

Economic and Social Council

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Economic Commission for Africa Committee of Experts of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development

Forty-first meeting

Addis Ababa (hybrid), 15-17 March 2023

Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development Fifty-fifth session

Addis Ababa (hybrid), 20 and 21 March 2023

Information note for participants

The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) will host its fifty-fifth session, including the annual meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, from 15 March to 21 March 2023. It will be convened in a hybrid format at the Ethiopian Skylight Hotel in Addis Ababa.

Participants are advised to read the following information carefully, as it will help them to plan their travel and their visit to Addis Ababa.

Participants are encouraged to keep a copy of this information note with them throughout the session. In the interests of keeping costs down and safeguarding the environment, hard copies will not be made available at the meeting venue. The information note, along with all other meeting documentation, can be found on the website of the Conference (www.uneca.org/eca-events/cfm2023).

Overview

The theme of the fifty-fifth session of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development is "Fostering recovery and transformation in Africa to reduce inequalities and vulnerabilities".

The Committee of Experts will begin its work on 15 March 2023 and conclude on 17 March 2023. The ministerial segment of the Conference of Ministers will be held on 20 and 21 March 2023.

Letters of credentials

Delegations are kindly requested to submit to the Executive Secretary of ECA their letters of credentials, duly signed by the appropriate authorities of their respective Governments, at their earliest convenience.

Letters of credentials, which must indicate the names, titles and contact details of delegates nominated to attend the fifty-fifth session, can be sent by email to eca-soc@un.org with a copy to eca-un.org. Originals sent by mail should be marked to the attention of the Executive Secretary and sent to the below address:

Office of the Executive Secretary

Economic Commission for Africa



United Nations

9th Floor, Niger Building

Menelik II Avenue

P.O. Box 3002

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Questions regarding the accreditation procedure should be directed to:

Secretary of the Commission

Office of the Executive Secretary

Economic Commission for Africa

Email: eca-soc@un.org

Immigration requirements

In order to assist participants in obtaining visas upon their arrival at Bole International Airport, the secretariat of the Conference will need to receive the following documents at least 15 working days in advance:

- (a) Copy of passport (must be valid for at least 6 months beyond the expected date of entry into Ethiopia);
 - (b) Invitation letter;
 - (c) Flight details (arrival and departure);
 - (d) Name of the booked hotel.

Participants who intend to request a visa upon arrival at Bole International Airport should carry with them their personal official letter of invitation and a copy of the note verbale listing the session participants, for presentation at the time of checking in at the airport of departure and to the Ethiopian immigration authorities upon arrival. The application fee for a single-entry 30-day conference visa is \$52.

All questions relating to visas should be sent to: eca-protocolservice@un.org.

Media visa requirements

For the issuance of journalist visas (see www.evisa.gov.et/visa-types/business-visa/journalist-visa), the application procedure is the same as described above.

All questions relating to visas should be sent to: eca-protocolservice@un.org.

As from March 2023, the application fee for a single-entry, 30-day journalist visa is \$152.

Media equipment

Journalists bringing special equipment, such as professional cameras and laptops, to Addis Ababa should provide details including the type, model and serial number (if applicable) of each component to Sophia Denekew, Media Relations, by email (denekews.uneca@un.org) at least 12 working days in advance. Equipment that is not cleared by the Ethiopian Customs Authority prior to the journalists' arrival will not be allowed into the country.

Health requirements

Addis Ababa is located at an altitude of 2,400 m above sea level, which may induce altitude sickness in some people. If you have experienced altitude sickness in the past, reconsider whether you must travel to Addis Ababa. Alternatively, consult your physician to obtain appropriate medication for the condition. The risks related to altitude sickness are higher for individuals with multiple health problems (comorbidities) and can result in serious health consequences. Please discuss your health issues with your physician before embarking on the trip.

Anyone travelling to Ethiopia from countries in which yellow fever is endemic should be in possession of a valid health certificate as proof of vaccination against yellow fever. Vaccination against cholera is also required for anyone who has visited or transited through a cholera-infected area within six days prior to arrival in Ethiopia.

Individuals with chronic medical conditions must bring with them enough medication to last the entire duration of their trip to Ethiopia, as some medications may not be available in the country and thus may not be easily replaced.

