

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests,

First, I would like to express my gratitude to the leadership of the Ethiopian Civil Service University for hosting and important joint Ethio-Hungarian scientific conference on October 25th, 2019. I also wish to convey my appreciation to the National University of Public Service and the University of Pécs for co-organizing this event and to the academics from both countries for participating and delivering lectures today on this special occasion. I have the privilege of welcoming here H.E. Jemel Beker, State Minister of Innovation and Technology.

The year 2019 has been declared by the Hungarian government a commemorative year with the title ‘30 years of freedom in Hungary.’ With this ambition in mind and with the valuable contribution of Hungarian and Ethiopian historians and lecturers, we intend to draw people’s attention to the global influence of the events happened in 1989 and to demonstrate the determined struggle how the countries of Central and Eastern Europe – making use of the historical opportunity – have reached freedom and independence.

With Ethiopia, we have more in common in our history than we think sometimes. Our continuous fight against oppression and our devotion to making every possible effort to preserve our independence and to defend our identity against all odds.

Furthermore, I wish to highlight that this year we celebrate the 60th anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations with Ethiopia. Hungary has had an excellent relationship with Ethiopia for more than 60 years, our relations are laid on a solid foundation of partnership. Over the past 60 years, the people of our two countries have created a deep friendship by supporting and helping each other. This diverse and multifaceted relationship includes economic, political, educational, and cultural relations. The reopening of our embassy in Addis Ababa in 2016 has resulted in the intensification of our bilateral cooperation. Through the Hungarian government’s Stipendium Hungaricum Scholarship Programme every year 50 students from Ethiopia can begin their studies in Hungary.

Hungary contributes to Ethiopia’s economic growth and development objectives in line with Hungary’s new Africa Strategy, which is the first such official strategy, adopted by the Hungarian government in April 2019.

Again, I thank you all for attending this conference of paramount importance and sharing the celebration of this double anniversary of the long-lasting friendship between Hungary and Ethiopia.

H.E. Attila Koppány
Ambassador of Hungary to Ethiopia

Glimpses of the 2019 Conference



