

10.07.2018

Eritrea and Ethiopia: A Joint Declaration of Peace and Friendship

On the occasion of the historic visit of Dr. Abiy Ahmed, the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, to Asmara, during 8-9 July 2018, Eritrea and Ethiopia have signed a Joint Declaration of Peace and Friendship. The Joint Declaration puts an end to the state of war between Ethiopia and Eritrea and commits the two countries to forge close political, social, cultural and security cooperation; resume transport, trade and communication links and diplomatic ties; implement the decision on the boundary; and endeavour to ensure regional peace, development and cooperation. The new relationship has already opened the way for [lifting the unjust sanctions against Eritrea](#) and Eritrea's re-entry into the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

Eri-Platform warmly welcomes the Joint Declaration of Peace and Friendship between Eritrea and Ethiopia. This landmark event brings to a close a particularly ugly and bitter chapter in the history of relations between the two neighbouring countries and fraternal peoples: the politics of senseless war and hostility; the tragedy of mass deportations and population displacements; the malevolence of a 'lose-lose' relationship; and the lost opportunity for economic development, social progress and human welfare of the Eritrean and Ethiopian peoples. The end of the state of war, the resolution of the boundary conflict, the normalisation of bilateral relations, and the promise of close political, social, cultural and security cooperation augur well for a durable peace between Eritrea and Ethiopia as well as for the prospects of peace, security, stability and regional cooperation in the Horn of Africa.

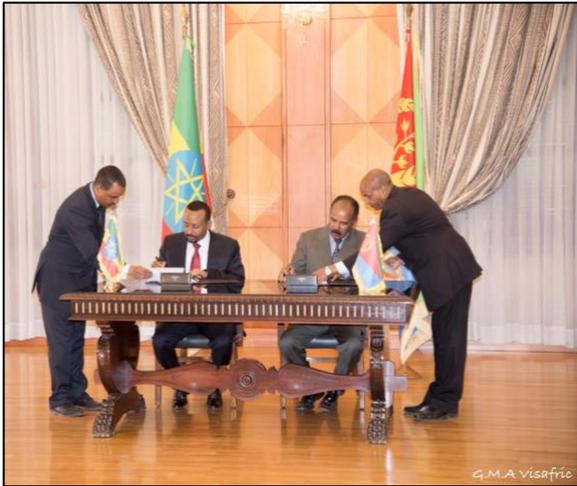
Peace, security and stability in our region are indivisible. Sustaining durable peace and friendship between Eritrea and Ethiopia would require a new democratic dispensation in Eritrea as well. A relationship of peace and friendship between Eritrea and Ethiopia would pave the way and create a conducive situation for the two peoples and the Eritrean people, in particular, to focus their attention on addressing the serious challenges of governance at home: the speedy implementation of the 1997 ratified Constitution; the immediate and unconditional release of all political detainees and jailed citizens; [the restitution of the terms and conditions of national service as per the 1995 Proclamation](#); the opening up of the political, economic and social space in the country, etc.

Indeed, this is an opportune moment for us, the Eritrean people and pro-democracy Eritreans, to unite and work together to own our present and seize our future. Today more than ever, the objective and subjective conditions are ripe to reclaim the fundamental aims of the armed struggle and realise the profound aspirations of the Eritrean people for freedom, democracy, justice and prosperity in an independent sovereign State of Eritrea. We must endeavour to establish a State of Eritrea founded on the *rule of law*, built on *civic nationalism*, and *united in diversity*. An Eritrea that safeguards the basic rights, the innate dignity and the human security of all its people; an

Eritrea that guarantees equal rights, equal freedoms and equal opportunities for all its citizens; and produces justice, tranquillity and prosperity for all its people is within the *horizon of possibilities*.

Eri-Platform reproduces the Joint Declaration of Peace and Friendship between Eritrea and Ethiopia:

Joint Declaration of Peace and Friendship between Eritrea and Ethiopia



Conscious that the peoples of Ethiopia and Eritrea share close bonds of geography, history, culture, language and religion as well as fundamental common interests;

Recognizing that over the past decades, they were denied the opportunity to build a bright future for their peoples on the basis of their common heritage;

Determined to close this very costly chapter, which also had a detrimental role in the Horn of Africa, and to make up for lost opportunities and create even bigger golden opportunities for their peoples;

The governments of Ethiopia and Eritrea have reached the following joint agreement which reflects the desires and aspirations of their peoples: -

1. The state of war between Ethiopia and Eritrea has come to an end. A new era of peace and friendship has been opened.
2. The two governments will endeavour to forge intimate political, economic, social, cultural and security cooperation that serves and advances the vital interests of their peoples;
3. Transport, trade and communications links between the two countries will resume; diplomatic ties and activities will restart;
4. The decision on the boundary between the two countries will be implemented.
5. Both countries will jointly endeavour to ensure regional peace, development and cooperation.

Both governments express their gratitude to all friends of Eritrea and Ethiopia and call on them to redouble their solidarity and support.

Done in Asmara, July 9, 2018

For the State of Eritrea

President Isaias Afwerki

For the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed Ali