Coronavirus disease protocols

All participants attending or servicing the session are expected to take at least one coronavirus disease (COVID-19) rapid test prior to the start of the meeting of the Committee of Experts and of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development regardless of their COVID-19 vaccination status.

- On 14 and 19 March, 2023, a medical team will be deployed to all the hotels listed in the annex to administer COVID-19 testing.
- The COVID-19 test will be administered from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the aforementioned hotels.
- Any participant who fails to take the test the night before the meeting for whatever reason is expected to take the test early the next morning, starting from 7 a.m., at the meeting venue, that is, at the Skylight Hotel. Medical staff will be available in a tent located at the entrance to the main building.
- Participants also have the option of taking a self-test with a kit that will be provided at the hotel. They will need to show proof of testing, in the form of the actual testing kit or an image of it, at the entrance to the conference hall.
- COVID-19 testing services will be available 24 hours a day at the United Nations Health Care Centre, located on the ground floor of the United Nations Conference Centre, on 13 and 14 March 2023 and on 18 and 19 March 2023 for all United Nations personnel servicing or attending the session. Staff members also have the option of collecting self-test kits from the United Nations Health Care Centre and taking the test at home. Those who do so will be required to provide proof of testing.
- All COVID-19 testing will be provided free of charge.
- All participants will be provided with a certificate after they undergo testing.
- All participants are expected to present the test result certificate or proof of their self-test results before joining the meeting.

- Any participant who develops flu-like symptoms during the meeting should report to health-care professionals on site and get tested.
- Participants who receive a positive COVID-19 test result are expected to stay in their hotel and join the meeting online. All participants who test positive for COVID-19 are requested to report their results to one of the United Nations Health Care Centre coordinators, Dr. Biruk (+251 904032929) or Dr. Gudisa (+251 911505417) by telephone, so that monitoring and medical services can be provided.

Participants are expected to maintain social distancing and wear a mask during their stay in the meeting hall.

Individuals who will need a COVID-19 test upon departure from Ethiopia can arrange to take one at the United Nations Health Care Centre. It takes one hour for the test results to be issued, so plan to take your test several hours before your planned departure to the airport, so as to avoid delays in obtaining results in the event that several participants require testing. A fee is charged for issuing the COVID-19 travel certificate.

Health services during the session

A standby emergency team from the Ministry of Health of Ethiopia and the United Nations Health Care Centre will be available at the Skylight Hotel (on the ground floor, adjacent to the conference registration area) during conference hours. The team will provide medical services for minor ailments and will stabilize any patients experiencing a medical emergency before transporting them to selected hospitals. These services are provided free of charge.

Participants requiring transfer to a referral hospital for laboratory testing or further treatment will cover the costs out of pocket. Participants may reach out to selected health-care facilities to receive medical services outside conference hours.

Health facilities, focal persons and their respective contact information

Facility name	name Nominated focal person		Email address	
	Dr. Biruk Girma	+251 904032929	biruk.gutema@un.org	
United Nations Health Care Centre	Dr. Gudisa Mohammed	+251 911505417	gudisa.mohammed@un.org	
	Clinic reception desk	+251 929908433		
Gesund Cardiac Centre	Dr. Chala Fekadu	+251 913573812	Chalaf46@gmail.com	
Lancet Health Services	Dr. Selamawit Zewde	+251 913411690	lozanahiruy1329@gmail.com	
	Dr. Kidist Amare	+251 912706178	Kidi.amicho@gmail.com	
Addis Cardiac Centre	Dr. Tewodros Fikremariam Nunu Tadesse (registered nurse)	+251 911502025 +251 911670245	t.fikremariam@gmail.com nunuelfu62@gmail.com	
Addis Ababa Silk Road General Hospital	Dr. Bilgun Badrakh (surgeon and main coordinator)	+ 251 940511457	steel21steel21@gmail.com	

