



**Bi-Weekly Newsletter
Permanent Mission of the State of Eritrea to AU
and UNECA
Press Section**



President Isaias held talks with Japanese Prime Minister Special Envoy

President Isaias Afwerki received and held talks with Ambassador Norio Maruyama, the special envoy of the Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, on enhancing bilateral relations between both nations on the 19th of October 2015.



Asserting that Japan is one of the countries in the world that has recorded great economic and technological advances and that it will be a member state of the UN Security Council in 2016, President Isaias said that it is Eritrea's strong conviction for Japan to play significant role in ensuring regional peace as well as development in the African continent. He further added that the growing bilateral economic cooperation between Eritrea and Japan would be further consolidated if both nations focus on spheres that are of mutual interest such as marine resources, mining, and manufacturing at partnership level.

Ambassador Maruyama on his part said that Japan is working towards enhancing bilateral relations with Eritrea and contributing to the development of Africa through giving due consideration to the current realities.

Moreover, the Minister of National Development Dr. Ghiorghis Teklemichael met and held talks with Ambassador Noryo later on the day. The talks focused on exploring investment and cooperation opportunities in the sectors of fisheries, marine resources, health, education, sport, culture, infrastructure, climate change, and food security.

Minister Ghiorghis stressed during the meeting that Eritrea highly appreciates Japanese support in harnessing Eritrea's vast resources and opportunities. Also during the meeting, discussions were held on Eritrea's preparations to take part in the 2020 Olympics in Japan as well as the assistance being extended to Eritrea by Japanese public and private sectors.

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 **Eritrean Mission to
AU & ECA**

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Eritrea Urges the UNSC to Unconditionally Lift the Unjust Sanctions

The Eritrean Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Girma Asmerom, during the informal interactive dialogue held, on 9 October 2015, with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to UN Security Council Resolutions 751(1992) and 1907(2009), presented Eritrea's views on the latest report of the Somalia Eritrea Monitoring Group (SEMG). Below is excerpts from the Statement he delivered at the meeting.

The reasons given for the imposition of the sanctions have been proven as untenable and non-existent

The main reasons for imposing unjust sanctions against Eritrea were its alleged "support to al-Shabaab in Somalia" and "the border dispute between Eritrea and Djibouti" in the context of their implication to regional and international peace and security. Nothing less, nothing more! These issues have long been proven as untenable and non-existent.

The SEMG has itself concluded that it did not find any evidence of Eritrea's support to al-Shabaab

The SEMG, both in its previous report as well as in the current one, has concluded, clearly and unequivocally, that it "did not find any evidence of Eritrea's support to al-Shabaab" in Somalia.

The Eritrea-Djibouti issue is being handled by Qatari Mediation

The Djibouti Eritrea issue does not constitute a threat to regional and international peace and security; both in terms of the magnitude of the problem and also because the UN Security Council has endorsed the ongoing mediation process by the Emir of Qatar. The Qatari mediation process was agreed and signed by the Presidents of

Eritrea and Djibouti. Eritrea is engaged in good faith, and remains fully committed to, the Qatari mediation process. It must be underlined that more than 200 Qatari troops are deployed at the Eritrea Djibouti common border.

The continuation of the sanctions is unjustifiable and unwarranted

In view of the fact that the two reasons for the imposition of sanctions against Eritrea have no validity whatsoever, the continuation of the sanctions is unjustifiable and unwarranted. Eritrea appeals to the members of the UN Security Council to immediately and unconditionally lift the unjust sanctions and terminate the mandate of the SEMG in relation to Eritrea.

Eritrea's Appeal to the UNSC

- Technical and procedural matters should not be used as a pretext to maintain the sanctions. The visit or lack of visit by the Monitoring Group to Eritrea should not be used as an excuse for the continuation of the sanctions. There is no purpose or added value that will be gained from SEMG's visit to Eritrea.
- Lifting the unjust sanctions will enhance peace and security in the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea Region. On the other hand, the maintenance of the sanctions can only be a recipe for disaster and chaos.
- In the event, Eritrea appeals, once again, to the Security Council to terminate the mandate of the SEMG and to immediately and unconditionally lift the sanctions.

The full text of the statement can be accessed at: <http://www.shabait.com/categoryblog/20614-statement-delivered-by-ambassador-girma-asmerom-permanent-representative-of-eritrea-to-the-united-nations>

Eritrea Undertaking Climate-Smart Sustainable Agriculture

The 2015 World Food Day was observed in Eritrea on 16 October 2015 under the theme “Social Protection and Agriculture: Breaking the Cycle of Rural Poverty.” In a keynote statement delivered during the ceremony Mr. Arefaine Berhe, the Eritrean Minister of Agriculture, elaborated that social protection policies and programs are very dear to the Government of Eritrea and form the core of the country’s development policy and strategy.

Minister Arefaine indicated that in agriculture which is the mainstay of the economy employing at least 60% of the population, the Government’s policy focuses on climate-smart sustained agriculture based on elaborate soil and water conservation programs at catchment and farm level. The final objective of the policy is to increase production and productivity of agriculture thereby producing, abundant, quality, safe and nutritious products in order to achieve food and nutrition security and eliminate poverty in the rural population.



The Minister reaffirmed that as the world is moving forward from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Eritrea will certainly contribute its share for the fulfillment of the goals.

