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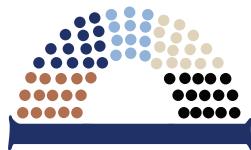
ETHIOPIAN  
PARLIAMENTARY DIGEST



ENDERASIE  
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## BRIDGE Profile

Bridge Research and Innovation for Democratic Governance and Enhanced Peace (BRIDGE) is an independent, non-profit think tank based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Registered under the FDRE Civil Society Organization Proclamation No. 1113/2019, which specializes in parliamentary affairs, peace, and development in the IGAD region.



### Mission

To advance democratic governance and enhance peace through evidence-based research and innovative policy analysis.



### Vision

To be a leading research hub and trusted source of analysis on parliamentary affairs, peace, governance, and development in the IGAD region.



### Core Values

- ① Rigor: Delivering high-quality, evidence-driven research.
- ① Innovation: Pioneering creative and adaptive solutions for governance and peace challenges.
- ① Trust: Upholding credibility through transparent and reliable analysis



### Objectives

It aims to strengthen legislative institutions in federal and local parliaments in Ethiopia and the IGAD region by:

- ① Conducting evidence-based research.
- ① Providing capacity-building support to enhance the performance of parliamentarians.
- ① Monitoring parliamentary activities to ensure accountability and effectiveness.



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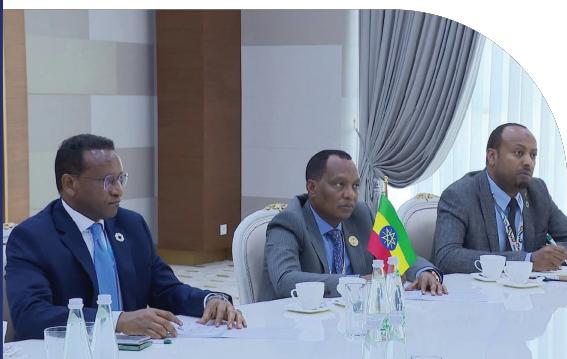
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# Ethiopian Representatives in August

The Members of Parliament of Ethiopia spent the month of August primarily implementing their public representation work. Nevertheless, in this same month, they carried out three parliamentary diplomacy activities. This, the sixth edition of Enderasie, in addition to framing those representation works that covered many of the regions as 'Of the Regions' as follows, since the month is approaching the end of the year, it has offered its brief monthly survey concerning the parliamentary diplomacy of the Members of Parliament.

# Representative Works of the Representatives

**S**ince the main activity that the Members of Parliament of the FDRE carry out from July until the last week of September is representation work, the Members of Parliament broadly executed their duty of discussing with their constituents and listening to their questions by going to their electoral districts in the month of August.



The Honorable Dr. Melese Tumiso at his representation work;

## 1.1 What did the Constituents of the Central Ethiopia Region Say?

The information from the House shows that, the FDRE House of Peoples' Representatives, the Honorable Dr. Abrham Alemayehu and the Honorable Dr. Tadele Buraka, who were present in Wolkite town in the Central Ethiopia Region at the beginning of the month of August, organized a broad discussion forum. It is stated that in the discussion forum, questions presented to the Federal Executives and the responses given, as well as the main activities the House carried out during the budget year, were presented and discussed. The representative who also appeared in the Tembaro electoral district is said to have made it clear that while there is a constitutional right to ask any question peacefully, those entities who choose illegal means must correct their path and prioritize public peace. The Honorable Dr. Melese Tumiso mentioned that discussions were held with residents drawn from all six kebeles located in Koshe town in the Mareko special woreda. The Member of Parliament is also quoted as saying that the public should assist and support the government to further strengthen the relative peace created, so that it will not be disturbed by anti-peace forces. Beyond this, the representative who consulted with his constituents in the Meskan and Mareko Number 2 electoral district is also reported to have said that Members of the councils at all levels, as public representatives, should fulfill their share in resolving their development and good governance problems by closely engaging with the public who elected them.

The other Member of Parliament, the Honorable W/ro Wosene-lesh Horiya, who was present with him in that same woreda, toured and observed the Gerad Bimedo General Hospital, which is being constructed with community participation, the North Koshe Water Project, and the service delivery of the Koshe Health Center, along with the relevant bodies of the special woreda. It is reported that the Member of Parliament, the Honorable Desalegn Erso, who arrived at Morsito town in Mesha woreda, Kontaab 02 electoral district, Hadiya Zone of the region, on August 9, 2017 E.C., discussed with participants drawn from various segments of the community; and the discussion topics were said to have been peace, lack of infrastructure fulfillment, as well as social and good governance issues.

The House's report indicates that the constituent-elected discussion forum, where wide-ranging works done in the past months regarding education, health, clean drinking water, as well as road accessibility were mentioned was the discussion held in Alich Wuriro woreda, which was led by honorable Dr. Mohammed Shikur. The House's report mentions the Honorable Dr. Abrham Alemayehu as stating that the rural corridor development initiated by Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed in Dubancho Kebele of Lemo woreda has benefited farmers and, beyond changing the local landscape, has been able to create employment opportunities for many rural youths. On the other hand, the Honorable Mulunesh Lamore, who is said to have held discussions with mothers in Gibe woreda of the same zone, is quoted as saying that protecting the health of mothers and children has a great role in the country's economy. Honorable Dr. Tadele, the Vice-Chairperson of the Standing Committee for Social Development, Culture, and Sports Affairs in the House, who appeared in Mudula town for this constitutional responsibility, is said to have also raised that the Tembaro-Mudula Hospital has undergone an improvement, freeing itself from the unsuitable condition it was in during the month of February, and creating a clean environment where medical professionals work and comfortable lodging for patients. The Member of Parliament, Dr. Tadele, who also crossed over to the Tembaro special woreda, explained to the public that he would present the many questions raised by the public to the executive branch of the government at every level so that the government can respond to them.

In this same Central Ethiopia Region, Hadiya Zone, Shone town, the Honorable W/ro Nebiyat Tilahun, who went for the execution of representation work, is said to have stated that she held a broad discussion with the people who elected her regarding issues of peace, economy, social affairs, infrastructure, job opportunities, and good governance. The Honorable Dr. Abrham Alemayehu, who arrived in West Badawacho Woreda in the same zone, is mentioned as having toured and visited the construction performance of various road projects and the service delivery of health institutions in the woreda; and it is noted that he emphasized that great effort should be made for the projects being constructed in the woreda to be completed within their set deadlines and provide service.

The Member of Parliament, Dr. Abrham, also attended in Hossana town and further urged that the works done in the zone to solve the public's development and good governance questions are promising and should be strengthened and continued. The Honorable W/ro Worknesh Mohammed, who went to Shashogo Woreda, along with woreda stakeholders, visited the Boyo Watershed Development Project, which is being constructed with Federal Government budget under the 'One Project for One Structure' plan, initiated by Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed.

