

AFRICAN UNION

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UNIÃO AFRICANA

Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA P. O. Box 3243 Telephone: 00 251 11 551 7700 Fax: 00 251 11 551 7844
website: www.africa-union.org

ASSEMBLY OF THE UNION
Seventeenth Ordinary Session
30 June - 1 July 2011
Malabo, EQUATORIAL GUINEA

Assembly/AU/Dec.363-390(XVII)
Assembly/AU/Decl.1-2(XVII)
Assembly/AU/Res.1(XVII)

DECISIONS, DECLARATIONS AND RESOLUTION



Comoros and **EXPRESSES ITS DEEP CONCERN** regarding the pursuit by France of its current policy, in particular the transformation of Mayotte into an overseas province (*Département*);

7. **WELCOMES** the signing, on 9 June 2011, of the Kampala Accord between the President of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of Somalia, Mr. Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed, and the Speaker of the Transitional Federal Parliament (TFP), Mr. Shariff Hassan Sheikh Aden, which seeks to end the current transitional period with deferral of elections for one (1) year. The Assembly **TAKES NOTE** of the resignation of Prime Minister Mohamed Abdullahi Mohammed "Farmajo" and the decision of the TFG President to appoint Mr. Abdiweli Mohamed Ali as the new Prime Minister, who has since been endorsed by the TFP, and **ENCOURAGES** the speedy completion of the consultations for the formation of a new cabinet and its subsequent endorsement by the Parliament. The Assembly **UNDERLINES** that the expeditious implementation of the Kampala Accord will go a long way in consolidating the important military gains made on the ground by the TFG, with the support of African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM);
8. **EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION** to AMISOM personnel for its valuable contribution to the peace and reconciliation process in Somalia, and **PAYS TRIBUTE** to the Troop Contributing Countries, namely Uganda and Burundi. The Assembly **APPEALS** to Member States that pledged troops to honor their commitments, as well as to the international community to lend the necessary support to AMISOM. The Assembly **REITERATES ITS CALL** to the United Nations Security Council to authorize the deployment of a UN peace keeping operation in Somalia and, in the meantime, to provide a more adequate support to AMISOM, in line with the requests contained in communiqué PSC/MIN/1(CCXXXV) of the 245th meeting of the PSC, held on 16 October 2010;
9. **REITERATES ITS CONCERN** at the continued impasse in the peace process between Eritrea and Ethiopia. The Assembly **EMPHASIZES, ONCE AGAIN**, the need for renewed African efforts to help the two countries to peacefully resolve their dispute, normalize their relations and lay the foundation for lasting peace and security in the Horn of Africa, and **ENCOURAGES** the two countries to extend the necessary cooperation to any such efforts, including those to be deployed by the Chairperson of the Commission;
10. **REITERATES ITS CALL ON** Djibouti and Eritrea to pursue, in good faith, the scrupulous implementation of the 6 June 2010 Agreement, concluded under the auspices of Qatar, in order to resolve their border dispute and consolidate the normalization of their relations, and **REQUESTS** the Commission to closely follow the situation and make every effort to facilitate progress;
11. **FURTHER REITERATES** the need to develop a regional approach to the challenges of peace, security and stability in the Horn of Africa, as stressed in paragraph 12 of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec. 338(XVI) Rev.1. In this respect, the

Bloomberg

Ethiopia Plans to Increase Support to Eritrean Rebel Groups, Ministry Says

By Jason McLure - Apr 15, 2011

Ethiopia will increase support to Eritrean rebels seeking to overthrow the government of President Isaias Afewerki, Ethiopia's Foreign Ministry said.

"In the past, Ethiopia has given refuge to some opposition groups and some limited support to the Eritrean resistance," the Addis Ababa-based ministry said in an e-mailed statement today. "Now support to the opposition will be strengthened further."

The two countries fought a 1998-2000 border war that killed 70,000 people, according to Brussels-based International Crisis Group. Relations between the two countries have remained tense as each backed opposing factions in nearby Somalia's civil war. Skirmishes between Ethiopian and Eritrean troops occasionally break out along their 912-kilometer (567-mile) border.

Ethiopia has previously accused Eritrea of supporting Ethiopian rebels and of attempting to disrupt last year's parliamentary elections. Three calls made to Eritrea's Ministry of Information after business hours were not answered.

