

PROGRAMME

Afar Forum conference program 17–19 October 2008, Brussels

Afar regions face daunting challenges; among others in health, education, infrastructure, recurrent drought due to environmental degradation, political mismanagement (lack of good governance), inter and intra-tribal conflicts in the Regions.

The Afar Forum is now hosting a conference in Brussels with the following objectives: To address the socio-economic and political challenges of the Afar regions and explore a comprehensive vision and strategy, within the specific context of current Horn of African regimes, that delineates the geopolitical issues of the Afar people. Furthermore, to establish a network among Afar Diasporas that could support and contribute to the regional development such as an improved institutional and administrative functioning in terms of policy, management, planning and administrative capacity building, be the role models in mobilizing the civil society towards societal development.

**Place: Facultés universitaires Saint-Louis,
109 Rue du Marais, 1000 Bruxelles
Auditoire 300 (3e étage)**

Moderator: Amine Moussa, USA

Friday, 17/10		Speaker
9.30–10.00	Registration, Tea/Coffee	
10.00–10.05	Opening statement	Omar Hiyse, Afar Forum
10.05–10.20	Afar traditional dance	
10.15–10.20	Conference objective and general overview	Amine Moussa, USA
10.20–10.50	Presentation on Afar land, people, and culture	Abdallah Abdo, Sweden
10.50–11.00	Questions and remarks	
11.00–11.15	Tea/ Coffee break	
10.15–11.45	Democracy in Ethiopia and the negation of self rule in Afar region	Yussuf Yassin, Norway
11.45–12.15	Health and education as human rights- the case of Afar Region in Ethiopia	Kontie Moussa, Sweden
12.15–13.00	Discussion	
13.00–14.00	Lunch	
14.00–14.30	Human rights issues in Eritrea	Ahmed Yussuf, Canada
14.30–15.00	Human rights issues in Djibouti	Kassim Ahmed Dini, Political adviser of the chairman of Djibouti Human right organization, LDDH
15.00–15.30	Drought effects on the Afar and expected role of Diaspora	Hamad Yacin, Sweden
15.30–16.00	Tea/ Coffee break	
16.00–16.10	Diasporas and Peace. Patterns, Trends and Potential of Long-distance Diaspora Involvement in Conflict Settings	Ms. Andrea Warnecke, DIASPEACE, Germany
16.10–17.00	General discussion and public opinion	
17.00	Closing	

Moderator: Yussuf Yassin, Norway

Saturday, 18/9		Speaker
10.00-10.45	Somalisation of Djibouti Afars	Dr. Ali Coubba, France
10.45-11.15	discussion	
11.15-11.45	Tea/ Coffee break	
11.45-12.00	The struggle of Afar Liberation Front past and present	Omar Ali Mirah, UK
12.00-12.30	discussion	
12.30-13.30	Lunch	
13.30-14.00	The struggle of FRUD in Djibouti	Mohamed Houmado, Belgium
14.00-14.30	Discussion	
14.30-15.00	Tea/ Coffee break	
15.00-15.30	The struggle of the Red Sea Afar	Ahmed Yussuf, Canada
15.30-17.00	General discussion	
17.00	Closing	
18.00-22.30	Cultural evening	Everyone is invited

Moderator: Mohamed Balua, UK

Sunday, 19/9		
9.00-10.00	The history of Afar Forum and the future perspectives/recommendations	Abdallah Abdo
10.00-9.30	Tea/ Coffee break	
10.30-11.00	Discussion Afar Forum and Election of its leadership	
11.00-11.30.	Press Release Statement	
11.30-12.00	closing	