The Honorable Ato Shissemra Gebre-Silassie, who arrived in Gurage Zone, which is one of the zones in the Central Ethiopia Region, is said to have made his discussants aware of the efforts they are making to enact laws that strengthen the multi-national unity of the peoples, accelerate the national development, and facilitate the reform agendas. The Honorable W/ro Etsegenet Mengistu, who went to the eastern part of that same zone, was heard saying that the culture of starting projects and completing them in a short period of time is a distinguishing characteristic of the Prosperity Party; the representative, who also visited Boie First Level Hospital, is said to have stated that the hospital is providing better service. She expressed that the projects carried out in East Meskan Woreda in East Gurage Zone are bringing extremely encouraging results. The Honorable W/ro Worknesh Jemal, who was present in Butajira town and discussed with the residents, is quoted as having said that the questions raised during the discussion will be presented to the concerned body and that she will work with focus for their implementation. The Member of Parliament, who also crossed over to Meskan Mareko, is reported to have said that the effort made to make the town comfortable and suitable for residents, as well as a tourist destination, demonstrated the diligence of the leadership and the commitment of the public. The Honorable Dr. Beza Teshome, who visited the Angacha Construction and Industrial College located in this same Central Ethiopia Region, raised that the contribution of technical and vocational colleges is immense in ensuring technology transfer, and mentioned that the support and follow-up of stakeholders are crucial for the college to achieve the purpose for which it was established; during her visit to the Angacha First Level Hospital located there, She is said to have stated that Ultrasound and other medical machines were donated with support obtained from the Ministry of Health and Petros Hospital.

The information we obtained from the House indicates that the Honorable Ato Teshome Heramo, who visited Kembata Zone, another zone in the Central Region, stated that every state sector should plan and work on questions that need to be answered by all sector offices, and that issues that must be addressed at the woreda, zone, regional, and federal levels will be followed up to get answers through the representatives. The Honorable W/ro Nejatt Handarso, who crossed over to Silt'e Zone, is reported to have visited the stage of various development works being carried out at the Sankura woreda level, and the construction of the Yurap road that connects the Dijo bridge to the main asphalt road; she stated that extensive work has been done in the woreda in recent years in terms of education, health, clean drinking water, as well as urban infrastructure accessibility. For the Honorable Ato Bartema Fikadu, who went to Muhur Akilil woreda in Gurage Zone for his representation duty, the discussion participants are said to have risen that the concerned bodies should work with focus on issues that need improvement in the woreda in the road, education, water, health, and agriculture sectors. The Honorable Dr. Abrham Berta, who appeared in Eza woreda in Gurage Zone for representation work, led the constituent-elected discussion forum where the lack of electric power supply, accessibility, and service delivery in the area was raised as a severe problem; and the other representative, honorable Dr. Nejatt Girma, who went to Haba Kulito town, is also mentioned as having visited the stage reached by the child-care and addiction rehabilitation center that she started a year ago; Dr. Nejatt Girma, who also visited the International Stadium being constructed with public participation and appeared in Atoti Ulo woreda, not only made it clear that the post-2018 state is fulfilling its promise to the public and is working with focus to resolve the infrastructure and good governance questions raised by the public, but is also quoted as saying that the country is currently focusing on home grown economic reform to solve the existing problems and prepare for the future, while the country is under pressure from external situational realities and internal pressures and foreign aid channels are being cut off.

The Honorable W/ro Worknesh Mohammed, who returned from Shashogo Woreda and went down to Anlemo Woreda in Hadiya Zone, discussed repeatedly raised issues of peace and security, good governance, infrastructure, and project implementation with her constituents; the House report also shows that in East Badawacho Woreda in Hadiya Zone, the Vice-Chairperson of the Plan, Budget, and Finance Affairs Standing Committee of the House of Peoples' Representatives, the Honorable Dr. Abrham Alemayehu and the Honorable W/ro Nebyiat Tilahun, held discussions with the people drawn from the community that elected them regarding issues of peace, economic, social, infrastructure, job creation, and good governance. The honorable, Nebyiat Tilahun, who also reached Siraro Badawacho Woreda, is quoted as having stated that the development works being done to solve the clean drinking water problem in the woreda are encouraging. It is said that the Honorable Ato Abenezer Bekele led the constituent-elected discussion forum in Gimibichu town, where it was mentioned that even though the results achieved in all sectors in the electoral district during the past years of change are encouraging, infrastructure issues that had been raised for long still have not been solved today. It is mentioned that issues related to mineral development, as well as questions regarding workers' salaries and debt transfer, were raised at the discussion forum led by the Honorable W/ro Mulunesh Lamore, who went to Kontab 03 electoral district in Hadiya Zone of the region.

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## What Issues were raised from the Amhara Region?



The Honorable W/ro Genet Bete, a member of the Health, Social Development, Culture, and Sports Affairs Standing Committee of the FDRE House of Peoples' Representatives, while observing the works done and the service delivery of the Debre Berhan Health Center and Health Department in the Debre Berhan electoral district of the Amhara Region.

The Honorable Dr. Mahteme Haile was the first to execute his representation work by traveling to the Amhara Region in the month of August, and he is said to have indicated that even though the foundation stone was laid two years ago through the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs to construct a rehabilitation center for women who suffered sexual violence in Dessie town, the construction has not yet started, and the executive body that took responsibility to build the construction should enter into construction immediately. Beyond this, he informed the attendees about the stage reached by the work being carried out through the National Dialogue Commission to bring lasting peace in Ethiopia, and the support expected from the city residents for the upcoming nationwide discussion. The Honorable W/ro Genet Bete, who traveled to Debre Berhan Region, is said to have observed that the Debre Berhan Comprehensive Specialized Referral Hospital has started solving the service delivery problem, which previously caused complaints, step by step by modernizing its system with the help of technology. The House's news source reported that the representatives, besides discussing with residents of Chacha Sub-city located in that same town, also stated that she will continue to work to ensure that the development and good governance questions asked by the community receive responses by presenting and following up with the executive bodies at every level. It is reported that the Honorable Ato Yesuework Tafes, who led the discussion forum in Shola Gebeya, stated that the public representation work he carry out by going to their selected area twice a year helps to check whether the laws enacted by the House ensure the public's benefit and also to identify the laws that need to be amended; the Honorable W/ro Kidist Araya, who was present in North Wollo, is said to have urged the concerned body to fulfill its role to ensure complete work is done on the Honey Museum located in Lalibela town, as its duration since establishment has a wide gap from its intended purpose; beyond this, the information released by the House indicates that the representative, who held a constituent-elected forum with community members drawn from Lasta, Bugna, and Lalibela town, urged everyone to play their part in stabilizing peace.

The Honorable W/ro Genet Bete, a member of the Health, Social Development, Culture, and Sports Affairs Standing Committee of the FDRE House of Peoples' Representatives, while observing the works done and the service delivery of the Debre Berhan Health Center and Health Department in the Debre Berhan electoral district of the Amhara Region.

## What was heard from Oromia . . .



The Honorable W/ro Sadia Aman, at the constituent-elected forum held in Beltu town, Legehida Woreda, in East Bale Zone, in the electoral district she represents.

