



ECONOMIC INTEGRATION SAID IMPERATIVE TO ACHIEVE AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Ethiopian News Agency (ENA), Friday 8 march 2002
<http://www.telecom.net.et/-enal/Newsenglish/84359.0803.htm>

Addis Ababa, Mar. 8 (ENA)--Economic integration is imperative if Africa is to succeed its development goals and become an effective partner in the global economy.

According to a statement of consensus reached upon the conclusion of the third ADF on Friday, Africa's commitment to a common market needs to be translated into a meaningful actions to realize an effective economic integration.

The involvement of the private sector would have an irreplaceable role in helping expedite the regional economic growth, it said.

According to the statement, the political and economic integration would fulfill the aspirations of Africans of all walks of life.

Ensuring peace, security, human rights and democracy is also a precondition for any form of development as well as political and economic integration, it said.

A mutual agreement has also been reached among the participants to head off possible challenges that might encounter in the realization of regional integration.

the statement said, the African Union (AU) is a political, economic and social project that aims at creating a democratic space across Africa, developing economic development and reflecting a common African identity.

A general consensus is also reached that the success of the African Union (AU) will depend on the promotion of good governance and stakeholders' participation.

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) is Africa's own initiative aimed at realizing regional integration, the statement said.
