

Europe External Programme with Africa

SITUATION REPORT - HORN OF AFRICA

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Europe External Programme with Africa is a Belgium-based Centre of Expertise with in-depth knowledge, publications, and networks, specialised in issues of peacebuilding, refugee protection, and resilience in the Horn of Africa. EEPA has published extensively on issues related to the movement and/or human trafficking of refugees in the Horn of Africa and on the Central Mediterranean Route. It cooperates with a wide network of universities, research organisations, civil society, and experts from Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Djibouti, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Uganda, and across Africa. The Situation Reports can be found [here](#). To receive the situation report in your e-mail, [click here](#). You can unsubscribe at any moment through the link at the bottom of each e-mail.

Peace negotiations (per 23 February)

- General Tsadkan Gebretinsae, a member of central command of Tigray Defense Forces and Tigray peace delegation, issued a statement criticising the process of the ongoing establishment of an interim regional government in Tigray.
- He questioned the legitimacy of the representation of the interim government establishing committee.
- He called upon the Government of Tigray to include other stakeholders to join the current committee in the ongoing processes.
- The interim government will respect and restore the territories of Tigray, stated General Tadesse Worede, head of Tigray Defense Forces and chair of Regional Interim Government Establishing Committee.
- He said that the release of budget and salaries from the federal government is linked with the establishment of an interim government in Tigray and the committee is working to speed up the process.

Situation in Tigray (per 23 February)

- IDPs from Irob currently residing in Adigrat state that there is an ongoing shortage of humanitarian assistance and lack of assessment carried out by aid organisations, reports *Tigray Television*.
- Eritrean forces continue to be present in Tigray and are blocking the aid from reaching people in need, state the IDPs.

Situation in Ethiopia (per 23 February)

- Ongoing intense fighting has caused the internal displacement of 1.5 million people in the Oromia region, leading to a humanitarian crisis, states Oromia Physicians Association (OPA).
 - OPA reports an acute shortage of medical supplies. In addition, "908 health posts, 158 health centers and 6 hospitals have been damaged or looted, with 179 health posts and 12 health centers burned."
 - Due to the internet shutdown in the Tigray region in 2022 that affected over a million internet users, Ethiopian businesses are reported to have lost about USD 146 million, according to a report by Top10VPN.
 - The lack of connection for 8769 hours in 2022 stopped digital payments and businesses.
 - The Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) issued a statement in which it confirmed that the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) returning to their homes in Afar region struggle to return to their normal lives due to the restriction of free movement and lack of humanitarian assistance.
 - Tewodros Asfaw, an Ethiopian journalist, has been released by federal supreme court on bail of 30,000 Ethiopian birr after 9 days of imprisonment.
 - China offered tariff free trade to Ethiopia and other countries in Africa, states Ethiopian media.
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Regional Situation (per 23 February)

- The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) said that it expects below-normal rainfall in the rainy season over the next three months making it the 6th failed consecutive season in the region including Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya.
- It is estimated that about 23 million people will suffer from food insecurity in Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya, according to a food security working group chaired by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization.

International Situation (per 23 February)

- The UN Security Council (UNSC) held a meeting on the situation in Somalia.
- Anita Kiki Gbeho, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia, briefed the Council on the latest developments in the country.
- She called for equal representation of women in the public sector and highlighted the challenges that are threatening stability and peace in Somalia, namely attacks of al-Shabaab and the threat of famine stemming from the historic droughts.
- Sima Sami Bahous, UN Women Executive Director, delivered a speech to the UNSC highlighting that women's political participation is decreasing and sexual violence is increasing in Somalia.
- She said that although advocacy efforts were made during discussions on the establishment of the government, women constitute only 13% of the Somali cabinet.
- Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield, US Representative to the UN, praised the efforts in the fight against al-Shabaab and welcomed the steps towards federalism and political reconciliation.
- Thomas-Greenfield raised concerns about ongoing violence against civilians in Laascaanood, and called for immediate protection and unimpeded humanitarian access.
- The governor of the Ethiopian national bank, Mamo Mihretu, and director general of the Chinese central bank discussed their bilateral economic relations.

Links of interest

[A statement from General Tsadkan Gebretinsae on interim government formation in Tigray](#)

[ኦብ ትግራይ ዝግኣኹ ዘሎ ግዝያዊ ምምሕዳር ሉሉላዊ ግዝእት ትግራይ ዘኸብርን ዝምልሰን ከኩውን ብዕቲብ ንሰርሖሉ ኣለና ኢሉ ተጋዳላይ ታደሰ ወረደ \(ወዲ ወረደ\) ።](#)

[A statement from military command of Tigray Defense Forces](#)

[Tigray Television: Suffering of IDPs from Irob](#)

[Unresolved IDP crisis, alarming lack of basic healthcare causing suffering in conflict affected parts of Oromia – OPA](#)

[Ethiopian businesses lose USD 146 mln to Tigray internet shutdown in 2022](#)

[EHRC says restrictions on free movement of people, trade impede recovery efforts of IDP returnees in Afar region](#)

[Journalist Tewodros Asfaw released on bail after nine days of imprisonment](#)

[China's Zero-tariff to Ethiopia opens door for trade expansion](#)

[UN official underlines need to advance women's participation in public life](#)

[Seize the opportunity for decisive action in Somalia](#)

[Drought in Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya now worse than during 2011 famine](#)

[Twitter: Mamo Mihretu, governor of Ethiopian National Bank](#)

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