It is reported that the Honorable Ato Dube Julo, who traveled to East Guji Zone in the twelfth month of the year to fulfill his constitutional responsibility, informed the discussion participants that he would present the many questions raised by the public to the executive bodies of the government at every level so that the government can respond to them. The Honorable W/ro Lomi Bedo, the Deputy Speaker of the House of Members of Parliament, who went to East Shewa Zone for this representation work, mentioned that the public representation work carried out twice a year has a significant contribution in checking the implementation of the laws enacted by the House of Peoples' Representatives; the Deputy Speaker is quoted as saying that the House is ready to examine and amend any laws that hindered the implementation process. It is reported that the Honorable Ato Sintayehu Tilahun made it clear that questions raised by the public regarding good governance, social, economic, and peace issues should be given attention and answered timely; the Honorable Ato Shumi Ayano, who visited Methara, is said to have consulted with the local public on issues of peace and security, development, good governance and service delivery, as well as the implementation of projects.

During that rainy month of August, the Honorable W/ro Araare Mosisa, who crossed over to Dendi in West Shewa, is said to have not only made it clear that the youth should properly fulfill their role for the peace currently achieved in the woreda to be continuous, but also held a forum focused on peace and development with the youth of Anicha town. For the Honorable Dr. Haji Kedir, who was present in Arsi Zone of that same Oromia Region for his representation work, the discussants are said to have asked for lasting solutions to be provided to the public questions that have not yet received answers. The Member of Parliament, Dr. Haji, who also consulted with the residents of Ticho woreda during his representation work, stated that the woreda's investment flow is at an encouraging level, and the House report further quoted him as saying that the capacity for investment flow should be increased to facilitate the woreda's urban services and to create more job opportunities. Her honorable, W/ro Jamanesh W/Michael, who appeared in the western part of that same zone, is quoted as saying, I have confirmed that the questions that the town residents were asking previously are partially receiving answers. The Honorable Professor Qasim Kimo, who arrived in Shashamane town in West Arsi Zone, besides visiting the various development works and projects being carried out in the woreda, is said to have urged the Shashamane branch of the Ethiopian Electric Utility to provide a lasting solution to the problems in a way that the kebeles that have not yet received electricity service become beneficiaries of the service.

Like all other members of the House, the Honorable W/ro Letifa Aba Sabi, who traveled to Jimma for public representation work, is reported to have mentioned that the participation of the city residents is significant for the rapid development the city is registering; the Honorable W/ro Aisha Sheikhshifa, who arrived in Dedo Woreda of that same city, is quoted as saying that the service delivery of the Sheki Health Center located within the woreda is improving. The Honorable W/ro Muslima Reshid, who discussed with residents of Limu Kosa Woreda and Limu Genet town in the city, is said to have mentioned that the community's desire for development and the work being done are highly encouraging.

The Honorable W/ro Sadia Aman, who appeared in East Bale Zone in the month of August, stated that the public questions that cannot be solved at the zone level will be presented to the concerned bodies; and the information we obtained from the House indicates that for the Honorable W/ro Fantaye Legesse, who arrived in Ginner Woreda of that same zone, the main questions raised by the discussing public included drug shortages, lack of infrastructure expansion, lack of electricity access in most kebeles, as well as clean drinking water and network problems. The Honorable Professor Mohammed Abdo, Chairperson of the Urban, Infrastructure, and Transport Affairs Standing Committee of the House, who went to Bedelo Mena Woreda in the zone, is quoted as having made it clear that since soil easily slides into the main distribution canal of the Welmel River irrigation project during the rainy season, corrective action needs to be taken before the next rainy season to prevent this. It is reported that the Honorable Ato Wege Kufa, who visited Shashamane, stated that the coordinated work of government offices is crucial to quickly answer the public's development questions; the information obtained from the House indicates that for Professor Qasim Kimo, who executed his representation work in Wotera Shagule and Jalo Woredas of that same zone, the main questions raised, and on which he gave explanations, included infrastructure accessibility, shortage of input supply in health institutions, electricity and network accessibility, housing problems, quality of education, supply of improved seeds, high cost of living, and good governance gaps.

Qelem Wollega is one of the Oromia Zones covered by the representation work in the month of August. The Honorable W/ro Bayush Birhanu, who went to Jimma Horo and Gawo Qebe Woredas in the zone for this duty, is said to have heard that the failure to implement the planned electric power supply expansion in the kebeles of the woredas has caused public dissatisfaction. The Honorable Nesredin Abdulmusin, who arrived in West Hararge Zone, is said to have stated that the projects carried out in health institutions to facilitate service delivery in the zone are bringing tangible results. The Honorable W/ro Letifa Abatemam, who headed to Jimma Zone, is reported to have held discussions with zone and woreda leaders, and at all administrative levels, as well as with various

community segments; the Honorable Moga Ababulgu, who arrived in Gomma Woreda of that same zone, is quoted as having stated that encouraging responses have been given to questions previously raised by the public. The information indicates that the Honorable W/ro Jamanesh W/Michael, the Member of Parliament for Negelle Arsi town in the House of Peoples' Representatives, in turn, gave feedback to the city administration after consulting with the community she represents. For the Honorable Dr. Ruqiya Aliyi, who appeared in Gedab Hasassa Woreda in West Arsi Zone for her representation work, the discussants are said to have primarily raised questions about good governance, electricity and drinking water problems, and the road issue of Ardaita College. The discussants asked the Honorable W/ro Chaltu Mohammed for a lasting solution to the problem that the Dedo Nada rural road is unable to provide service despite being repaired every year; the Honorable W/ro Negasse Bayisa, the representative for the electoral district located in Wenchi in South West Shewa Zone, is also quoted as having similar good governance questions raised to her, and she gave responses and explanations. The Honorable Dr. Fekadu Mengistu, who went to West Shewa Zone, was heard saying that the government is working with focus to solve peace and security, as well as social and economic problems.

In this same Oromia Region, Arsi Zone, the Honorable Dita Nura, who visited various projects and agricultural development activities, is quoted as saying that the objective of the observation was to assess the status of the development works being implemented in the woreda to ensure the public's benefit from development, with the aim of encouraging those that are at a good level and supporting those that are delayed. For the Honorable W/ro Ayantu Guteta, who traveled to East Wollega, the discussants are said to have raised questions for factories or industries to be expanded for them, given the potential capacity in the woredas. The Honorable Dr. Bazuayehu Degefa, who consulted with his constituents in Jimma Arjo Woreda in East Wollega, is quoted as saying that the Arjo Dedessa Sugar Factory is completing preparations to begin operation in the next budget year.

The Honorable W/rt Feyma SheJemal Abamacha, who was present in Jimma, while indicating that the government has done extensive work to solve questions that were previously raised in constituent-elected forums; the Honorable Fikadu Mosisa, who arrived in Buno Bedele Zone, is said to have explained the main economic, social, political, infrastructure, and diplomatic works done by the government to his constituents. The Honorable Juhar Mohammed, who held a constituent-elected discussion in West Hararge Zone, stated that lasting peace is an indispensable matter to fundamentally answer development questions, and is said to have urged the community to work by standing guard for peace. It is reported that the Western Zone Representative, the Honorable Dereje Debela, had questions raised to him such as health, electric service, roads, the rising price of fertilizer, and the high cost of living; and for the East Wollega Zone Representative, the Honorable W/ro Elsabete Ejigu, similar good governance questions were raised by her constituents, and she also provided explanations.

