The Governments of Eritrea and Ethiopia, together with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), will be co-hosting a TICAD7 Side Event on the **Security–Development Nexus in the Horn of Africa: Removing obstacles to regional integration and trade facilitation through countering criminality.**

One of the most notable welcome developments coming from Africa since the last TICAD is the change in the dynamics in the Horn of Africa. The landscape is shifting dramatically towards openness and constructive bilateral and multilateral engagements since Prime Minster Abiy's administration took office in April 2018, leading to historic breakthrough including the signing of the Joint Declaration of Peace & Friendship by the State of Eritrea and the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in Asmara on July 9 2018**.**

The Side Event aims to promote and garner support from various stakeholders including delegations attending TICAD7, businesses, academia, media, as well as public and private sector entities, by enhancing awareness on the changing regional dynamics and the need to advance regional cooperation to:

- ➢ Develop close political, economic, social, cultural, and security cooperation
- ➢ Reconnect transport, trade, communications and diplomatic relations
- ➢ Implement the decision on the boundary between the two countries
- ➢ Ensure regional peace, development and cooperation
- ➢ Boost regional trade inter alia by strengthening institutions of border management and criminal justice

The event will include keynote addresses by H.E. Mr. Osman SALEH, Eritrean Minister of Foreign Affairs and H.E. Mr. GEDU Andargachew, Ethiopian Minister of Foreign Affairs and an interactive panel discussion by public and private sector representatives from the region and its international partners. Mr. Tetsuro YANO, President, Association of African Economy and Development (AFRECO) will provide Welcome Remarks.

Hence, H.E. Mr. ESTIFANOS Afeworki, Ambassador of the State of Eritrea, and H.E. Mr. KASSA Gebrehiwet, Ambassador of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, and Ms. KATO Miwa, Director, Division for Operations, UNODC, request the pleasure of your participation and presence on this occasion at PACIFICO Yokohama Annex Hall F206 from 10:30 – 12:00 on (Friday) August 30, 2019.

Respectfully yours,

**His Excellency ESTIFANOS Afeworki, Ambassador
ERITREA/Tokyo**

**His Excellency Mr. KASSA Gebrehiwet, Ambassador
ETHIOPIA/Tokyo**

**Ms. Miwa KATO
Director, Division for Operations, UNODC**

**Attachment: 1. Agenda TICAD7 Security – Development Nexus in the Horn of Africa
2. Enhancing Peace and Stability in the Horn of Africa:
3. Reply Sheet**

TICAD7 Side Event

**"Security–Development Nexus in the Horn of Africa:
Removing obstacles to regional integration and trade facilitation
through countering criminality"**

10:30–12:00, Friday, 30 August 30, 2019
@ Annex Hall F206, PACIFICO Yokohama

I: Welcome Remarks:
Mr. Tetsuro YANO, President, Association of African Economy and Development (AFRECO)/Former State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Japan

II. Keynote Speech:
H.E. Mr. Osman Saleh Mohammed, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Eritrea

III. Panel Discussion:

-Hon. Mr. Aklilu Woldermichael. State Minister for Business Diplomacy, Ethiopia [TBC]

-Mr. Nebil Said Idris, Deputy Chief of Mission, Permanent Mission of Eritrea to UN in NY OR senior representative from Eritrean Ministry of Justice [TBC]

-Mr. Tewolde GebreMariam, Ethiopian Airlines Group CEO OR Mr. Esayas WoldeMariam, Managing Director of Ethiopian International Group [TBC]

-Mr. Heba Diab, Export Control and related Border Security Assistance (EXBS) Advisor for East Africa, US Embassy in Nairobi

-Mr. Mitsugu Endo, Professor, University of Tokyo

(Panel Discussion moderated by:
Miwa Kato, Director, Division for Operations,
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC))

Q&A interaction with the Panel

IV. Closing Keynote Address:
H.E. Mr. Gedu Andargachew, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ethiopia (TBC)

