



## PRESS RELEASE

### **Cessation of Hostilities Agreement between the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the Tigray Peoples' Liberation Front (TPLF)**

*Pretoria South Africa, 2 November 2022:*

The African Union (AU) High Representative for the Horn of Africa, H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo, former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, together with the other members of the High-Level Panel for the AU-led Ethiopian Peace Process, H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta, former President of the Republic of Kenya, and H.E. Dr. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, former Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa, and member of the AU Panel of the Wise, are pleased to announce the successful conclusion of the Ethiopian Peace Talks in Pretoria, South Africa. The Talks, between the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), which were launched on 25 October 2022, sought to secure a Cessation of Hostilities Agreement between the parties, paving the way for the restoration of peace, security and stability in the Tigray Region.

The agreement marks an important step in efforts to silence the guns, and provides a solid foundation for the preservation of Ethiopia's sovereignty and territorial integrity, the immediate cessation of hostilities, the resumption of unhindered humanitarian access, the restoration of services as well as healing and reconciliation.

The Panel congratulates and commends the Parties for their commitment, diligence and stellar leadership throughout the process, and for prioritizing the Ethiopian people and the supreme interests of the Ethiopian nation. As the country embarks on this next chapter in its great history, the Panel affirms its commitment and readiness to continue accompanying the process towards a more democratic, just and inclusive Ethiopia in which youth, women and men participate fully and in peace.

The High-Level Panel expresses its gratitude to the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, for entrusting them with this historic task, and encourages the Commission to continue supporting and accompanying the implementation of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement.

The Panel is grateful to the Government and People of South Africa for hosting the Peace Talks, consistent with the spirit of African solutions to African problems. The Panel also wishes to thank the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the United Nations, the United States of America and other partners for their support towards the process.

November 2, 2022 Addis Abeba (Source: Addis Standard)

## **Joint Statement between the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the Tigray Peoples' Liberation Front (TPLF)**

Olusegun Obasanjo, the High Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, announced that AU-led peace talks in South Africa has resulted in agreement of cessation of hostilities between the federal government and Tigrayan authorities.

Representatives of the federal government and Tigrayan authorities have been locked in a highly classified peace talks led by the AU since Tuesday 25 October. This is the first formal communication on the outcome of the talks, which was scheduled to end on Sunday 30 October but has since been extended as parties continued engaging in the talks.

Both the federal government of Ethiopia and the Tigrayan authorities did not yet comment on the substances of the agreement announced by Chief Obasanjo. But on Monday Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said that the federal government is “trying to convince [the] TPLF to respect the law of the land,” to respect the constitution, to act as one state in Ethiopia,” hinting to

An agreement on immediate cessation of hostilities was one of the key outcomes expected from the peace talks, which is facilitated by Chief Obasanjo, along with former Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta and former Deputy President of South Africa Dr Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka. Representatives of IGAD, the UN and the US are said to have participated as observers.

The full details of the agreement are yet to come by, but the Chairperson of the African Union Commission Moussa Faki Mahamat has indicated in his 15 October call for “an immediate, unconditional ceasefire” along with the resumption of humanitarian services in the Tigray region. The US, whose Horn of Africa Envoy Ambassador Mike Hammer remains in South Africa and “continues to be both as a participant and an observer”, reiterated that the peace talk was aimed at achieving “an immediate cessation of hostilities, to achieve the delivery of humanitarian assistance to all Ethiopians in need, additional measures – securing measures to protect civilians, and seeing Eritrea’s withdrawal from northern Ethiopia.”

1. As per Article 3 of the Agreement for Lasting Peace and **Permanent Cessation of Hostilities**, the Representatives of the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the TPLF have agreed to announce to the people of Ethiopia and the rest of the world that after 10 days of intensive negotiations have concluded a peace agreement.
2. We have agreed to permanently silence the guns and end the two years of conflict in northern Ethiopia.
3. The conflict has brought a tragic degree of loss of lives and livelihoods and it is in the interest of the entire people of Ethiopia to leave this chapter of conflict behind and live in peace and harmony.