Buno Bedele Zone, located in this same Oromia Region, was also one of the zones where the representation work of the Members of Parliament was carried out in the month of August. The Honorable W/ro Alemnesh Birhanu, who was present in the zone, is mentioned as saying that she will ensure that the questions raised by the discussants receive responses from the executive officers at every level; the House report indicates that similar good governance questions were presented to the Honorable Fahmi Ali, who traveled to East Hararge Zone. The Honorable W/ro Fanos Hailu, who traveled to North Shewa Zone, discussed with her constituents on peace and security, as well as on development and good governance; and the Honorable Khalid Abamacha was the one who stated that encouraging development works are being carried out in Shebe Sombo Woreda in Jimma Zone. The Honorable W/ro Tsige Denboba also consulted with the constituents of Sululta Woreda; the Honorable S/r Amira Mohammed consulted the constituents of Adabultu and Desa towns in West Hararge Zone, and the Honorable W/ro Aregash Tekle, for her part, consulted the residents of Bedesa town on good governance, democratic questions, and infrastructure issues.

The House information indicates that the Honorable W/ro Etagne Eshetu, who arrived in Illu Ababor Zone, held a constituent-elected discussion focused on development, good governance, and infrastructure issues; the Honorable Ame Abdella, in turn, is said to have led a discussion forum on issues raised by his constituents, being present in Hawi Gudina Woreda in Michata electoral district of West Hararge Zone.

## To the South Ethiopia Region . . .

In the month of August, another one of the regions where the Members of Parliament executed their constitutional representation work was the South Ethiopia Region. The Honorable Melese Mena, who headed to that region at the beginning of this month, is quoted as having made it clear that the regional government should strengthen and continue its comprehensive effort to provide appropriate responses to the questions raised by the public. The Chairperson of the Standing Committee for State Development Organizations Affairs in the House of Members of Parliament was also present in Wolaita Zone and, mentioning that the works being done in various areas regarding seedling planting are commendable, he also said that they should be strengthened and continued. The Honorable W/ro Tigist Tadele, who headed to Sawla town in the region, is reported to have presented the development and good governance questions raised in all areas of Gofa Zone in detail to the Zone Administration Council; the Honorable Ato Gashyalew Gelaw, for his part, is said to have discussed with his constituents in Beto town. The House report indicates that the Honorable Matama Maka, who went to the area surrounding Kolango Woreda in Bale Zone, had a discussion forum with the local community; the Honorable Dr. Awoke Amzaye, who arrived in Shafele Kebele in Gorka Woreda, is quoted as having urged that the woreda and zone leaders at every level must provide responses to the questions raised by the discussants.

The Honorable Kereyu Banata, the Representative of the Head of the Secretariat in the House of Members of Parliament, who appeared in Kele town in Kore Zone, located in this same Southern Region, for similar constitutional representation duties, is quoted as saying that engaging in charity work does not require age, gender, ethnicity, or religion. The Honorable Aknawe Kauza, who arrived in South Omo Zone, made it clear that the government will focus on ensuring that the questions raised by the public receive answers step by step; the Honorable Ato Eshetu G/Mariam, for his part, is said to have held a constituent-elected discussion in Maji Woreda. It is reported that the Honorable Agu Deban was the one who gave feedback to the development and good governance questions raised by the public of South Omo Zone; the Honorable Ato Gashyalew Gela is quoted as having given explanations on the issues that were answered based on the questions raised by the public in the previous discussion and on the points for discussion with the public in the future. The Honorable Gizachew Ayele, the representative for the Bule electoral district in Dilla, stated that the government must work with commitment to answer the public's development and good governance questions; and the information that the forum discussants stated that the question of Gedeo Television, which was an issue among the community, has received a response, was heard from the Honorable Dr. Engineer Sileshi Kore.

The Honorable Engineer Abiyot Delelegn, who was present at the constituent-elected forum held in Ari Zone of the South Ethiopia Region, is quoted as having presented the major activities that were made part of the plan to be implemented in the 2018 budget year. The Honorable W/ro Mitikinesh Cheleke is reported to have discussed with her constituents from Daramalo Woreda and Wacha town; the Dita Woreda Representative, the Honorable Dr. Adane Alto, is quoted as having explained to the local public that since the country's Constitution follows a parliamentary system, the legislative, executive, and judiciary branches are distinguished and are fulfilling their roles. The Honorable Kedir Adem, who traveled to Burji, presented the questions of peace, development, and good governance raised by the public at the discussion forum;

the Honorable W/ro Tsehay Bekele, in turn, is quoted as saying that work is being done in coordination with the concerned bodies to answer the development and good governance questions raised by the public step by step. The Honorable W/ro Kibinesh Shiferaw was heard saying, For consecutive years, we have been discussing with the public we represent regarding issues of peace and security, development, social affairs, and good governance; the Honorable Endalkachew Asrat, for his part, is said to have discussed with the public he represents so that the visible development and good governance problems can find lasting solutions. The House information indicates that the Honorable W/ro Tigist Tadele was the one who discussed with the residents of Melo Koza Woreda and Laha town; the Honorable W/ro Mekdes Desta, who was present for representation work in Damot in Wolaita Zone, is quoted as having visited the development works done and being done in the woreda, along with the woreda coordinators.

The information released by the House indicates that the Honorable W/ro Etaferahu Mota, a Member of the FDRE House of Members of Parliament, visited the Ade Shanto Health Center located in the region; the Honorable W/ro Kibinesh Shiferaw, who went to Yirgacheffe, is quoted as having told her constituents that discussions will be held with the relevant government bodies to resolve the development and good governance questions raised by the public that have not received timely responses. The information released by the House shows that the Hamer Woreda Member of Parliament, the Honorable Sister Goyiti Wancho, visited the development works being carried out in Eria Qayisa Kebele, and emphasized that the community should have an active and ownership-based participation in the development works carried out in the area.

## What Issues Did Dire Dawa Say Concerned It?



The Honorable Dr. Biftu Mohammed, while consulting with her constituents in the kebeles under the Bio Awale Cluster in Dire Dawa City Administration;

The Honorable Dr. Biftu Mohammed, who traveled to the city administration of Dire Dawa in the month of August, is quoted as having pointed out that the public must prioritize peace so that development and good governance questions that arise in the future receive responses, and she urged that the concerned bodies should work by taking responsibility at every level. The House information indicates that the other Member of Parliament for the city, the Honorable Abduljuwad Mohammed, praised and thanked the community for the questions that were answered from those rose in the past, and stated that the questions raised were appropriate in a way that understands the country's capacity to answer development questions. The Honorable Dr. Biftu Mohammed is said to have led the discussion where the Qela'ad cluster communities raised the problems they have regarding infrastructure network expansion, especially related to drinking water and irrigation water supply.

## What Was Raised from Southwest Ethiopia?



The Honorable W/ro Alemnesh G/Mariam, the Representative for the Beha Cluster in Decha Woreda, Cheri Regular Electoral District, in Kafa Zone, while consulting with the community alongside the local administration bodies.

