



AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FORUM ENDS IN ADDIS ABABA

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ADDIS ABABA, March 8 (Xinhuanet) -- The Third African Development Forum ended here on Friday afternoon with a consensus statement, stressing the importance of the African unity.

The common value embedded in African traditions, rule of law and constitutionalism formed the foundation for an effective and democratic African Union, said the statement.

The statement said African unity is the major challenge facing people of all African countries and Africa's political and economic integration is the main concern for all Africans.

During the five-day forum, about 1,200 delegates from more than 45 countries have discussed the issues such as the historical prospects for regional integration, the physical integration through infrastructure development, the economic policies for accelerating regional integration, the building of an effective union and peace security architecture.

The statement also noted that Africa's regional efforts have been hampered by many factors, including the failure to achieve economic transformation and development, the low level of implementation of treaty obligations, the conflicts and an overly economic approach that has neglected the resolution of political differences.

Progressive sharing of sovereignty is required if Africa is to achieve greater common good, it said, adding integration requires governments to forego some of their sovereign powers in both the political and economic spheres in order to achieve a more

prosperous, stable, democratic and powerful African collectivity.

The commitment by the African Heads of State to create the African Union represents the most serious attempt to achieve regional economic and political integration and the establishment of the African Union promises to place profound responsibility on African leaders at both national and regional level, according to the statement.

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