



GA2 Chair Report

Topic: Promoting sustainable and resilient economic recovery in the post-conflict setting of Ethiopia

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Introduction

Committee Introduction

GA2 is “arguably the UN’s most significant committee” as it promotes itself on being the “peacemaker” of financial and economic divisions. The core focus is of course on a country’s economic stability and how with the assistance of financial control, the economy can further develop. Due to the constant innovation that our world prides itself upon, there is growing feuds within economies about such financial growth and so the GA2 committee is committed to preventing such argumentative warfare. The committee itself is relatively nouveau and so

it is a prime candidate of a beginner’s committee as it is more open for research and structured debates.

Head Chair – Ila Blower



My name is Ila, and I am a 16-year-old English/German girl. I have always loved debating and becoming involved in global-political activities. I have been awarded best delegate two years in a row for the annual MUN Day however, this MUNISS conference shall be my first.

I look forward to meeting you all soon!

Deputy Chair – Celina Kraushaar

Glossary

Abiy Ahmed

Abiy Ahmed became the Prime Minister of Ethiopia in 2018. Through his leadership of the EPRDF, he decided to dissolve the party itself as he hoped to end its history of ethnic divisiveness. (ENA, n.d.)

Amhara

The Amhara region borders with Tigray and has over 300 of its soldiers to fight with the ENDF in November of 2020 (Neuman,2021)

ENDF

The Ethiopian National Defense Forces who were under the control of the Prime Minister.

EPRDF

The Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front was the head of Ethiopia's government for nearly three decades (Neuman, 2021)

Eritrea

Located in Eastern Africa is a country that was once part of Ethiopia however, finally won its independence in 1991. After going to war with Ethiopia again in 1998, in 2018, Eritrea allied with Ethiopia against the Tigray region and settled with peace between each other. (Britannica, 2024)

GFDRE

Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

Tigray

Located in the horn of Africa, Tigray is Ethiopia's northernmost region. Bordering the neighboring country of Eritrea, it is home to the country's estimated 7 million ethnic Tigrayans. This ethnic group accounts for about 6% of Ethiopia's population and has had a large influence on the national affairs. (Neuman, 2021)

TPLF

The Tigray People's Liberation Front is a leftist political party that was formed in 1970. Originally, it was designed to push Tigrayan self-determination, however, it later joined the center of national politics (Britannica, 2024)

Issue Explanation

The war within Ethiopia broke out due to the accusation made by Ahmed's government. It was said that the TPLF was seeking to destabilize Ethiopia by conducting ethnic violence and aggression across the country (Neuman,2021).

Abiy Ahmed also stated that due to the growing numbers of COVID-19, it would be best if the country's democratic elections were to be postponed. The TPLF disagreed with this decision and held their own regional elections to which Ahmed declared invalid (Neuman,2021).

The conflict in Ethiopia between the Tigray region and Ethiopia itself has led to over 2 million of Tigray's 6 million people fleeing their homes from the 4th of November 2021 onwards. The TPLF have now been listed as a terrorist group for their multiple casualties caused, including rape and murder. Researchers from the University of Ghent in Belgium have found that there have been at least 10,000 reported deaths and 230 massacres since the outbreak (BBC, 2021).



The substantial issue that revolves around this conflict is that Ethiopia plays a vital role in the economic stability of the horn of Africa because of it being the second-most populous country. Since the Covid-19 pandemic however, the country has been faced with 3 principle economic challenges. This includes its debt burden, foreign exchange complications and a decline in its compensation (Alemayehou,2020).

Before the pandemic, Ethiopia was already in a slight financial burden however statistics have predicted that the country's indicator line of poverty will increase to 31 million people from 26. The country's foreign exchange is weak and poses a significant long-term challenge to its economy. The secondary and tertiary sectors of the economy such as its hospitality and agricultural exports are attributed to its financial crisis. Finally, countries such as the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia have further exacerbated the issue of its global compensation by deporting Ethiopian workers (Alemayehou,2020).

