

DAY 01
May 12, 2025

Investment & Policy Discussions

Time	Session
08:00 - 9:00 am	Registration & Welcome
09:00 - 10:20 am	<p>Opening Ceremony <i>Plenary Room</i> <i>This session will showcase keynote addresses from high-level government officials, private sector representatives, and development partners. It offers a platform for distinguished speakers to extend a warm welcome to participants, set the tone for the event, and underscore the government's strong commitment to public-private collaboration, investment promotion and business climate reform agendas.</i></p> <p>Master of Ceremony: 1. Ms. Tabitha John 2. Mr. Shimeles Lemma</p> <p>Welcoming Remarks: H.E. Dr. Zeleke Temesgen Commissioner, Ethiopian Investment Commission</p> <p>Keynote 1: Mr. Wim Vanhelleputte CEO, Safaricom Ethiopia</p> <p>Keynote 2: H.E. Amb. Joshua Tabah Ambassador of Canada to Ethiopia and Dr. Léandre Bassolé Director General, African Development Bank On behalf of the Development Partners' Group</p> <p>Keynote 3: H.E. Dr. Gedion Timothewos Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs</p> <p>Keynote 4: H.E. Mr. Ahmed Shide Minister, Ministry of Finance</p> <p>Forum Opening Remarks: Guest of Honor</p> <p>Video Presentation: <i>A visual overview of the investment opportunities in Ethiopia.</i></p>

<p>10:20 - 11:00 am</p>	<p>HIGH LEVEL OVERVIEW: Unlocking Ethiopia’s Potential: Policy Reforms and Emerging Investment Opportunities.</p> <p>H.E. Dr. Fitsum Assefa Minister, Ministry of Planning and Development</p> <p><i>HGER, now in its second phase, aims to address macroeconomic imbalances, diversify growth drivers, and rebalance the roles of the public and private sectors to foster sustainable development. Phase I, delivered notable progress in reforming state-owned enterprises, enhancing the investment climate, and mobilizing domestic resources; despite significant internal and external challenges. With Phase II underway, the government is intensifying reforms to build on earlier gains and promote private sector led growth.</i></p> <p><i>This session will outline major macroeconomic and sectoral reforms, focusing on their impact on private sector development and the broader investment landscape. It also highlights Ethiopia’s current investment ready sectors and opportunities.</i></p>
<p>11:00 am - 12:30 pm</p>	<p>Panel Discussion: The Next Frontier for Investment – Unlocking Untapped Potential</p> <p><i>With economic reforms creating new pathways for investment, Ethiopia is no longer a market waiting to emerge, it is one demanding strategic engagement. This panel explores how government, investors, and partners can work together to transform opportunity into sustainable growth and long-term prosperity.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Billene Seyoum Press Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister of Ethiopia</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ H.E. Ms. Hanna Arayaselassie Minister, Ministry of Justice ▪ H.E. Mr. Mamo E. Mihretu Governor, National Bank of Ethiopia ▪ H.E. Dr. Eyob Tekalign State Minister, Ministry of Finance ▪ Dr. Sherin Varkey Program Leader for People /Human Development, World Bank ▪ Mr. Wei Qiangyu General Manager, CCCC
<p>12:30 - 2:00 pm</p>	<p>Lunch and Networking</p>

DEEP-DIVE DISCUSSION ON SPECIFIC SECTOR PARALLEL SESSIONS (4)

2:00 – 4:00 pm

MANUFACTURING (1/4)

Accelerating Industrial Transformation: Investing in Ethiopia's Manufacturing Sector and Special Economic Zones

(Abyssinia 1)

Ethiopia is undergoing a bold industrial transformation, supported by a young, skilled and growing labor force, a large consumer base, and targeted incentives aimed at boosting the manufacturing sector. Pharmaceuticals, textiles and apparel, leather goods, and light manufacturing offer competitive investment opportunities.

Special Economic Zones (SEZs), serve as catalysts for inclusive industrialization, providing plug and play infrastructure, duty free incentives, and streamlined regulatory services. These zones are ideal for investors seeking low risk, high-impact manufacturing opportunities in a government backed ecosystem.

