



**THE EMBASSY OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
IN THE FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA**

PRESS RELEASE

On talks between Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and Ethiopian Foreign Minister Dr Workneh Gebeyehu

June 27, 2017

On June 26, Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation Sergey Lavrov held talks with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Dr Workneh Gebeyehu, who was in Moscow on a working visit. The two ministers praised the traditional friendly relations between Russia and Ethiopia and mutually beneficial cooperation in various areas confirming their shared commitment to step up trade and economic ties with a focus on the implementation of large-scale joint projects in Ethiopia, including in the energy sector, extraction of minerals and the development of infrastructure. They also highlighted the importance of relying on mechanisms provided by the Intergovernmental Russian-Ethiopian Commission on Economic, Scientific, Technical and Trade Cooperation, and the mutual interest in the promotion of ties in the field of education, science and high technology.

Mr Lavrov and Dr Workneh had a detailed discussion on the urgent international and regional issues, including conflict settlement in Africa, and examined the situation in the Horn of Africa, Somalia, South Sudan, the Sahara-Sahel zone, and in the Great Lakes Region. Both Russia and Ethiopia strongly believe in the importance of consolidating international efforts to combat terrorism with the UN playing a central coordinating role.

Excerpts from Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's remarks at a joint press conference following talks with Ethiopian Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Workneh Gebeyehu:

Sergey Lavrov: We have completed constructive and productive talks with Ethiopian Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Workneh Gebeyehu.

Ethiopia is among the leading African partners of Russia. Next year, we will mark 120 years of Russian-Ethiopian diplomatic relations. We have agreed to celebrate this date on a grand scale.

We discussed bilateral ties, including trade and economic cooperation, and we agreed that we are not using the large potential of our relations in full. We have decided to build up our cooperation to implement joint activities, in particular, energy and infrastructure projects. For example, Russian power equipment producer Inter RAO–Export is interested in building and modernising hydroelectric power plants in Ethiopia, while GPB Global Resources is implementing a hydrocarbon exploration project in eastern Ethiopia. Seeking to facilitate other deals, we have agreed to contribute to the full implementation of decisions that were adopted at the sixth meeting of the Russian-Ethiopian Intergovernmental Commission on Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation and Trade in March this year in Addis Ababa.

Another remarkable event last week was the signing of memorandums on Russian-Ethiopian scientific and technological cooperation and on interaction in the peaceful use of nuclear energy at the international forum Atomexpo.

Military technical cooperation is another promising field, considering that it is based on a history of good relations and experience in the area of high technology, education and science, including that of late.

We considered the possibility of increasing the number of Ethiopian students at Russian universities, if our partners express willingness and they file a request to this effect.

We also discussed international affairs. We again expressed our appreciation of Addis Ababa's balanced policy on the global stage and its traditionally active role in the African

Union, which is headquartered in Ethiopia. Ethiopia is also an active member of subregional organisations and is involved in their peacekeeping efforts in Africa.

Ethiopia enjoys high prestige on the global arena, which is evidenced by its election as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council in 2017-2018, as well as the election of Dr Tedros Adhanom, your predecessor on the post of foreign minister, as Director-General of the World Health Organisation.

We pointed out that our views on current regional and global issues are similar and often coincide. Both Russia and Ethiopia are working consistently towards greater democracy on the international stage and towards creating a global governance architecture that is fully based on the UN Charter and takes into account the world's cultural and civilisational diversity.

We highly assessed the level of our coordination at the UN, primarily at the UN Security Council and also at the General Assembly and other UN bodies.

We pointed out that we should continue to work to rally the international community together in the fight against terrorism, drug trafficking, piracy and other modern threats and challenges that is based on the solid foundation of international law.

We talked at length about the situation in Africa. Russia is interested in supporting the African nations' efforts to speedily overcome the numerous crises and conflicts, above all in the Horn of Africa, South Sudan and the Sahara-Sahel region.

We share the opinion that any specific crisis must be settled politically through national dialogue. Russia has reaffirmed its consistent view that it is Africans themselves who must play the key role in choosing the path towards peace and security and solutions when it comes to conflict situations on their continent. Russia will provide all-round assistance to this approach as a permanent UN Security Council member and also via bilateral channels.

I am grateful to my colleague for these talks, for our trust-based relations and for the invitation to visit Ethiopia, which I have accepted with great pleasure.













Press Service of the Embassy
of the Russian Federation