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Ethiopia

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Please recycle

List of acronyms

ACHPR	African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
ACRWC	African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of Children
ANC	Anti-Natal Care
CAT	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
CoHA	Cessation of Hostilities Agreement
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DDR	Demobilization, Demilitarization and Reintegration
EHRC	Ethiopian Human Rights Commission
ENDF	Ethiopian National Defense Force
ETB	Ethiopian Birr
FDRE	Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
FEACC	Federal Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission
GoE	Government of Ethiopia
GTP	Growth and Transformation Plan
HGER	Home-Grown Economic Reform
HoF	House of Federation
HoPR	House of Peoples' Representatives
HSTP	Health Sector Transformation Plan
HTP	Harmful Traditional Practice
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
IOM	International Organization for Migration
MoD	Ministry of Defence
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
MoLS	Ministry of Labour and Skills
MoP	Ministry of Peace
MoPD	Ministry of Planning and Development
MoWSA	Ministry of Women and Social Affairs
NDP	National Development Plan (2021-2030)
NDRM	National Disaster Risk Management
NEBE	National Election Board of Ethiopia

NHRAP	National Human Rights Action Plan
NHRIs	National Human Rights Institutions
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OWNP	One WASH National Program
PSNP	Productive Safety Net Programme
PWDs	Persons/People with Disability
RRS	Refugees and Returnees Service
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
TJ	Transitional Justice
UHC	Universal Health Coverage
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime
UPR	Universal Periodic Review

I. Introduction and process of drafting the report

1. This report is an update of progress made by Ethiopia with regard to the supported 270 (two hundred and seventy) recommendations, which were proposed at the third cycle of the UPR. The report primarily covers actions undertaken in the period from May 2019 to July 2024 and is organized based on thematic clusters as recommended by the OHCHR. However, for better organization of the report, replies on some recommendations are moved to other clusters.

2. The report has been prepared by an inter-ministerial team coordinated by the MoJ and composed of representatives from MoFA, MoD, MoE, MoH, MoWSA, RRS and NDRM Commission. Inputs to this report have been collected from all relevant federal and regional government bodies as well as CSO's.

3. To enrich the report, 3 consultative forums have been organized with all relevant government bodies, NHRIs, CSOs, member of the parliament and academia.

4. Ethiopia submitted its first and second Voluntary National Review (VNR) reports on SDGs in 2017 and 2022, respectively. This UPR report has also been prepared taking into consideration especially the 2022 VNR report of the Country.

5. During the period under review, Ethiopia has faced enormous internal and external challenges which adversely affected the implementation of recommendations given during the previous cycle as well as the full enjoyment of rights and freedoms. These challenges include: the wide-spread conflicts that claimed many lives, resulted in displacement of millions and destruction of public and private properties; the Covid-19 pandemic that posed great danger against the public health sector and disrupted the supply chain in the international commerce; different regional and international conflicts and wars that inflicted a great blow against the economic and financial well-being of the international system. Despite these enormous challenges, Ethiopia has managed to achieve great results, which are portrayed in this report.

II. Implementation of recommendations from the previous cycle

A. Acceptance of international norms and cooperation with different mechanisms

Acceptance of international norms[1] (Recommendations 163.1-7, 163.10, 163.15)

6. The Kampala Convention[2] has been ratified by Proclamation No.1187/2020.

7. Ethiopia ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled by Proclamation No. 1181/2020.

8. Ethiopia ratified the Protocol to the ACHPR on the Rights of Older Persons by Proclamation No.1182/2020.

9. A diagnosis study was carried out by MoJ for the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the study is awaiting approval.

10. Moreover, work is underway to accede the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

Cooperation with treaty bodies (Recommendations 163.52-53)

11. MoFA has set a merit-based standard for the selection and representation of Ethiopian nationals to the UN and other international organizations.

12. In meeting its reporting obligations, Ethiopia submitted periodic reports on CRPD, CRC, ICCPR and CAT during the period under review. Regarding regional human rights

mechanisms, Ethiopia submitted its report on the ACRWC, ACHPR and the initial report on Maputo Protocol[3] in July 2020 and in January 2024, respectively.

Cooperation with special procedures (Recommendations 163.43, 163.50)

13. In line with its commitment to strengthen its cooperation with the UN, the UN-OHCHR has visited Ethiopia 2023.

14. As part of its commitment to promote, protect and fulfill human rights, Ethiopia has made six pledges during the 75th anniversary of the UDHR.[4]

15. Response has also been provided to different inquiries and communications such as by the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention; the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders; and the Working Group on Discrimination against Women and Girls.

Inter-State cooperation and development assistance[5] (Recommendation 163.112)

16. Ethiopia has been closely working in cooperation with international partners including the AU, EU and UN agencies, and received financial and technical assistance to implement national initiatives effectively, most significantly the TJ and the national dialogue.

17. Following the CoHA, the DDR program has been launched. To this effect, development partners have pledged to support the Program financially.

18. Forty-nine projects are being implemented in areas of renewable energy, road construction, safety net, agriculture and climate change impact prevention, environmental protection, etc. with development assistance secured from the World Bank in the last five years. Also 9 projects focusing on agriculture, energy, social and industrial sectors have been operational with the assistance from African Development Bank. In addition, 8 projects with development finance from the European Union have been implemented.

Constitutional and legislative framework[6] (Recommendations163.28, 163.54-55, 163.62-63, 163.68-69, 163.71-72, 163.75, 163.85, 163.87-88, 163.153, 163.187)

19. Legal reforms have been underway with a view of fulfilling human rights obligations. In this regard, previously repressive laws including the Anti-Terrorism, Media, CSOs and electoral laws have been respectively replaced with Proclamations No.1176/2020, 1238/2021, 1113/2019 and 1162/2019.

20. Furthermore, in terms of providing enhanced protection to rights, the Federal Prison Proclamation No.1174/2019, Prevention and Suppression of Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants Proclamation No.1178/2020, Refugee Proclamation No. 1110/2019, the Hate Speech and Disinformation Prevention and Suppression Proclamation No.1185/2020, Labor Proclamation No.1156/2019, Administrative Procedure Proclamation No. 1183/2020 as well as the Federal Courts Proclamation No.1234/2021 have been enacted.

Institutions and policies[7] (Recommendations 163.94-95, 163.100, 163.116, 163.120, 163.133, 163.186, 163.188-189)

21. Taking lessons from the implementation of the GTP II, an NDP was adopted, which spans between 2021-2030 having ten key strategic pillars of quality economic growth and shared prosperity, economic productivity and competitiveness, technological capability and building digital economy, sustainable development financing, private sector-led growth, resilient green economy, institutional transformation, gender and social inclusion, access to justice and efficient public services, and regional peace building and economic integration.

22. The Government has adopted a comprehensive national policy on public service and administration which provides general direction on free, impartial, accessible, digitalized, capable and effective public service and considers diversity and the participation of women and persons with disability.

