



## RESOLUTION

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### **RESOLUTION HONORING THE 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF VOICE OF AMERICA BROADCASTS IN AFAN OROMO AND TIGRIGNA**

**September 28, 2016**

WHEREAS, the Voice of America (VOA) began broadcasting accurate, balanced and comprehensive news and information to ethnic Oromos of Ethiopia in Afan Oromo and to people in the country's northern Tigray region and Eritrea in Tigrigna on July 15, 1996;

WHEREAS, Afan Oromo and Tigrigna also reach diaspora populations in surrounding countries and the world on multiple media platforms, including radio, digital and mobile;

WHEREAS, Afan Oromo and Tigrigna, together with Amharic, comprise the languages of VOA's Horn of Africa Service, the leading international broadcaster in Ethiopia with a weekly audience of nearly three million adults;

WHEREAS, survey results indicate that more than 90 percent of Horn of Africa Service listeners say the "station is reliable and trustworthy" and that it has "increased their understanding of current events;"

WHEREAS, survey respondents inside Ethiopia and the diaspora consistently report that VOA is practically the sole source of independent news about political events in their country, in languages most Ethiopians and Eritreans can understand;

WHEREAS, Afan Oromo and Tigrigna broadcast local, regional, U.S. and international news, as well as an array of programming about Ethiopian, Eritrean and American culture, politics, current affairs, economics, health, education, entertainment and more;

WHEREAS, Afan Oromo and Tigrigna have been providing blanket coverage of stories of great concern to their audiences, including the country's worst drought in 50 years, the migrant crisis and violent clashes between Ethiopian government security forces and protesters in the regional states of Oromia and Amhara; and

WHEREAS, Afan Oromo and Tigrigna have made significant progress on their digital social platforms, while averaging nearly one million page views a month each on their sites.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Broadcasting Board of Governors that we celebrate and commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Voice of America Horn of Africa Service's Afan Oromo and Tigrigna language broadcasts.