KEYNOTE SPEECH BY

Mr. Nassim Berrached

Project Director, Manufacturing Africa

Analysis of market trends, data and insights on manufacturing, consumer behavior, incentives and growth potential will be presented to offer investors valuable information that helps them understand the market landscape and make informed investment decisions.

Moderator:

- **H.E. Amb. Fitsum Arega**
Director General, Diaspora Agency

Speakers:

- **H.E. Mr. Hassen Mohammed**
State Minister, Ministry of Industry
- **H.E. Ms. Frehiwot Abebe**
State Minister, Ministry of Health
- **H.E. Amb. Anil Kumar Rai**
Indian Ambassador to Ethiopia
- **Dr. Fisseha Yitagesu**
CEO, Industrial Parks Development Corporation
- **Ms. Xu Yang**
Eastern Industry Park

2:00 – 4:00 pm

SERVICE (2/4)

Transforming Services: Investing in Ethiopia's Tourism, Real estate, Transport, and Logistics Sectors

(Abyssinia 2)

Ethiopia's services sector is entering a transformative phase, driven by sector opening up, demographic growth, and strategic reforms aimed at unlocking private sector participation. Tourism, real estate, transport and logistics are among the most promising and underexplored areas for foreign direct investment, with immense potential to generate jobs, attract foreign exchange, and improve quality of life.

Ethiopia's investment in infrastructure, such as the Addis-Djibouti railway and dry ports, combined with recent policy liberalizations, creates a strong foundation for logistics sector growth and regional trade integration. Ethiopia's rich cultural heritage, diverse landscapes, and ancient historical sites offer compelling tourism development opportunities. This session aims to present investment-ready projects, public-private partnership (PPP) opportunities, and highlight the enabling environment for service sector investors.

KEYNOTE SPEECH BY
Prof. Mathios Ensermu
Addis Ababa University

Analysis of market trends, data and insights on services, consumer behavior, incentives and growth potential will be presented to offer investors valuable information that helps them understand the market landscape and make informed investment decisions.

Moderator:

- **Ms. Feben Yohannes**
CEO, DELFE Design, Engineering and Construction Management

Speakers:

- **H.E. Ms. Selamawit Kassa**
Minister, Ministry of Tourism
- **H.E. Mr. Bareo Hassen**
State Minister, Ministry of Transport and Logistics
- **H.E. Mr. Yetemgeta Asrat**
State Minister, Ministry of Urban and Infrastructure Development
- **Dr. Beriso Amelo**
CEO, Ethiopian Shipping Lines and Logistics Authority
- **Dr. Tadesse Kassa**
Ethiopian Investment Commission

2:00 – 4:00 pm

ICT and Other Emerging Sectors (3/4)

Powering the Digital Frontier: Investment Opportunities in ICT and Emerging Growth Sectors

(Abyssinia 3)

As Ethiopia accelerates its transition into a digital economy, the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector is emerging as a key driver of economic transformation, innovation, and job creation. Supported by the Digital Ethiopia 2025 Strategy, the government is opening up the telecom sector, expanding digital infrastructure, and creating a conducive environment for tech-enabled investments.

This session explores how innovation in telecoms, urban infrastructure, and fintech is accelerating inclusive growth, enhancing service delivery, and opening new frontiers for private investment. With strong government commitment and growing investor confidence, Ethiopia is positioning itself as a rising hub for digital and emerging sector development in Africa. This session also seeks to unlock opportunities in these high-growth areas, introduce scalable digital ventures, and foster cross-sector innovation in partnership with global tech leaders, startups, and venture capital firms

KEYNOTE SPEECH BY

Ms. Amity Weiss

Senior Partner, Melela Partners

Analysis of market trends, data and insights on ICT and other emerging sectors, consumer behavior, incentives and growth potential will be presented to offer investors valuable information that helps them understand the market landscape and make informed investment decisions.

