



**Bi-Weekly Newsletter  
Permanent Mission of the State of Eritrea to AU  
and UNECA  
Press Section**



**Statement by H.E. Mr. Osman Saleh, Minister of Foreign Affairs of  
the State of Eritrea, during the General Debate of the 71st Session  
of the United Nations General Assembly  
26 September 2016, New York**

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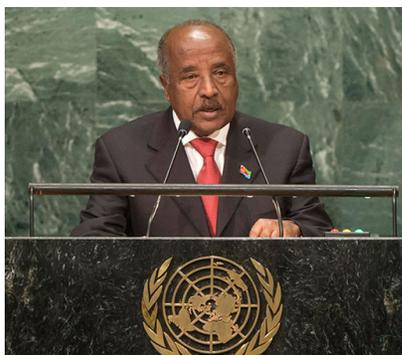
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Mr President,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

This year the people of Eritrea have been celebrating the silver jubilee of their country's independence since 1991. During the difficult years of the war for independence, very few people believed that Eritreans and their leadership were capable of this historic achievement as the odds were overwhelmingly stacked against them. Unlike in other liberation struggles, it was both superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union, and not one or the other, who sought to crush by armed force their aspirations for self-determination. But the Eritrean people and their liberation movement, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front, the predecessor of today's People's Front for Democracy and Justice, believed in the justness of their cause and in their own determination and capability to win the war fair and square, to prevail in an unequal battle.

The post-independence struggle for nation-building too has been complex and difficult. We have been compelled to commit precious human and economic resources to defend ourselves against wars of aggression and subversion.



We have suffered the occupation of our sovereign territory in violation of international law and a binding international arbitration. We have been subjected to incessant hostility, sanctions, economic, financial and diplomatic pressures as well as armed attacks and psychological warfare. Our people, in particular our youth, were targeted, through policies that actively encouraged their migration, leading to much suffering and loss of life in the hands of human traffickers, policies whose inevitable outcome was then presented as evidence against Eritrea. No less an authority than President Obama stated publicly that he had "renewed sanctions on some of the worst abusers, including Eritrea." And he added, "We are partnering with groups that help women and children escape from the grip of their abusers." The objective was "regime change" as a prelude to bringing Eritrea to its knees.  
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 **Eritrean Mission to  
AU & ECA**

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**Statement by H.E. Mr. Osman Saleh, at the 71st Session of the UNGA**  
*(Contd. from page 1)*

In the face of this concerted onslaught, few gave Eritrea a fighting chance. We were routinely written off, our imminent collapse predicted with regularity. But once again, resilient Eritrea and Eritreans at home and abroad were able to forge, through their patriotism, cohesion, sheer determination and sacrifices, the capability to resist the onslaught on their nation and to protect their hard-won freedom. And after a difficult decade-and-a-half, Eritrea is now on the up. Most of the Millennium Development Goals have been achieved. The economy is rebounding. Infrastructure is being built. Favourable conditions are being created to provide youth with ample opportunities for quality education, vocational skills, decent living conditions and active political participation. The country's regional and international engagement is growing. The counter-productive policy of isolating Eritrea is slowly but surely failing.

Mr. President,

The pressures, coercion and hostility that Eritrea has faced are by no means exceptional or distinctive. In our region, the Horn of Africa, they are only one element of a misguided policy pursued over a quarter of a century that has fuelled violence, conflict, instability, fragmentation as well as extremism and terrorism. Throughout the world, many nations who cherish dignity and independent decision making, uphold the sovereign equality of nations, seek to chart political and economic paths suited to their conditions and benefit more from their human and natural resources have faced the wrath of those who wish to cling to their domination and privileges as well as all manner of coercion and subversion, including sanctions, blockades, and armed interventions. More generally, unsustainable policies of greed and pillage and the reckless resort to unilateral pressure and force to secure unilateral advantage instead of seeking common ground and mutual interests is pushing the world on an extremely dangerous path. The very survival of the planet and humanity are in grave danger due to unsustainable systems of production and consumption and the attendant large-scale wastage.

In this context, Eritrea wishes to point out that the pending decision by the United States to adopt legislation that nullifies national sovereign immunity constitutes a violation of international law and a dangerous precedent with grave implications.