In the Southwest Ethiopia Region, which was included in the representation work of the month of August covered in this edition of Enderasie, the Honorable Dawud Mohammed, who was present at the forum during the constituent-elected discussion led by the Members of Parliament and regional council members, is reported to have stated that the necessary consensus was reached with the executive institutions regarding the development questions raised in the previous forum with the electing public. The Honorable Azmera Andemo, who was present in Shekibedo and Goja Kebeles, was heard saying that closely consulting with the public who gave their affirmative vote and elected them will move the country forward; the other Member of Parliament, the Honorable W/ro Fanaye Melese, is quoted as having said that since the Prosperity Party is playing its role in nation-state building, the youth must be at the forefront in all sectors. The Honorable W/ro Alemnesh G/Mariam, who appeared in Kaffa Zone, made it clear that discussions will be held with the concerned government bodies to resolve the development and good governance questions that are repeatedly raised by the public and have not received timely responses. It is reported that the Honorable Fikadu Badlba, the Representative of Me'en in the FDRE House of Members of Parliament, emphasized that he will work with the concerned government bodies so that the infrastructure questions raised by the public receive appropriate responses; the Honorable W/ro Aregash Kifile, for her part, is quoted as having stated that many infrastructure questions have received answers in Me'enit Goldia Woreda, and that they will work together to ensure that the remaining unfinished infrastructure works receive responses. The Honorable Eshetu G/Mariam, after observing the solar power generating projects being constructed in Maji Woreda, is reported to have mentioned that the community is a people who have lived longing for light for several decades, and that he will discuss with the government body at every level to resolve the challenges created both locally and regionally that hinder the project.

The House information indicates that the Honorable W/ro Zemu Tesfaye, who arrived in Sheko town in this same region for similar constitutional duties, will present the questions raised by the discussion participants to the executive bodies in each sector so that they can receive appropriate responses; the Honorable W/ro Fanaye Melese, the Representative of Kaka electoral district, is said to have held a discussion on development and good governance with community representatives drawn from the 13 kebeles in the woreda.

The Honorable Kochito G/Yesus was reported as saying that Members of Parliament need to go down and listen to the questions raised by the public to properly fulfill the responsibility given to them; the Honorable W/ro Eyerusalem Lewi, for her part, is quoted as saying that regarding corridor development works, in addition to the government, the community should continue to be strengthened in its rapid work by contributing from its pocket and giving up its holdings. For the Honorable W/ro Aster Keftaw, who arrived in Gessa Chare town in the region, the participants raised that all the residents of the town have faced problems because the clean drinking water project was not completed; the Honorable Tesfaye Bangu, who appeared in Dawro Zone, is quoted as having explained during his discussion with his constituents that road infrastructure plans, specifically, that were planned by the Federal Government and approved by the House of Parliament, have also secured initial budget. The information obtained from the House quotes the Honorable Eyasu Sala, who traveled to Konta in that same region, as having mentioned that the development and good governance questions raised by the public at various times are being answered step by step; the Honorable W/rt Tidenek Guldu, the Representative of the Suri people, is said to have held a discussion on good governance and development works with kebele members of the council and woreda leaders.



The Honorable Ato Tesfaye Bangu, Representative of Isara Tocha Electoral District in Isara Woreda, Dawro Zone, and Member of Parliament, during his discussion with the public he represents;

## What was raised in Sidama Forums?



The Honorable W/ro Alemitu Abebe, a Member of the FDRE House of Peoples' Representatives, during her consultation with the public she represents in the Dera electoral district, Southern Sidama Zone;

In the month of August, the Honorable W/ro Alemitu Abebe, who was present in Sidama Region, where various development and good governance questions were raised, just like in the preceding regions, is reported to have held an extensive discussion with her constituents regarding problems and solution directions, as well as good opportunities, concerning infrastructure fairness and accessibility, increasing productivity in the agriculture sector, and ensuring food security. The Honorable Solomon Lale, a Member of the House of Members of Parliament and Chairperson of the Agriculture Affairs Standing Committee, is quoted as saying that the fact that the questions raised by the public are receiving responses is an indication that the government is striving to ensure the public's benefit. The information released by the House indicates that the other Sidama Member of Parliament, W/ro Meseret Mamo, also discussed with her constituents on issues of peace, economy, social affairs, infrastructure, and good governance. The Honorable W/ro Meselich Kaweiso, who appeared in Aleta Wondo town, observed the stage reached by newly opened road works, cobblestone paving work, the construction of the city stadium, as well as the newly built health center; the Honorable Dr. Selamawit Mengesha is also said to have held a discussion with residents drawn from various segments of the community in that same town.

## To the Ethiopian Somali Region...



The Honorable W/ro Ayan Ali, during her discussion with the zone and woreda leaders regarding the development questions raised by the public in Shinile Zone;

The information from the House of Members of Parliament indicates that the Ethiopian Somali Region, located in the eastern part of Ethiopia, hosted two of its Members of Parliament in the month we covered. The Honorable Faisal Odowa, who arrived in Shebelle Zone, visited the road construction between Gode and Hargele, which is 100 kilometers long; the Honorable W/ro Ayan Ali, who went to Shinile Zone, for her part, is quoted as having stated that she discussed with the concerned bodies to find answers to the development questions raised by the public.

## And from Afar...



The Honorable Atto Abdu Hassen, a Member of the House of Peoples' Representatives, during his discussion with the project managers regarding the road project construction in Afar Region;

Among the Ethiopian Members of Parliament who arrived in Afar Region during the rainy season, the first was the Honorable W/ro Fatuma Ali Ibrahim, who traveled to Argobba Special Woreda, and she is quoted as having stated that among the questions raised by the community and the administration council in the past budget year, primarily the phone network of Gacheni town and questions related to fertilizer were answered to a certain extent. In addition, the Honorable W/ro Fatuma Ali promised that she would present the development, good governance, social service, as well as economic benefit questions raised by the public to the executive bodies at every level so that they can receive responses. The other Member of Parliament, the Honorable Abdu Hassen, is also reported to have held a discussion with the project managers regarding the road project construction being carried out in the region.

## What Did the Addis Ababa Residents Say?



The Honorable Professor Eyasu Elias and the Honorable Dr. Birhanemeskel Tena, Members of the House of Peoples' Representatives, during the constituent-elected forum they held with the constituents and leaders of Arada Sub-city in Addis Ababa.

Apart from Dire Dawa, the second administrative city, Addis Ababa, also saw public representation work carried out in the month of August. The Honorable Dr. Kheireddin Tezera, State Minister of the Ministry of Peace, who appeared in Kolfe Keranio Sub-city, was heard saying that the projects carried out by the government and the public collaboratively at every level have made a significant contribution to improving the lives of citizens.

