

Open Letter Regarding Visa Denial and Unprofessional Conduct at the Argentinian Embassy in Addis Ababa

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I am writing to formally express my deep disappointment and concern regarding my recent experience with the Consular Section of the Argentinian Embassy in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

I had the honor of being invited by the Organization of Southern Cooperation (OSC) to participate as a panelist in a high-level colloquium to be held at the National University of Avellaneda in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on July 4–5, 2025. Upon receiving the official invitation from OSC, I immediately initiated the visa application process with the Argentinian Embassy in Addis Ababa, complying with all procedures and submitting all the required documentation within the prescribed timelines.

Despite fulfilling all formal requirements and responding promptly to every request made by the consular office—regardless of how burdensome or redundant they were—the process was marked by a lack of professional communication from the consular section. The Consular Office failed to provide timely and clear updates regarding the status of the application, causing significant logistical disruptions. As a result, the OSC was forced to reschedule my flight twice and ultimately had to cancel the trip altogether due to the absence of a visa decision.

What is most troubling, however, is not simply the denial or delay of the visa—which, I understand, is within the discretion of any sovereign state—but the manner in which the entire process was conducted. The behavior exhibited by the head of the consular section was unprofessional, discourteous, and, frankly, disrespectful. There was a marked lack of transparency and effective communication throughout the process. Such conduct does not reflect the diplomatic standards expected of a foreign mission, particularly in the 21st century when global collaboration and mutual respect are paramount.

As someone who was preparing to contribute meaningfully to an international academic dialogue, it is disheartening to be denied the opportunity due to the inefficiency and unprofessionalism of a diplomatic office. I believe it is imperative that this matter be brought to the attention of all relevant authorities to ensure that future applicants are treated with the dignity, respect, and professionalism they deserve.

Embassies are not only gatekeepers of national borders but also representatives of their countries' values and commitments to international cooperation. I sincerely hope that the Argentinian Embassy in Addis Ababa will take immediate steps to evaluate and improve the conduct of its consular section head, particularly with respect to customer service, communication, and procedural transparency.

I remain deeply disappointed by this experience and urge all concerned bodies to take the necessary actions to uphold the integrity and professionalism of diplomatic engagements.

Best Regards,

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