

Opinion

Strengthening centuries old bilateral ties between Iran and Ethiopia

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The Islamic Republic of Iran celebrates the 42nd Anniversary of its National Day and the Victory of the Islamic Revolution on February 10, 2021. This day has a remarkable impact on modern Iran and its people. The Islamic Republic has become successful in expanding higher education. UN put Iran as the 9th in line of the highest rate of literacy among all nations. Iran has 92 universities and 56 research and technology institutes with more than 3.7 million university students of which one million are medical students. 31 percent are studying in engineering and construction programs, one of the highest rates in the world. Majority of students (65 percent) enrolled in Iranian Universities were women. Iran is cited as one of the top 10 countries worldwide that has closed the gender gap in education. In the field of health, Iran ranked 7th in life expectancy growth from 1960 to 2017; it is among the top 10 countries producing the corona vaccine in the world. In the field of energy, Iran ranks second in the Energy Development Index (EDI), third in oil production, 15th in electricity generation and 16th in gasoline production. Iran is one of the leading countries in communication and space technology; nuclear energy; and cell production technology. In military power, according to the Global Firepower (GFP) criteria, Iran ranks 13th in the world.

The Embassy of Iran in Addis Ababa, representing its government and people used to colorfully commemorate the Event annually. This year, however, the COVID-19 scourge has compelled it to mark the event virtually. The pandemic further curtains the Embassy to physically observe the implementation of the 50th Anniversary of the Amity Treaty and the 71st anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Iran and Ethiopia with friends of Iran and Ethiopia. Given the dismal reality of the pandemic, I decide to issue this piece with the aim of reaching out to Ethiopian people and friends of Iran.

Iran and Ethiopia, two ancient and great countries, are cradles of civilizations. The Ancient Persian and Aksumite kingdom were the few blossoming civilizations on earth. There are historical accounts showing that traders from both nations bought and sold goods in Yemen, the Persian Gulf and even Melaka strait in South Asia. The two countries established their modern diplomatic ties in the early 20th Century. In 1923 when Ethiopia applied membership to the League of Nation, Iran was the first country in the world that supported Ethiopia. In 1950, Iran's official diplomatic relation with Ethiopia started by opening its Embassy in Addis Ababa and, since then, Iran and Ethiopia enabled to strengthen their ties. They signed more than 20 agreements and MoUs in various political, economic, health and educational fields; Persian language courses and Iranian studies offered in Ethiopian universities; Ethiopian students awarded scholarships and study in



Iranian universities; they supported each other at the international level.

It is my belief that Iran and Ethiopia are not only countries of the past, but great nations of the present and the future. There are still a wide range of areas where the two countries could further boost their economic, cultural and diplomatic ties.

Political cooperation

Both countries dedicated their political and diplomatic resources for establishing multilateralism and collective governance. Iran and Ethiopia are among the primary founders of the League of Nation, the United Nations, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and other International Organizations. The patriotic people of Iran and Ethiopia defended their respective courtiers for centuries against foreign aggressions and historical injustice, and thus, they are devoted to pacific management of differences among countries. They valued most the importance of peaceful coexistence among nations. The two countries stood firm against bullying and arrogance while they struggle to the prevalence of justice, equality and non-interference. The unwavering position of Iran and Ethiopia and their adherence to the principle of non-interference and prohibition of the use of force could serve as the foundation for further collaboration in the UN and other international and regional organization. The two Nations, of course, demonstrated their overlapping and mutual interests at various International Organizations, on many occasions.

Safeguarding the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea

The historical commercial and trade ties between the two countries were undertaken through the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden. There is historical evidence that the Aksum kingdom had a commercial port of Adulis on the Red Sea coast and Persia was a superpower and a monopoly of silk in the Middle East in that Aksum's traders went by silk routes through central Asia that had international importance of the roads of the Red Sea. Currently, both countries have an interest over these routes and they are affected by, both directly or indirectly,

developments surrounding the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea. Several million barrels of crude oil and more than 40 percent of liquefied natural gas (LNG) transported through these waterbodies. These, combating piracy and ensuring smooth and safe passage of commercial ships and other assets are concerns of both countries and could mutually cooperate in safeguarding the areas.

Combating terrorism

The two countries are victims of terrorism and they are threatened with malicious terrorist activities. Since the Revolution, more than 17,000 Iranians (most of whom were civilians and scientific figures) have lost their lives and Ethiopia is also the victim. It is clear that terrorism and its network is not bound to the border of a specific country. The shrinking of space laid fertile ground for terrorists to strike their targets anywhere in the world urging the need to cooperation among countries. Iran and Ethiopia can share information and exchange training on security issues to deter and drain terrorist activities in the region and beyond.

Trade and Investment

Iran is one of the largest economies in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA)

region, with Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of more than US\$1 Trillion (in PPP). It also has the second largest population of the Region, with 84 million people in 2020. On the other hand, Ethiopia owns one of the fastest-growing economies in the world and is the second-most populous nation in Africa. The big size of the population and their economy serves as a huge market potential for both countries' export commodities. The economy of Iran and Ethiopia reinforces each other as their structure is more of complementary which will render mutual benefit and it is, therefore, important for both parties to continue and further develop their ties for economic development. Over the last five years, the trade volume increased continuously; for instance, in 2015/16 the total trade volume was 136,845,977 ETB while in 2018/19, it stood at 518,511,357 ETB. We are not proud of these figures given the immense trade potential of the two countries.

See Strengthening... page 6

Editor's Note: The views entertained in this article do not necessarily reflect the stance of The Ethiopian Herald



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የቤት ሽያጭ ማስታወቂያ

1. ሰዎች ሁሉ መጠለያ /ቤት/ ያስፈልጋቸዋል። መኖሪያ ቤት በመጠለያነቱ የሰብዓዊ ልዕናና ክብር ነው።
2. መኖሪያ ቤት ከሀብት ምንጭነቱ በተጨማሪ ዋስ ነው።
3. መኖሪያ ቤት ዛሬ ለህጻናት ማደገያ ነገ የሸማግሌዎች መጠሪያ ዘመን ተሻጋሪ የትውልድ ቅርስ መሆኑን ልብ እንበል።
4. ደምጡ። እየኖሩበት ሰንገድዎ ዋስ ስለሚደርጉት የመኖሪያ ቤት ገዥ እንመካከር።
5. በ15% የመጀመሪያ ቅድሚያ ክፍያ እና እንደምርጫዎ ከ20-30 ዓመት በረጅም ጊዜ አከፋፈል በ9.5% ወሰድ ታግዘው መኖሪያ ቤትዎን እንዲገዙ የአክብሮት ጥሪ አቅርቦናል።

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