Moderator:

- **Dr. Tilahun Kassahun**
CEO, Ethiopia Securities Exchange

Speakers:

- **H.E. Ms. Hanna Tehelku**
Director General, Ethiopian Capital Markets Authority
- **H.E. Amb. Sofie From-Emmesberger**
Ambassador of the European Union to Ethiopia
- **Eng. Balcha Reba**
Director General, Ethiopian Communications Authority
- **Dr. Abiyot Bayou**
Tony Blair Institute for Global Change
- **Mr. Adam Abate**
Managing Partner, African Technology Entrepreneur

2:00 – 4:00 pm

AGRICULTURE AND AGRO-PROCESSING (4/4)

Unlocking Ethiopia's Agricultural Potential: Investment Opportunities in Agro-Processing and Sustainable Value Chains

(Abyssinia 4)

Ethiopia possesses one of the largest and most diverse agricultural sectors in Sub-Saharan Africa. With fertile lands, abundant water resources, a favorable climate, and a dynamic labor force, agriculture remains the backbone of the national economy, contributing significantly to GDP, employment, and exports.

The session aims to highlight the immense investment opportunities available across the entire agri-food value chain from primary production (e.g., wheat, coffee, horticulture, livestock) to post-harvest handling, storage, cold chain logistics, processing, and export-oriented agribusiness.

KEYNOTE SPEECH BY

Mr. Makenzi Muthusi & Ms. Anne Wangalachi

KPMG East Africa

Analysis of market trends, data and insights on the agriculture and agro-processing sectors, consumer behavior, incentives and growth potential will be presented to offer investors valuable information that helps them understand the market landscape and make informed investment decisions.

Moderator:

Mr. Tewodros Zewde

Executive Director, Ethiopian Horticulture Exporters and Producers Association

Speakers:

- **H.E. Dr. Abreham Belay**
Minister, Ministry of Irrigation and Lowlands
- **H.E. Dr. Sofiya Kassa**
State Minister, Ministry of Agriculture
- **Dr. Mandefro Nigussie**
CEO, Agriculture Transformation Institute
- **Mr. Robin Veenstra**
CEO, Holland Dairy
- **Mr. Piet Schutter**
CEO, Alema Koudijs

4:00 - 4:30 pm

Networking Coffee

Day 02
May 13, 2025

Private Sector & Investment Strategies

Time	Session
09:00 - 09:30 am	RECAP OF DAY 1: TAKEAWAYS AND INSIGHTS
09:30 - 10:30 am	<p>PANEL DISCUSSION Pioneers of Progress: Lessons from Ethiopia's Trailblazer (Plenary Room)</p> <p><i>This dynamic panel brings together visionary investors — both local and international who have boldly navigated Ethiopia's evolving investment terrain. Through personal stories and hard-earned lessons, they'll share how they turned ambition into impact, offering practical insights, candid reflections, and inspiration for the next wave of investors ready to engage with Ethiopia's future.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Betelhem Tilahun SoleRebels</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Mr. Batuel Bizuayehu Investment Managing Director, East Africa Holdings▪ Mr. Zhang Huarong Chairman, Huajian Group▪ Mr. Muluken Metiku CEO, OVID Real Estate▪ Mr. Shyam Raval Managing Director, Raval Steel
10:30 - 11:00 am	Networking Coffee Break

Deep-Dive Discussion on Specific Sector Parallel Sessions (4)

11:00 am - 1:00 pm

MANUFACTURING (1/4)

(Abyssinia 1)

Existing investors will share their experiences, challenges, and achievements, highlighting the competitive advantages of investing in the manufacturing sector in Ethiopia.

Moderator:

Dr. Tafere Tesfachew
Tony Blair Institute for Global Change

Speakers:

- **Mr. Nesibu Temesgen**
General Manager, Unilever Ethiopia
- **Mr. Harsh Kothari**
CEO, Mohan Group of Companies
- **Ms. Tihitina Legesse**
Managing Director, Waryt Furniture
- **Mr. Li Huayang**
General Manager, Toyo Solar
- **Mr. Mufid Sabir Argaw**
CEO, Wilmar

11:00 am - 1:00 pm

SERVICE
(2/4)

(Abyssinia 2)

Existing investors will share their experiences, challenges, and achievements, highlighting the competitive advantages of investing in the service sector in Ethiopia.

