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AFRICA UNITES FOR PROSPERITY

Stronger Partnerships
Bigger Opportunities
Sustainable Development

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Ayele Addis Ambelu | Africa News Channel | 12 July 2026



Russia–Africa Economic Partnership

From Trade to Transformation

Stronger Cooperation, Shared Growth, A Brighter Future

From coffee and grain to energy, technology and industrialisation, Russia and Africa are building a new era of partnership — one that creates jobs, drives innovation and delivers real benefits for people across the continent.

By Ayele Addis Ambelu
Africa News Channel

The relationship between Russia and Africa is no longer being negotiated only in presidential palaces. It is taking shape in farms, factories, ports, universities and business forums across the continent. From Ethiopian coffee and Egyptian nuclear energy to agricultural trade, technology transfer and industrial investment, the two sides are deepening cooperation in ways that create real economic and social value.

Russian officials say trade between Russia and Africa reached $27.7 billion in 2025, while Ethiopia–Russia trade exceeded $435 million. Ethiopian coffee exports to Russia rose to $123.3 million in 2025, with volumes reaching 18,300 tonnes.

These figures, combined with major infrastructure and industrial projects, point to a partnership with growing long-term potential — and real opportunities for African development.

"Our trade has grown several times. I hope there is a big room to grow still," said Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed in September 2026.

(Source: EBS, 12 Sept 2026)



KEY VERIFIED FIGURES USED IN THIS STORY

$27.7 billion
Russia–Africa trade turnover (2025)
Source: Irina Abramova, Russian Academy of Sciences

$435 million+
Ethiopia–Russia trade turnover (2025)
Source: Russian Ambassador Evgeny Terekhin

$123.3 million
Ethiopian coffee exports to Russia (2025)
Up from $45.9m in 2024
Source: Terekhin/TASS

18,300 tonnes
Ethiopian coffee volume to Russia (2025)
Up from 8,300 tonnes in 2024
Source: Terekhin/TASS

500,000 tonnes/year
Proposed Ethiopian aluminium smelter (first phase – $1bn)
Source: EIH/RUSAL proposal

4 × 1,200 MW
El-Dabaa nuclear project (Egypt)
Total planned capacity 4,800 MW
Source: Egyptian government

$97 billion
Africa FDI inflows (2024)
Source: UN Trade and Development

> "The real measure of partnership is not simply volume. It is economic transformation."
> — Ayele Addis Ambelu

BRICS: A STRONGER GLOBAL SOUTH

Africa's Voice, BRICS' Future

With Africa's growing role in BRICS, new opportunities are emerging for trade, investment, and technology cooperation. The bloc's expansion reinforces a more inclusive and multipolar world order.





AFRICA–RUSSIA KEY SECTORS

- Energy & Nuclear
- Agriculture & Food Security
- Mining & Raw Materials
- Manufacturing & Industry
- Digital & Innovation
- Education & Skills
- Infrastructure & Transport

AFRICA UNION VISION

"Agenda 2063 aims for a prosperous, integrated and peaceful Africa."

African Union

One Continent • One People • One Future

RUSSIA–AFRICA COOPERATION

More than trade — a partnership for people, progress and peace.





AGRICULTURE

From Ethiopian Coffee to Global Markets

Farmers, cooperatives and exporters benefit from growing demand in Russia.

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ENERGY

El-Dabaa: Powering Egypt's Future

A landmark project with long-term benefits for the region.

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EDUCATION

African Students Build Global Bridges

Russian universities create opportunities for a new generation of leaders.

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TRADE & INDUSTRY

Investment, Jobs, Industrial Growth

From aluminium to logistics, partnerships create lasting value.

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DIPLOMACY

Together for a Sustainable Future

Shared goals. Stronger alliances. A more prosperous Africa.

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AFRICA NEWS CHANNEL

YOUR VOICE | OUR CONTINENT | A BRIGHTER FUTURE

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Byline: *By Ayele Addis Ambelu, Journalist (Africa Union Media Fellow)* | ***Date:*** *12 July 2026* | ***Outlet:*** *African News Channel | Ethiopia*

THE NEW RUSSIA–AFRICA ECONOMIC FRONTIER: FROM COFFEE AND GRAIN TO ENERGY, TECHNOLOGY AND INDUSTRIAL PARTNERSHIPS

How trade, food security, energy, investment and technology are reshaping an old relationship and why Africa wants the partnership measured in factories, jobs, skills and value addition.

ADDIS ABABA — The relationship is no longer being negotiated only in presidential palaces. It is visible in a coffee shipment leaving Ethiopia. It is visible in Russian fertilizer entering an African agricultural market. It is taking shape at the construction site of a nuclear power station in Egypt. It is being discussed in university laboratories, business councils, logistics companies, agricultural ministries and diplomatic offices. And increasingly, it is being measured in numbers.

