

Program

Experience sharing tour on Intergovernmental Relations of a high Delegation of Ethiopia to Switzerland May 17th to 19th 2016

Basic documents

“Terms of Reference for Experience Sharing Visit on IGR”
and “Framework on Intergovernmental Relations (draft)”, January 2016, with “The Concept of Intergovernmental Relations: The Experience of other Federal Countries and Assessment of the Ethiopian Situation”/Part I

Content: “Expected Outcome” and main “Areas of Benchmarking”

- “institutional framework” of IGR in politics and law, i.e. cooperation, participation, competition, between Federation and Cantons, top down and bottom up
- “accountability” (democracy) in a multilevel system
- “knowledge on the role and status of the judicial organ in IGRs”, i.e. control of the constitutionality: role of the courts and of politics (compared with the House of Federations)
- “institutional mechanism for managing and coordinating the overall IGRs” or “The mechanism by which the overall system of IGR is managed and coordinated”, a Swiss example could be the adaption of the “NFA”, i.e. the process of periodical adaption of the distribution of tasks and financial equalization

May 17th Bern, House of the Cantons

Federation and the Cantons – Control of the Constitutionality and the Conference of the Cantons

0900 Participation of the Cantons in federal politics (shaping and making federal decisions)
Dr. Robert Baumann, Senior Advisor, Federal Office of Justice

1000 Control of the Constitutionality in federal and cantonal acts (role of law and politics;
Hints to the House of Federations in Ethiopia)
Professor Dr. Eva Maria Belser, University of Fribourg and Institute of Federalism

1100 Cooperation of the Cantons and with the Federation in the Conference of Cantonal Governments
Dr. Sandra Maissen, Secretary General of the Conference of Cantonal Governments

May 18th Aarau, Blumenhalde**Intergovernmental Relations, Democracy and Federalism and political formation**

0836 Departure by train from Bern main station

0913 Walk (with Thomas Pfisterer)

1000 Intergovernmental relations in Switzerland

Professor em., Thomas Pfisterer, former member of the Supreme Court, the Cantonal Government and the Council of States (Senate of Switzerland)

1100 Democracy and Federalism and political formation in Switzerland

Professor Dr. Daniel Kübler, Chair of Directorate of the Centre for Democracy Studies Aarau (ZDA)

1330 Lunch in the Hotel Kettenbrücke, Aarau (062 838 18 18)

1500 – 1630 Guided tour through the old City of Aarau (062 834 10 34)

1646 Departure for Bern main station by train

May 19th Bern, Swiss Federal Audit Office

(Monbijoustrasse 45, 3003 Bern)

0900 Reform of Financial Equalization and Task Allocation (NFA) between the Confederation and the Cantons in Switzerland: History, Concept, Structure

Dr. Walter Moser, Former Head of the RET team of the Conference of Cantonal Governments

1000 Evaluation of the Swiss Fiscal Equalization System and Options for further development.

Werner Weber, Head of Fiscal Equalization, Swiss Federal Department of Finance

1100 The Tasks of the Swiss Federal and the Cantonal Audit Offices, prevention of Corruption and Whistleblowing

tbd

1230 Lunch, to be organized by the Ethiopian Embassy

1430 Guided tour in the Parliament Building

1600 Reception by Yves Rossier, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Bundeshaus (Federal Parliament Building) West; the delegation will be accompanied by Thomas Pfisterer and Hans Altherr