4. It is fundamental that we reaffirmed our commitment to safeguarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ethiopia and to upholding the Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. Thus, Ethiopia has only one national defense force. We have also agreed on a detailed program of disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration for the TPLF combatants, taking into account the security situation on the ground.
5. We have agreed that the Government of Ethiopia will further enhance its collaboration with humanitarian agencies to continue expediting aid to all those in need of assistance.
6. We have agreed to implement transitional measures that include the restoration of Constitutional order in the Tigray region, a framework for the settlement of political differences, and a Transitional Justice Policy framework to ensure accountability, truth, reconciliation, and healing.
7. To start implementing these undertakings without delay, we have agreed to stop all forms of conflicts, and hostile propaganda. We will only make statements that support the expeditious implementation of the Agreement. We urge Ethiopians in the country and abroad, to support this Agreement, stop voices of division and hate, and mobilize their resources for economic recovery and rehabilitation of social bonds.
8. The Government of Ethiopia will continue the efforts to restore public services and rebuild the infrastructures of all communities affected by the conflict. Students must go to school, farmers, and pastoralists to their fields, and public servants to their offices. The Agreement requires the support of the public for its smooth implementation. This is a new and hopeful chapter in the history of the country.
9. We express our gratitude to all actors contributing to the success of this endeavor. In particular, the African Union Commission Chairperson, the African High-Level Panel led by His Excellency former President Olusegun Obasanjo, supported by His Excellency former President Uhuru Kenyatta, and Her Excellency Dr. Phumuzile Mlambo, former Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa. We thank the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, His Excellency Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Commissioner Bankole Adeoye and his colleagues for their tireless work during these talks. We rely on their continued support as we implement the Agreement.
10. We thank His Excellency President Cyril Ramaphosa, the President of the Republic of South Africa, and Her Excellency Dr. Naledi Pandor, the Minister for the Department of International Relations and Cooperation of South Africa for the excellent facilities they put at the disposal of these talks and their words of encouragement to the parties towards these successful results. We are indebted for the hospitality accorded to us by the People and Government of the Republic of South Africa.
11. We are grateful to the people of Ethiopia for encouraging these talks and patiently waiting for the outcome. We are confident that they will embrace the results of these talks and ensure their timely implementation.

12. Finally, we are confident that friends of Ethiopia and members of the diplomatic community will lend their support in rebuilding infrastructures in affected communities and the economic recovery of the country. We call on all types of media outlets to support peace, reconciliation, unity, and prosperity in Ethiopia.

Jointly Delivered at Pretoria, the Republic of South Africa, on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2022.

## **Ethiopia peace deal hailed as a ‘new dawn’**

Published On 3 Nov 2022 3 Nov 2022 (Source: Al Jazeera and News)

*World and regional leaders welcome the peace agreement, stressing this is the first step to end the bloody war.*

Regional and world leaders have hailed [the peace agreement](#) between Ethiopia’s government and Tigray rebels, raising hopes for an end to two years of brutal conflict marked by atrocities, including killings, gang rapes and starvation.

Former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, the African Union mediator, said the agreement signed on Wednesday in South Africa marked a new “dawn” for Ethiopia.

The war, which broke out in November 2020, has pitted regional forces from the northern region of Tigray against Ethiopia’s federal army and its allies, which include fighters from other regions and neighbouring Eritrea. It has [killed thousands of people](#), displaced millions and left hundreds of thousands on the brink of famine.

Here is a quick round-up of reactions to the deal:

### **Abiy Ahmed, Ethiopia prime minister**

“The agreement signed today in South Africa is monumental in moving Ethiopia forward on the path of the reforms we embarked upon four and a half years ago.

“Our commitment to peace remains steadfast. And our commitment to collaborating for the implementation of the agreement is equally strong.”

### **Olusegun Obasanjo, head of the African Union mediation team**

“The two parties in the Ethiopian conflict have formally agreed to the cessation of hostilities as well as to systematic, orderly, smooth and coordinated disarmament.

“This moment is not the end of the peace process. Implementation of the peace agreement signed today is critical for its success.”

**Getachew Reda, the head of the Tigray delegation**

“Making peace has proved more difficult and more intractable and elusive than presiding over the killing of women and children and destruction of property.

“The war over the last two years has claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands and has turned Ethiopia, once on the cusp of great economic progress, into a bad parody of itself and caused tremendous suffering to the people of Tigray.”

**Ned Price, US Department of State spokesman**

“The African Union’s announcement of the signing of a cessation of hostilities between the government of Ethiopia and the Tigray People’s Liberation Front represents an important step towards peace.”

**Stephane Dujarric, United Nations spokesman**

“It is very much a welcome first step, which we hope can start to bring some solace to the millions of Ethiopian civilians that have really suffered during this conflict.”

