

Senior Officials of the Ethio-South Africa Joint Ministerial Commission Meet in Pretoria



(Pretoria, March 7/2018) Senior Officials of the Ethio-South Africa Joint Ministerial Commission held their 5th meeting on Monday and Tuesday this week (March 5 and 6) in Pretoria. The aim of the meeting was to review and evaluate all areas of mutual cooperation to further strengthen existing cordial relations, and prepare the ground for the next Joint Ministerial Meeting. The meeting was co-chaired by Mr EX Makaya, Deputy Director-General at the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) of the Republic of South Africa and Mr. Ayele Lire, Director-General for Africa in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

Opening the meeting Mr. Ayele Lire, Director General for African affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, noted that Ethiopia's relation with South Africa have always been close and strategic. Mr Ayele recalled the strong coordination of positions between South Africa and Ethiopia in the informal group in the so-called G4 (that includes South Africa, Ethiopia, Nigeria and Algeria). He expressed Ethiopian interest to revitalize this group and work towards the realization of the national and continental goal to end poverty, inequality and mal-administration in Africa.

Mr EX Makaya, Deputy Director-General at the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) of the Republic of South Africa emphasised that all outstanding agreements and MoUs need to be finalised and that there was a fervent need for the implementation of all the signed ones.

The two days meeting took stock of the progress made, assessed challenges on the implementation of various cooperation agreements and MoUs and found creative and practical steps in consolidating mutual cooperation between the two countries.

In this regards, they highlighted that there are many areas of focus that need to be looked at, including in the economic, social and cultural spheres. More importantly, they have agreed that both countries need to foster people-to-people cooperation.

Ethiopia and South Africa have long standing relations that date back to the period of anti colonialism and apartheid movement of the people of South Africa. Further strengthening their ties and provide them with opportunities to further reinforce their historic relations.