The Honorable Assistant Professor Endalkachew Lelisa, who arrived in Akaki Kality Sub-city, is quoted as having pointed out that residents should protect the infrastructure works done and should secure the peace of the area by coordinating with security bodies and should work collaboratively with the administration. The Honorable Professor Eyasu Elias, State Minister of the Ministry of Agriculture, is mentioned as having thanked the administration for the good governance, service delivery, and development questions previously raised by the public having received responses; the Honorable Dr. Birhanemeskel Tena, President of Kotebe University, for his part, is quoted as saying that the administration is working with focus with mature leadership and better motivation to ensure that the questions raised by the public receive responses in the 2017 budget year. The Honorable W/ro Mulu Yirga, who went to the capital city's Lideta Sub-city, is quoted as having stated that there were works done step by step with an allocated budget to solve the development and good governance questions raised by the community, and that it was possible to identify and solve problems at the federal, city, and sub-city levels.

## What Was Heard About Benishangul-Gumuz During the Rainy Season?



The representation-focused information from the House of Members of Parliament indicates that the Honorable Mubarak Elias, Vice-Chairperson of the Agriculture Affairs Standing Committee in the House of Members of Parliament, who traveled to this border region, consulted with the public who elected him on development and good governance issues. The Honorable W/ro Menahil Imran, who arrived in Aburamo Woreda in the region, is mentioned as having said that since the development questions raised by her constituents are necessary and appropriate, work will be done to ensure that they receive a quick response from the executive bodies at the woreda and regional level; the Honorable W/ro Tsedale Abera is said to have been the one who held her constituent-elected discussion forum with the public of Sedal Woreda in Diza town. The Honorable Dr. Mekonnen Golasa was heard saying that they will work with focus to ensure that the development and good governance questions raised by the electing public receive responses at the woreda, regional, and federal government levels; the Honorable Dr. Abdesemed Hussein, who arrived in Didesa Woreda, is quoted as having stated that he will fulfill his role in continuing the initiated development works and ensuring that the development questions raised by the community are answered step by step.

## Representation Work in Jeddah and Mecca

In this month of August, the House information indicates that the Honorable Dr. Abdesemed Hussein was the one who executed the month's sole overseas representation work. Dr. Abdesemed, who discussed with the Jeddah and Mecca community and members of the Tayfa Shenen Gibe community, is quoted as having thanked the Jeddah and Mecca community for the diplomatic work it carried out regarding the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam and for the financial contribution it made to the construction of the dam. At the conclusion of the discussion, the Member of Parliament was presented with an exemplary award from the discussion attendees for the positive contribution he is making to his country.

The Honorable W/ro Menahil Imran, Representative of the Benishangul-Gumuz Region in the House of Peoples' Representatives of the FDRE, during her discussion with the residents of the Sherkole Ahofindu Kebele Center in Aburamo Woreda regarding peace, good governance, and development works;

# Parliamentary Diplomacy

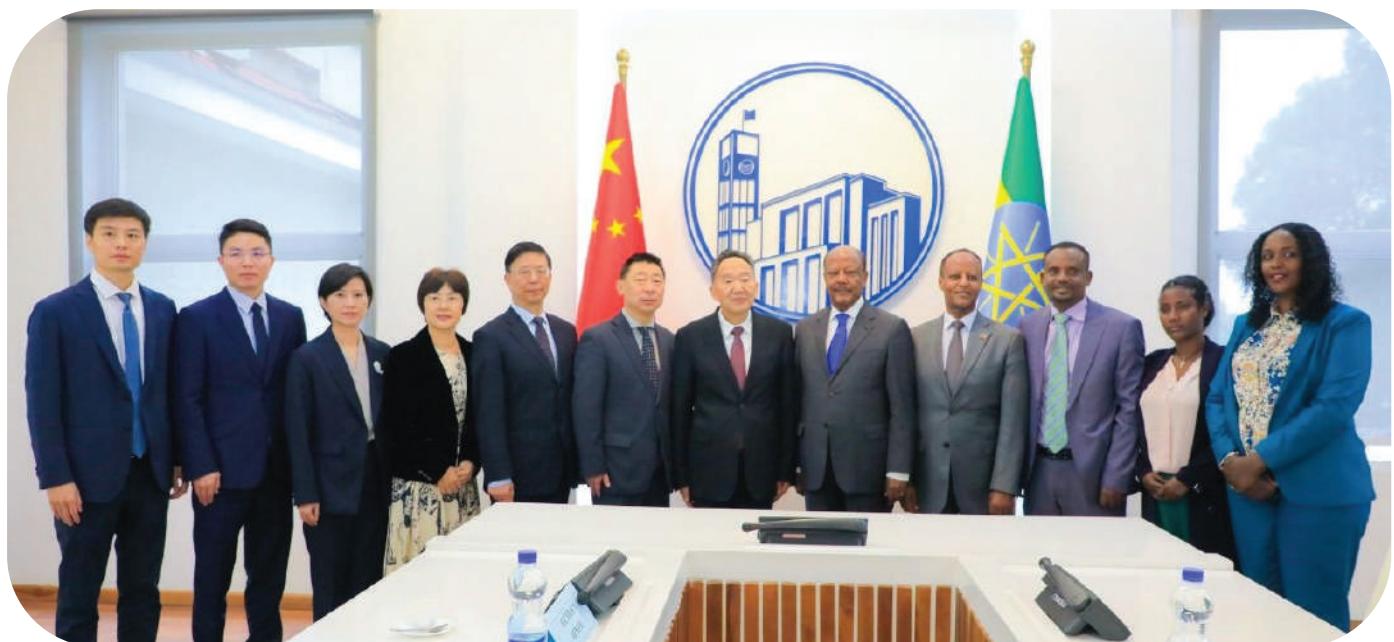
**T**he Members of Parliament of Ethiopia, in the month of August, even though they were mainly busy executing public representation work, which is one of their main constitutional responsibilities, they implemented three parliamentary diplomacy activities aside from the representation work.



The Honorable Dr. Fethi Mahdi, Vice-Chairperson of the Foreign Relations and Peace Affairs Standing Committee in the House of Parliament, His Excellency Dr. Alemu Sime, Minister of Transport and Logistics, and Dr. Jemal Beker, Ambassador of the FDRE to Pakistan, at the Turkmenistan forum;

The Members of Parliament of Ethiopia, in the month of August, even though they were mainly busy executing public representation work, which is one of their main constitutional responsibilities, they implemented three parliamentary diplomacy activities aside from the representation work.

The first parliamentary diplomacy of the Members of Parliament in this month was the participation in the Conference of Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) held in the city of Awaza, Turkmenistan, organized by the United Nations. The Ethiopian delegation present at that international forum is quoted as having discussed various issues with the Speaker of the Turkmenistan Parliament. According to the House report, the Honorable Dr. Fethi Mahdi, Vice-Chairperson of the Foreign Relations and Peace Affairs Standing Committee of the House, was heard saying that it is inappropriate for landlocked countries to be exposed to various multifaceted problems due to their geographical location, and that he expects the conference to bring about concrete solutions. Dr. Fethi, who mentioned that the conference prepared a strategy called the "Awaza Program of Action" to change this, is quoted as saying that if countries properly implement the Program of Action, it can solve problems related to the sea outlet and bring tangible results.