23. The Government has adopted a Three-Year Justice Sector Transformation Road-Map (2023-2025) aimed at providing impartial, efficient, people-centered and effective justice services.

24. Following the CoHA signed in the aftermath of the Northern Conflict; the Government has invigorated its work on TJ initiative that resulted in the adoption of the TJ Policy in April 2024. The policy has been motivated by the AU Policy Framework on TJ and international standards. The Policy has been developed by an independent working group through extensive public consultations. The objectives of the Policy include ensuring accountability and victims' reparation, fostering reconciliation, and prevent the recurrence of violations.

25. A National Rehabilitation Commission has been established to fully implement the DDR mechanisms inculcated in the CoHA.

26. A National Dialogue Commission has been established to facilitate an inclusive national dialogue process with a view to build national consensus on critical issues of national importance and foster national cohesion.

Strengthening national human rights institutions[8] (Recommendations 163.89-163.93, 163.96-163.98, 163.101-163.110 and 163.184)

27. With the aim of ensuring the independence and strengthening the capacity of NHRIs, the EHRC and the Institution of Ombudsman have been reestablished by Proclamations No.1224/2020 and 1142/2019, respectively.

28. Under the new legislation, EHRC's mandate has been aligned with the Paris Principles. Hence, on 7 December 2021, the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) has re-accredited the EHRC with "A" Status.

29. With the same token, Proclamation No.1142/2019 has enhanced the Institution's independence and its mandate. Its mandate has been broadened to investigate administrative abuses committed by private entities by Proclamation No.1307/2023.

30. In 2023/2024 alone, it has conducted 45 investigations and 32 systemic investigations related to government maladministration and 90% of administrative complaints have been resolved.

31. Proclamation No.1133/2019 has amplified the capacity, impartiality, and independence of the NEBE through an enhanced engagement of stakeholders in the process of nominating Board Members.

32. Proclamation No.1162/2019 removed previous restrictions on election observers and candidates within constituencies. It also introduced improved incentives to boost political participation among women and persons with disabilities. Additionally, it ensured that political parties have the right to defend themselves against any complaint before a final decision is made by the Board.

NHRAP[9] (Recommendations 163.113, 163.122-124)

33. Accepted recommendations provided under the 3rd cycle UPR were incorporated in the annual plan of the Office of NHRAP. The office identified responsible institutions and streamlined the recommendations through a national tracking database established.

34. To develop a national action plan on business and human rights, preliminary assessments have been carried out and extensive consultations have been undertaken involving the relevant stakeholders. Moreover, technique and steering committees have been established for its preparation.

Cooperation with CSOs[10] (Recommendation 163.220)

35. CSOs participation has been significantly enhanced as a result of the legal reform governing the regime. The law has provided a transparent and predictable registration process, removed the funding ceilings as well as restrictions previously imposed on working on rights-based activities. In accordance with the new CSO law, the electoral law, and the Process of Voter Education Accreditation, and Guidance on the Code of Conduct No. 04/2020, the NEBE accredited 35 CSOs to observe the election and 155 CSOs to provide civic and voter education in the 2021 General Election.

36. Per the new CSO law, the Council of CSOs which represent and coordinate the civil society sector was duly established on December 31, 2020. Furthermore, a Board composed of 11 members representing the government, CSOs, associations, independent experts have been established with the mandate to set policy directions for and receive grievances related to the decisions of the authority.

Good governance[11] (Recommendation 163.138)

37. To combat maladministration and promote good governance, the GoE enacted the Administrative Procedure Proclamation No.1183/2020. This law aims to ensure the effective implementation of laws, hold public officials accountable, and enhance transparency. It also regulates administrative agencies to safeguard public rights and interests. Moreover, regional authorities have passed their respective laws to reinforce these governance principles.

38. In April 2024, the GoE adopted the Comprehensive Public Service and Administrative Reform Policy to modernize the civil service, enhance service delivery, streamline bureaucracy, boost government efficiency, enhance transparency and accountability, build public trust in government institutions, and ensure diversity and inclusiveness.

39. The FEACC has taken various measures to prevent corruption in the Country including establishing a Forum with CSOs and media institutions as well as setting up a national anti-corruption committee to crackdown corrupt schemes by government officials in June 2024 and in 2022, respectively.

40. To address the self-determination quests of various group, four new regional states have been established through a participatory referendum administered by NEBE.[12]

Human rights education[13] (Recommendations163.114-115, 163.117-118, 163.121, 163.125, 163.313)

41. A new curriculum to all middle and high schools has introduced citizenship and moral educations, which nurtures human rights, citizen's obligations and active participation in public affairs.

42. The MoE and EHRC had signed a memorandum of understanding to further integrate human rights education into the education curriculum to enhance the accessibility of human rights education.

43. EHRC has also developed a curriculum on 11 thematic areas to improve human rights education and raise awareness.

44. The MoJ has provided basic human rights training to 9,250 police, public prosecutors, and judges, general public and civil servants. It has also trained 3,064 police and members of the security forces on conflict mitigation. Regional Justice Bureaus also provided human rights trainings.

45. Between July 2022 and May 2024, the EHRC provided 12 extensive courses to 340 participants and carried out 8 awareness-raising sessions for 235 participants to alleviate discrimination and stereotypes against PWDs.

46. A total of 19,450 prison administrators and leaders were provided with on-job-training regarding prisoner's human rights to prevent prisoner's human rights violations and ensure accountability.

Equality and non-discrimination[14] (Recommendations 163.127-129, 163.261, 163.263, 163.289, 163.303, 163.310-313)

47. From the perspective of equal rights to education for all ethnic groups, pre-elementary education is being given in 63 local languages, while elementary (First Level/Cycle) Education is being conducted in 57 local languages.

48. In ascertaining the rights of migrants, refugees, IDPs and PWDs to education, consultation meetings were held towards government administration of secondary schools hosting refugees; supplementary funds were made available to schools in five regional states

hosting refugees and IDPs; and trainings on self-directed learning-teaching strategies were given to principals of refugee-hosting schools.

49. Tablets for educational purpose were distributed to 50 primary and middle schools hosting refugees and IDPs. Moreover, to bring female refugees to schools and reduce the dropout rate, over 1.2 million reusable sanitary pads were distributed in refugee hosting schools in five regions.

50. To tackle HIV/AIDS-related stigma and discrimination, 10,000 fliers and 5,000 brochures were distributed focusing on behavioral change, a directive on improvement of HIV-related service provision has been finalized and 3,000 copies of the same were distributed; a bi-weekly radio program focusing on behavioral change communication skills had been on air for a year; group discussions and peer-to-peer programmes are other mechanisms put into effect to reach out to vulnerable sectors through Anti-HIV/AIDS programmes where nearly 1.5 million people were accessed in a single year.

51. Furthermore, the GoE has introduced a National Tuberculosis and Leprosy Control Strategy Plan (2021-2026) which aims at elimination of transmission of leprosy and combat stigmatization and ensure that the human rights and dignity of leprosy victims are respected. A dedicated department under the MoH has also been established to focus on leprosy control, stigma reduction, and improving service accessibility.

