

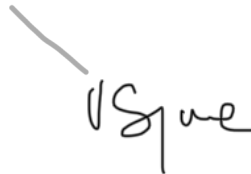
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. Gilles Michaud
Under Secretary General
UNDSS, UNHQ

Date: 17 December 2021

From: Vera Songwe
Under-Secretary General of the United Nations and
Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission
for Africa
D.O of Ethiopia

Ref: OES/21/12/0174



Subject: Lifting the suspension of all non-essential travel and missions to Ethiopia – Addis Ababa

I refer to my memo dated 5th November 2021 requesting the suspension of non-essential travels to Ethiopia and your communique of 6th November 2021 endorsing same owing to the prevailing security conditions in Northern Ethiopia and the significant advance of Tigray Forces (TF) towards Addis Ababa, less than 200 Km.

Since 24 November 2021 the Ethiopian National Defense Forces (ENDF) supported by Afar and Amhara Regional Forces and Militia led by the PM have engaged in a counter offensive and regained most of the areas controlled by TF in the Amhara and Afar regions. While all the localities taken by the TF in Afar Region as well as North Shewa zone and Oromo Special zone including Kemisie town in Amhara Region are fully under the control of government forces, the conflict continues in Wag Himra, North and South Wollo Zones of Amhara Region, but now over 400km away from Addis Ababa.

In addition to the notable military success registered by the ENDF, Regional Forces and Militia, the Government through the council of Ministers has established an inclusive national dialogue committee to resolve the armed conflict in a peaceful way, it is awaiting adoption by the parliament. The AU peace process led by President Obasanjo is proceeding, he travelled to Kenya last week for consultations with President Kenyatta and is expected in Addis next week. The State of emergency put on the Oromia region has been lifted as well.

In light of the following developments, there has been a substantial reduction in the risk level for UN Personnel in Addis Ababa as well as in the Southern parts of Amhara and Afar Regions for a sustained period.

The SMT met on 17 December 2021 to review the situation and made the following decisions:

External Travels to/from Addis:

- Lifting the restrictions imposed on non-essential external travels/missions to Addis Ababa.

Internal Travels:

- Lifting the restrictions imposed on non-essential internal travels from/to Addis, within the non-conflict affected areas
- All non PC1/PC2 travels within field locations to any conflict affected areas remain suspended until further notice

I am requesting your endorsement of the above SMT decisions.

The Security developments will be monitored continuously and the current measures in place i.e. family restrictions and voluntary movement shall be reviewed in a phased manner.

Thank you for your usual support.

- CC:
- Mr. Fanwell Mwape, Chief Africa Desk
 - Ms. Elizabeth Mengalle, Desk Officer
 - Mr. Oumarou Hamo, CSA Ethiopia.