Mr. President,

Even as the challenges and dangers we face are grave and stark, our world is still full of possibilities and opportunities. The global balance of power and wealth is changing, with new sources of growth, dynamism and innovation, not only in the celebrated emerging economies, but also in many other countries. In both industrialized and developing nations, ordinary people are making their voices heard and their actions felt, by mobilizing, organizing and fighting against the domination of the few and for a more equal and just world. Calls for the respect of international law and norms and for the overhaul and revitalization of the United Nations and global financial institutions with a view of making them more representative and democratic are more widespread and insistent and often backed by concrete initiatives and concerted actions.

In our region, the Horn of Africa, the past two decades have generally been a period of missed opportunities, of zero-sum games, of repeated conflicts and setbacks. Even today, the situation remains fraught with risk and danger. Yet recent developments indicate the possibility of an opening for a new beginning, for re-launching the vision of the 1990s of a peaceful, progressive, economically dynamic and cooperative Horn of Africa.

Mr. President,

Eritrea often speaks of the hostilities and injustices it has suffered, of the difficulties it has faced, of the valiant struggles of its people. This is an experience it shares with many other peoples and nations; and it does inform its views and policies. Yet, Eritrea does not dwell on the past, but prefers to look to the future.

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**Statement by H.E. Osman Saleh, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Eritrea  
At the XVII Non-Aligned Movement Summit  
17-18 September 2016, Island of Margarita, The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela**



Your Excellency, Mr. Nicolás Maduro Moros, President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela  
Heads of State and Government,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me extend my heartfelt appreciation to the people and government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela for the generous hospitality extended to my delegation since our arrival. I also wish to congratulate the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela for its election to chair the Non-Aligned Movement.

Let me also express my delegation's appreciation to the Islamic Republic of Iran, the outgoing chair of the Coordinating Bureau, for its able leadership in steering the work of our Movement for the last four years.

Mr. Chair,  
Excellencies,

Many countries of our Movement are facing daunting challenges of recurrent conflicts, food insecurity, youth unemployment, human trafficking, transnational organised crimes, manipulation of illegal migration, spread of violent extremism and terrorism. Our efforts to harness effective multilateral response is being hampered by unilateralism, military adventurism, flagrant violation of the UN Charter and misguided policies of certain powers. This has led to loss of millions of lives, destruction of nations, and spread of extremism and terrorism.

Since its inception our Movement has been at the forefront of the struggle for a global order based on peace, independence, respect for international law, justice, equity and sustainable development. It is vital that we continue to defend the sacrosanct principles of sovereign equality of nations, respect for territorial integrity, political independence and peaceful coexistence as well as respect for the dignity and rights of citizens. These time-tested principles are more relevant today than ever and should not be compromised.



For years our Movement has asserted that human rights can only be promoted through “ensuring universality, objectivity and non-selectivity in the consideration of human rights issues, and the elimination of double standards and politicisation.” The promotion and protection of human rights should be based on the principles of cooperation and dialogue in order to strengthen the capacity of States to comply with their human rights obligations. The Universal Periodic Review is the main intergovernmental mechanism to address the issue of human rights. However, we continue to witness that international human rights mechanisms, including Human Rights Council, are being utilised as tools of political coercion by certain  
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**Statement by H.E. Osman Saleh,  
At the XVII Non-Aligned Movement Summit (Contd. from page 3)**

powers with an aim to wreak havoc, polarise societies and nations, perpetuate political instability and change regimes. Unfortunately, some members of this Movement have become wittingly or unwittingly accomplice to these destructive policies.

We must strength our solidarity, enhance our cooperation and pursue our common goal to counter policies that intend to break us apart and pick us one after the other. We need to ensure the independence and integrity of international human rights instruments and institutions.

Mr. Chair,  
Excellencies,

For over half a century the people of Eritrea has suffered from this unjust global order. We were denied our inalienable right to self-determination. For three decades, we were savagely bombed from the air and the ground, with the aim of crushing our struggle for independence. The same power that denied us our right for self-determination seven decades ago have imposed unjust and illegal sanctions on a bases of unfounded allegations and are maintaining this sanction even when the allegations have proven non-existent for years. The same powers continue to shield aggression against our nation and illegal occupation of our sovereign territory in violation of international law. They are also encouraging irregular migration in order to deprive Eritrea of its productive citizens, exposing the Eritrean youth to abuse and death (in the Sahara, Sinai and the Mediterranean) in the hands of human traffickers and smugglers. The people of Eritrea continues to be targeted by the United States Administration.

