



British Embassy
Addis Ababa

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British Embassy/AU Organise Olympic Truce Football Tournament

Addis Ababa- 08 June 2012- The UK's Permanent Representation to the African Union/British Embassy and the African Union Commission have organised a football tournament between teams representing the African Union Commission, African Embassies in Addis Ababa, the Economic Commission for Africa, African Union Partner Countries' Embassies and the UK's Permanent Representation to the African Union/British Embassy. The objective of the football tournament is to celebrate and publicise the Olympic Truce, as we approach the start of the London 2012 Olympic Games. The UK Government is delivering activities which promote the ideals of peace and conflict resolution in the lead-up to the London 2012 Games.

The football tournament started on Friday 25 May 2012 and has run for three consecutive Fridays. The final tournament took place on Friday 8 June, featuring teams from the British Embassy, the African Union Commission and the Economic Commission for Africa.

The tournament highlighted the UK's increasingly strong links with the AU where the UK has played an important role in strengthening AU – UN relations, helping the AU's mission in Somalia and other vital peace and security issues. The UK and AU also work increasingly closely on a variety of other issues such as capacity building, trade and fighting climate change. These links will be particularly important in 2013 when the UK takes on the Presidency of the G8.

UK Permanent Representative to the African Union, Ambassador Greg Dorey said "this football tournament demonstrates the importance the UK attaches to Africa. This tournament, like the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, is a great example of cooperation, commitment and fair play. Given that one of the Olympics founding ideals was the promotion of peace and security, it seems fitting to be holding a tournament in the headquarters of the African Union."

Note for Editors:

- The Olympic Truce has its origins in ancient Greece. The Truce allowed athletes, artists and spectators to travel to Olympia to participate in the Olympic Games and return home in peace. In the early 1990s, the International Olympic Committee revived the tradition of the Olympic Truce. In the modern Olympic Games, the Truce aims to highlight how sport can bring the world together without racism, politics or prejudice. Further details can be found at <http://www.olympic.org/content/the-ioc/commissions/international-relations-/olympic-truce/>.
- Before every Summer and Winter Games, the government of the next host country is asked to take a resolution, entitled 'Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the

Olympic ideal', and present it to the UN General Assembly. Following tradition, in October 2011 all 193 member states of the United Nations co-sponsored the resolution, introduced by Seb Coe, the Chair of the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG), on behalf of the UK Government.

- More information about the London Olympics can be found on ukinethiopia@fco.gov.uk and <http://www.london2012.com/>