52. To combat stigma and discrimination manifested through widely accustomed derogatory and demeaning words of expression against persons affected by leprosy and their family, the government has used the World Leprosy Day to create public awareness. Since 2019, over 7,560 awareness campaigns have been conducted, reaching 32 million people, including those affected by leprosy.[15]

53. Furthermore, the HSTP II has introduced UHC which includes person affected by leprosy. It also outlines 14 key strategic directions, among these, focuses on the prevention, control and management of major communicable diseases including leprosy, treatment of disability prevention of leprosy and strengthening rehabilitation services for people with a major disability.

54. Since the introduction of Proclamation No.1113/2019, the government has been working in partnership with CSOs like ENAPAL [16] and international bodies to support Ethiopia's strides towards reaching zero leprosy goal. The number of CSOs focusing on leprosy control has significantly increased, with 7 regional organizations and over 74 branch offices nationwide.

55. Efforts were made to improve medical access to children in street conditions. Accordingly, on-spot and in-hospital medical check-up services were conducted and seven hospitals in Addis Ababa were designated to render free medical services.

56. Different actors are involved in the nationwide effort to eliminate stereotypes and discrimination against people with disabilities. The EHRC, for instance, is actively engaged in a range of activities aimed at raising awareness about the accessibility barriers and discrimination faced by persons with disabilities. These activities include human rights monitoring, investigations, and research.

Right to development[17] (Recommendations163.111, 163.134-137)

57. Despite challenges from COVID-19, domestic and international conflicts, Ethiopia keeps the momentum from its previous two-phased growth and transformation plans by designing a NDP which aims to achieve key national objectives towards inclusive socio-economic development, and which aligns with the SDGs[18] and the African Union Agenda 2063.

58. Since 2020, a HGER Plan has been implemented to address structural macroeconomic issues, enhance sectoral productivity, and promote private-sector growth, reduce debt vulnerabilities and create sustainable job opportunities.

59. The GDP of the Country has increased from 6.4% in 2019/20 to 7.2% in 2022/23; and per capita (nominal) increased to US$1,891 in 2023/24 from 1,080 in 2019/20.

60. To create conducive environment for business and investment and advance SDGs, the Government has taken significant steps on legal reforms, including the enactment of the new Commercial Code and Investment Proclamation No.1180/2020.

61. To protect the most vulnerable, the Government also uses macroeconomic policy tools such as a fuel stabilization fund and subsidies for edible oil, wheat, and fertilizers. In 2021-2022, the Government spent around US$2.5 billion on fuel stabilization alone.

62. In April 2024, the GoE adopted a Small and Medium Enterprise Development Policy to foster the growth of small and medium enterprises and support informal businesses.

63. Regarding job creation, 3.1 million jobs in 2023, out of this, 100,000 were overseas employment opportunities and in 2024 alone, employment opportunities were created for 3 million citizens, out of this 314,000 were overseas employment.

Human rights and climate change[19] (Recommendations 163.139, 163.141-142)

64. Ethiopia has implemented various policies and strategies to address climate change to build a climate-resilient economy as outlined in the updated 2021 Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and the 2019 National Adaptation Plan (NAP) which constitutes the Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) Strategy of 2011.

65. The NDRM Policy, revised to align with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, has been in effect since February 2024 and integrated into the NDP. The climate change mitigation and adaptation initiatives underlined in the Policy include investing in green energy, sustainable production, climate-smart agriculture, soil and water conservation, afforestation, sustainable land management, access to potable water, and biodiversity conservation.

66. Ethiopia launched the Green Legacy Initiative in 2019, and now it becomes a national flagship program. Through this initiative, over 21 million volunteers throughout the country have been mobilized to plant over 25 billion seedlings. As a result of this initiative, forest coverage has increased to 23.6% by 2023 from 17.2% in 2019.

67. The GoE has recognized climate change as one of the critical challenges and as a result the NDP recognizes building a climate-resilient green economy as a strategic pillar. Furthermore, the Long-Term Low Emission and Climate Resilient Development Strategy (LT-LEDS) has been adopted to be implemented to underscore its environmental commitment from 2021 to 2050.

68. Ethiopia ratified the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol[20] in July 2019, committing gradually to reduce hydro-fluorocarbons consumption and production.

Human rights and counter-terrorism[21] (Recommendations163.58-62, 163.143-144)

69. Significant attention was given during the drafting process of Proclamation No.1176/2020 to ensure compatibility with accepted international human rights standards and avoid undue restrictions against the civic space.

70. With the view of widening the civic and political space and compensating for the democracy deficit that the nation suffers from, the Government has taken bold strides in electoral law and institutional reform. In this regard, the adoption of Proclamation No.1133/2019 and Proclamation No.1162/2019 and its amendment are notable instances.

71. While the Computer Crimes Proclamation amendment process is still underway, Ethiopia has taken a leap forward by adopting the Personal Data Protection Proclamation No. 1321/2024. This law took respecting and protecting the right and fundamental freedoms, in particular, the right to privacy at its core.

72. Owing to the geopolitical location and the conducive internal and external factors for crimes of terrorism, the GoE has stayed vigilant in combating and preventing terrorism in the country and the region. Ethiopia is actively involved in initiatives for combating terrorism in Africa especially in Somalia.

73. Moreover, the GoE has continued its efforts to combating terrorism in the Horn of Africa. In this regard, Ethiopia is on the list of top troop and police contributors to the African Union and the United Nations Peacekeeping Missions.

B. Civil and political rights

Right to life, liberty and security of the person

Extrajudicial, summary, or arbitrary executions[22] (Recommendation 163.200)

74. The GoE has been working to hold into account culprits of grave human rights violations, including extrajudicial killings, through its formal mechanisms. To this respect, during the period under review, 42 prosecution files with 2,117 defendants have been brought to court for crimes involving extrajudicial killings and other crimes committed in the context of conflicts. These defendants include high-ranking military officials, mid-level police and military officers as well as officials of local administrations.

75. Furthermore, the ENDF through its military justice machinery has brought into account 39 members who committed serious violations of human rights, including extrajudicial killings. Of these, 27 have been convicted by the Military Court and sentenced from two years to life imprisonment.

Liberty and security (Recommendations163.181, 163.183)

76. The GoE has carried out its responsibility by deploying rapid response teams from the Federal Police and the ENDF to prevent the conflict from spreading to other communities and minimize further casualties and property damage.

77. To bring lasting peace among communities in conflict, the GoE has conducted public discussions and reconciliation among the conflict-affected communities. Through these processes, the conflicting parties have reached into agreement, millions of IDPs have returned to their homes voluntarily and thousands who were engaged in the conflicts have laid down their arms and have been integrated into their communities.[23]

78. To bring sustainable peace and better protect liberty and security of people, the Benishangul Gumuz Regional Government signed a peace agreement with the Gumuz People's Democratic Movement and Benishangul People's Liberation Movement, armed group, on 14 June 2024.