The Honorable Dr. Alemu Sime, Minister of Transport and Logistics, who attended that same conference, for his part, said that landlocked countries are expected to work collaboratively to invest in infrastructure development and the creation and expansion of modern trade corridors. The information we obtained from the House quotes the Speaker of the Turkmenistan Parliament, D. Gulmanova, in turn, as stating that Houses of Parliament have a vital role in transforming the development plans of landlocked countries into legal frameworks and practical actions.

The second parliamentary diplomacy of the month is mentioned as being the discussion held by members of the House's Standing Committees for Foreign Relations and Peace Affairs and Democratic Affairs with a delegation drawn from the China Society for Human Rights Studies and the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. The Honorable Dr. Dima Noggo, Chairperson of the Standing Committee of the House, stated that the Chinese government is showing support and partnership in the development, human rights, and related issues that Ethiopia is undertaking; the Chairperson added that since Ethiopia is a country with extensive cultural, historical, and religious diversity, it is currently conducting a national dialogue to create an inclusive and equitable system. Reports quoted the Chairperson of the Chinese delegation, the Honorable Jiang Jianguo, for his part, as saying that China views Ethiopia as a preferred diplomatic partner in Africa.



The Standing Committees for Foreign Relations and Peace Affairs and Human Resource Development, Employment, and Technology Affairs, during their discussion with the Austrian Parliamentary Delegation,

The third parliamentary diplomacy event of the month of August was where the Honorable Dr. Negerie Lencho, Chairperson of the Human Resource Development, Employment, and Technology Affairs Standing Committee of the FDRE House of Members of Parliament, stated that Austria holds the foremost position among European Union countries that provide financial support for Ethiopia's development. Dr. Negerie, who further mentioned that Ethiopia is undergoing a transition in the economic, social, and political fields, is quoted as having said that Austria is making a significant contribution in the education and health sectors. The Honorable Dr. Fethi Mahdi, the other participant in the forum, for his part, expressed that Ethiopia is making great efforts through the African Union and IGAD to establish peace in the region, and he was heard mentioning that the internal conflict in the country was resolved through agreement, and a consultation commission was established to ensure peace and strong works are being carried out.

The Honorable Ambassador Dina Mufti, Chairperson of the Ethio-European and Western European Friendship Group, is quoted as having told the Austrian delegation that Ethiopia is making its own effort to bring peace to Somalia and Sudan and also to the region. Axel Kassegger, Member of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Austrian Parliament and President of the Sub-Saharan Parliamentary Friendship Group, pointed out that Austria and Ethiopia are countries with a strong friendship that has lasted for many years, and is quoted as saying that Austria supports the reform works that the Ethiopian government is undertaking. Axel, who did not end there, recalled that his country, Austria, is also a landlocked country in connection with being landlocked, and pointed out that they are working collaboratively with neighboring countries.

## Bridge's Brief Survey Observation on the Parliamentary Diplomacy

The Members of Parliament of Ethiopia, including this year which has five days left to conclude, have carried out parliamentary diplomacies covering multifaceted topics over the past four years. Especially in the last two years, they have been busy executing intense diplomatic activities around the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam and in recent months, around Ethiopia's right to a sea outlet.

This August edition of Enderasie has chosen to briefly cover the following related points:- What is parliamentary diplomacy? What is its goal and national benefit? What might have prevented the Members of Parliament from doing better than this?

### Regarding Parliamentary Diplomacy...

Parliamentary diplomacy is a systematic diplomatic activity of Members of Parliament that emerged in the global era, particularly in the aftermath of the Cold War, marked by the proliferation of domestic and transnational institutions; international and non-governmental, commonly referred to as the "Fourth Estate." Since that era, it has become customary to refer to the situation where the House of Members of Parliament and the Members of Parliament themselves participate in regular international conferences and even forums with bilateral national representation by this term. Parliamentary diplomacy is a type of diplomacy conducted by members of a country's House of Peoples' Representatives or Supreme Legislative body, rather than by traditional diplomats or government officials. Numerous studies on this topic mention that, it includes creating peer-to-peer relationships, exchanging ideas

and encouraging discussions among heads of state between Members of Parliament in different countries to advance common goals, collaboratively solve international challenges and enhance better understanding between nations. Parliamentary diplomacy is often conducted through bilateral or multilateral meetings, joint sessions of the House of Peoples' Representatives, conferences, and other official gatherings. These events are believed to enable Members of Parliament to share best practices, develop policy recommendations, and advance the national interests of their respective countries. Writers on the subject note that in addition to such formal meetings, creating informal connections and holding bilateral discussions also play a significant role in parliamentary diplomacy. Looking at it generally, the main goals of parliamentary diplomacy cited by the records include the following:-

- Strengthening International Cooperation: The Members of Parliament of a country can work together to solve international and regional issues that have goals such as the global impact of climate change, poverty, human rights treatment, and resolving country-specific tensions.

- **Sharing Democratic Values:** As the supreme legislators and due to their constitutional powers to oversee their respective countries' executives, Members of Parliament not only advocate for the rule of law, the enhancement of systemic transparency, and the respect for human rights, but also create opportunities to share the tangible experiences they have gained from the implementation of their own country's democratic system through their parliamentary diplomacy activities; through this, they make a significant contribution to the development of their countries' democracy.
- **Influencing their Country's Foreign Policy:** By relying on the experiences they gain from various diplomatic activities, they assist the executive by presenting views they believe would be beneficial to include in the foreign policy as policy input; in other words, beyond being a complement to foreign affairs diplomacy, it also creates opportunities to correct foreign affairs implementation shortcomings.
- They utilize the conferences and other bilateral forums they participate to attract transnational trade and international investment flows. Beyond that, Members of Parliament can work together to identify and resolve trade and investment barriers between their countries.

These goals also provide opportune platforms for legislators to build relationships, share best practices, and solve common international challenges. The diplomatic role of Members of Parliament is strengthened indirectly based on their constitutional authority to oversee the executive's foreign policy, ratify international agreements, and hold public discussions on international issues. This also helps the legislative body to act as a crucial check on the government's foreign relations, and at the same time, it is believed to enable the country to further showcase its perspective on international affairs and influence the atypical perspectives of other countries.

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### **The Path of the Ethiopian representatives**

The current FDRE Constitution is a widely discussed topic for giving ample space to the parliamentary diplomacy activities of Ethiopian Members of Parliament. In this regard, the House of Members of Parliament has been actively participating in parliamentary diplomacy as a core part of its work for some time now. In light of the goals we briefly mentioned above, the diplomacy carried out in bilateral and multilateral forums, including this month of August, has involved coordinating Ethiopia's relations with the Houses of Peoples' Representatives of other countries and with international organizations, and in doing so, has effectively supported the FDRE's official diplomatic functions.

Beyond this, from reviewing and ratifying international agreements made by the executive to engaging with international institutions such as the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the Pan-African Parliament, it has voiced Ethiopia's position to ensure that Ethiopia's national interests are implemented in line with such agreements; examples of this are the activities carried out regarding the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam and the question of a sea outlet. Through these activities, it seems plausible to say that the House of Peoples' Representatives has fulfilled its role for Ethiopia's diplomatic image on the international stage.