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	Dr. Anvar Makhmudov (surgeon and medical director)	+251 902108002	makhmudov.anvar@gmail.com
	Liubov Pipkova (non- medical contact person)	+251 927974540	lubavaina@gmail.com
Axon Stroke and Spine Centre	Dr. Wondwossen Gebreamanuel	+251 911250778	
	Duty physicians	+251 940155606	
	Hanan Tadele (registered nurse)	+251 911473309	
Samaritan Surgical Centre	Dr. Mary Mesfin (general surgeon)	+251 913000000	hammmbl@gmail.com
Nordic Medical Centre	Dr. Kjell Magne Kiplesund	+251 914000000	kmkiplesund@nordicmedicalcen tre.com
Hallelujah General Hospital	Dereje Kebede	+251 921016059	derejekm576@gmail.com

United Nations Health Care Centre focal persons for the session

Dr. Grace Fombad	+251 911508218	
Dr. Eyesusawit Shewangizaw	+251 911221726	
Dr. Biruk Girma	+251 904032929	On site
Dr. Gudisa Mohammed	+251 911505417	On site
Yohannes Molla (lab technician]	+251 929908429	On site
Kelemwork Kejela (registered nurse)	+251 911201803	

Airline reservations

Participants must secure their return or onward air passage prior to arrival in Addis Ababa.

Participants can access the Ethiopian Airlines ticket office, which is located on the ground floor of the Skylight Mall, for any ticket-related issues.

Hotel accommodation

General participants

All participants must contact hotels directly to arrange, confirm and guarantee their bookings. Negotiated, special United Nations rates for hotel rooms are available for participants staying at the hotels listed in the annex to this information note. The deadline for confirming reservations at those hotels is two to three weeks before the start of the session. Reservations that have not been confirmed by that deadline will be released. The hotels will then accept accommodation requests only on the basis of room availability.

All participants are kindly requested to note that ECA will not be in a position to arrange hotel accommodation if they fail to make their own arrangements beforehand directly with the hotel of their choice.

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Ministers and bank governors

The embassies of the African member States in Addis Ababa will be responsible for arranging hotel accommodation for their respective ministers and bank governors.

Special guests and sponsored participants

ECA will arrange hotel accommodation for special guests and sponsored participants only.

Journalists

The hotel accommodation of journalists who have received an invitation from the ECA Communications Section will be arranged by the Communications Section and the Protocol Unit.

Arrival at Bole International Airport

As part of the online registration process on the dedicated Indico platform (https://indico.un.org/event/1003931/registrations/), participants will need to provide their date and time of arrival in Addis Ababa, including full flight details, which will then be forwarded to the secretariat of the Conference.

All participants will be met upon arrival at Bole International Airport by representatives of the Protocol Unit and will be assisted with immigration and customs formalities, if necessary.

More detailed information on the above procedure will be posted on the official website of the Conference in due course (see www.uneca.org/eca-events/cfm2023). Participants should ensure that they inform the Protocol Unit by email (eca-protocolservice@un.org) of any subsequent changes to the date and time of their arrival.

Temporary importation of laptops and other equipment

According to the customs regulations of the Government of Ethiopia, each participant is allowed to bring into the country one laptop for use at the meeting. Other equipment, however, such as professional cameras and cinematography equipment, requires prior approval by the responsible government ministry. In order to receive assistance with the temporary importation of such items, participants should send the full name of the person carrying the equipment, detailed specifications of the items, a copy of the person's passport data page and the date and time of arrival and departure to the secretariat of the Conference at least 12 working days prior to the start of the session. The items will then be registered by the customs office as items for import prior to, and export following, the session.

Registration and identification badges

Online and in-person registration

Participants are requested to register online on the Indico web page for the Conference (https://indico.un.org/event/1003931/registrations/) no later than 14 March 2023, in order to facilitate the smooth coordination of the issuance of photographic identification badges and the compilation of the list of participants. Participants are also encouraged to submit their photographs online well in advance, as this will speed up the registration process. Prior online registration is mandatory, in line with the standard United Nations security procedures required to facilitate security clearance.

In order to speed up the screening of participants by security personnel, photographic identification badges will be issued to participants. Identification badges will be available for collection each day beginning on 13 March 2023, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., in the Abyssinia Grand Ball Room at the Skylight Hotel. Only the names of duly registered participants will be included in the list of participants.

