

Communiqué

Eritrea Symposium 2021

Eritrea Symposium 2021, hosted by Eri-Platform in Brussels, Belgium, during 27-29 August 2021, concluded with the following communiqué.

Symposium Communiqué

Overview

Having suffered so much for so long under the repression of a brutal autocrat, and facing external challenges that threaten its sovereignty, territorial integrity and the harmony of its people, Eritrea today finds itself at a crossroads.

The end of the malevolent regime and its dysfunctional governance system is within sight and democratic transition is possible. However, for such change to flourish, it is important that a well thought out preparation takes place that will serve as a blueprint for change agents and all stakeholders.

As a significant component of Eritrean society, Diaspora activists can play a catalytic and supportive role in the processes of change and democratic transition. Fully convinced that change in Eritrea is an internal Eritrean affair and that the destiny of Eritrea lies in the hands of the Eritrean people and nobody else, we can contribute to a stable transition to constitutional government and democratic governance.

If we get our act together, our collective engagement and action can help strengthen the agency of our people at home and abroad. What matters is our individual and/or collective engagement and action.

This symposium was a continuation of four previous symposia hosted by Eri-Platform in Frankfurt, Germany, in 2017 – 2019 and Washington, DC in 2020. Symposium participants include Eritrean activists in the Diaspora, engaged in the political organisations, civil society associations or human rights advocacy groups.

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.

Theme and Topics

Under the theme of *Strengthening the People’s Agency in Democratic Change*,

The Eritrea Symposium 2021 focused on five thematic panels, namely:

- (1) Assessing the Current Situation in Eritrea and the Region.
- (2) Struggling for Justice and Democracy in the Age of Falsehood and Unreality.
- (3) Strengthening the People’s Agency in Democratic Change.
- (4) Current Challenges Facing the Eritrean Diaspora Opposition.
- (5) Coalescing to Catalyse Democratic Change.

Each panel comprised a moderator and two panellists to address each theme, followed by open discussion.

Outcome

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

1. The symposium renewed its commitment to defend Eritrean sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national harmony from internal and external threats by fortifying relationships with democratic forces inside Eritrea.
2. The symposium agreed to form a taskforce that will facilitate greater coalescence for effective political cooperation and the building of a national media network able to meet the current challenges.
3. The symposium renewed the mandate of the Secretariat of Eritrea Symposium 2021 to follow-up on the identified tasks, keep symposium participants engaged and prepare for an expanded meeting of like-minded Eritrean activists in the Diaspora.

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