6 January 2019

The conference was held at Addis Ababa Intercontinental Hotel on the 4th of Jan. 2019 where 1200 including teachers, supervisors, school directors, other education practitioners, parent representatives and regional and federal teachers’ association leaders and other invited guests were part of. Among higher government officials, Her Excellency W/ro Muferiat Kamil, Minister of Peace and His Excellency Dr. Tilaye Getie, Minister of Education were there to address the conference.

After a brief introduction of the conference by the PR of the association, Mr. Yohannes Benti, President of ETA, made a welcome speech. He emphasized that though the current situation generally harms the whole of the nation, it is highly affecting the teaching and learning process and he requests all stakeholders to work hard in unity and secure peace. ETA on its part, donated more than 150,000 Ethiopian birr for the displaced citizens from all over the country by the decision of the Council, he added.

W/ro Muferiat Kamil, Minister of Peace (MoP), in her opening remark, called the participants as “peace messengers”. She underlined that peace discussion is important with all people but it is more important to discuss with teachers because teachers are nation builders. For sustainable peace, security and overall development, education plays pivotal role and teachers are major actors in the field, she added.

Next to the speeches, a scholar from Meles Zenawi Leadership Academy presented a paper for discussion entitled “The Role of Teachers and Their Association for Peace.” Following the presentation, participants aired out on issues like, no compromise over peace, all of us
especially teachers must stand together to produce ethically disciplined and nation loving citizens. They added, government should play a leading role in keeping human rights and stopping violence, and most said that the problem creators are not from the general public rather from the elites, so called activists and social media.

In conclusion, His Excellency Tilaye Getie (PhD), Minister of Education (MoE) expressed his appreciation for both the participants and the association for their concern towards peace agenda. He quoted from the participants that the major cause for the conflicts here and there is extreme ethnic nationalism that should be managed through inclusive dialogue.