### **Strong Terrains**

- **Membership in International Institutions:** The membership of the House of Members of Parliament in international institutions such as the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) has enabled the Ethiopian representatives to make Ethiopia's voice heard in international discussions to solve complex international and regional challenges and to foster peace and understanding.
- **Active Diplomacy on Key Issues:** The Standing Committee for Foreign Relations and Peace Affairs, which is primarily responsible for such parliamentary diplomacy, the Speaker of the House, and the sixteen Friendship Groups within the House of Peoples' Representatives have made a significant diplomatic contribution, both bilaterally and in multilateral forums, particularly around the GERD and to counter national influence from obstructive countries and institutions, ranging from neighboring countries to those overseas, regarding the GERD issue.
- **Strengthening Ties for Development:** It is not difficult to realize that parliamentary diplomacy has played a positive role in strengthening existing national and institution specific ties, and even in creating new destinations, concerning humanitarian aid and support, investment flow, and various social developments.
- **Explaining National Initiatives:** The contribution made by the Members of Parliament, by leveraging their membership in a democratically legitimate institution, in explaining important efforts like the national dialogue to their peers and other countries, especially their striving for the federal government to gain diplomatic acceptance on this matter, can be considered a positive aspect of the FDRE's representatives' diplomacy.
- Although it should not be said last, at least for the four years we mentioned, the parliamentary diplomacies they have carried out; which, as indicated by information from the House, have allowed them to use the experiences gained to see their shortcomings and take corrective measures on activities they felt were lacking; is a notable aspect of the Members of Parliament's parliamentary diplomacy, according to our institution's observation.

## Challenges

- Institutional Capacity Limitations: The lack of sufficient trained professionals profoundly and efficiently support the bodies mentioned above that implement parliamentary diplomacy; mainly the Standing Committee for Foreign Affairs and the sixteen Friendship Groups of the House; can be considered one challenge.
- Need for Specialized Training: It is undoubtedly expected that Members of Parliament, in these parliamentary diplomacy activities, should have a deep understanding not only of national issues but also of the surrounding Horn of Africa and regional power dynamics, all the way to geopolitics and international laws; it is not difficult to realize that one of the options to build such capacity is to provide continuous agenda focused training and thus, the lack of sufficient professional training on these topics can be considered one of their challenges, preventing them from carrying out their diplomatic duties to the extent desired by themselves.
- Numbers of Diplomacy Compared to Peers: Ethiopian Members of Parliament seem to lag slightly behind in the number of parliamentary diplomacies implemented by their counterparts in other countries, such as neighboring Kenya; although there may be various reasons for this, since they could have shown better performance had they implemented a larger number of diplomacies, this can also be raised as a challenge.
- Inactivity in IGAD Inter-Parliamentary Union: As understood by the survey conducted by Enderasie, the House is actively participating in multilateral diplomatic forums such as the African, Caribbean and Pacific-European Union (ACP-EU), Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Pan-African Parliament and the African Parliamentary Union. However, it is necessary to mention the challenge that the IGAD Inter-Parliamentary Union, which was founded in Addis Ababa in 2004 with Ethiopia's initiation and whose secretariat is also in Addis Ababa, has not made a significant movement to date commensurate with its founding purpose. Although this situation is not solely the concern of the FDRE House of Peoples' Representatives, it can be considered a weakness in parliamentary diplomacy for the initiator and host country.

## Few Policy Recommendations

- Focus on the Sea Outlet and Port Question: The contribution made by the bodies mentioned above, who are directly responsible for parliamentary diplomacy, including the Members of Parliament themselves, regarding the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, is undeniable; however, given that there are still many diplomatic tasks to be done around the dam, additional diplomatic work, perhaps requiring specific facets, remains, and Bridge believes they will pursue it to the extent required by the process.

Beyond this, however, it is clear that they are now at a critical diplomatic juncture: the question of Ethiopia's right to a sea outlet and the associated historically reasoned port demand. In this regard, it is a public truth that a greater readiness is expected of them for this crucial national issue, drawing from the successes and challenges of their previous

- **Continuous Engagement with the Diaspora:** In the matter of the sea outlet right mentioned above, as well as on other timely and long standing national issues, Enderasie believes that the Members of Parliament must continuously consult with members of the Ethiopian Diaspora to execute more profitable diplomacies than they have thus far; for this, it seems necessary to remind them to use additional options, including digital platforms, to reach the Diaspora and other alternatives extensively.
- **Integrating Economic Ties:** Given that the completed GERD and the port that Ethiopia seeks in the future are also aimed at creating growing economic ties between the country and its neighbors and other friendly nations, Bridge wants to remind the Members of Parliament to make this topic one of the pillars of their future parliamentary diplomacy activities.
- **Strengthening Economic Support:** It is not difficult to understand that the Members of Parliament have been busy mobilizing support for the implementation of the government's foreign policy at the level of both bilateral and multilateral forums; however,

Bridge wants to call on them to strengthen the mobilization of even better support; especially among countries and institutions that are said to directly or indirectly influence Ethiopia due to their strong economic status.

- **Investment in Expertise and Training:** It is undeniable that a proper understanding of global politics and the volatile socio-politics of the surrounding neighboring countries is essential for such parliamentary diplomacy; in this regard, since the Members of Parliament are absolutely not expected to build such capacity on their own, Enderasie wants to emphasize that finding ways for them to receive continuous professional training on these topics and hiring qualified research experts to analyze international issues, to the extent possible, should not be postponed at any cost.
- **Importing Democratic Best Practices:** Enderasie can't fail to remind the Members of Parliament to fulfill their responsibility as Members of Parliament by taking the experiences they gain from countries said to have built strong democratic systems from their participation in these parliamentary diplomacy activities back to their country, so that situations are created to fill the gaps in Ethiopia.
- **Expanding Diplomatic Forums:** Finally, it is clear that Ethiopia desires to increase the number and usefulness of its friendly nations; therefore, Bridge believes that the national benefit would be significant if the Members of Parliament focus more on expanding the bilateral and multilateral forums they get during their upcoming final parliamentary year than they did previously.

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## As a Conclusion ...

Ethiopia's parliamentary diplomacy has transcended years to emerge as a vital diplomatic tool for strengthening the country's international standing. Especially in the post-EPRDF political system, it is not difficult to accept that the results achieved through this diplomatic process are promising. Nevertheless, it is clear that the Members of Parliament can achieve more than the successes seen if they manage to overcome the internal and external challenges we briefly raised above as quickly as possible with the available human and material capacity. Therefore, from further strengthening the institutional capacity of the House of Members of Parliament to expanding the participation of the Diaspora and providing continuous training based on geopolitics, making their parliamentary diplomatic influence grow more on regional and international stages is an extremely relevant and necessary step for the success of Ethiopia's lasting foreign policy implementation. The concerned bodies responsible for parliamentary diplomacy must further strengthen their role in foreign policy execution. This will enable the creation of conditions that allow foreign policies that protect national interests and respect the country's sovereignty to gain more traction in all near and distant countries.

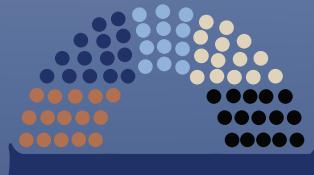


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