79. Moreover, Ethiopia has been taking measures to resolve inter-religious and inter-ethnic tensions and encourage dialogue amongst various sectors of the society. A milestone in this perspective is the establishment of the Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission by Proclamation No.1265/2021. The Commission is established to facilitate national consultations to identify and address the root causes of conflicts and ensure inclusive, transparent, and effective dialogues.

80. The GoE has consistently called for peace talks with armed rebels operating in the Amhara and Oromia Regional States. In this regard, the GoE has engaged in negotiations with the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA.) Furthermore, to resolve the ongoing armed conflict in the Amhara Region, a 15-member committee has been formed to bring rebel groups and the government to the negotiation table.

Prohibition of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment[24] (Recommendations 163.154-157)

81. The GoE has drafted the International Crimes Proclamation as part of its TJ initiative. This legislative measure aims to address unaddressed crimes from past violence and armed conflicts, particularly criminalizing torture, crimes against humanity, forced disappearances, GBV, and war crimes.

82. The Prison Proclamation has established a clear complaint-handling mechanism for prisoners to vent out their grievances related to conditions of detention and seek remedy thereof.

83. Furthermore, this law has granted unrestricted access to NHRIs[25] to visit prison facilities and communicate their findings to the relevant authorities or make their reports public. With a ripple effect, similar legislations have also been adopted by regional states.

84. As per the law, more than 90 officials of the security institutions as well as prison administration were brought before courts and some have been found guilty as charged for the crime of torture and related crimes.

Conditions of detention[26] (Recommendations 163.179-180)

85. The GoE built two prison facilities in Dire Dawa and Ziway prison centres as per international standards acceptable to conditions of detention. The construction of two new prison facilities of Aba-Samuel and Shewarobit is also being finalized, with modern cells, administrative blocks, and academic and vocational schools.

86. A significant increase in the daily subsistence budget per prisoner has been witnessed during the period under review. This includes a raise in the daily meal budget, provision of basic sanitary materials, and healthcare expenditure for prisoners. Similar initiatives are also underway in regions.

87. Federal and regional correction centers have separate quarters/zones for women inmates and juvenile offenders who are above the age of 15 years. Similarly, a Rehabilitation Center for Children in Conflict with the Law between the ages of 9 to 15, with a capacity of holding 700 inmates, has been rebuilt in Addis Ababa and became operational in September 2022. The center has 17 blocks with rooms, workshops for vocational training, classrooms, meeting halls, a library, rooms for psycho-social support, and sports facilities.

Administration of justice and fair trial[27] (Recommendations163.117, 163.186-187, 163.189-190, 163.197-199, 163.203, 163.296)

88. With respect to ensuring the independence of the judiciary, the Federal Courts Proclamation No.1234/2021 has been put in place and provides for the independence and impartiality of courts. The Proclamation further introduces the practice of judicial self-administration of both budget and human resources.

89. Governmental and non-governmental actors have been engaged in training police officers. The MoJ has, for instance, conducted conflict management training for 3,324 police and other security officers between the years 2019 and 2023.

90. Due to the amendment of the law governing CSOs, there is now a wider space for human rights defenders. As a result, defenders and organizations which follow rights-based approaches are freely exercising their mandate to challenge the Government before courts of law for alleged infringements of rights.

Right to an effective remedy (Recommendations 163.197-198, 163.203)

91. As mentioned above, Ethiopia has gone through a series of violent conflicts since the last review. The GoE has been tirelessly trying to take corrective measures to prevent such conflicts and ensure accountability. These efforts include establishing the National Dialogue Commission and adopting the TJ Policy.

92. The GoE has allowed the OHCHR and EHRC to conduct a joint investigation into the atrocities committed in the context of the conflict in the northern part of the Country in March 2021. Based on the findings of the joint investigation and its recommendations, the GoE has, among others, launched the TJ Initiative.

93. The GoE has embarked upon the preparation of the TJ Policy by an independent Working Group of experts. The Working Group has drafted the policy out of extensive discussions held across the Country with relevant stakeholders, representatives of the general public, and victims of human rights violations.

94. The Policy was adopted on April 17, 2024, by the Council of Ministers and its implementation is underway. It recognizes accountability, truth and fact-finding, reconciliation, reparation and institutional reform as its core value and principles. According to the Policy, all grave human rights violations committed in the Country since 1995 will be

dealt with through a TJ mechanism. The mechanism will operate through independent and competent institutions to be established per the precepts of the Policy.

95. On the other hand, concerning the conflict in northern Ethiopia, numerous allegations of atrocities and grave violations of human rights have been reported by the findings of the Joint Investigation Team. In this regard, the GoE has taken important steps in investigating and preserving evidence that helps to take accountability measures.

96. The first step taken, in this regard, is the establishment of the Inter-Ministerial Task Force (IMTF) to identify relevant response measures against the gross human rights violations committed in the context of the conflict. The Task Force, through its sub-committee, The Investigation and Prosecution Committee (IPC), designed an investigation strategy and carried out its mission.

97. The IPC collected 10,069 witness testimonies; of this, 9,552 witnesses, including victim testimonials, were received from the Amhara region and 517 from the Afar region. Furthermore, the IPC was able to gather an overwhelming volume of documentary, video-graphic and photographic evidence including 3,087 written documents and 2,599 video-graphic and photographic records - showing or corroborating the commission of the alleged crimes, or presenting medical testimonials, proof of deaths, and evidences of public and private property damages and valuations.

98. Partnership was also formed with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for redressing SGBV victims in Afar and Amhara regions. The IMTF, through the MoJ, entered into negotiations with the Foundation on this special project to redress and economically rehabilitate about 770 victims of GBV across the conflict-affected areas in particular SGBV victims in Afar, Amhara and Tigray regions.

Fundamental freedoms and participation in public life

Freedom of thought, conscience, and religion[28] (Recommendations163.209-216)

99. The Government views religious groups as essential partners in development and peace building, regularly engaging them in discussions on religious freedom and its societal role. These discussions involve religious groups, faith-based CSOs, religious leaders, and followers.

100. During the reporting period, the Ethiopian Council of Gospel Believers' Churches and Ethiopian Islamic Affairs General Council acquired legal personality by Proclamations No. 1208/2020 and1207/2020, respectively. In the same period, 2,477 registrations were made to religious organizations.

101. Furthermore, the new media law which came into effect in 2021 permits religious organizations to apply for broadcasting licenses. As of September 2023, there were 35 religious satellite TV broadcasts in the Country.

102. To reduce inter-religious tension, continuous efforts have exerted through the National Dialogue Commission, the MoP and the Inter-Religious Council.

Freedom of opinion and expression (Recommendations 163.56, 163.219)

103. The new media law recognizes the significance of freedom of expression and the media in ensuring respect for fundamental rights and freedoms. It further notes the irreplaceable role that the media plays towards building a democratic system in the Country. To this end, the law has made the Media Authority, the regulatory body, independent of the executive by making it accountable directly to the legislature.

