

Assaita Declaration of 3rd Afar Development Conference,

December 26th to 30th 2010

We, the Afar pastoralists who gathered in Assaita represented by regional and woreda government officials, 36 pastoralist women from various woredas, 3 organizations from Djibouti, Afar and supporting guests from Germany, Britain, Australia and Sweden and in electronic – managed discussion with Afar in various countries, Afar region – based NGOs and agencies, community members and APDA members from December 26th to 30th 2010 to review development progress in the pastoralist society wish to convey this urgent message:

Realizing that there has been significant development gains since the first conference of 2004 yet cognisant of the fact there remain **critical threats to the pastoralist livelihood** in Ethiopia,

We call on **the Afar Regional State** to

- a) Put the Afar language into immediate use as the language of local administration being that all preparation and formulation to make this possible is complete
- b) Urgently implement a land - use law suited to the lifestyle of the indigenous Afar pastoralists protecting their use of grazing and water sources
- c) Urgently adopt a family law appropriate to the Afar culture, religion and their setting in Ethiopia leading to local immediate implementation at the local level
- d) Assure that all projects implemented in the pastoralist society arise from community demand utilizing local capacity that they are realistic to the lifestyle of the people
- e) Make a more concerted effort that ample Afar are trained and employed in the sugarcane project that the objective of at least 60% Afar employment in the project is achieved
- f) Work toward the refusal of the sale of kaat in the community
- g) Plan and implement appropriate recreation and learning centers for youth in all urban centers that engender cultural and language development

We call on **The Government of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia, the Afar Regional State and the International Community** monitoring human rights violations to

- a) Search out the means of immediate address at the level of the International Court censoring the dictatorial behavior of the Eritrean government in indiscriminate criminality against the Eritrean community
- b) See that critical needs of the Eritrean refugees in Ethiopia are systematically met to reasonable humanitarian standard

We call on **Afar people living in the Diaspora** to

Strengthen their effort to work alongside Afar in the homelands in securing appropriate community development and jointly address the critical issues facing Afar identity and survival.