> *"Our trade has grown several times. I hope there is a big room to grow still. Russia is a true friend of Africa. And Russia is a balance power of the global politics."*
>
> **— H.E. Abiy Ahmed, Prime Minister of Ethiopia**

SIDEBAR HIGHLIGHTS & DIPLOMATIC FRAMEWORK

- **BRICS & Multipolarity:** Russia positioning as a balancing global power.
- **Geographic Dynamics:** 70% of current trade remains in North Africa; Sub-Saharan expansion expanding rapidly.
- **AU Agenda 2063:** Structural alignment with AfCFTA and local processing mandates.

KEY STATISTICAL INDICATORS

$27.7 B
Russia–Africa Trade Turnover (2025; T. Dovgalenko, MFA)

$435 M+
Ethiopia–Russia Trade Turnover (2025; Amb. E. Terekhin)

$123.3 M
Ethiopian Coffee Exports (2025; up from $45.9M)

18,300 T
Ethiopian Coffee Volume (2025; up from 8,300 tonnes)

500,000 Tonnes / Year
Proposed Ethiopia Aluminium Smelter (EIH / RUSAL MoU; $1B Phase 1 Funding)

4 × 1,200 MW (4,800 MW)
El-Dabaa Nuclear Project Capacity in Egypt (Rosatom Partnership)

5.7 Million Tonnes
Russian Wheat exported to Africa in first 5 months of 2025

> *"The real measure of partnership is not simply volume. It is economic transformation."*
>
> **— Prof. Abebe Zegeye, African Financial Analyst**

PAGE 11: Trade & Grain | PAGE 12: Coffee & Smelter | PAGE 13: Nuclear Scale | PAGE14: Strategic Frontier

ADDIS ABABA — The geopolitical landscape is shifting beneath the feet of global markets. The Russia–Africa relationship is no longer a quiet dialogue conducted behind the polished mahogany doors of presidential palaces. It is roaring to life across concrete economic arteries. It is visible in a high-grade coffee shipment charting its course from the Ethiopian highlands to Saint Petersburg. It is visible in vessels carrying millions of tonnes of wheat and fertilizer docking at African ports to stabilize national food security. It is taking shape in the massive foundations of a 4,800-megawatt nuclear power plant along Egypt's Mediterranean coast. It is sparking intense debates inside business councils, university laboratories, transport terminals, and government ministries from Addis Ababa to Moscow.

CONTINENT-TO-COUNTRY & STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIP MATRIX

RUSSIAN FEDERATION (Industrial, Energy, Grain & Scientific Capabilities)

NORTH AFRICAN HUB

- ~70% of total trade volume
- Egypt, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia
- El-Dabaa Nuclear (4,800 MW)
- Desalination & Manufacturing

SUB-SAHARAN FRONTIER

- Rapidly growing emerging markets
- Ethiopia, South Africa, Nigeria
- Coffee, Flowers, Agriculture
- Heavy Industry (RUSAL, KAMAZ)

▼ INTEGRATION WITH AFRICAN UNION & AfCFTA FRAMEWORK ▼

Agenda 2063, Local Value Addition, Technology Transfer & Skill Building

THE NUMBERS THAT CHANGED THE CONVERSATION

The financial metrics driving this surge are demanding global attention. Tatyana Dovgalenko, Director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Department for Partnership with Africa, revealed that Russia–Africa trade reached $27.7 billion in 2025, surging by 13 percent from approximately $25 billion in 2024. Anatoly Bashkin, Director of the Department of African States to the South of Sahara, detailed the trade breakdown: $24.2 billion in Russian exports against $3.5 billion in African imports.

Yet, this headline figure exposes a dramatic structural disparity. Dovgalenko acknowledged that imports from African countries account for slightly more than 3 percent of the total trade, with nearly 70 percent of all commerce heavily concentrated in North Africa.

TRADE DIMENSION	FINANCIAL VOLUME	PERCENTAGE SHARE / STRUCTURAL CONTEXT
Russian Exports to Africa	$24.2 Billion	87.4% of total trade turnover (Grain, Energy, Machinery)
African Imports to Russia	$3.5 Billion	12.6% of total trade turnover (Commodities, Agriculture)
North African Concentration	~$19.4 Billion	~70.0% of total continental trade volume
Sub-Saharan African Share	~$8.3 Billion	~30.0% of total continental trade volume

