

**Agreement Between the Government of the Federal Democratic
Republic of Ethiopia and the Government of the People's Republic of
China Concerning the Encouragement and Reciprocal Protection of
Investments**

The Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the Government of the People's Republic of China(hereinafter referred to as the Contracting Parties),

Intending to create favorable conditions for investments by investors of one Contracting Party in the territory of the other Contracting Party;

Recognizing that the reciprocal encouragement, promotion and protection of such investments will be conducive to stimulating business initiative of the investors and will increase prosperity in both States;

Desiring to intensify the economic cooperation of both States on the basis of equality and mutual benefits;

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1 Definitions

For the purpose of this Agreement,

1. The term "investment" means every kind of asset invested by investors of one Contracting Party in accordance with the laws and regulations of the other Contracting Party in the territory of the latter, and in particular, through not exclusively, includes:

(a) movable, immovable property and other property rights such as mortgages and pledges;

(b) shares, stock and any other kind of participation in company;

(c) claims to money or to any other performance having an economic value;

(d) copyrights, industrial property, know-how and technological process;

(e) concessions conferred by law, including concessions to search for or exploit natural resources.

2. The term "investors" means with regard to either Contracting Party:

(a) natural persons who have nationality of that Contracting Party in accordance with its laws;

(b) economic entities established in accordance with the laws of that Contracting Party and domiciled in its territory.

3. The term “returns” means the amounts yielded by investments, such as profits, dividends, interests, royalties or other similar income.

Article 2 Promotion of Investments

1. Each Contracting Party shall encourage investors of the other Contracting Party to make investments in its territory and admit such investments in accordance with its laws and regulations.

2. Each Contracting Party shall grant assistance in and provide facilities for obtaining visa and working permit to nationals of the other Contracting Party to or in the territory of the former in connection with activities associated with such investments.

Article 3 Treatment of Investments

1. Investments and activities associated with investments of investors of either Contracting Party shall be accorded fair and equitable treatment and shall enjoy protection in the territory of the other Contracting Party.

2. The treatment and protection referred to in Paragraph 1 of this Article shall not be less favorable than that accorded to investments and activities associated with such investments of investors of any third State.

3. The treatment and protection as mentioned in Paragraph 1 and 2 of this Article shall not include any preferential treatment accorded by the other Contracting Party to investments of investors of a third State based on customs union, free trade zone, economic union, agreement relating to avoidance of double taxation or for facilitating frontier trade.

Article 4 Expropriation

1. Neither Contracting Party shall expropriate, nationalize or take similar measures (hereinafter referred to as “expropriation”) against investments of investors of the other Contracting Party in its territory, unless the following conditions are met:

(a) for the public interests;

(b) under domestic legal procedure;

(c) without discrimination;

(d) against compensation.

2. The compensation mentioned in Paragraph 1, (d) of this Article shall be equivalent to the value of the expropriated investments at the time when expropriation is proclaimed, be convertible and freely transferable. The compensation shall be paid without unreasonable delay.

Article 5 Compensation for Losses

Investors of one Contracting Party who suffer losses in respect of their investments in the territory of the other Contracting Party owing to war, a state of national emergency, insurrection, riot or other similar events, shall be accorded by the latter Contracting Party, if it takes relevant measures, treatment no less favorable than that accorded to investors of a third State.

Article 6 Transfers of Investments and Returns

1. Each Contracting Party shall, subject to its laws and regulations, guarantee investors of the other Contracting Party the transfer of their investments and returns held in the territory of the one Contracting Party, including:

- (a) profits, dividends, interests and other legitimate income;
- (b) amounts from total or partial liquidation of investments;
- (c) payment pursuant to a loan agreement in connection with investments;
- (d) royalties in Paragraph 1(d) of Article 1;
- (e) payment of technical assistance or technical service fee, management fee;
- (f) earnings of nationals of the other Contracting Party who work in connection with an investment in the territory of the one Contracting Party.

2. The transfer mentioned above shall be made at the prevailing exchange rate of the Contracting Party accepting the investment on the date of transfer.

Article 7 Subrogation

If a Contracting Party or its Agency makes payment to an investor under a guarantee it has granted to an investment of such investor in the territory of the other Contracting Party, such other Contracting Party shall recognize the transfer of any right or claim of such investor to the former Contracting Party or its Agency and recognize the subrogation of the former Contracting Party or its Agency to such right or claim. The subrogated right or claim shall not be greater than the original right or claim of the said investor.

Article 8 Disputes Between the Contracting Parties

1. Any dispute between the Contracting Parties concerning the interpretation or application of this Agreement shall, as far as possible, be settled by consultation through diplomatic channel.

2. If a dispute cannot thus be settled within six months, it shall, upon the request of either Contracting Party, be submitted to an ad hoc arbitral tribunal.

3. Such tribunal comprises of three arbitrators. Within two months from the date on which either Contracting Party receives the written notice requesting for arbitration from the other Contracting Party, each Contracting Party shall appoint one arbitrator. Those two arbitrators shall, within further two months, together select a third arbitrator who is a national of a third State which has diplomatic relations with both Contracting Parties. The

third arbitrator shall be appointed by the two contracting Party as Chairman of the arbitral tribunal.

