists

Dr. Gudeta Kebede, Addis Ababa University, Citizens' Trust in Public and Political institutions in Ethiopia

Professor Seid Hassan and Professor Minga Negash, Murray State University and MSU Denver "Corruption, state capture and the effectiveness of anticorruption institutions in Sub Sahara Africa: the case of Ethiopia"

Professor Abu Girma Moges, University of Tsukuba, Japan, "Ethiopia: Economic Policy, Institutions, and Long-Term Development Objectives"

18:15 Closing Remarks: Ato Gizaw Legesse, Vision Ethiopia

18:30 End of conference

Guidelines for presenters, moderators, participants & the media

We are delighted that you will be participating in the Conference on “Building Democratic Institutions in Ethiopia” which will be held between September 23 & 24, 2017 at the U.S. Navy Memorial - Naval Heritage Center; 701 Pennsylvania Ave, NW Suite 123. These guidelines are issued for all conference participants (moderators, panelists, speakers and audience) to establish standards and expectations.

Registration

Registration for the conference will take place in the foyer of the conference venue starting from 8:30 am, September 23 & 24, 2017. Since the venue is rented starting from 9 am, please be patient. Please be there on time; allow sufficient amount of travel time as DC traffic and locating the venue may require extra time. All meetings will start right on time regardless of the number of people present. Therefore, your punctuality is appreciated and it is very important not to miss any session.

Guidelines for Moderators

One of the most important responsibilities of session moderators is enforcing time allotments; start and finish sessions on time. We ask moderators to do the following:

- Please arrive at least ten minutes before the scheduled starting time to make sure that all necessary audio and visual equipment are in full operating order.
- State the ground rules at the beginning of the session. Introduce all panelists at the beginning of the session.
- Insist on collegiality and a tone of respect during Q & A at all times.
- Monitor the clock. Presenters should be alerted five minutes before the end of their time and are stopped on time.
- Ensure that questions from the audience and response from presenters are short and to the point, max 2 minutes each, and give regard to que at the microphone.

Guidelines for Presenters

The goal of presentations is to make the public aware of issues that affect Ethiopia. It is to inform Ethiopians about your considered work, for the wellbeing of all Ethiopians and indeed humanity. It is to engage in discussion, and learn from each other’s research and experiences. It is not a platform for marketing. Please, follow the following guidelines to make your presentation effective:

- Plan to arrive at least 15 minutes in advance of your session start time in order to prepare, set up, and check any technology you might plan to use.
- Ensure that review comments on the earlier version of your papers are incorporated in your presentation. Please fine tune your presentation to the theme of the panel. Ensure that your presentation is of high quality, visible and understandable by the general public. Note that

your presentation is targeted at the people of Ethiopia both at home and in the Diaspora, and not limited to the participants in the conference hall. As much as possible avoid technical jargons, crude generalizations, and inflammatory and/or offensive language. Use the formal names of political organizations, institutions or individuals.

- Keep your talk to 25 minutes or less. Try to get your key messages across as early as possible. If your presentation is longer than allotted time you run the risk of being cut off, without finishing.
- As courtesy to others, please always remember that you are taking others time when you are going beyond the time allotted to you.
- Avoid anecdotal evidence and being prescriptive and too opinionated without sufficient evidence.
- Limit your answers to any question directed to you to two minutes or less.
- Authors who believe that their paper meets the standards set by the **Ethiopian Journal of Innovation and Foresight** (<http://www.nesglobal.org/eejrif4/index.php?journal=admin>) can submit directly to the journal. Vision Ethiopia does not prohibit authors from publishing their work in other outlets.

Guidelines for Audience

Audience involvement is a crucial part of this conference and we encourage all to participate during the Q & A time. If you are interested to ask a question:

- Please line up in front of the microphone and politely wait and listen while others before you are asking questions.
- Make sure that your question is relevant to the theme of the session; identify your name and the presenter you want to answer your question.
- It's a matter of courtesy for everyone in the room to be brief and ideally ask only one question within a maximum of two minutes, no long commentaries and discourse as that would require longer engagement outside the allocated time.
- Please note the difference between panel discussions and special sessions. Panels are responses to the three rounds of call for papers. The papers were reviewed.

Guideline for Media

All members of the media are welcome to attend the conference, ask questions and report about the conference. Please note that since Vision Ethiopia is in partnership with ESAT, ESAT has the exclusive right to record and transmit the proceedings of the conference to the general public. The intellectual property rests on the authors of the papers. Clips and sound bites for each session which are no longer than five minutes might be taken for reporting purposes. Other than this, no part of the conference may

be videoed or recorded in full and transmitted without the knowledge and prior approval of Vision Ethiopia.