(Side Event facilitated by Master of Ceremony:
Cherine Rahmy, Chief, Africa and Middle East Section,
Division for Operations, UNODC)

Enhancing Peace and Stability in the Horn of Africa:
Supporting peace consolidation, regional integration & trade through strengthening institutions for border management & criminal justice

Shifting regional dynamics: challenges and opportunities

While Africa has made remarkable progress and possesses potential to lead the world's development in the 21st Century as a "last frontier", absence of peace and stability in parts of the continent remains a major impediment to sustainable development and prosperity. Against this background, one of the most encouraging news coming out of the continent is the political changes in Ethiopia in 2018 which sparked hope for end of conflict and fostering of cooperation among countries in the Horn of Africa. Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed who took office on 2 April 2018 is initiating a series of transformative reforms domestically. His administration has also shown serious commitment to improving neighborly relations and promoting regional integration.

Map showing Eritrea and Ethiopia in the regional context. Excerpt from: UN Cartographic Section, map Horn of Africa

Subsequent to Ethiopia's historic announcement on the acceptance of the demarcation of the border between both countries, the Eritrea-Ethiopia Peace and Friendship Agreement was signed in Asmara by President Isaias Afwerki and Prime Minister Abiy on 8 July 2018. As a result of this decision and many bold reforms being introduced in Ethiopia, the dynamics in the Horn of Africa is dramatically shifting from antagonism to constructive bilateral and multilateral engagements.

Transformation in relations between the countries of the region suggests an end to inter-state conflict and regional instability which are major impediments to economic development and a major driver of migration from the Horn[1]. Increased hopes for subsequent economic transformations, including increased integration of markets, cross-border trade and job creation can bolster the chances of peace consolidation. However, continuing instability in certain parts of the region as well as the impact of transnational organized crime, corruption and terrorist activities pose additional challenges to regional peace consolidation. Dedicated support is needed in supporting these transitions through technical assistance including capacity building and trust building among actors in the region to ensure sustainability of the positive changes towards peace.
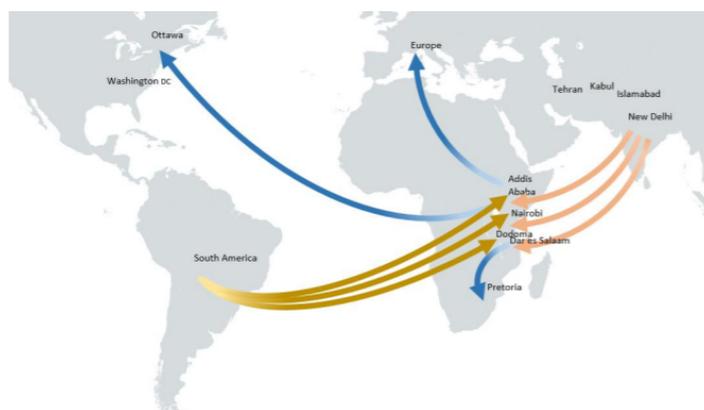
If the need for strengthening proper criminal justice response is left unaddressed, the challenges the governments are facing from increased organized crime and terrorism threats may have negative

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[1] A 2016 report by the Economic Commission for Africa estimated the cost of conflict to the Horn of Africa, for the period 1990-2007, at approximately 18.3% of annual per capita growth.
https://repository.uneca.org/bitstream/handle/10855/23726/b11836143.pdf?sequence=1

impact on the leaders' ability to offer increased long-term security and prosperity, and to change the perceptions held by their respective populations following decades of conflict into positive narratives of mutual benefit and security. In fact, Prime Minister Abiy noted terrorism, extremism, organized crime and corruption among the main challenges threating stability in the country.[2]

While limited availability of data makes it difficult to establish in concrete terms the volume of proceeds generated by organized crime in the region, Eastern Africa's strategic location along global trade and trafficking routes – most notably the so-called Southern Route for Afghan opiates trafficked from Asia – suggest significant amounts of illicit trade are moved through the region. While the region is affected by a wide range of trafficking flows, including human trafficking and migrant smuggling, global drug trafficking routes bring particularly negative effects due to the generally high profits generated and spill-over effects driving local drug markets and consumption.