104. To safeguard media freedoms, promote professionalism and enhance their engagement in building democracy and peace, the new media law has recognized for the establishment of media associations. Accordingly, the Ethiopian Media Council, which is a self-regulatory and officially registered entity is working towards safeguarding media freedoms, enhancing professionalism and serving as a forum for complaints against media.

105. During the period under review, the aforementioned legal and institutional reforms have significantly contributed for the creation of free environment for human rights defenders (HRDs) and their effective operation in the human rights advocacy and promotion.

Right to peaceful assembly[29] (Recommendation 163.217)

106. A number of government and non-government actors have been engaged in conducting trainings to security and law enforcement officers. Accordingly, in the years 2019-2023 a total of 26,033 law enforcement officers have been trained on management and use of force related to public assemblies.

Freedom of association (Recommendation 163.66)

107. Ethiopia has enacted Proclamation No.1113/2019, which aims to give full effect to freedom of association. Since the issuance of the law, a boom in the number of registered CSOs has been witnessed.

Right to participation in public affairs and right to vote[30] (Recommendations 163.204-207)

108. Several tasks were accomplished to set favorable conditions for holding the 6th National Election of Ethiopia. The first of these was providing for a revised electoral law[31] that meets international standards and gives all eligible Ethiopians equal chance of participating in the popular suffrage.

109. The law has given the most vulnerable sections of society, particularly women, PWDs and IDPs a better chance of participating in elections. For instance, the law takes into consideration female and PWDs candidature as one of the criteria to determine the annual financial grant allotted to political parties.

110. The electoral law has clearly set a mechanism for the IDPs to cast their votes in special polling stations to be formed in the places where they are temporarily residing. Accordingly, during the 6th National Election, conditions were facilitated for IDPs to cast their votes in special polling posts formed in places where they are temporarily residing.

111. To ensure peace and security and widen the political space across the Country, besides other efforts, the GoE amended in June 2024, the Electoral, Political Parties Registration, and Electoral Ethics Proclamation, which permits political parties accused of violently and illegally operating to register under special condition and this law enables forces that previously sought power through armed struggle to pursue a legal and peaceful alternative.

Prohibition of slavery and human trafficking[32] (Recommendations163.86, 163.159, 163.223-227, 163.229-231, 163.298-301)

112. Ethiopia, as a party to Conventions of the ILO, Palermo Convention[33] and its protocols to combat border-related crimes, made efforts to domesticate regional and international human rights treaties related to trafficking and strengthen the national legal framework.

113. The GoE has adopted various legal and institutional mechanisms to combat human trafficking, smuggling of migrants and slavery. To mention a few of them; Ethiopia has adopted Proclamation No.1178/2020 that explicitly prohibits slavery and servitude, including trafficking in persons. Furthermore, the Overseas Employment Proclamation No.1246/2021 has been enacted to promote safe migration for Ethiopian workers abroad, reducing their vulnerability to trafficking.

114. Ethiopia's National Integrated Crime Prevention Strategy and the National Strategy to Prevent and Repress Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Persons (2020-2025) have been adopted to underscore the GoE’s commitment to prevent the crime of trafficking in persons and smuggling of persons.

115. The National Free Legal Aid Service Strategy has also been adopted in 2023 to ensure comprehensive legal assistance for victims of trafficking.

116. A National Council led by the Deputy Prime Minister coordinates anti-trafficking efforts. In a similar vein, coalition partnership has been established in regional states to prevent and combat crime of trafficking in person.

117. Directive No.969/2023 has formed a task force led by the MoLS that provides psycho-social support, reintegration assistance and employment opportunities for victims of migrant returnees. In 2023 alone, Ethiopia has repatriated 35,097 migrant returnees from Middle-East and African countries, such as Saudi Arabia, Tanzania, and other countries. Furthermore, due to the conflict in Sudan, 35,700 citizens were repatriated.

118. From 2019 to 2023, in collaboration with international partners, comprehensive support including shelter, health services, psychosocial support, and reintegration assistance have been provided for more than 259,370 victims.

119. During the period under review, various supports have been provided to victims. For instance, entrepreneurship training for 39,391 medical care services for 35,451, psychological support for 14,168 shelters for 80, and social services for 16,617 victims were provided. In this period, 2,059 traffickers were prosecuted and convicted.

120. Ethiopia has undertaken several initiatives to combat human trafficking and irregular migration through public awareness campaigns and community engagement. Key activities include developing a national communication strategy, creating a community discussion manual, broadcasting educational content via the MoE and translating key migration terms into local languages, including Amharic and Afan Oromo languages. These efforts led to community discussions in 20,732 lower-level government sections, providing comprehensive information on migration and related crimes.

121. A training manual on human trafficking and smuggling of persons has been also developed. Based on this manual, more than 3,500 security, law enforcement, and judicial officers have received trainings. Furthermore, trainings were provided for a total of 386 service providers, media professionals and government and CSO representatives.

C. Economic, social and cultural rights

Right to just and favorable conditions of work[34] (Recommendation 163.232)

122. The GoE has been collaborating with stakeholders to enhance working conditions for employees in both public and private sectors. Efforts have been made to ensure employees in the garment industry receive adequate wages and comprehensive benefit packages, including transportation, meals at the workplace, housing, and bonuses.

123. Rules on setting minimum wage has been included in Proclamation No.1156/2019 and the Special Economic Zone Proclamation No.1322/2024. Accordingly, Wage Board consisting of representatives from the government, employees, trade unions, and other stakeholders has been established. This board is responsible for periodically reviewing minimum wages, considering the Country's economic development, market conditions and other relevant factors. Similar legislative initiatives are being underway regarding the civil services.

Right to social security[35] (Recommendation 163.250)

124. The PSNP, which focuses on areas prone to drought and food insecurity has been implementing and expanding its coverage both in rural and urban areas. In rural areas, the coverage has increased to 489 localities/woredas, benefiting approximately one million additional poor and vulnerable people. While in urban areas, around 625,135 residents are benefiting from the program, bringing the total number of beneficiaries close to 9 million among which approximately 52% of the beneficiaries are women. The cash transfer under the direct benefit scheme amounted to 19.4 billion ETB, along with the provision of 134,340 Metric Tons of crops.

125. The GoE has improved the social security scheme covering employees of both public and private sectors. The two legislations dealing with public and private sector employees' pension have been amended during the period under review. The Public Servants' Pension Proclamation No.1267/2022 and Private Organization Employees' Pension Proclamation No.1268/2022 have introduced, among others, the pension adjustment range which reduced

from five years to three years. Accordingly, the number of beneficiaries has increased to 2.56 million in the public and 1.76 million in the private sector.