Historical Background

In 1944 the EPRDF became Ethiopia's 3rd constitution since 40 years prior. In 1955 it was formally declared and further created the FDRE. This constitution preserved the country's principles of regionalism and ethnic autonomy which in turn, delegated forms of power to regional states such as Tigray. Ethiopia's first multiparty elections were held in 1995 however, were boycotted by many opposition groups in protest of the harassment, arrests and other actions led by the EPRDF. As a result, the multiethnic EPRDF retained control of the federal government and the majority of the regional states. Negasso Gidada became president and Meles prime minister. The ethnic balance of the country was carefully selected through the reflection of the chosen Council Members (Britannica, 2024).

In 1998, border tensions with Eritrea and Ethiopia erupted into war. The conflict spilled out of Badme and into Zela Ambesa and a significant Eritrean port city named Assab. In June 2000, a cease-fire was signed in agreement for the UN mission to monitor the cease-fire and deploy troops in the "buffer zone" between the 2 countries whilst the border was being confined. Despite the efforts of the UN, tensions between Eritrea and Ethiopia remained strong. The EPRDF remained in power within the early 2000's however, was weakened by internal feuds in 2001. Meles tried to embrace a more liberal economic policy, but the TPLF opposed. President Negasso sided with the members of the TPLF which resulted in him being excluded from the leadership of his own party named the Oromo People's Democratic Organization (OPDO). He was later succeeded by Girma Wolde-Giorgis whom was an Oromo but did not associate himself with the OPDO. Famine and drought were still a major plague of the country and particularly in 2003 when the crisis was exacerbated by contagious waterborne illnesses such as the malaria epidemic (Britannica, 2024)

Many opposition parties in May 2005, dominated the elections and although the EPRDF remained in power, there was less of a majority vote. This in turn led to voter intimidation and fraud. Accusations of such fraud led to protests and demonstrations in Addis Ababa where more than 3 dozen people were left dead, hundreds injured and 3000 arrested. Furthermore, in November, additional rioting was condoned and left dozens more dead. Some of the victorious opposition candidates refused to take their seats in protest against the



consequences of the elections. Tensions were continued into the following year where thousands of Ethiopians- including activists, journalists and other legislators were being detained across the country. In May 2006, the EPRDF reached an agreement with the two primary opposition political parties (Britannica, 2024).

In 2006, Ethiopia sent troops to neighboring Somalia in order to defend the country's transitional government against rebel forces, and in December Ethiopia began a coordinated air and ground war in Somalia. Ethiopian troops had withdrawn themselves from Somalia by 2009 however, remained close to the Ethiopian-Somali border in case future intervention was needed. The intervention in the Somali crisis heightened the existing tensions with Eritrea, which was in favor of Somalia's opposers (Britannica, 2024).

Even though Ethiopia had seen considerable economic-growth under EPRDF rule, the human-rights record was worsening. In 2009, an antiterrorism law had been passed but, controversially, it was a tool used in later years by the EPRDF-led government to suppress dissent. In 2011 the government declared that two-armed opposition groups as well as an opposition movement were terrorist organizations and further banned them. This led to many arrests and antiterrorism charges upon those accused of having interviewed or been in communication with the two stated groups (Britannica, 2024).

A highly taboo plan was led by the government in hope to expand Addis Ababa by linking it with areas in the surrounding Oromia region. Months of protests by the Oromo people in 2015 eventually led to the abandonment of the plan in January 2016. Due to the government's secretive detentions of activists and journalists, many more protests were demonstrated in the Amhara and Oromia regions. Feelings of political marginalization were prevalent among the public eye which led to the security forces killing and wounding some of the protesters and arbitrarily arresting thousands more. This breached human rights laws and led to a government declared state of emergency in October 2016 (Britannica, 2024).

In early 2018, the government sporadically released many prisoners whom were journalists and activists, in hopes of easing tensions and allowing for political discussion between the government and the opposition. The ruling EPRDF appointed Abiy Ahmed in late March as the new prime minister of the country. In the first months of his office, Ahmed pardoned more prisoners and lifted the current state of emergency ahead of time. The government also removed the deemed terrorist groups off of its list. Economically speaking, Ahmed announced that the government would allow for some degree of privatization of some state-owned industries. Examples being the airlines and the country's telecommunications provider. This was to help enhance domestic and foreign investment as well as to spur economic growth (Britannica, 2024).

