



## AFRICA NEEDS TO REDRESS PERVASIVE PITFALLS TO REALIZE REGIONAL INTEGRATION: PROFESSOR ADEDEJI

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Addis Ababa, Mar. 05 (ENA)--Africa needs to redress its pervasive socio-economic and political pitfalls if it is to fully realize the long-awaited regional integration, former Executive Secretary of the ECA said here on Tuesday.

Addressing the on-going third African Development Forum (ADF III), Professor Adebayo Adedeji said the persistent economic crisis in Africa has considerably slowed the pace of regional co-operation and integration.

He said lack of economic diversification, heavy debt burden and impacts of globalization, among others, have remained the long-term factors inhibiting Africa's economic integration.

" The linkages among the various economic sectors are still weak to the extent that many African economies do not as yet enjoy the mutually supportive sectoral interactions that are essential for building dynamic, self-reliant and self sustaining economies," he said.

He said the plague of wars and civil strifes are but violent reactions to the lack of democracy, the denial of human rights, the complete disregard of the sovereignty of the people and the lack of empowerment and accountability.

"For the future, the pursuit of economic integration must go hand in hand with the pursuit of political stability and, at least, dynamic political cooperation at sub-regional and regional levels," he said.

Professor Adedeji has also stressed the need to adopt a holistic multidimensional and interdependent approaches that would enable to set a new vision for the African regional integration.

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