

## FLASH NEWSLETTER VIII° AFRICAN UNION SUMMIT

### Visit of the Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi in Addis Abeba on the occasion of the 8th African Union Summit

January-February 2007

Inside this issue:



From 28 to 30 January 2007 the Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi visited Addis Ababa to attend the 8<sup>th</sup> African Union Summit. 53 among Heads of State and government representatives of the African Union attended this event.

The main topics for the Summit were: "Science, Technology and Scientific Research for Development" and "Climate

Change in Africa". Among the various activities of the Summit's agenda the participants elected the new Chairperson of the African Union, John Kufuor, the President of Ghana, and launched the 2007 International year of football. The Heads of State also adopted the African Union budget for the year 2007.

Death penalty, fight against HIV AIDS and the Somali crisis were some of the critical issues that the Prime Minister mentioned during his intervention at the Summit of Heads of State and Governments which was held at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) on January 29. On death penalty, the Prime Minister mentioned that "We must not remain indifferent to this moral imperative. We must be for life and against death. Just as we are against injustice and suffering. (...) We shall be able to work together with Africa on the issue of a moratorium on capital punishment (...)"

Mr. Prodi also focused on the importance to strengthen the cooperation between Africa and Europe. In this connection he pointed out topics as development, migration, science, international trade, innovation, energy, and environment as issues of common interest on which Europeans and Africans must work together. Concerning one of the main plague of the African continent, HIV AIDS, the Prime Minister declared that Italy will fulfill its commitment to support the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis and he clearly stated that "We are currently completing payment to the Fund of all our pledges for 2006 and 2007, amounting to €260 million. And we intend to continue playing a leading role in the future."



**Mr. Prodi's  
intervention  
at the 8th AU  
Summit** 1

**The Prime  
Minister's  
bilateral  
meetings** 2

**The Mayor of  
Milan, Letizia  
Moratti, in  
Addis Ababa** 2



[Link to the Italian version of the newsletter](#)

# Visit of the Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi in Addis Ababa

## A TIGHT SCHEDULE FOR ROMANO PRODI IN ADDIS ABABA

Addis Ababa – On January 28 - 30, 2007, during two intense days of bilateral meetings and public interventions, Prime Minister Romano Prodi came to illustrate the Italian Government strategy for Africa and to confirm at the highest level the Italian commitment to support development initiatives for the Continent and, more specifically, the Horn of Africa.

Professor Romano Prodi met twice with the Ethiopian Prime Minister, Meles Zenawi, and he also took the opportunity to hold consultations with the Presidents of Ethiopia, Algeria, Congo - Brazzaville, Djibouti, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan and Tanzania as well as with the Foreign Affairs Ministers of Madagascar, Seychelles, Senegal and Tunisia. Peace was the main topic of these consultations, considered as a necessary condition for stability and socio-economic development in the African Continent.

In his meetings with Prime Minister Meles, the Italian Premier expressed his firm opinion concerning a possible and peaceful solution to be found for the Somali crisis. He also insisted on the need to proceed rapidly with the inter-Somali reconciliation process in order to avoid a civil conflict with overwhelming consequences.

During the consultations with the Djiboutian President, Mr. Prodi touched upon the illegal immigration issue, which is a major cause of tensions in the region while the situation in Darfur was the major topic covered during his conversation with the Sudanese President.

The AU Summit was also the occasion for the first face to face meeting with the new UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-Moon. The meeting focused on peace issues concerning Lebanon, Middle East and Kosovo. The Italian Prime Minister confirmed “the multilateral choice of the Italian Government” and pointed out its commitment to support peace confer-

ences for Afghanistan and Somalia.

Notwithstanding a very tight agenda, Mr. Prodi managed to meet with the Italian Community in Ethiopia to whom he addressed a speech reiterating the importance of the role that Italy plays in building sustainable peace in the Horn of Africa.



Finally, on his very last day, following a visit to the Italian Schools and Cultural Institute, Romano Prodi was invited to attend a ceremony to confer him a honorary doctorate degree on Law from the Addis Ababa University. The same degree was awarded to the Nigerian President, Obasanjo.

## ADDIS ABABA TO BE TWIN CITY WITH MILAN



Addis Ababa - The Mayor of Milan, Letizia Moratti, was in Addis Ababa, accompanying the Italian Prime Minister, Romano Prodi.

Mrs. Moratti declared in an interview to the Ethiopian Herald that Milan will forge ahead to establish partnership relations with Addis Ababa. The commercial capital of Italy will promote a cultural and economic cooperation with the capital city of Ethiopia. This will be “the first step

towards Milan and Addis Ababa becoming twin cities”.

During the meeting with the Mayor of Addis Abeba, Ato Berhanu Deressa, Mrs. Moratti also announced that she will support the creation of an Italo-Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce to be opened in Milan.

The main objective of Mrs. Moratti’s visit to Ethiopia was to present and advocate the candi-

dacy of Milan to the 2015 Universal Exposition, proposing as main theme “sustainable development for our planet”. The main rival of Milan is the city of Smirne in Turkey. It is worth mentioning that the Turkish Prime Minister, Erdogan, was also participating in the AU Summit. Among the 98 countries that compose the Bureau International des Expositions, who will take the final decision, 13 are members of the African Union. The race has just started!

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**The Italian Development  
Cooperation In Ethiopia**

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### Who We Are

The Directorate General for Development Cooperation (DGCS) of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs is the governmental institution responsible for administering the Italian Development Cooperation program. The DGCS includes 13 offices, besides the Central Technical Unit, and 20 Country offices located in countries that are priorities for the Italian Public Aid. The activities of the Italian Cooperation in Ethiopia focus on the following sectors:

- Education
- Health
- Energy
- Humanitarian and Aid Emergency Response
- HIV/AIDS
- Water
- Rural Development and Food Security
- Women and Children
- Private and Industrial Sector
- Good Governance and Capacity Building
- Cultural Cooperation

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...and all our dedicated Support Staff!

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