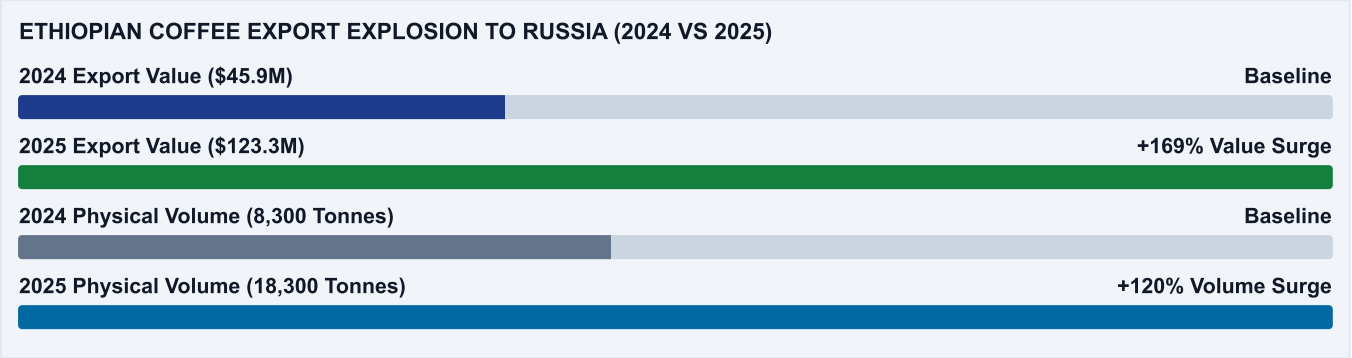
> *"We want to focus primarily on the rapidly growing markets of Africa and South Asia. Russia wants to integrate into this development trend and work together in African markets."*
>
> **— Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation**

CONT... P 12. DIPLOMATIC & COMMERCIAL ACCELERATION: ETHIOPIA AND RUSSIA

Bilateral figures illustrate the rapid acceleration of mutual commercial links. Russian Ambassador to Ethiopia Evgeny Terekhin noted that trade between Russia and Ethiopia nearly tripled in 2025 compared to the previous year, exceeding $435 million. In the first half of 2025 alone, bilateral trade stood at $191.2 million—more than double the corresponding period in 2024. Terekhin emphasized that traditional export items are driving this qualitative surge: Russian fertilizers, agricultural machinery, and energy equipment on one side, and Ethiopian coffee, flowers, and textiles on the other.

COFFEE: WHERE THE BIG STORY BECOMES SMALL ENOUGH TO HOLD IN YOUR HAND

Ethiopian coffee serves as a focal point for understanding how economic diplomacy reaches local producers. In 2024, Ethiopia exported coffee worth $45.9 million to Russia. By the end of 2025, that figure reached $123.3 million, representing a 169 percent increase in value, while physical shipment volume jumped from 8,300 tonnes to 18,300 tonnes.



Ambassador Terekhin noted that Ethiopian coffee, particularly from Sidamo and Harar, is highly valued in Russia for its complex flavor profile. Ramaz Chanturia, Director General of the Russian Association of Tea and Coffee Producers, highlighted that Russia purchases over 200,000 tonnes of green coffee annually, leaving substantial room for expansion. Local exporters, such as AMG Ethiopian Coffee Exporters, emphasize that scaling trade requires predictable payments, improved logistics, and direct linkages between African producers and international buyers.

HEAVY INDUSTRY & THE ALUMINIUM REVOLUTION

Moving beyond agricultural products, industrial projects offer a transformative alternative to simple commodity trade. Ethiopian Investment Holdings (EIH) Chief Executive Officer Dr. Brook Taye announced a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed with RUSAL—a major global producer of low-carbon aluminium—to establish a large-scale smelter in Ethiopia.

COMPARISON DIMENSION	COMMODITY IMPORT MODEL	INDUSTRIAL TRANSFORMATION MODEL
Economic Impact	Drain on foreign currency reserves	In-country value addition & exports
Manufacturing Capacity	Import of finished products/vehicles	Local assembly (e.g. KAMAZ partnerships)
Employment & Training	External job creation	Skilled technical jobs & domestic training
Supply Chain Integration	Minimal technology transfer	Local supplier ecosystem & regional taxes

CONT... P 13. FOOD SECURITY: THE HUMAN LIFELINE

Agricultural inputs and grain supplies represent the most direct intersection of trade and human welfare. Russian Economic Development Minister Maxim Reshetnikov noted that fertilizer shipments replaced grain as the dominant Russian export to Ethiopia in 2025, contributing to an overall 46 percent increase in bilateral trade turnover in 2024 and a tripling in early 2025.

On a continental scale, Tatyana Dovgalenko reported that 5.7 million tonnes of Russian wheat—out of 10 million tonnes exported in the first five months of 2025—were delivered to African nations. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov further noted humanitarian donations totaling over 100,000 tonnes of mineral fertilizers to Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, and Zimbabwe, along with $10 million allocated annually for food aid through the UN World Food Programme.