On June 5th, Ahmed announced that he would honor the 2000's peace agreement between Ethiopia and Eritrea. Consequently, on June 9th both Ahmed and Isaias announced that the 20-year war between them had come to an end (Britannica, 2024).

Although Ahmed's efforts were respected both internally and externally, there was still a point of criticism by those who disagreed at the sheer speed of which they were carried out. Shortly after Ahmed was appointed office, a grenade was shot near him and didn't injure him but killed two and hurt many more. A year later, several significant officials were killed in the Amhara region. Furthermore, the TPLF was the party prior to the EPRDF and so, the Tigray region refused to be a part of such governmental matters. (Britannica, 2024).

The animosity between Tigray and the federal government heightened and erupted into violence in early November of 2020. After denying that Eritrean troops had helped the ENDF, Ahmed had later admitted to allying with Eritrea. Ahmed did announce victory upon Tigray's capital Mekele and was later accused alongside the TPLF that both sides had abused the human rights legislations published by the UN (Britannica, 2024).



Involved Parties

Kenya

Kenya and Ethiopia have always remained neutral and since the outbreak of the Tigray war, Kenya have remained on a calm basis. However, Kenya aimed to maintain the unity and integrity of the African States. This is due to the country's significant economic interest in Ethiopia. Kenya was awarded the ability to implant its telecommunications services within Ethiopia. Kenya also operates one of the largest Ethiopian refugee populations in Africa since the outbreak of the conflict (Demissie, 2023).

China

China has long been involved within the trade and investment of the horn of Africa. Relations between Beijing and the TPLF-led government were significantly close between the years of 1991-2018. However, it has been suggested that the Ethiopian government has borrowed \$13.7billion from China since the year 2000 and has been seen trying to resettle its debt since 2021. Therefore, China's overall leverage on Ethiopia is substantial (Demissie, 2023).

Russia

Russian foreign minister Sergey Lavrov paid a visit to Ethiopia in July 2022. He began restabilizing Russia's firm support to the GFDRE at a time when the US and EU relations were under strain. He later returned in 2023, this time visiting Asmara, where he expressed his gratitude to Eritrean officials in their support of Russia at the UN. He had also declared that Russia was to utilize the transit opportunities presented by the airport at Massawa, Eritrea and the Red Sea Port. Overall, Russia's involvement within the horn of Africa has been placed as a counteract to the west in case of a difficult relationship arising with the west over human rights and democracy (Demissie, 2023).

USA

The US protects Ethiopia from becoming a pariah state due to its regional significance of peace and security. The US Congress have been calling for sanctions upon those who have violated severe human rights regulations. The Biden administration continued to build its relationship with Ahmed and the GFDRE. The US has now resumed its bilateral assistance which includes the implementation of sustainable peace (Demissie, 2023).

EU

The EU has had cautious relations with the GFDRE since the outbreak of the conflict. The GFDRE excluded the EU from observing the Pretoria negotiations in October of 2022 (Demissie, 2023).



Media Contribution

Expressions of violence directed against specific groups that have been affected by the different contenders in the current and previous conflicts have been very prevalent. However, the increase of violence against different ethnic groups upon social media is concerning the economy of Ethiopia (Accord,2022).

Social media has been used as a “weapon” by many of the political groups specifically in 2020 when social media hit an all-time high. Examples include harassment against different political parties and racism against the people within them. Ethiopia itself has never really had a media system and so it made it easy for the Ethiopian Government to configure a media blackout when the conflict first broke out (Accord,2022).

Previous attempts to solve the issue

In Ahmed’s first year in office, he released all wrongfully imprisoned journalists and media associated individuals in hope to broaden the political landscape of the country and to assure security for the public. He had also removed the listed terrorist groups so that his wish of political plurality within the country could be fulfilled (ENA, n.d.)



Ahmed had also travelled to Eritrea where he settled 20 years of conflict through his peace offering. In his travels he also visited neighboring countries such as Sudan in which he managed to resolve the bubbling conflicts there.

There were also many sector reform programs published including the increase of the rate of economic development of the country. Examples include the army, police, and other security forces (ENA, n.d.)

As a part of the national monetary and financial reform program, the government published new bank notes that instantly enabled millions of citizens to open bank accounts and save billions of birr.

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