"In light of Eritrea's continuing nefarious campaigns, Ethiopia will continue to work to force the regime to change its policies," the statement said. "Failing that it will be prepared to change the government itself through any means at its disposal."

Afewerki and Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi led allied rebel groups that overthrew Ethiopia's Communist Derg regime in 1991. Eritrea, formerly an Ethiopian province, won independence after a 1993 referendum.

To contact the reporter on this story: Jason McLure in Accra at jmclure@bloomberg.net

To contact the editor responsible for this story: Andrew Barden at abarden@bloomberg.net.

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Ethiopia and Eritrea: Another War? – REUTERS

Thursday, April 14th, 2011

Reuters, African News blog

Ethiopia is beating the war drums again. After a lull of more than a decade, the Horn of Africa giant is now threatening to attack its neighbour and foe Eritrea over claims it is working to destabilise the country.

When Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi said his country would no longer take a passive stance towards Eritrea, it marked an escalation in the bitter war of words that has ensued since a devastating border spat ended in 2000.

Addis Ababa should "either work towards changing Eritrea's policies or its government," he told



local media last month.

"This could be done diplomatically, politically or through other means."

The two countries have a long history of animosity since a vicious conflict was sparked in 1961 when rebels in Eritrea (then an Ethiopian state) took up arms to win independence.

A rebel group led by Meles and others joined the Eritreans, led by current president Isaias Afewerki, in 1975 and finally ousted dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam in 1991.

Despite fighting tooth-and-nail alongside each other since they were barely out of their teens, the rebels-turned-statesmen have always had an uneasy relationship.

Just seven years after defeating Mengistu, the two famously stubborn men went to war over disputed border territory.

That conflict ended two years later with a U.N.-backed commission awarding the flashpoint town of Badme to Asmara. Ethiopia initially dismissed the ruling, before changing tack and accepting the finding.

Addis Ababa, however, is still calling for talks on its implementation, a stance rejected by Asmara.

Since then, the harsh rhetoric has come thick and fast over a stalemate wedged between two irreconcilable positions. Both sides have amassed large numbers of troops along their border, but there has been no flare up so far.

Ethiopia now accuses Eritrea of working to harm its interests and those of its allies. Apart from the conflict with Addis Ababa, the Red Sea state has also picked a fight with neighbour Djibouti, whose port landlocked Ethiopia relies on for almost all its external trade.

Asmara is also routinely accused of aiding insurgents in Ethiopia.

Some analysts say Asmara's actions are meant to force the hand of the international community to stand up and notice Ethiopia's "transgression" over its refusal to hand over the disputed territory, but nobody seems to buy the logic.

The United Nations has even slapped sanctions on the Red Sea state for its alleged support of Islamist insurgents in Somalia, a charge Eritrea vehemently denies.

Until now, Meles has ruled out direct confrontation, saying it was sufficient enough to ramp up security at home and deter "Eritrean government-coordinated terrorist attacks".

Last month, however, he surprisingly announced that his country's patience had run out.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Dina Mufti told Reuters that Eritrea tried to coordinate attacks inside Ethiopia during an African Union summit in February, and that Addis Ababa had asked the West to pressure Asmara into "refraining".

Some diplomats say the planned attacks were of a sufficient scale to seriously worry Addis Ababa – Africa's diplomatic hub.

"If they (international community) don't heed, then we will take all measures necessary to defend ourselves," Dina said.

Asmara has taken heed of the threats.

"I urge members of the U.N. Security Council to urgently deal with Ethiopia's reckless threat to use force against Eritrea in a manner that is consistent with the Charter of the United Nations and the practices of the Security Council in similar situations," Eritrea's U.N. envoy Araya Desta said in a letter to the current chair of the Security Council.

While diplomats downplay the chances of an Ethiopian attack – Addis Ababa is one of the largest recipients of Western aid — rumours are rife in the capital that authorities are considering taking "strong measures" before the Ethiopian winter kicks in around June.

Some say, though, the posturing is only meant to scare the United Nations into tightening sanctions on Eritrea and to ensure the West continues to freeze the country out of the international community.

Meles' detractors, however, claim he is trying to divert the attention of his countrymen to avoid North African-style unrest in a country where high living costs and unemployment are taking their toll.

So what do you think: Is another Horn of Africa war on the cards? Or is this just another round of rhetoric between the two foes?