To add insult to injury some members of the Movement are Trojan-Horse for this unjustified hostilities by the US on our nation. Three members of our Movement continue to spearhead country specific resolution against Eritrea at the Human Rights Council.

il. This unjustified action by Members of the Non-Aligned Movement contravenes NAM’s longstanding position and disparages the spirit of solidarity that we have been preaching for decades. We have to practice what we preach.

We reiterate our request to Members of the NAM, in spirit of solidarity, to call for an immediate lifting of the sanctions against Eritrea as well as reject and condemn all forms of hostilities and interferences that are being carried against the people of Eritrea, including country specific human rights mandates.

Mr. Chair,  
Excellencies,

Despite the relentless harassment and hostilities, Eritrea is building a solid basis for inclusive and sustainable development with social justice as its centre. It has made strides in improving educational and health services, agricultural productivity, and infrastructure. Eritrea is also making its contribution to regional peace, stability and security in the Red Sea and the Horn of Africa.

Eritrea sees its own efforts for peace, justice, development, environmental protection as part of the struggle for a better, fair, just, peaceful and equitable global order. Eritrea reiterates its readiness to closely work with the sisterly member countries of the NAM to realise these objectives.

Mr. Chair,  
Excellencies,

Let me, in conclusion, reaffirm Eritrea’s solidarity with the people and Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela as they face illegal political and economic aggression. Eritrea also reaffirms its solidarity with people and governments of Cuba, Sudan and others who are suffering from unilateral sanctions and economic sabotages.

I thank you!



**Statement by Mr. Yemane Ghebream,  
Special Political Advisor to the President of the State of Eritrea,  
During the High Level Meeting on Large Movement of Migrants and Refugees,  
New York, 19 September 2016**

Mr. Chairman,  
Excellencies,

Eritrea has played an active role in the preparations for this “Summit for Refugees and Migrants” because we believe it is an issue of vital importance for all peoples and nations of the world.



In Eritrea’s view, our goals must be:-

1. To agree on the need and importance of, and provide meaningful avenues for, legal, safe and regular migration. It really is incongruous that in an increasingly globalized world, where much is done to advance the movement of goods and finance, human mobility is stridently opposed and essentially blocked. This needs to change as much of the current crisis and suffering could be significantly reduced by means of safe and orderly migration.
2. To protect and promote the rights and dignity of all migrants and to provide them with opportunities for education, skills training and jobs, without which they cannot lead a life of dignity.
3. To address the main perennial drivers of migration, including forced migration, which are growing global inequality, poverty and lack of development, violation of fundamental freedoms, as well as wars and conflict; and to take cognizance of other significant drivers such as demographic and climate change.

Eritrea believes that every nation has primary responsibility to provide a safe, secure and dignified life for its citizens in their country and to enable them to pursue opportunities in other countries. However, nations, and in particular developing nations, need

support and solidarity to address the daunting challenges of ensuring peace and sustainable development. Meaningful global efforts are required to make our world more equal, fair and just. The propensity to seek unilateral economic, financial and trade advantages at the expense of developing countries, the resort to the violation of international law and national independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty in the pursuit of power politics, the imposition of unjustified pressures and sanctions must be firmly resisted. On the issue of refugees care must be taken to refrain from exploiting their plight and suffering against select countries in the pursuit of political goals and away from humanitarian considerations.

Mr. Chairman,

Given the fate of previous summits and solemn declarations, including on migration, it is understandable that many are skeptical about the outcome and impact of this gathering. It is, therefore, imperative that at the national and global arenas, at the level of governments, national institutions as well as regional and international organizations, we all shoulder our responsibilities to end the suffering associated with migration, to protect and promote the rights of migrants and to welcome human mobility as an integral and desirable feature of our globalized world.

## Eritrean Foreign Minister held talks with Netherlands Counterpart



Eritrea's Foreign Minister, Mr. Osman Saleh, held talks on August 23 in The Hague, with his Netherlands counterpart, Mr. Bert Koenders, regarding the enhancement of bilateral diplomatic relations and other topics of mutual concern.

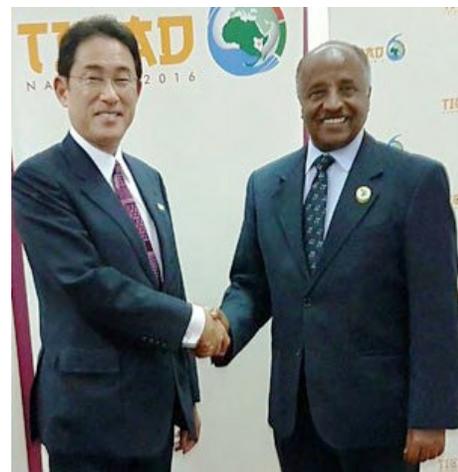
In the meeting, Mr. Osman underlined that Eritrea believes and is working to develop constructive diplomatic engagement and mutual cooperation. He further called on the European Union to play due role in the task of seeing to it that Ethiopia withdraws without pre-condition from sovereign Eritrean territories that it has occupied, as well as the lifting of the illegal and unjust sanctions against Eritrea and stopping the fabricated anti-Eritrea allegation in the name of "human rights".

