



RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION HONORING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF VOICE OF AMERICA BROADCASTS IN AMHARIC-LANGUAGE

November 15, 2017

WHEREAS, the Voice of America (VOA) began broadcasting accurate, balanced and comprehensive news and information in the Amharic language to audiences in Ethiopia and Eritrea on September 26, 1982;

WHEREAS, VOA broadcasts in Amharic-language also reach diaspora populations in surrounding countries and the world on multiple media platforms, including radio, digital and mobile;

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

WHEREAS, survey results indicated that more than 90 percent of VOA Horn of Africa Service's 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, VOA broadcasts 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, VOA broadcasts in Amharic-language have been providing comprehensive coverage of stories of great concern to its audiences, including Ethiopia's worst drought in 50 years, the migrant crisis, unrest and ethnic conflict and disputes between the Ethiopian government and opposition groups; and

WHEREAS, VOA broadcasts in Amharic-language have made significant progress on its digital platforms, with the website year-over-year traffic increasing by 14 percent, from 9.9 million in 2016 to 11.5 million in 2017.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Broadcasting Board of Governors and Chief Executive Officer that we celebrate and commemorate the 35th anniversary of Voice of America broadcasts in Amharic-language.