

ELECTION AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN THE FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA (FDRE)

Situation in FDRE

- To make the upcoming Elections in May 2020 free, fair and credible the positive steps taken so far:
 - The current national electoral laws are being amended through consultations between the ruling and opposition parties.
 - A number of formerly banned political parties some of whom had been designated as terrorist organizations by the House of People's Representatives have had their terrorist designations cancelled and returned to the country to pursue peaceful political struggles.

Situation

- The on-going revision of the media law, the charities and societies legislation and the electoral laws will create more room for civil society engagement in civic and voter education as well as election monitoring.
- The last four years saw violent protest, two State of Emergencies and Political reform.

Recommendations

- Expedite the justice and legal reform initiative launched in June 2018 which include reforming the electoral system, during Pre-election:
 - Take clear stand on whether or not elections will be held and announcing accordingly,
 - Create awareness on steps taken in reforming Electoral Laws,
 - Resolve Administrative Boundary issues, identity and Autonomy questions to enable voter registration and decide on Polling Station
 - Ensuring Rule and building trust on State Institutions by primarily preventing Mob justice.

Recommendations

- ❑ Ensure meticulous review of the existing legal and institutional framework of the electoral system through an inclusive process
 - Amend or repeal all legal restrictions prohibiting Civil Societies to actively participate in all three Election Cycles.
 - Amend or repeal all regulations preventing the Media from covering Elections or causing Self-censorship.

Recommendations

- Remove the prohibition imposed on civil society organizations involved in voter's education from election observation;
 - Amend or repeal all Electoral and Civil Society laws particularly restricting Civil Societies to conduct Voter Education and also later Election Observation.

Thank you

From all the members of our coalition:

- ❑ *Human Rights Council (HRCO);*
- ❑ *Vision Ethiopian Congress for Democracy (VECOD);*
- ❑ *Transparency Ethiopia;*
- ❑ *Consortium of Ethiopian Rights Organizations (CERO);*
- ❑ *Ethiopian Young Lawyers Association (EYLA),*
- ❑ *Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association;*
- ❑ *Ethiopian Lawyers Association (ELA),*
- ❑ *Network of Ethiopian Women's Association (NEWA);*
- ❑ *Ethiopian National Association for the Blind (ENAB),*
- ❑ *Sara Justice from All; and Advocates Ethiopia*