For security reasons, identification badges should be worn by all participants at all times during the meetings and during official social functions held at the Skylight Hotel. The loss of a Conference badge should be communicated to the registration team at the Skylight Hotel so that a new badge can be issued immediately.

More up-to-date information about the accreditation arrangements for the Conference will be posted on the official Conference website in due course.

Documentation

All participants are strongly encouraged to bring their own laptops or tablets with them to the Conference. In order to reduce the environmental impact generated by the use of paper, participants are encouraged to consult digital versions of conference documents. All unrestricted, official documents and statements related to the Conference will be available in the official languages of the Commission (Arabic, English and French) on the PaperSmart portal, which is available at https://papersmart.uneca.org/meeting.

The documents can also be downloaded from the official Conference website (www.uneca.org/cfm2023) under "Documents".

A print-on-demand service will remain available to in-person participants during the session. Nonetheless, it is expected that requests for hard copies of documents will be made only when strictly necessary. Such requests will be honoured on an exceptional basis, with a maximum of five copies per document per delegation provided. Participants requiring this service are asked to complete the request form in the PaperSmart portal and to send it to the email address provided.

Transportation

Shuttle buses will be made available from the airport to the hotels listed in the annex. They will also ferry participants from those hotels to the meeting venue in the mornings and from the venue to the hotels in the evenings. Unfortunately, transport will not be provided during lunch breaks, and no transportation service will be provided for personal requests.

If you would like transportation in Addis Ababa outside of meeting hours, or if you would like transportation to the airport at the end of the fiftyfifth session, you can call the Ride metered taxi service (call centre number:

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8294) or Feres transport (call centre number: 6090), or you can book a taxi through the National Tourism Organization by calling +251 115511822 or +251 115518400 or take one of the yellow or blue taxis parked outside your hotel.

Information and communications technology services

The Wi-Fi password designated for this event will be communicated to all delegates upon arrival at the meeting venue and will be made visible in all areas where delegates will gather.

Please be advised that Blackberry services are not available in Ethiopia.

Catering facilities

Information on catering facilities for refreshments and meals will be provided upon arrival.

Mobile phones

Participants are encouraged to bring with them a dual-band mobile handset (900/1800 MHz). The national telecommunications company, Ethio Telecom, sells subscriber identity module (SIM) cards with pre-charged airtime. The initial subscription costs 15 Ethiopian birr (for more details see www.ethiotelecom.et/prepaid-mobile/). Safaricom SIM cards are also available.

General information about Ethiopia

Ethiopia is an expansive, landlocked country in the Horn of Africa. Its capital city, Addis Ababa, is situated at an altitude of 2,400 m. Ethiopia is a multi-ethnic State in which 83 languages and 200 dialects are spoken. Agriculture is the backbone of the national economy, and the principal exports from this sector include coffee, oil seeds, pulses, flowers, vegetables, sugar and animal feed. About 90 per cent of the population earns a living from the land. There is also a vibrant livestock sector, exports from which include cattle, hides and skins.

Climate

Ethiopia has two main seasons. The dry season is from October to May, and the rainy season starts in late June and ends in September. Temperatures vary depending on the season and altitude.

Since there is a possibility of cool weather at night and after heavy rains, participants may wish to bring a jacket or sweater with them.

Electricity

The electricity supply in Ethiopia is 220–240 volts, 50 cycles, and is AC-accessible by means of a 13-amp, two-pin (European) type C, E or F plug.

Currency

The Ethiopian currency is denominated in Ethiopian birr and cents. As the exchange rate can fluctuate, it should be checked prior to arrival on the following website: https://nbe.gov.et/commercial-banks-exchange-rate/.

Automatic teller machines (ATMs) can be found in the Skylight Hotel and at a number of other locations, including the following hotels: Sheraton Addis, Hyatt Regency, Elilly, Hilton, Inter Luxury, Jupiter, Marriott, Radisson Blu etc.

As at 13 February 2023, \$1.00 was equivalent to 53.60 birr.

Guidelines on the personal security and safety of participants

The overall security situation in Addis Ababa is stable, although incidents of crime that tend to be opportunistic in nature, such as distract-and-grab street robberies, do occur. Participants are reminded that security is an individual responsibility. They should be very security conscious and mindful of their activities and surroundings, in particular after dark.

