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**UN Human Rights Council
Thirteenth Session, 1 - 26 March 2010**

Item 6: Consideration of UPR outcome reports

Ethiopia

Mr President,

Amnesty International Amnesty International welcomes Ethiopia's support of recommendations made during the review to ensure the safety of human rights defenders and their freedom to act, and to respond promptly to any complaints of their harassment.¹

We are concerned, however, that Ethiopia has rejected recommendations to amend the Charities and Societies Proclamation² which puts at risk the ability of local and international organizations to monitor, report, advocate on and campaign against human rights abuses in Ethiopia. We urge on Ethiopia to review its position on these recommendations.

Mr President,

Although Ethiopia has accepted a recommendation to ensure that efforts to counter terrorism are carried out in full compliance with its human rights obligations,³ it has also rejected a recommendation to amend the Anti-Terrorism Proclamation to narrow its definition of terrorism and make it consistent with international human rights standards.⁴ Amnesty International notes that this legislation could be mis-used to restrict freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and the right to fair trial. We therefore urge Ethiopia to review its position on this recommendation as well.

Amnesty International welcomes Ethiopia's support of recommendations to upgrade land and water resources, and to request technical assistance to build capacity in the fields of education, health, housing and food security.⁵

Mr President,

¹ A/HRC/13/17, paragraph 97, recommendations 56, 57 and 58.

² Ibid, paragraph 99, recommendations 23-26.

³ Ibid, paragraph 97, recommendation 91.

⁴ Ibid, paragraph 99, recommendation 32.

⁵ Ibid, paragraphs 97, recommendations 69-70.

Lastly, Amnesty International encourages Ethiopia to facilitate the visits requested by the Special Rapporteur on torture and the Special Rapporteur on extra-judicial, summary or arbitrary executions, in 2005 and 2008 respectively. This would be consistent with recommendations, which enjoy the support of Ethiopia, to cooperate with the Special Procedures of this Council.⁶

Thank you, Mr President.

⁶ Ibid, paragraph 97, recommendations 15-17.