



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ABUJA

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NIGERIA EXPRESSES GRAVE CONCERN OVER RENEWED HOSTILITIES IN NORTHERN ETHIOPIA, CALLS FOR RESTRAINT AND DE-ESCALATION OF TENSIONS

The Federal Republic of Nigeria expresses grave concern over renewed hostilities in Northern Ethiopia, which have resulted in the seizure and occupation of airports in Makelle, Axum and Shire, disrupting civilian air services in the cities. It also views as deeply concerning, the detention of federal personnel by Tigray's People Liberation Front (TPLF), the formation of new destabilizing military alliances, and escalations in parts of South Tigray and the Afar Region of the Republic of Ethiopia.

Nigeria, therefore, joins the international community to call for an immediate cessation of hostilities, utmost restraint by all parties and an end to actions capable of further escalating the situation.

Nigeria aligns itself with the Pretoria Agreement for Lasting Peace through a Permanent Cessation of Hostilities, negotiated and signed by the Government of Ethiopia and the Tigray's People Liberation Front under the auspices of the African Union (AU) on 2 November 2022.

The Federal Republic of Nigeria highlights the Agreement as a fundamental anchor of reconciliation, peace, security and stability in Ethiopia, and urges all parties to return to dialogue within its framework, to resolve outstanding differences and preserve the gains engendered by the pact.

Nigeria welcomes the prompt intervention of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), H.E. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, in requesting H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo, former President of Nigeria and AU High Representative for the Horn of Africa, to urgently engage parties in advancing dialogue in line with AU's Silencing the Guns Agenda.

The Federal Republic of Nigeria calls on all stakeholders and neighbouring countries to refrain from actions that could further aggravate the situation, and support diplomatic and confidence-building efforts required to safeguard ongoing peace process.

Signed:

Oluwafemi Adeniyi
Spokesperson
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abuja
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