Human rights and poverty[36] (Recommendations 163.243-245, 163.247-248)

126. During the implementation of GTP I and II, Ethiopia has experienced rapid economic growth. Building on the lessons learned from these plans, Ethiopia has developed and begun implementing the NDP and the Medium-Term Development and Investment Plan (2023-2025). This plan places poverty reduction as its central objective and envisions Ethiopia becoming an "African Beacon of Prosperity."

127. The GoE has prioritized sectors such as agriculture, education, health, water, roads and natural resources management, which are all aimed at alleviating poverty.[37] Furthermore, the Government allocated about two-thirds of its total budget to pro-poor sectors during the same period.

128. Ethiopia has implemented inclusive economic policy frameworks aimed at promoting equitable economic growth and addressing the needs of marginalized communities. Through these efforts, Ethiopia has demonstrated dedication to addressing economic, social, and regional disparities and promoting sustainable development throughout the Country.

Right to food[38] (Recommendations163.237-241)

129. The GoE has made a tremendous effort to implement an agricultural development initiative which prioritized irrigated wheat production. The Government has been implementing the Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) project since 2018. The TAAT initiative aims at revolutionizing wheat production and achieving food self-sufficiency in the Country through improved, climate-resilient, high-grain yielding, better grain quality, water use efficient, and heat-tolerant wheat varieties able to grow on the Ethiopian lowlands. This has resulted in significant increment of wheat production coverage from 3,500 hectares in 2018/2019 to 3,002,000 hectares in 2023/2024 and the total production of Irrigated Wheat reached 106 million quintals by a year 2023/24.

130. To ensure food security and sustainability, several measures have also been taken. Most notably, the Ten-Year Comprehensive Agricultural Development Strategy (2019-2029), the Fiscal and Financial Plan for Food and Nutrition, the Urban Agriculture Project, and the 'Bounty of the Basket' Program (2022-2025) have been adopted and implemented. Consequently, the volume of the country's crop production has risen from 388.3 million quintals in 2020/21 into 506.8 million quintals in 2023/2024.

131. To further improve the productivity in the sector, the government has been providing subsidized fertilizers to farmers. During the reporting period, the government has imported subsidized fertilizers worth more than 56 billion ETB. It has also provided improved crop, vegetable seeds and agrochemicals for farmers. Around 186 chargeable solar water pumps, 5 Anti-pest Aircrafts and 5 drones were also provided by the government. Machineries which enhance agricultural mechanization and productivity are also imported duty free.

Right to adequate housing[39] (Recommendation 163.242)

132. The GoE has prioritized sustainable urban development and identified key interventions, including urban land development, housing development, integrated urban infrastructure, and urban green infrastructure development and beautification program.

133. Guided by People-Centered Urbanization Policy, Ethiopia has amended the expropriation of landholdings for public purpose, payments of compensation and resettlement Proclamation. The law provides guiding principles, including, expropriation to be made on the basis of approved land use plan, urban structural plan or development master plan; compensation and resettlement assistance shall sustainably restore and improve the livelihood of displaced people; similar amount of compensation for similar properties and economic losses; transparent, participatory, fair and accountable expropriation procedure.

134. The GoE has further introduced various packages and programs which significantly reduce the housing problems of citizens. Most importantly, women are increasingly becoming owners of houses or possessors of land in both rural and urban areas of the Country.

Human rights and drinking water and sanitation[40] (Recommendation 163.249)

135. There has been progress in the utilization of both surface and ground water resources, as well as in access to improved water supply, sanitation, and hygiene. Over the period from 2015/16 to 2020/21, the government allocated an average of 6.3% of the total budget to water and other natural resources. As a result, there have been improvements in access to drinking water services. In 2023/24, 77.59% of urban households had access to drinking water from improved sources, compared to the 64.8% in 2015/16. In the same period the rural area coverage rose from 63.1% to 66.2%. The proportion of households and public area with improved sanitation services rose from 6.3% in 2015/16 to 24.9% in 2023/24.

136. The Government has followed an integrated implementation of water supply, sanitation, and hygiene activities that brings together four sector ministries (MoF, MoWE, MoE and MoH) which extends from federal to grassroots level.

Right to health[41] (Recommendations 163.127-129, 163.261, 163.263, 163.289, 163.303, 163.310-313)

137. To improve the health status of the population through UHC, the GoE has made major strides to implement HSTP-II (2020-2025). the Second National Health Care Quality and Safety Strategy (2021-2025), The National Health Equity Strategy (2020/22-2024-/25), the National Motivated, Competent, and Compassionate Health Service Implementation Strategy (2020/21-2024/25), the Adolescent and Youth Health Standards, Implementation Guidelines & Minimum Service Delivery Package (2021-2025) have significantly contributed for the improvement of the health sector service.

138. Through these initiatives, the GoE is increasing access and quality of health services in rural areas through rehabilitating, maintaining and renovating existing health facilities and constructing new ones. In 2023/24, 22,588 health facilities are operational in the rural areas only.

139. The GoE is prioritizing health financing so that people can have access to health services without financial hardship through community-based health insurance, allowing millions of Ethiopians who were previously excluded from formal healthcare systems to access essential health services.

140. The GoE is investing on the expansion and standardization of health facilities, the number of health facilities in the Country reaching 34,410 in 2023/24. It is also working on increasing the number of health workers as the major strategies in maintaining effective primary health care coverage for all where the health workers density has increased from 1/1000 population in 2020 to 1.5/1000 population in 2023.

141. Interventions like strengthening expanded program on immunization, community and facility based integrated management of childhood illness, expansion of neonatal intensive care units, expansion of essential new-born care, nutrition programs, and others have been implemented. In 2023, the national Pentavalent-3, Measles and full vaccination coverage reached 100%, 94.5% and 97% from 94%, 88% and 86% in 2018, respectively.

142. A Roadmap for Integrating Smart Start in Ethiopia (RISE), a counselling approach of married adolescents is integrated into the routine health service delivery system by including into national strategic documents and training materials. The Yene Tab mobile app has been developed and translated into six languages to make health information accessible to adolescents and youths.

143. The national Vitamin A supplementation among children aged 6-59 months has increased to 82% in 2024 from 59% in 2018.The prevalence of stunting, wasting and underweight in children under age 5 has decreased from 58%, 12% and 41% in 2000 to 39%, 11% and 22% in 2023, respectively. The national stillbirth rate has shown a reduction from 12/1,000 births in 2018 to 10.8/1,000 births in 2023.

144. The contraceptive acceptance rate which has been consistently increasing over the past five years from 68% in 2019 to 76% in 2023. In 2024, 76% pregnant women received iron foliate supplement. The number of pregnant and lactating women tested for HIV increased from 92% in 2018 to 99% in 2023. The number of HIV positive pregnant and

lactating women who received anti-retroviral therapy (ART) increased form 60.5% in 2018 to 77% in 2023. In 2024, 97% of adolescent girls have been vaccinated for HPV1 and HPV2, respectively.

Right to education[42] (Recommendations163.76-79, 163.264-277,163.279-281)

145. Aligning to the revised Education and Training Policy of 2022, the GoE provides free and compulsory education from kindergarten-8th grade.

