

*Deputy Secretary General,  
Ms. Amina Mohammed*

The world needs to share Eritrea's recipe of  
"Union, equality and dividend of peace"



*Welcome to Eritrea. Your impressions and thoughts on your mission to Eritrea...*

We arrived yesterday on a joint solidarity mission for peace, security and development. We went straight to the field. We experienced the investments that Eritrea is making in infrastructure; we visited the road that connects to Ethiopia. We also saw a multi-purpose dam, which for us is really important to witness how Eritrea has focused on water and is actually putting its own investment in it. Most exciting about that was seeing young Eritreans involved: engineers from Eritrea, but also from the diaspora. We ended up in a dairy farm where we saw entrepreneurship of a woman and her family producing products equal to global standards.

*You have also met with the Eritrean leadership. How was it to actually speak with the ministers and the President himself?*

We met with the ministers and saw that they are very focused on the priorities of this country; a country that has come out of war into

peace. And that is actually what we wanted to hear because that is what we need to support. We had an inspiring discussion with the President who reiterated what has been learned from a journey – through war and isolation into peace and the importance of keeping the peace not just for Eritrea but the regional integration for the Horn of Africa and the rest of Africa.

***You've had a chance to meet the President of NUEW and had a round table discussion with young professionals over traditional Bun! How was it?***

And what a better note to come and speak with young people and the Eritrean women who have been on the forefront in the struggle for freedom, and, now, in the fight for sustainable development! We realized the challenge of finding a seamless transition from one generation to another; having the young people at the front with their vision, energy and capacities and support them to strengthen their capacities and make sure that they are taught of what Eritrea has done and what it can do both for Africa and for the globe itself.

***You are the second high level delegation of the UN visiting Eritrea within a time frame of a month. What is the reason behind this?***

The fact that now Eritrea is engaging with the world is a big thing. It has been in isolation for a long time. We know that there are remaining challenges but if we want to see Eritrea proceed then we have to start understanding the country's priorities. We need to know where the country is coming from and where it would like to go and together see how we can support that. The UN has been in Eritrea for a long time and intends to stay as long as it can. There are many different aspects of the UN that the government is speaking with now to see how we can consolidate that partnership. That is what we're bringing in terms of the system, which is pretty big.

***And if you may, Mrs. Deputy Secretary General, what will your role be in the process you just mentioned?***

For me this is about advocacy for the things that Eritrea is doing well. To amplify that so that people can see and feel encouraged by the

stability that is being created in the political will to have peace as a future not just for Eritrea but the region as well. Moreover, it will be also about addressing the challenges. What more challenges and gaps have we got? Whether it is in development or human rights, all of that needs to be addressed if one is to be an equal member of the global community. And so I see this as the first of many conversations and activities for the future. We are hearing from young people who tell us what they would like and how they'd like to be part of the networks that are regional and global... so we'll need more, not us giving you prescriptions, but you telling us what you need. That will help us find solutions together.

***Thank you for your time. Is there anything you'd like to put on an ending note?***

Yes. I think there are three things that Eritrea should share with the world. The first is what we saw and felt as well, your unity. There aren't many countries that are as unified as you are and I think that the next generation should share this value with young generations across the border. The second trait is how the government has approached equality. I think in many countries inequality is the root-cause of destructions that we see. And last, whatever Eritrea has gained as a dividend of its past must be carried on as a dividend for peace in the future; and that is based on gender equality. You have it in many places. Don't take it for granted and you, the young people, must hold on to it tight as well.