

## Italy's Foreign Minister, Paolo Gentiloni Visits Ethiopia



Italy's Foreign Minister, Paolo Gentiloni, arrives in Addis Ababa for an official visit to Ethiopia. Foreign Minister Dr. Tedros extended a warm welcome to Paolo Gentiloni upon his arrival at Bole International Airport yesterday. Paolo Gentiloni made Ethiopia its first stop in his tour to Africa.

Following the welcoming ceremony, the two Ministers held discussion on range of matters dwelling on multilateral, regional and bilateral issues of common interest.

The two sides hailed the strong bilateral relations between the two countries and underlined the need to further deepen and broaden areas of cooperation for mutual benefit of the two peoples. Particularly, the two sides exchanged views on increasing trade and investment volumes and boosting economic cooperation between the two countries. In this connection, the two sides agree to undertake Ethiopian Business Forum in Rome in 2015.

They also highlighted the need for strengthening partnership in realizing regional peace and stability. Dr. Tedros expressed his appreciation to Italy's support to regional peace efforts as current chair of IGAD's International partners Forum.

Minister Paolo Gentiloni for his part expressed his admiration to Ethiopia's dynamic role in stabilizing the Horn of Africa and active support to IGAD-led peace process in South Sudan and in defeating Al Shabaab in Somalia. He also noted Ethiopia's significant role in combating terrorism within the sub-region, and also reiterated Italy's continued commitment to support IGAD-led peace process in South Sudan and its support to pacifying and reconstructing Somalia.

The two Ministers also underlined the need for strengthening cooperation in tackling challenges associated with migration and mobility of people.

Upon the conclusion of the discussions, the two Ministers signed bilateral agreements aimed at bolstering cooperation on Culture, education, art, scholarships, archives, museums, libraries, archeology, conservation and protection of culture heritages.