NORTH AFRICA'S MEGA-SCALE NUCLEAR FRONTIER

Egypt presents a benchmark for large-scale technological and infrastructure cooperation through the El-Dabaa Nuclear Power Plant, built in partnership with Russia's Rosatom.

EL-DABAA NUCLEAR POWER PLANT ARCHITECTURE (4,800 MW TOTAL CAPACITY)

UNIT 1	UNIT 2	UNIT 3	UNIT 4
1,200 MW VVER-1200 *Status: Under Construction*	1,200 MW VVER-1200 *Status: Vessel Placed*	1,200 MW VVER-1200 *Status: Construction*	1,200 MW VVER-1200 *Status: Construction*

Secondary Ecosystems: Associated Seawater Desalination Plants, Technical Personnel Training & Small Modular Reactor (SMR) R&D.

Egyptian Prime Minister Mustafa Madbouli stated that El-Dabaa is a cornerstone of the Egypt 2030 strategy, promoting comprehensive development. State Duma Energy Committee Chairman Nikolai Shulginov, Electricity Minister Mahmoud Esmat, and Rosatom CEO Alexey Likhachev highlighted that the multi-decade investment includes reactor installation, technical personnel training, technology transfer, and desalination infrastructure.

WHAT AFRICA WANTS: RAMAPHOSA'S WARNING & AU AGENDA 2063

At the Russia–Africa Summit in St. Petersburg, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa articulated the continent's expectation for reciprocal trade and investment. Ramaphosa stressed that African products and services must compete fairly in global markets, advocating for joint ventures that build local manufacturing capacity rather than perpetual primary commodity reliance.

African Union Commission Chairperson Mahmoud Ali Youssouf similarly noted that ties between Africa and Russia must reflect mutual respect, sovereign equality, and active support for Agenda 2063 and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

THE SIX PILLARS OF DEVELOPMENTAL PARTNERSHIP

1. Value Addition
Processing raw commodities locally before exporting to international markets.

2. Infrastructure Logistics
Establishing reliable direct transport routes, port hubs, and streamlined customs.

CONT... P 14. STRATEGIC ANALYSIS: PORTS, MILITARY ACCESS & GEOPOLITICS

The expanding partnership extends beyond pure commercial economics into global strategy:

- **The Scientific & Economic Frontier:** Prof. Abebe Zegeye, African development analyst, noted that Russia's scientific standing paired with Africa's expanding markets creates significant opportunities for regional business.
- **Industrial & Regional Integration:** Ethiopian Foreign Minister Dr. Gidon Timtios emphasized that Russian industrial goods can find widespread African markets, adding that Africa's geography between East and West makes commercial ties a matter of national security.
- **Security & Maritime Dynamics:** Prof. Alemayehu Erkeyehune identified a military dimension involving prospective ports of call for Russian vessels, logistical facilities, and southern airspace coordination subject to bilateral sovereign agreements.
- **The Demographics of the Future:** Irina Abramova, Director of the Institute for African Studies (RAS), characterized Africa as the continent of the 21st century due to its resource base and demographic potential.

COMPLETE DATA REGISTER: KEY VERIFIED INDICATORS

INDICATOR / METRIC	QUANTITATIVE VALUE	SOURCE / STRATEGIC CONTEXT
Total Russia–Africa Trade Turnover	$27.7 Billion (2025)	Tatyana Dovgalenko / Anatoly Bashkin (MFA)
Russian Exports to Africa	$24.2 Billion (2024/2025)	Anatoly Bashkin, Russian Foreign Ministry
African Exports to Russia	$3.5 Billion (2024/2025)	Anatoly Bashkin (3.2% of total trade share)
North Africa Trade Concentration	~70% of total volume	Tatyana Dovgalenko, MFA
Ethiopia–Russia Trade Turnover	$435 Million+ (2025)	Amb. Evgeny Terekhin (tripled YoY)
Ethiopian Coffee Exports (Value)	$123.3 Million (2025)	Amb. Terekhin (up from $45.9M in 2024)
Ethiopian Coffee Exports (Volume)	18,300 Tonnes (2025)	Amb. Terekhin (up from 8,300 tonnes)
Russian Wheat Exports to Africa	5.7 Million Tonnes	5-month period in 2025 (out of 10M total)
Proposed Ethiopia Aluminium Plant	500,000 Tonnes / Year	EIH / RUSAL MoU ($1B Phase 1 funding)
El-Dabaa Nuclear Power Capacity	4,800 MW (4 × 1,200 MW)	Prime Minister Mustafa Madbouli / Rosatom
Russian Food Aid & Aid Budget	100,000+ Tonnes / $10M	Sergey Lavrov (Fertilizer donations & UN WFP)

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