146. A school feeding program has served to minimize school dropouts, enhanced students learning abilities, and improved access and equity in schools. In 2022/2023 academic year, 6,771,094 students in 13,462 schools benefited from the program.

147. MoE has been implementing a guideline designed to prevent and address gender-based violence against children and female students in and around schools and higher education institutions. Focusing on preventing sexual violence and its impacts on female students, the Government has also coordinated among stakeholders to solicit societal engagement platforms, intensive training, and awareness campaigns.

148. The Education and Training Development Roadmap (2018-2030) has been implemented to transform the education system. The Roadmap has resulted in the revision of the general education curriculum, the introduction of exit exam for higher education students, and the reform of education policies and legislations.

149. To ensure fair education for all societal segments, the Government has been successively allocating resources to meet standards with special attention to non-formal education, particularly in remote areas. With the implementation of Alternative Basic Education Program, many out-of-school children are now enrolled. Teaching and learning qualities have also been improved due to the expansion of basic education centers and pre-1st grade schools along with allocating resources to inclusive education centers. Least developed regions and pastoral areas receive extra subsidy budgets, including a 10% top-up subsidy for secondary schools hosting refugee students.

150. To enhance equal access to higher education, admission grades into universities has been lowered for women, students with disabilities and those from semi-pastoral and pastoral areas.

151. Currently, there are 8,881,169 female students in primary education (grades 1 to 8), 1,399,701 in secondary and preparatory education (grades 9 to 12), and 658,708 in undergraduate, post graduate and doctoral programs.

152. To promote inclusive education and implement the new education policy, special needs/inclusive education strategy (2015-2022), a manual for identifying and supporting students with special educational needs at the pre-primary and primary levels, and the sixth education sector development program have been implemented.

153. Twenty colleges and 12 universities have been giving special needs education trainings to teachers form diploma to PHD level. Special needs education experts have been assigned to each school. 1,353 inclusive education support centers have been established nationwide to promote the inclusion of disabled students in mainstream classrooms and provide short training sessions to raise awareness among school communities and education leaders.

D. Rights of specific persons or groups

PWDs[43] (Recommendations163.304-308, 163.311, 163.314, 163.119, 163.235-236)

154. During the period under review, Ethiopia has enacted Proclamation No.1263/2019 which requires all federal government institutions to make sure that their policies, strategies, laws and development programs provide equal opportunity, full participation and necessary services to PWDs.

155. The National Adolescents and Youth Health Strategy (2021-2025) has been adopted to ensure inclusivity and equity on health system to effectively and comprehensively provide

care to the specific needs of adolescents and youth including PWDs. Furthermore, guided by the WHO Equity Framework for UHC, Ethiopia has adopted the National Health Equity Strategic Plan (2020-2024) which recognizes the integration of PWDs into the broader UHC agenda.

156. The MoE has launched initiatives, including a 10-year Master Plan for Special Needs/Inclusive Education (2016-2025), Ethiopia Education Sector Development Roadmap (2020-2025), the 2023 National Education and Training Policy and the National Early Childhood Development and Education Policy, which aimed at improving educational inclusivity, accessibility, equity and quality for PWDs.

157. The number of Inclusive Education Resource Centers (IERCs) increased from 113 in 2017 to 1017 by 2023 and the enrollment of PWDs in these centers has reached to 91,000.

158. The total number of PWDs who have been enrolled in each academic year both in pre-primary and primary increased from 15,944 in 2019 to 352,410 in 2023.

159. The MoPD is tasked with promoting inclusive policy development and fostering multi-sectoral cooperation with organizations of PWDs, particularly on policies and projects affecting them.

160. Upon submission of Ethiopia's requests for extensions of the deadline for clearance of Anti-personal mines in accordance with the Anti-Personal Mines Convention, a new deadline set for 31 December 2025 during the 4th Review Conference of the State Parties on 31 March 2019.[44] Hence, the GoE remains committed to clear landmines and explosive remnants of war as per its pledge.

161. The MoD has undertaken extensive efforts to clear landmines and explosive remnants of war. These initiatives are overseen by the National Mine Action Office, responsible for survey, clearance, and mine-risk education.

162. Regional Veteran Associations like Tigray Disabled Veteran Association (TDVA) has provided healthcare, rehabilitation services, vocational training, and employment support to victims. Furthermore, the Survivor Recovery and Rehabilitation Organization (SRaRO) also offers peer support for trauma recovery and advocacy.

163. A National Steering Committee has been established to coordinate multiple-stakeholders to ensure the rights of PWDs, including landmine survivors.

164. During the period under review, Ethiopia has strengthened its legal and procedural protections for PWDs. Proclamation No.1234/2021 provides for legal support, including access to sign language experts and expedited court proceedings for PWDs.

165. In October 2023, Ethiopia adopted the National Free Legal Aid Strategy aimed at provision of comprehensive, accessible, and quality free legal aid services, for all vulnerable groups, including PWDs.

166. Proclamation No.1307/2024 has provided for the establishment of a special division for women, children, and PWDs led by a Deputy Ombudsman.

167. To ensure the right to employment of PWDs, Ethiopia has made significant strides. In this regard, in 2023, Ethiopia adopted the National Education and Training Policy, which aims to improve the education system, including vocational training, with special attention to equality, accessibility, and inclusivity for disadvantaged groups, such as PWDs. Accordingly, Vocational and Training Institutes are encouraged to create conducive environments and adopt accommodative approaches for the enrollment and training of PWDs.

168. Proclamation No.1156/2019 prohibits discrimination based on disability, ensuring that women with disabilities are protected from unfair treatment in employment. It specifies that disability should not justify termination of employment, and mandates equal consideration in workforce reductions.

169. As a part of its international commitment, the ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty helps to improve access to published works for the visually impaired and promoting their right to education.

170. The Ethiopian Electoral Law set a minimum of 5,000 endorsement signatures for an independent candidate. However, the minimum endorsement signature for PWDs is 3000. This laws also provides for a scheme that allots additional election funds to political parties with PWDs candidates. As a result, a record number of 99 candidates with disabilities have run for both the federal and regional parliaments of which 76 have won seats.

171. The Higher Education Proclamation No.1152/2019 requires higher education institution to take accessibility measures for students with disabilities, including sign language as an instructional medium and removal of physical barriers on campuses.

172. To ensure the right to education of PWDs, the GoE established Sheikha Fatima Bint Mubarak Boarding School in Addis Ababa in May 2024. The School is designed to accommodate students of grade 9 to 12 and provides essential services and facilities specifically tailored for visually impaired students.

173. Proclamation No.1113/2019 requires CSOs in Ethiopia to include disability perspectives, including those of women with disabilities, in their activities. The EHRC Amendment Proclamation No.1224/2020 designates disability rights including women with disabilities as one of its major thematic areas, and has appointed a Commissioner for this purpose.

