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In an exclusive interview with WIC, Col. Gebre-Egziabher said that the sanctions will play a key role in weakening the regime in Asmara.

“The additional sanctions proposed by IGAD member states will unquestionably weaken the negative role the Eritrean regime has been playing in the Horn of Africa,” Col. Gebre-Egziabher said.

The sanctions will also have a pivotal role in weakening militant groups being supported by the regime, such as al-Shabab, the Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF), Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) and Ginbot 7, Col. Gebre-Egziabher said.

Eritrea continues to destabilize the Horn of Africa through arming, training and assisting al-Shabab and other anti-peace elements operating in the region, Col. Gebre-Egziabher said.

The groups chosen by the



Col. Gebre-Egziabher Alemseged

United Nations to monitor Eritrea’s adverse role in Somalia proved that the regime in Asmara is behind all attacks against the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of Somalia, he added.

“Al-Shabab would not have been a headache to the region if Eritrea had not supported it,” he said.

According to Col. Gebre-Egziabher, all member states of IGAD are victims of Eritrea’s anti-peace policy.

Taking this into consideration,

the member states on June 28, 2011 called on the African Union and UN Security Council to impose further sanctions against the Eritrean regime particularly on the mining sector and Eritrean Diaspora contribution.

The member states also urged the UNSC to efficiently implement the existing sanctions.

Col. Gebre-Egziabher finally appreciated the African Union Mission for Somalia (AMISOM) and the government of Ethiopia for their efforts to maintain peace in the Horn of Africa.

Workshop discusses impact of climate change

ADDIS ABABA (WIC) – A half-day workshop on climate change organized jointly by the Ethiopian Development Research Institute (EDRI) and the Environmental Economics Policy Forum for Ethiopia (EEPFE) was held Wednesday at Jupiter International Hotel.

A total of five papers were presented on climate conventions, climate finance, carbon markets, impact of climate change in African/Ethiopian agriculture, and economy-wide effects of climate change in Africa/Ethiopia.

The workshop also provided information on some of the climate change issues in Africa in general and Ethiopia in particular as well as initiated discussion among invited stakeholders.

“Although Africa has the lowest average per capita emission, it is particularly vulnerable to climate change because of its overdependence

on rain-fed agriculture, poverty and weak capacity to adapt,” said Dr. Alemu Mekonnen, a researcher and coordinator of EEPFE with AAU.

Dr. Alemu, in his paper entitled: “Carbon Markets and Mitigation Strategies for Africa,” also listed the mitigation strategies that appear to be of comparative advantage to Africa.

“Africa should emphasize on clean energy development, mitigate emission from livestock, avoid deforestation, encourage afforestation/reforestation, improve agricultural and land management system,” he said.

Dr. Adane Tuffa with AAU on his paper entitled: “Climate Convention and Africa/Ethiopia,” highlighted the importance of financial assistance to Africa to cope with the current climate-related problems.

“With every year the world fails to curb carbon emissions, adaptation will become even more vital and

Africa need more financial assistance than is promised,” he said.

If enough is not done to finance vital projects for climate change adaptation and mitigation in Africa, the continent will face more severe climate risks in the years to come than is expected, he noted.

According to Dr Adane, the industrialized world has moral obligations to take measures to curb climate change and help the people of Africa cope with the impacts of climate change.

Recent estimates indicate that mitigation efforts in developing countries could cost 145 to 175 billion USD a year over the next 20 years, while adaptation investments could average 30 to 100 billion a year over the period 2010 to 2020.

Ethiopia is one of those countries that are least contributors to the greenhouse effect but affected as a result of climate change.

Community engagement said vital to tackle

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