

Invitation Letter from African Union Commission Chairperson Moussa Faki to the President of the Government of Tigray, Debretsion Gebremichael, annotated.

CCP/Y/695.10.22 [1]

[1] This reference number is relevant for document 4.

Addis Ababa, 01 October 2022

Dear Dr Debretsion,

[2] Although Faki referred to the "Regional Government of Tigray" on September 11, here he follows Government of Ethiopia guidelines (re-published on October 7) that specify that "Any attempt to state that the peace talks [are] between the federal government and the 'region of Tigray' is not only unacceptable but also violates national sovereignty as well as rules-based international order." The FGE still designates the TPLF a terrorist organization.

Invitation to African Union-Convened Peace Talks

Building on continuous consultations with the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) [2], within the context of the ongoing African Union (AU)-led peace process for Ethiopia, I have the honour to invite you to the Peace Talks, scheduled to take place in South Africa [3] from Sunday, 8 October 2022. [4]

[3] There is no indication of any official contact between the AUC and the Government of South Africa on this topic.

The Peace talks between the two parties is expected to deliberate on the guiding principles, agenda issues, modalities, format and timelines for the negotiated settlement aimed at laying the foundation for a structured and sustained mediation between the Federal Government of Ethiopia and the TPLF, towards durable resolution of the conflict. [5]

[4] October 8 is a Saturday. Calendric errors of this kind are sometimes made by Ethiopians translating from the Ethiopian calendar to the Gregorian calendar, never by AUC officials.

The Peace talks will be facilitated and led by H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo, AU High Representative for the

[5] Note the vagueness. There is no reference to cessation of hostilities or humanitarian access.

Horn of Africa and former President of Nigeria, with the support of [6] a panel of distinguished and eminent Africans. H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta, former President of the Republic of Kenya [7] and H.E. Dr. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Member of the AU Panel of the Wise and former Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa, [8] will serve as panelists for the peace talks process.

While appreciative of your avowed commitment to peace and stability in Ethiopia, I look forward to your timely response and constructive engagement at the talks.

Please accept, Dr. Debretsion, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Moussa Faki Mahamat

Dr. Debretsion Gebremichael
President, National Regional State of Tigray
and Head of the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF)
[9]
Mekelle, Tigray
Ethiopia

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[6] "With the support of" is not defined and indicates that Gen. Obasanjo is in charge of the process, despite the Government of Tigray's rejection of this.

[7] Pres. Kenyatta had not been consulted. See document 4.

[8] Deputy Pres. Mlambo-Ngcuka has said nothing. It appears she was also not consulted.

[9] Here, the AU Commission has added a title for Debretsion referring to his position in the Tigray government, while still conforming with the GoE prescriptions.

[10] The AU Commission officials would normally indicate which other states and organizations are invited as participations, partners and observers. If they were not mentioned in the text they would be copied here.