Mr. Bert Koenders said that he fully understands Eritrea's complaints and expressed his country's readiness to strengthen relations with Eritrea. The two sides also agreed to cooperate in combating human trafficking.

## Minister Osman met with Japanese Foreign Minister

Eritrea's Foreign Minister, Mr. Osman Saleh, on 26 August, met and held talks in Nairobi, with his Japanese counterpart, Mr. Fumio Kishida, on fostering bilateral relations between the two countries.

The two officials discussed regional and international issues of mutual concern. The Ministers also discussed cooperation in the sectors of education, sport, trade and investment as well as other domains and exchange of experiences as well as developing mechanism to evaluate the envisaged sectors of cooperation thereby ensure progress in an enhanced manner.



## Statement by H.E. Mr. Osman Saleh, at the 71st Session of the UNGA (contd. from page 2)

It is keen to build on its encouraging achievements to transform its economy and society, to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals mainly by relying on the energy, skills and initiative of its people and the judicious use of its natural resources. It is also determined to work actively and constructively, and in collaboration with its neighbours, for peace, stability

and prosperity in the Horn of Africa and Red Sea regions. It seeks to foster relations of solidarity and mutual support with all nations, peoples and organizations that fight for a world free from the scourges of war and poverty and the respect for human dignity. Finally, Eritrea is resolved to engage with all nations in modesty and self-confidence.

Thank You, Mr. President

## **Senior Eritrean Government Delegation Conducted a Working Visit to Germany**

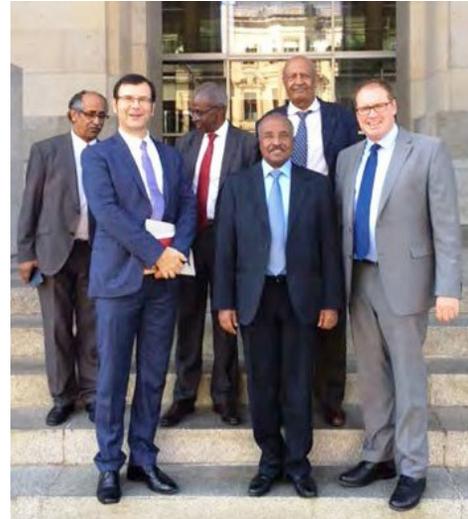
A senior Eritrean Government delegation led by Mr. Osman Saleh, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Eritrea, visited Germany in the second week of September and held talks with German officials. The Eritrean delegation included Mr. Yemane Gebreab, Head of Political Affairs of PFDJ, and Mr. Gergis Teklemicael, Minister of National Development.

The delegation held talks with the Federal Minister of Economic Cooperation and Development on mutual and bilateral relations and cooperation.

The deliberation with the members of Parliament of Germany focused on development of mutual relations and economic cooperation.

The members of Parliament who attended the meeting and those who visited Eritrea indicated that based on the discussion and from their first-hand observation during their visit to Eritrea, that the reality in the country was quite different from what is portrayed by the media.

The Eritrean delegation also held a meeting with German officials in which they gave briefings regarding the internal and regional situations.



The visit of the high-level Eritrean delegation concluded with a Cooperation Protocol signed by Mr. Osman Saleh, Eritrean Minister of Foreign Affairs and by Mr. Gunter Nooke, Head of African Affairs at the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The meeting was in continuation of the discussions held in Asmara, on 14 December 2015, during a visit by a delegation led by Mr. Gerd Muller, German Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development.

## **Eritrea took part at the European Association for International Education (EAIE) Conference**

Prof. Tadesse Mehari, Executive Director of the Commission of Higher Education in Eritrea, participated at the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual European Association for International Education (EAIE) Conference that took place from 13-16 September in Liverpool, the UK.

At the Conference in which 5200 experts from 80 countries attended, Prof. Tadesse gave a presentation on Migration and the Root Causes and on the prospects of Cooperation in Education.