174. To secure housing rights for PWDs, including women with disabilities in Addis Ababa, Directive No.3/2019 allocates 30% of low-cost condominiums to women and 5% to PWDs, ensuring their access to affordable housing.

Women rights[45] (Recommendations163.67, 163.86, 163.126, 163.140, 163.158-159, 163.161-175, 163.177-178, 163.221-231, 163.281-294, 163.298-299)

175. To effectively combat trafficking in women and children, the GoE has adopted legislations and strategies and established institutional mechanisms to bring perpetrators of the crime into account and provide assistances to victims of these crimes.

176. From 2019 to 2023, in collaboration with international partners, the GoE has facilitated comprehensive support for over 259,370 individuals, including shelter, health services, psychosocial support, and reintegration assistance. Additionally, 2,059 traffickers were prosecuted and convicted during this period, with a focus on cases involving women and children as victims.

177. To address all forms of violence including gender-based violence against women and girls, various steps have been taken by the GoE. In this regard, the GoE has continued its efforts to strictly enforce its criminal laws related to the crime of GBV against women such as rape, a wide range of harmful traditional practices like abduction, FGM, infibulations, early and forced marriage, widow inheritance, polygamy, and domestic violence.

178. Proclamation No.1234/2021 mandates courts to expedite proceedings and provide legal support to cases involving women and children as victim. On top of this, gender sensitive criminal proceeding, including investigation and evidence gathering, has been rolled out throughout the Country to ensure that the criminal justice system effectively and efficiently serves the needs of women.

179. The GoE has opened 78 One-Stop-Centers across regions and city administrations to provide comprehensive services consisting of medical and psychological treatment, legal support and temporary shelters for survivors of sexual violence, most particularly for women and girls. Moreover, Safe-houses and rehabilitation centers which are operated by government and CSOs have also served for easy-reporting of GBVs to justice institutions.

180. Proclamation No.1156/2019 grants female workers at least 120 days of maternity leave and put obligations on employers to take measures against sexual harassments and violence in the workplace.

181. The National Costed Roadmap to End Child Marriage and FGM/Cutting (2020-2024), the National HIV Prevention 2020 Roadmap, the Plan of Action for Job Creation (2020-2025), and the Ethiopian National Strategy and Plan of Action (2020-2030) are key initiatives launched to address women's rights including women with disabilities, during the period under review. These strategies focus on reducing sexual harassment, ensuring access to

sexual and reproductive health services, expanding economic opportunities for rural women, and prioritizing women's empowerment.

182. The Educational Development Roadmap (2018-2030) aims to increase women's participation in education through affirmative action. The National Women's Economic Empowerment Forum (NWEEF) facilitates coordination among government, CSOs, and the private sector to promote women's economic empowerment, entrepreneurship, training, and access to finance.

183. The MoE Annual Education Statistics of 2023 show a Gender Parity Index of 0.91 for primary, 0.98 for middle, and 1.01 for secondary levels. Women's enrollment in adult education reached 43.7% of the total 4,151,321 enrolled in 2023. Female school completion rates for grades 6 and 8 are 70% and 61%, respectively, compared to 73% and 61% for males. The number of TVET institutions has increased from 458 in 2013 to over 1,800 in 2023, with female trainees accounting for 52.3% of the 352,000 enrolled.

184. Public housing programs allocate 30% of low-cost condominium units to women, with an additional 5% reserved for PWDs. For instance, in 2023, 112,864 women (44.39%) benefited from these programs.

185. The PSNP has also enhanced women's economic access, with 4.1 million women (51% of all beneficiaries) benefiting as of May 2022. The Federal Cooperative Agency reported in 2021 that 32% of the 21,043,370 cooperative members are women, up from 21% over the past five years.

186. The NDRM Commission and a gender-inclusive Inter-Ministerial Task Force, chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister, oversee the rights and protection of women facing GBV in the context of disaster.

187. The Electoral law provides incentives to political parties to enhance women's political participation in elections.

188. Ethiopia has introduced the Presidential Leadership Program, initiated by the President of the FDRE. This program targets junior women leaders across various sectors, including government, civic organizations, and private institutions to enhance their leadership and decision-making skills. Under this initiative, 180 women, and 130 women from members of parliament have been trained and graduated. The number of women who received training for leadership positions in regional and federal governments were 4,672 in 2020, 6,967 in 2021, 10,538 in 2022, and 10,623 in 2023.

189. The number of women's representation has significantly been increased in the legislature. Following the 2021 Election, the number of women in parliament reached 42%, up from 38.7% in the 2015 election. Women constitute 32% of the HoF.

190. Ethiopia currently has a female head of state, and 7 women out of 23 cabinet ministers, representing 30.4%. As of 2024, the federal judiciary has 109 female judges and 29 women judges have been serving in different leadership positions.

191. To enhance women's access to financial services and employment opportunities, thereby bridging the gender disparity in the workforce and financial sectors, the GoE has adopted the National Financial Inclusion Strategy-II (2021-2025).

Children rights[46] (Recommendations 163.160, 163.191-193, 163.199, 163.202, 163.295-302)

192. Proclamation No.1110/2019 and related frameworks outline rights for displaced children and refugees, including access to education and protection from exploitation and violence. Furthermore, strategies have been adopted to end HTPs and child marriage including provide protection of the rights of forced migrants and children from violence and exploitation.

193. Since 2019, over 296 child daycare facilities have been established and more than 340 caregivers have received training.

194. Proclamation No.1156/2019 prohibits the employment of children under 15 and restricts hazardous work for young workers, safeguarding them from exploitation.

195. In 2020, the government adopted Action Plan to prevent and eliminate child labor exploitation, based on an assessment by the Ethiopian Central Statistics Agency.

196. A Juvenile Rehabilitation Center was inaugurated during the reporting period. Furthermore, child-friendly courts and child protection units in police institutions ensure prompt judicial procedures, minimizing arbitrary and prolonged detention of children. This protection extends to cases involving mental illness, vagrancy, drug addiction, and immigration control.

197. The Prison Proclamation is aligned with CRC standards, stating that women, juveniles, and health-vulnerable prisoners cannot be subjected to solitary confinement.

IDPs, refugees and migrants' rights[47] (Recommendations163.5-7, 163.10, 163.15, 163.315-327)

198. During the 2023 Global Refugee Forum (GRF), the GoE made 6 pledges[48] in line with the Global Compact on Refugees. Efforts are underway to implement these pledges.

199. Aiming to prevent internal displacement, hold perpetrators accountable, provide necessary protection and assistance and ensure safe corridors for humanitarian access, Ethiopia has prepared a draft Proclamation to Prevent Internal Displacement and Provide Protection and Assistance to IDPs.

200. A national steering committee, under the leadership of the Deputy Prime Minister and an inter-ministerial committee coordinated by MoP, has been established to support, resettle and rehabilitate IDPs.

201. The Government also works closely with national and international counterparts to prevent internal displacement through early warning mechanisms and to provide care and resettlement for IDPs.

202. