

Eritrea Symposium 2020
Symposium Communiqué

Overview

As a significant component of Eritrean society, Diaspora activists can play a catalytic and supportive role in the processes of change and democratic transition. Their continuous participation will complement the effort for change and make a positive contribution to a stable democratic transition in their beloved country.

This symposium was a continuation of two previous symposia hosted by Eri-Platform in Frankfurt, Germany, in 2018 and 2019.

Eri-Platform AISBL is an international non-profit association that avails a forum for inclusive dialogue on important national, regional and international issues and events affecting Eritrea and the Horn of Africa.

Symposium participants include, Eritrean activists in the Diaspora, engaged in the political organisations, civil society associations or human rights advocacy groups.

Theme and Topics

Change is a constant phenomenon in human history. Inevitably, change will come to Eritrea. The end of a malevolent regime and malgovernance is approaching. Change will happen regardless of whether we want it or not; whether we support it or oppose it. Our individual stance as activists or spectators is absolutely irrelevant to the process. What matters is our individual and/or collective engagement and action, whether we get engaged and whether what we do when we engage advances or retards the process of change. It is thus extremely crucial to engage and *prepare for change and democratic transition*. We must ascertain that, in the final analysis, the destiny of Eritrea lies in the hands of the Eritrean people.

Under the theme “*Challenges of Change and Transition in Eritrea*”, the symposium focused on seven main topics, namely:

1. Principal Actors and Stakeholders in Change and Transition
2. Catalysing Internal Change
3. Establishing a Constitutional Government
4. State of Play: Eritrea and Regional Geopolitics
5. Unity in Diversity versus Identity Politics
6. Transitional Justice and National Reconciliation
7. Eritrea Vision 2030

Outcome

After intensive debates and deliberations, the symposium agreed on the following outcomes:

1. The symposium renewed the mandate of the Steering Committee which will follow-up on the identified tasks and keep symposium participants engaged and connected.
2. The symposium will facilitate the publication of "Eritrea 2030" – a blueprint for the fast revival of the Eritrean economy.
3. The symposium pledged to continue the work of the standing committee, “Eritrean Constitution Guardians” which focusses on raising awareness about the Constitution and its role in a democratic transition.
4. The symposium renewed its commitment to fortifying and expanding relationships with democratic forces inside Eritrea.

For more information please visit www.eri-platform.org.