The Department of Safety and Security will ensure the safety and security of participants at the meeting venue throughout the duration of the session, with support from the security personnel of the host Government. Participants should always ensure that they fully cooperate with the Department of Safety and Security.

While at the venue, adhere to the following safety guidelines:

- Ensure full compliance with United Nations security instructions and guidelines at screening and access points.
- Wear and visibly display your meeting badge throughout the conference period.
- Cooperate with security personnel at the venue and in the meeting rooms.
- Do not leave bags and parcels unattended, as they may be confiscated.
- Take maximum precautions to safeguard your cash and purse or wallet while at the conference venue.
- Do not bring unauthorized persons, including children, into the meeting venue.
- Do not bring any hazardous items into the meeting venue.
- Ensure that you have taken all your documents and personal items with you before leaving the meeting rooms.
- Report any loss of items immediately to security.
- Deposit any found item at the "lost and found" desk.

When staying at your hotel, adhere to the following safety advice:

- Be aware of the nearest exits in case of an emergency.
- Use all auxiliary locking devices on the entrance door and windows of your hotel room.
- Use the peephole to identify anyone requesting entry.
- Do not let anyone into your hotel room who is not expected. If in doubt, call the front desk.

- Before leaving your room, make sure that no money, jewellery or other valuables are visible.
- Deposit valuables or portable items at the reception desk and obtain a receipt for them.
- In the event of a fire, be sure to check the door for heat and smoke before exiting through the fire exit route.
- Contact hotel security if you encounter any incident.

Emergency contact numbers

United Nations Security Control Centre:

Telephone: +251115516537/+251115512945/ +251115445060,

WhatsApp: +251 976585689/+251965233688

Department of Safety and Security Operations Centre:

Mobile phone: +251986894397

Landlines: +251 11 544 44 41 and +251 11 544 44 44

Addis Ababa Police: 991/+251111110111

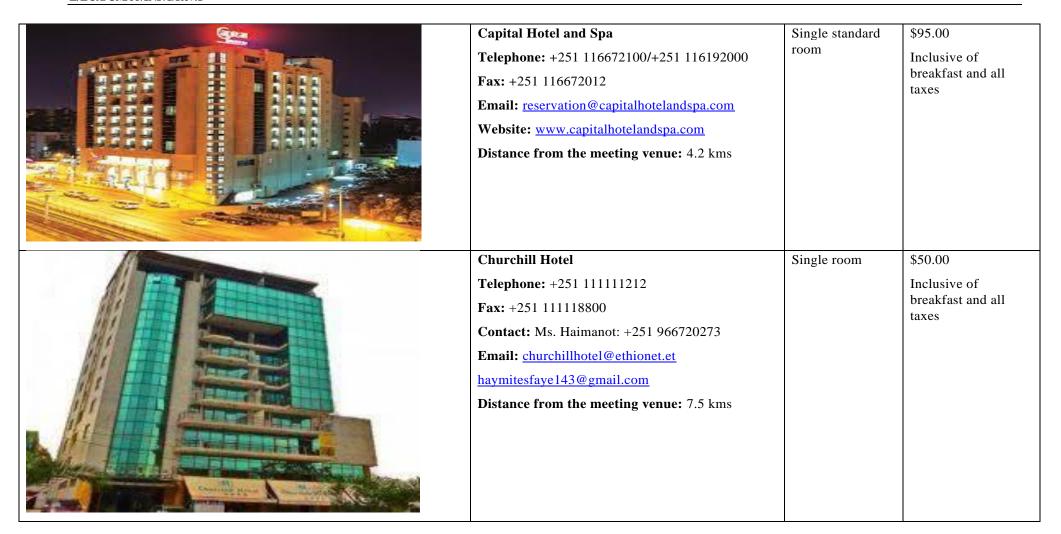
Federal Police: 816/+251115526302

Annex

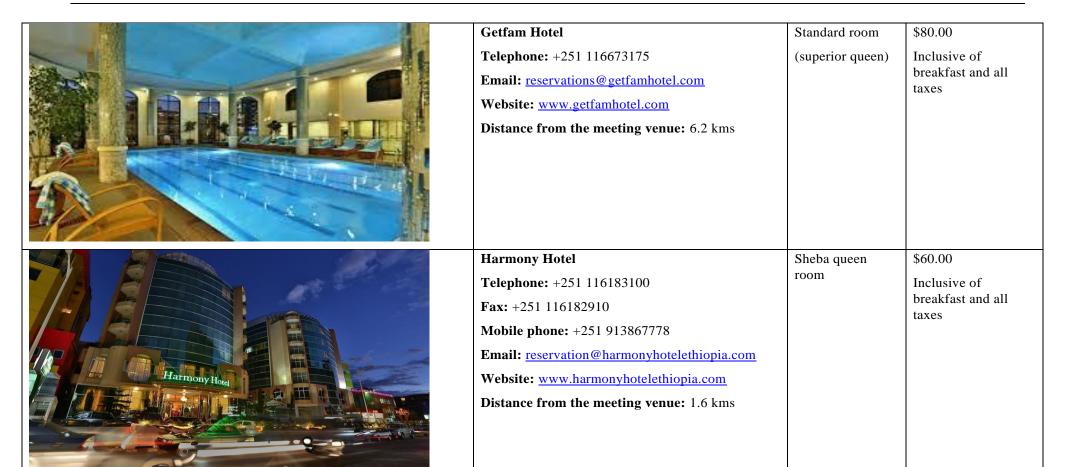
List of hotels in Addis Ababa

(2023 United Nations rate)

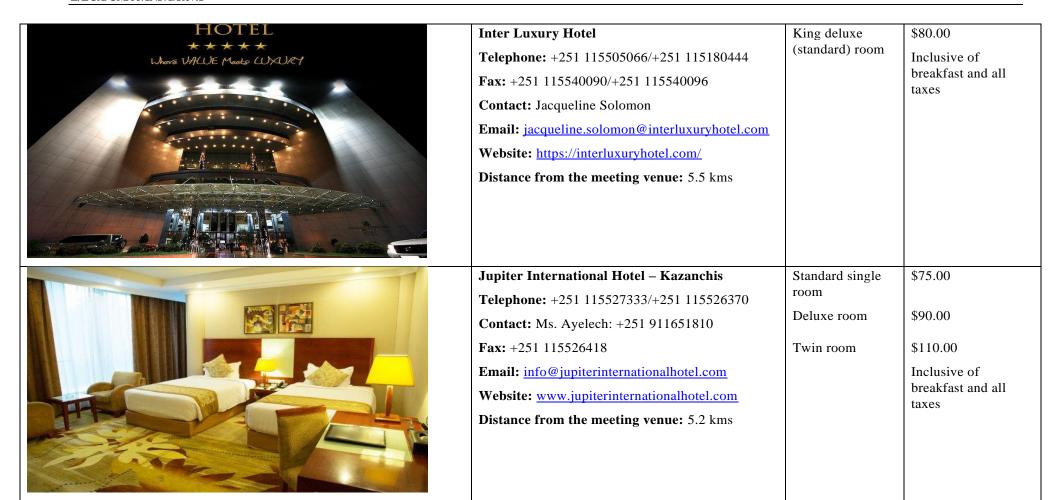
Hotel	Contact details	Type of room	United Nations rate
AMBASSADOR HOTEL	Ambassador Hotel Telephone: +251 116188284/+251 116188281 Email: reservation@ambassadorhotelethiopia.com Distance from the meeting venue: 650 m	Single standard room	\$50.00 Inclusive of breakfast and all taxes
COLUMN ANTONIA SOUTH	Aphrodite International Hotel Telephone: +251 115572220 Email: reservation@aphroditeaddis.com marketing@aphroditeaddis.com Website: www.AphroditeAddis.com Distance from the meeting venue: 5.3 kms	Single standard room	\$60.00 Inclusive of breakfast and all taxes



	Elilly International Hotel Telephone: +251 115587777/ +251 115587773 +251 115587770 Fax: +251115585200 Contact: Ms. Elisabeth Shume/Mr. Tesfaye Amenu Email: info@elillyhotel.com reservation@elillyhotel.com Website: www.elillyhotel.com Distance from the meeting venue: 5.4 kms	Standard room	\$80.00 Inclusive of breakfast and all taxes
PRIENDSHIP INTERNAL TOPONION OF THE PRINCIPAL TOPONION OF THE PRINCIPA	Friendship International Hotel Telephone: +251 116670202 Email: marketing@friendshiphotel.com.et Distance from the meeting venue: 1.2 kms	Standard room (king) Deluxe room	\$60.00 \$70.00 Inclusive of breakfast and all taxes



	Hilton Hotel	Garden wing	\$120.00
	Telephone: +251 115518400/+251 115170000/	room (standard)	
HILTON	+251 115510064		
5000 St. Co. Co. Co. Co. Co. Co. Co. Co. Co. Co	Fax: +251 115511718	King room	\$132.00
	Contact: Mr. Daniel Gelaw		Inclusive of breakfast and all
株式 株式 株式 株式 株式 株式 株式 株式	Email: reservations.addisababa@hilton.com		taxes
game 1.75	Distance from the meeting venue: 5.3 kms		
AAA AAA AAA AAA			
	W WP WALL	G. 1 1	#200.00
	Hyatt Regency Hotel	Standard room	\$200.00
	Telephone: +251 115171234		Inclusive of
	Email: addisababa.regency@hyatt.com		breakfast and all taxes
	Distance from the meeting venue: 4.5 kms		tuxos



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Jupiter International Hotel – Bole	Standard single	\$75.00
Telephone: +251 116616969	room	
Contact: Ayelech: +251 911651810	Deluxe room	\$90.00
Fax: +251 116616999	Twin room	\$110.00
Email: info@jupiterinternationalhotel.com		Inclusive of
Website: www.jupiterinternationalhotel.com		breakfast and all



Kaleb Hotel	Single standard	\$45.00
Telephone: +251 116622200	room	Inclusive of
Fax: +251 116628098		breakfast and all taxes
Email: reservation@kalebhotel.com		
Distance from the meeting venue: 7.8 kms		

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Distance from the meeting venue: $600\ \mathrm{m}$



	Nigist Towers Hotel and Apartments	Studio	\$72.45
	Telephone: +251 115509770	One-bedroom	\$84.53
ASSESSMENT	Email: info@nigisttowers.com	suite	
	Website: www.nigisttowers.com	Two-bedroom suite	\$114.70
	Distance from the meeting venue: 5.2 kms		Inclusive of all taxes, breakfast not included
	Panorama Hotel	Standard single	\$29.40
	Telephone: +251 1166616070	room	
	Email: info@panoramaaddis.com	Standard double	\$38.50
	berhanu@panoramaaddis.com	room	Inclusive of breakfast
	Distance from the meeting venue: 5.3 kms		and all taxes



Radisson Blu Hotel	Single standard
Telephone: +251 115157600/+251 115170400	room
Fax: +251 115157601	
Email: reservations.addisababa@radissonblu.com	
Website: www.radissonblu.com	
Distance from the meeting venue: 5.2 kms	



Ramada Hotel	Superior room	\$90.00
Telephone: +251 116393939		Plus 26.5 per cent
Email: info@ramadaaddis.com		tax, breakfast included
Website: www.ramadaaddis.com		
Distance from the meeting venue: 1.5 kms		

\$158.00

and all taxes

Inclusive of breakfast

SARO, MAI

Saro-Maria Hotel	Single standard	\$90.00
Telephone: +251 116672167/+251 116672168	room	Inclusive of breakfast
Fax: +251 116672121		and all taxes
Email: info@saromariahotel.com reservation@saromariahotel.com		
Website: www.saromariahotel.com		
Distance from the meeting venue: 1.3 kms		



Sheraton Hotel	Club room	\$255.00
Telephone: +251 115171717	(single)	
Fax: +251 115172727	Executive room	\$366.00
Contact: Mr. Getachew Melese/Mr. Begashaw Kassaye		Plus 26.5 per cent
Email: reservations.addisethiopia@luxurycollection.com		tax, breakfast included
Website: www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/addlc-		
sheraton-addis-a-luxury-collection-hotel-addis-		
ababa/overview/		
Distance from the meeting venue: 6.2 kms		

