

From: [Silvers, Sharron](#)
To: [Chris Atkins](#)
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Attachments: [Ethiopia's Green Legacy.Group of Nations.pdf](#)

Chris,

Attached is a submission from [H.E. Ambassador Seleshi Bekele Awulachew](#) for the upcoming COP issue. Please let me know if you need any additional information as well as anticipated timing for publication.

Sharron

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Ethiopia's Green Legacy: Climate Action That Drives Societal & Developmental Change

Ethiopia, holder of the world record for most trees planted in a day, is spearheading climate action to catalyze social and developmental transformations. This year, we restricted imports of gas and diesel cars for electric vehicles, boasting one of the greenest power grids globally. With a history of exceeding ambitious commitments, Ethiopia actively fulfils the goals of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Paris Climate Change Agreement, the Agenda for Sustainable Development, and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want. We remain dedicated to sharing success stories about our green legacy with the world, emphasizing our ongoing commitment to progress.

The Green Legacy initiative, launched by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed in 2019, represents our resolute effort to combat deforestation, reverse land degradation, and promote reforestation and afforestation nationwide. Beyond its impact on climate change, this initiative has directly helped alleviate poverty, enhance food security, and bolster economic development. By mobilizing over 20 million Ethiopians, we've created green jobs in forestry and related industries that have further stimulated economic growth while empowering local communities to become stewards of their natural resources.

With an expanded target of 6.5 billion new tree seedlings this year alone, this initiative transcends symbolism, serving as a tangible manifestation of Ethiopia's dedication to mitigating climate change and safeguarding its natural heritage for future generations.

One of the key objectives of the UNFCCC is to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that prevents dangerous human-caused interference with the climate system. With this initiative, we are actively contributing to this goal by sequestering carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and mitigating the effects of deforestation, which is a significant contributor to global greenhouse gas emissions.

Furthermore, the Paris Climate Change Agreement, adopted in 2015, aims to limit global temperature rise to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, with efforts to limit the increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Ethiopia's Green Legacy initiative aligns perfectly with the objectives of the Paris Agreement by enhancing carbon sinks through reforestation and afforestation activities, which are crucial in mitigating climate change and safeguarding vulnerable ecosystems.

Ethiopia's Green Legacy initiative is not without its challenges. Ensuring the long-term survival and growth of newly planted trees requires sustained commitment, adequate resources, and effective management strategies. Additionally, addressing the root causes of deforestation, such as agricultural expansion and unsustainable land use practices, remains a complex issue that necessitates comprehensive solutions involving multiple stakeholders.

As the international community gears up for the crucial COP24 meeting in Poland, Ethiopia's green legacy stands as a testament to what can be achieved when nations prioritize environmental stewardship and climate resilience.

However, it is also only a piece of the ongoing solution. I call on the global public and private sector to join us to identify, execute and expand efforts to mitigate and reverse climate change for those that are most vulnerable, and then eventually for the rest of the world.

In the face of unprecedented environmental challenges, Ethiopia's Green Legacy reminds us that hope springs from action and that every tree planted today holds the promise of a greener, more sustainable tomorrow for generations to come. It is imperative that we rally behind Ethiopia's visionary leadership and work together to build a more resilient and prosperous future for all.