4. If the arbitral tribunal has not been constituted within four months from the date of the receipt of the written notice for arbitration, either Contracting Party may, in the absence of any other agreement, invite the President of the International Court of Justice to appoint the arbitrator(s) who has or have not yet been appointed. If the President is a national of either Contracting Party or is otherwise prevented from discharging the said function, the next most senior member of the International Court of Justice who is not a national of either Contracting Party shall be invited to make the necessary appointments(s).

5. The arbitral tribunal shall determine its own procedure. The tribunal shall reach its award in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement and the principles of international law recognized by both Contracting Parties.

6. The tribunal shall reach its award by a majority of votes. Such award shall be final and binding on both Contracting Parties. The ad hoc arbitral tribunal shall, upon the request of either Contracting Party, explain the reasons of its award.

7. Each Contracting Party shall bear the cost of its appointed arbitrator and its representation in arbitral proceedings. The cost of the Chairman and the remaining costs shall be borne in equal parts by the Contracting Parties.

Article 9 Disputes Between an Investor and One Contracting Party

1. Any dispute between an investor of one Contracting party and the other Contracting Party in connection with an investment in the territory of the other Contracting Party shall, as far as possible, be settled amicably through negotiations between the parties to the dispute.

2. If the dispute can not be settled through negotiations within six months, either party to the dispute be entitled to submit the dispute to the competent court of the Contracting Party accepting the investment.

3. If a dispute involving the amount of compensation for expropriation can not be settled within six months after resort to negotiations as specified in Paragraph 1 of this Article, it may be submitted at the request of either party to an ad hoc arbitral tribunal or arbitration under the auspices of the International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) established by the Convention on the Settlement of Investments Disputes between States and Nationals of Other States opened for signature in Washington on March 18, 1965 once both Contracting Parties become member States thereof. The provisions of this Paragraph shall not apply if the investor concerned has resorted to the procedure specified in the Paragraph 2 of this Article.

4. Such an ad hoc arbitral tribunal shall be constituted for each individual case in the following way: each party to the dispute shall appoint an arbitrator, and these two shall select a national of a third State which has diplomatic relations with the two Contracting Parties as Chairman. The first two arbitrators shall be appointed within two months of the written notice for arbitration by either party to the dispute to the other, and the Chairman

be selected within four months. If within the period specified above, the tribunal has not been constituted, either party to the dispute may invite the Secretary General of the International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes to make necessary appointments.

5. The ad hoc tribunal shall determine its own procedure. However, the tribunal may, in the course of determination of procedure, take as guidance the Arbitration Rules of the International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes.

6. The tribunal shall reach its decision by a majority of votes. Such decision shall be final and binding upon both parties to the dispute. Both contracting Parties shall commit themselves to the enforcement of the decision in accordance with their respective domestic law.

7. The tribunal shall adjudicate in accordance with the law of the Contracting Party to the dispute accepting the investment including its rules on the conflict of laws, the provisions of this Agreement as well as the generally recognized principles of international law accepted by both Contracting Parties.

8. Each party to the dispute shall bear the cost of its appointed member of the tribunal and of its representation in the proceedings. The cost of the appointed Chairman and the remaining costs shall be borne in equal parts by the parties to the disputes.

Article 10 Application of Other Rules

If the treatment to be accorded by one Contracting Party in accordance with its laws and regulations to investments or activities associated with such investments of investors of the other Contracting Party is more favorable than the treatment provided for in this Agreement, the more favorable treatment shall be applicable.

Article 11 Application of the Agreement

This Agreement shall apply to investment in the territory of either Contracting Party made in accordance with its laws and regulations by investors of the other Contracting Party, whether prior to or after the entry into force of this Agreement. It shall however not be applicable to claims arising out of events which occurred prior to its entry into force.

Article 12 Consultations

1. The representatives of the Contracting Parties shall hold meetings from time to time for the purpose of:

- (a) reviewing the implementation of this Agreement;
- (b) exchanging legal information and investment opportunities;
- (c) resolving dispute arising out of investments;
- (d) forwarding proposals on promotion of investment;
- (e) studying other issues in connection with investment.

2. Where either Contracting Party requests consultation on any matters of Paragraph 1 of this Article, the other Contracting Party shall give prompt response and the consultation be held alternatively in Addis Ababa and Beijing.

Article 13 Entry Into Force, Continuation and Termination

1. This Agreement shall enter into force on the first day of the following month after the date on which both Contracting Parties have notified each other in writing that their respective internal legal procedures have been fulfilled and shall remain in force for a period of ten years.

2. The Agreement shall continue in force if either Contracting Party fails to give a written notice to the other Contracting Party to terminate this Agreement one year before the expiration specified in Paragraph 1 of this Article.

3. After the expiration of initial ten years period, either Contracting Party may at any time thereafter terminate this Agreement by giving at least one year's written notice to the other Contracting Party.

4. With respect to investments made prior to the date of termination of this Agreement, the provisions of Article 1 to 12 shall continue to be effective for a further period of ten years from such date of termination.

In witness whereof, the duly authorized representatives of their respective Governments have signed this Agreement.

Done in duplicate at-----on-----, 1998 in the Chinese, Amharic and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of divergence of interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

For the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

For the Government of the People's Republic of China