Moderator:

Ms. Maleda Bisrat
Country Director, Tony Blair Institute for Global Change

Speakers:

- **Mr. Benjam Vetterli**
Head of Africa, Rockstone Real Estate
- **Mr. Otto Kurzendorfer**
General Manager, Hyatt Hotel
- **Mr. Israel Degefa**
CEO, Kerchanshe Group
- **Mr. Jaspal Singh Khalsa**
Chief Operating Officer, Ethiopia & Francophone Countries
iSON Xperiences EthioCall PLC

Deep-Dive Discussion on Specific Sector Parallel Sessions (4)

11:00 am - 1:00 pm

MINING AND ENERGY (3/4)

(Abyssinia 3)

Ethiopia is endowed with abundant mineral resources, including gold, tantalum, potash, and rare earth elements, critical inputs for renewable energy technologies and advanced electronics. Recognizing the strategic importance of these resources, the government has implemented recent regulatory reforms aimed at attracting foreign investment while promoting local beneficiation and value addition within the mining and energy sectors.

This session will bring together leaders from both the public and private sectors to explore opportunities and challenges in harnessing Ethiopia's mineral wealth for sustainable economic development. Discussions will focus on investment prospects, the role of regulatory frameworks in shaping the sector's future, and strategies for balancing international competitiveness with national development goals.

Moderator:

Ms. Mekdes Mezgebu

Principal, Mekdes & Associates Law Office

Speakers:

- **H.E. Dr. Eng. Habtamu Etefa**
Minister, Ministry of Water and Energy
- **H.E. Eng. Habtamu Tegegne**
Minister, Ministry of Mines
- **Mr. Jemal Ahmed**
CEO, MIDROC Investment Group
- **Mr. Omer Bomba**
Board Director, AmCham Ethiopia

11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Public Private Partnership and Joint investments with Government (4/4)

(Abyssinia 4)

Ethiopia's reform agenda places strategic emphasis on crowding in private capital and enhancing collaboration between the public and private sectors. Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) and joint ventures with the government are powerful vehicles to mobilize long-term investment in infrastructure, social services, utilities, logistics, healthcare, and energy.

Through the adoption of a formal PPP framework and a supportive investment code, Ethiopia aims to scale up investment in bankable and sustainable projects that align with its national development goals. Priority sectors include energy, transport, telecom, health, education, agro-industrial parks, and digital infrastructure.

This session will unpack how Ethiopia is creating a more predictable, transparent, and commercially attractive environment for partnerships. It will also feature real-world examples of PPPs and government joint ventures that deliver measurable impact.

Moderator:

Mr. Yosef Shibeshi

Yes Consultancy

Speakers:

- **H.E. Amb. Darren Welch**
UK Ambassador to Ethiopia
- **Dr. Brook Taye**
CEO, Ethiopia Investment Holding
- **Eng. Ashebir Balcha**
CEO, Ethiopia Electric Power
- **Mr. Abebe Gebrehiwot**
Ministry of Finance

1:00 – 2:00 pm

Networking Lunch

2:00 - 3:30 pm

Panel Discussion:
Financing Confidence: De-Risking Investment in Ethiopia

This dedicated session brings together key players in development finance to explore practical de-risking tools and strategies available to investors in Ethiopia. With insights from institutions like TDB, IFC, EIB, KfW and MIGA and the session will spotlight mechanisms such as political risk insurance, blended finance, and financial guarantees — critical instruments for navigating uncertainty and unlocking investment at scale.

Moderator:

Mr. Henok Assefa

Founder and Managing partner, Precise Consult

Speakers:

- **Mr. Admassu Tadesse**
President, Trade and Development Bank (TDB)
- **Ms. Leyla Traoré**
Head, European Investment Bank (EIB)
- **Mr. Michael Tilahun**
Country Officer, International Finance Corporation (IFC)
- **Mr. Jonas Dylla**
Country Director Ethiopia and the AU, German investment bank (KfW)
- **Ms. Jessica Wade**
Senior Risk Manager, Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)

CLOSING SESSION

3:30 - 4:30 pm

The forum will conclude with announcements of major deals, commitments, and discussions on fostering ongoing investment dialogue and engagement.

DEAL SIGNING CEREMONY

*A formal signing of investment agreements between selected partners.
(Details to be announced.)*

Closing Remarks:

- **H.E. Dr. Zeleke Temesgen, Commissioner**
Ethiopian Investment Commission
- **H.E. Mr. Ahmed Shide**
Minister, Ministry of Finance

4:30 – 5:00 pm

B2G & B2B Matchmaking