

Eritrea Symposium 2019 **Symposium Communiqué**

Overview

Eritrea Symposium 2019, hosted by Eri-Platform AISBL, was convened in Frankfurt, Germany, on 25-27 October 2019. Eri-Platform 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. As a significant component of Eritrean society, Diaspora activists can play a catalytic and supportive role in the processes of change and democratic transition. The Diaspora's continuous participation will complement the effort for change and make a positive contribution to a stable democratic transition in our beloved country.

Theme and Topics

Change is a constant phenomenon in human history. Inevitably, change would come in Eritrea. Surely, 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 "*Change and Democratic Transition in Eritrea*", the symposium focused on five main topics, namely:

1. State Construction: A Secular Civic State or a State of Subnational Identities?
2. Reviving the Eritrean Economy;
3. Change and Democratic Transition;
4. The Current State of Play in Diaspora Political Activism; and
5. Building a Common Vision for Change and Democratic Transition.

Outcome

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

1. The symposium created a Steering Committee that will follow-up on the identified tasks and keep symposium participants engaged and connected.
2. The symposium will facilitate the preparation and publication of "*Eritrea 2030*" – a blueprint for the fast revival of the Eritrean economy.

3. The symposium created a taskforce herein referred to as “Eritrean Constitution Guardians” whose focus will be to raise awareness about the Constitution and its role in democratic transition.
4. The symposium created a taskforce that will study and make recommendations on establishing an effective and accountable Media and Information Centre.
5. The symposium pledged to fortify and encourage the mass mobilization of Eritreans and joins fellow activists who are saying *Yiakl! (Enough!)* globally.

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