

---

# ECDC NEWS

Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc.

901 S. Highland Street, Arlington, Virginia 22204

Phone: (703) 685-0510 • Fax: (703) 685-0529 • E-mail: [info@ecdciinternational.org](mailto:info@ecdciinternational.org) • Web Site: [www.ecdciinternational.org](http://www.ecdciinternational.org)

---

IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
November 25, 2009

CONTACT: Selam Mulugeta  
703-685-0510  
[smulugeta@ecdciinternational.org](mailto:smulugeta@ecdciinternational.org)

## Senate Confirmation Of Daniel Yohannes Strengthens MCC, Says ECDC President

By unanimous confirmation of Daniel W. Yohannes to serve as Chief Executive Officer of the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), the United States Senate has affirmed President Obama's determination to provide bold new leadership to an agency charged with reducing global poverty through the promotion of sustainable economic growth, according to Tsehaye Teferra, president of the Ethiopian Community Development Corporation (ECDC).

"Through a heightened focus on good governance, accountability and creative utilization of U.S. foreign assistance, MCC offers enormous potential in reducing the root causes of refugee producing conflicts in Africa and other regions of the world," Teferra said. "By training, experience and personal commitment, Yohannes is uniquely qualified to pursue those goals and achieve even higher levels of cooperation for peace and security."

Arriving in the United States as a 17-year-old Ethiopian immigrant, Yohannes started at the bottom of the economic ladder, earning his way through college as a stock boy in a clothing store and later as a teller at a local bank in Los Angeles. After a distinguished career in banking, including service as president and chief executive officer of U.S. Bank in Colorado, he has been a private investor specializing in real estate, financial institutions and the renewable energy sector.

Yohannes is on the board of the National Jewish Hospital and Research Center, the Denver Art Museum, the University of Colorado Medical School and Project C.U.R.E., which provides medical supplies to 110 countries. His interest in African art, history and culture led to his service as a six-year member of the Smithsonian Institutes and his founding of the Daniel Yohannes Family African Gallery at the Denver Art Museum.

Created by Congress in 2004, MCC provides large-scale grants to developing countries, complementing other U.S. development programs. Yohannes will become chairman of the MCC board of directors, which includes the Secretaries of State and Treasury, the USAID Administrator, the U.S. Trade Representative and four private sector representatives.

ECDC is one of the ten national voluntary agencies working in partnership with the Department of State and the Office of Refugee Resettlement resettling refugees in the United States. With headquarters in Arlington, Virginia and branch offices in Denver and Las Vegas, ECDC promotes cultural, educational, and socioeconomic development in the refugee and immigrant community in the United States, and conducts humanitarian and development programs in the Horn of Africa.