UNODC has observed a continuous flow of heroin along the Southern Route, including what appears to be an emerging route using larger merchant vessels crossing the waters off the Horn of Africa and into the Red Sea. There are also indications that terrorist organizations, including Al-Shabaab, benefit from proceeds of various transnational organized crime activities in the wider region.[3] Beyond the mere question of volume of illicit activities and markets, the vulnerabilities of countries in the region and potential impact on peace and security are significant. In fact,

Drug trafficking routes to and from Eastern Africa, INTERPOL Analytical Report: Overview of Serious and Organized Crime in East Africa, 2018

it could also be said that many of the internal challenges and sources of tension relate to control over resources and influences on illegal activities and most importantly the lack of capacity to deal with illicit financial flows.

The recent advances on African Continental Free Trade Area and visa exemption regime, joined by several countries in the region including Ethiopia, is expected to lead to increased cross-border trade. At the same time, increasing connectivity both on the regional and continental level will bring additional illicit activities to the Horn of Africa, challenging good governance and the rule of law, and threatening the very benefit that could be gained through political good will and enhanced connectivity, unless mechanisms are put in place and capacity is built to counter this trend.

For political commitments to translate into solid ties through increase in trade and development bringing peace dividend, various types of systems managing increased flow of people, goods and services need to be developed. While much of the necessary measures relate to the realm of removing legal and procedural barriers and administrative arrangements on management of business transactions, a critical component relates to creating capacity for countering illegal flows.

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[2] https://www.aa.com.tr/en/africa/extremism-corruption-fueling-instability-ethiopian-pm/1520186
[3] The Somalia/Eritrea Monitoring Group (SEMG) 2015 report revealed Al-Shabaab's financing through Heroin trafficking with evidence of the MV Amin Darya (IMO #8630784), a vessel carrying as much as 800 kg of heroin intercepted on 15 July 2014 by Kenyan authorities and subsequently destroyed.

Strengthening institutions for border management & criminal justice

In view of the fragility in initial stages of peace consolidation, and the potential impact of criminality on the transition outcomes, there is an urgent need for dedicated support to law enforcement, criminal justice and border control state institutions to strengthen capacities to counter the threats posed by organized crime, corruption and terrorism, in a manner that is in accordance with international norms and standards, and respectful of rule of law and human rights. In addition to disrupting illicit trafficking flows and the organized crime networks behind them, this will boost public confidence in state institutions of security and justice.

While much of the focus of TICAD discussions – and deliberations on Africa in general – have been on traditional development topics (such as sanitation, education, infrastructure and technology) or on peacekeeping, without better prioritization and focused technical assistance to enhance security from illicit flows and promotion of rule of law at the frontlines of law enforcement and criminal justice, it would be challenging for the countries of the region to open up, consolidate peace and to reap the peace dividend. It is in this context that UNODC can support building common approaches and systems in border management and criminal justice response to counter and prevent cross-border crimes and terrorism. It is valuable in itself, but it also offers a unique opportunity to build trust among countries of the region, fostering regional connectivity.

Through its Regional Programme "Promoting the Rule of Law and Human Security in Eastern Africa" (2016-2021), UNODC has built valuable engagement with countries across the Horn of Africa based on trust and a track record of technical support in line with national and regional priorities. Theme-specific programmes, such as UNODC's contribution to the Better Migration Management (BMM) initiative have further positioned UNODC as a trusted partner not only in strengthening national criminal justice institutions, but also in facilitating regional cooperation against cross-border threats. Therefore, UNODC is well placed to support the governments meet the above identified challenges through concrete actions such as the following:

- Improving border management in specific border-crossing points and ports of entry, and, in view of lengthy land borders and coastal areas difficult to monitor, strengthening operational capacity of relevant law enforcement agencies to identify, prevent and prosecute syndicates and individuals intending to breach borders for illicit purposes;
- Improving airport security and inter-agency coordination in international airports and seaports;
- Countering maritime crime in the Gulf of Aden and along routes leading towards the Horn of Africa;
- Enhancing basic and specialized knowledge and skills within criminal justice and law enforcement agencies on transnational organized crime, including trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants, cybercrime and cyber-enabled organized crime, money laundering and terrorism financing and drug trafficking; and terrorism prevention, including through enhanced intelligence-led policing, crime scene management, digital evidence collection and countering the financing of terrorism;
- Mentoring and supporting specialized financial investigation, transnational organized crime and counter-terrorism units, including through procurement of, and training on specialized investigation and forensic equipment and software;
- Improvement of the administration of justice and prisons administration (including reducing threats of radicalization and security threats in connection with prisons, in accordance with international norms and standards and alternatives to incarceration);

- Enhancing informal and formal international cooperation in criminal matters between Member States in the Horn of Africa and beyond, including by supporting the Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD) in promoting and operationalizing its instruments on mutual legal assistance and extradition; and
- Creating greater public awareness and engagement to cooperate with criminal justice institutions through community-based action to counter threats posed by criminality, and strengthening crime prevention.

These areas of cooperation would fall within the wider context of expanding cooperation between UNODC and the countries in the Horn of Africa, as signified by several instances of direct high-level engagement, including a senior-level UNODC mission to Eritrea and Ethiopia in July 2019 aimed at further formalizing the strong commitment to jointly work in UNODC mandate areas. At the same time, they are closely linked not only to promoting peace and stability in the region, but also to strengthening the role of Horn of Africa countries in the international community's response to global organized crime and terrorism. As such, they directly contribute to and concretize efforts under existing cooperation frameworks, such as the African Union (AU)-led Horn of Africa Initiative on Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling and the Khartoum Process, and support the work of the UN Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa.

They will also feed into the comprehensive UN Regional Prevention Strategy for the Horn of Africa. The five-year Strategy aims at operationalizing the Secretary-General's vision of prevention by rationalizing prevention-related mandates and encouraging joined-up action and system-wide ownership of outcomes. Rather than looking just at the sum of national approaches, it builds on regional strategies of the AU and IGAD. The Strategy focuses its interventions on the four pillars of regional peace and security, resilience and socio-economic development, inclusive and responsible governance, and sustainable natural resources management and climate adaptability.

The security-development nexus: Addressing criminality enabling stability and prosperity

Leveraging the security-development nexus and strengthening peace and stability, through investing in institutions of border management and criminal justice (including enhancing frontline capacities and community engagement) is essential, not just to counter threats posed by crime and terrorism, but as a precondition for growth in trade and investment. This point requires better recognition by policy makers interested in supporting peace, stability, development and trade in and with Africa, and commensurate investment of resources dedicated for this cause is urgently needed. Recognition of this important emerging angle of priority in TICAD as well as at the 2020 UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice ("Crime Congress") held in Kyoto, Japan in April 2020 will be most timely and appropriate. The Horn of Africa provides a concrete example where pursuing security and the rule of law on the one hand and trade facilitation and job creation on the other can translate into real-life changes in people's lives, leading to peace consolidation and sustainable development. The international community must come together to support this effort.

<August 2019>

Reply sheet:

TICAD7 Side Event

Security – Development Nexus in the Horn of Africa:
Removing obstacles to regional integration and trade facilitation through countering criminality

Date & Time: **Friday, 30 August 2019, 10:30-12:00**
Venue: **PACIFICO Yokohama, Annex Hall, F206**
Organized bt: **The Governments of Eritrea and Ethiopia, together with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)**

I wish to attend the side event:

_____
Name

_____
Government/Organization/Entity

_____
Number of attendees

Please send the completed sheet to asmert.tesfai@un.org. Please also indicate in case support is required with regard to access to the venue.