

**Press release: Ethiopia and the European Union & its member States  
signed joint declaration on a Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility**

The joint declaration between Ethiopia and the EU was signed on November 11/2015 on the margins of the Valletta summit on Migration which took place in Malta from 11-12 November 2015. H.E. Hailemariam Dessalegn, Ethiopian Prime Minister signed on behalf of Ethiopian and H.E. Mr. Jean-Claude Juncker, EU Commission President, Ms. Federica Mogherini, High Representative for Foreign Policy & Security and Vice President of the Union and Mr. Jean Asselborn, Luxembourg Minister for Foreign Affairs and Acting Council Presidency signed the joint declaration on behalf of the EU.

The joint declaration acknowledges the importance of Ethiopia as a key country of transit, destination and origin of irregular migrants and refugees from the Horn of Africa on the route to Europe.

The agreement between Ethiopia and the EU & its member States is expected to help the two sides to cooperate on a better management of migration and mobility, dialogue at different level in order to exchange information on the issue of migration and mobility; promoting international protection and addressing the needs of refugees; promoting legal migration and mobility; the need to control irregular migration, smuggling and trafficking in human beings and on the importance of inter connecting migration with development. Funding will be made available for implementation of concrete activities, notably through the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa, for which the EU has already mobilized €1.8 billion.

The Ethiopian Government is of the view that the agreement is an extension of the relentless measures taken by Ethiopia to reduce irregular migration, smuggling and trafficking of human beings and to create a conducive environment for Ethiopians and

refugees sheltered in Ethiopia for them to help avoid risking their lives in the quest for reaching Europe.

Ethiopia further acknowledges that the agreement is a result of the long and strong relations and an ever increasing understanding between Ethiopia and the EU and a way forward for a broader cooperation in the coming years. As the largest host of refugees in Africa, Ethiopia deserves a coordinated support from the European Union.

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