
Excellency Government officials,

Ambassadors,

General Officers,

Director, EASF Secretariat,

Diplomatic Corps,

Invited Guests,

Members of the Press,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government and the people, of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, I would like to welcome all of you, to this EASF's OPEN Day and which is important for creating awareness and sharing information about EASF, here in Ethiopia, Addis Ababa. I also would like to express my appreciation, to you all for finding time to attend in this occasion, which I believe, offers an opportunity, among others, to assess the security challenges and opportunities, that the Region and Africa faced in building peace and stability. Indeed, Ethiopia is greatly honored, being given the opportunity to host this meeting.

Invited guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen

The African continent and Eastern Africa Region, has witnessed decades of immense peace, and security challenges, resulting from a diverse range of factors, such as civil wars, poverty, corruption and autocratic governance. In order to address the painful conflict reality in the Africa region including: terrorism, transnational organized crime, piracy, and radicalization need a collective response and applying workable solutions.

Thus Africa needs a robust peace and security mechanism, to enhance peace and stability across the continent. That is why Africa established the Security arrangements, to address these issues effectively and collectively. Africa has devised a normative and institutional framework of rapid deployment capability, with a view to quickly averting crisis situation in the continent.

Therefore, EASF was established 10 years ago, as one of the regional security organization, with the purpose of assuring sustainable peace and stability and providing a quick response to conflicts in the Eastern

Africa Region. Since its inception, in 2004, EASF has done various policies, frameworks, organizational rules and regulations and, organizational structures in well-organized compartment. Moreover, EASF has achieved a lot by conducting different key activities, those have had major role to attain its vision, "to contribute to regional and continental peace, security, stability and enhance regional integration".

As we all know, EASF has delivered to the region, a multidimensional force with military, police and civilian components, and becomes one of the most integrated Standby Forces in the continent, having attained its full Operational Capability in December 2014, ahead of the given schedule. Furthermore, EASF has now refocused its strategy, towards post Full Operational Capability activities which are aimed at, reinforcing the region's readiness and facilitate deployment based on the decision of the authorized organ. .

It is also an important tool and instrument within the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) that, African's are being found solution for African problems, with the commitment of far-sighted sustainable peace and stability. In fact, the Eastern Africa countries

continue to make significant contributions, to the EASF capabilities, development and operations by, contributing troops, equipment, shouldering substantial costs, and most importantly, the lives of their forces.

Invited guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen

Today, the EASF Day's panel of discussion is expected to facilitate, the exchange of views on ways and means of further strengthening, the role of EASF as one of the essential tools in the maintenance of regional peace and, security as well as how to build African capabilities. I hope you will have cordial and productive discussion and will come up with fruitful outcomes that further strengthen our institution.

I would like to take this opportunity to appreciate Friends of EASF, for all valuable technical consultancy and financial support to this region.

moreover

My appreciation goes to organizers of the EASF DAY Ceremony and, also to EASF Secretariat for the commitment showed to implement the Decision of the Council of Ministers, in creating awareness and

promoting EASF in all Member States as the whole and, in particular in Ethiopia.

once more

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity, to assure our member states of Eastern Africa brothers, the commitment of the Ethiopia side, to further accelerate the engagement of Eastern Africa Standby Forces and, to enhance the cooperation in the area of peace and security matters. With these few remarks I'm honored to declare that the EASF DAY is officially open.

I thank you!