**Josep Borrell, EU foreign policy chief**

“Further negotiations are encouraged to reach a permanent ceasefire agreement and launch broader political talks.”

**James Cleverly, British foreign secretary**

“Welcome important agreement between the Ethiopian Government and Tigrayan authorities to end the terrible conflict in northern Ethiopia.

“I applaud their choice of peace, and the mediation efforts of African Union, South Africa and Kenya. UK is ready to support the peace process.”

**Naomi Kikoler, a leading expert and strategist on mass atrocity at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum Center for Prevention of Genocide**

“We must remain vigilant in the days and weeks to come. All too often, civilians remain vulnerable to mass atrocity crimes as peace agreements are being implemented. Ensuring the agreement’s implementation, including the departure of Eritrean forces, whose government was not part of the negotiations, is critical.”

**Uhuru Kenyatta, former president of Kenya, facilitator of the talks**

“The lasting solution can only be through political engagement and being able to accommodate our differences, our diversity, while still remaining a united Ethiopia. It’s my hope that all parties will go back and ... begin the process of dialogue. The lasting solution can only be dialogue.”

We welcome the momentous step taken in Pretoria today to advance the African Union’s campaign to “silence the guns” with the signing of a cessation of hostilities between the Government of Ethiopia and the Tigray People’s Liberation Front. We commend the parties for taking this initial step to agree to end the fighting and continue dialogue to resolve outstanding issues to consolidate peace and bring an end to almost two years of conflict. We welcome the unimpeded delivery of humanitarian assistance and the protection of civilians that should result from implementation of this agreement.

The United States commends AU Commission Chairman Faki for his leadership as well as the extraordinary efforts of AU High Representative Obasanjo, former South African Deputy President Mlambo-Ngcuka, and former Kenyan President Kenyatta, whose facilitation led to this significant step toward peace. We also commend South Africa for generously hosting the talks.

The United States remains a committed partner to this AU-led process and to our collaboration with the UN, IGAD, and other regional and international partners to support implementation of today’s agreement. We welcome the statement of Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy expressing gratitude to the AU and share our support for his desire for an enhanced partnership to support reconstruction and development for all communities in northern Ethiopia affected by the conflict.

## **Ethiopia: Peace agreement between Government and Tigray ‘a critical first step’: Guterres**

2 November 2022 [Peace and Security](#)

**A peace deal between the Ethiopian Government and the Tigray People’s Liberation Front (TPLF) signed on Wednesday in South Africa, represents “a critical first step” towards ending the brutal two year war, [said the UN chief](#).**

In a statement issued by his Spokesperson, Secretary-General António Guterres said the *Agreement for Lasting Peace through a Permanent Cessation of Hostilities* brokered by the African Union and mediated by former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, was a promising start to finally stopping the fighting which erupted in November 2020 after months of tension, and which has destroyed so many lives and livelihoods.

### **'Bold step'**

“The Secretary General urges all Ethiopians and the international community to **support the bold step taken today** by the Federal Government of Ethiopia and the Tigrayan leadership”, the statement said.

There are around 5.2 million in need of humanitarian assistance in Tigray, including 3.8 million who need healthcare, said the UN World Health Organization on Friday, and it has been two months since the last humanitarian aid reached the region.

Earlier in the day, [WHO](#) chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said large numbers of displaced were arriving in, or moving towards Tigray's regional capital, with needs rising by the day.

Thousands have been killed, with allegations of serious human rights violations, including possible war crimes, committed by both sides.

The AU reportedly hailed the agreement as a “new dawn”, and hailed the disarmament plan which both sides have officially signed up to after weeks of extensive negotiations, including the restoration of aid supplies.

### **Resolve outstanding issues**

The Secretary-General pledged his support to the parties in the implementation of the agreement and urged both sides “to **continue with negotiations on the outstanding issues in a spirit of reconciliation** in order to reach a **lasting political settlement**, silence the guns and put the country back on the path to peace and stability.”

He appealed to all stakeholders to seize the opportunity provided by the ceasefire, “to **scale up humanitarian assistance to all civilians** in need and to restore the desperately needed public services.”

Mr. Guterres commended the AU and its High-Level Panel for the facilitation of the peace talks and South Africa, for its key role hosting the peace talks.

“The **United Nations stands ready to assist the next steps** of the African Union-led process and will continue to mobilize much-needed assistance to alleviate suffering in the affected areas”, the statement concluded.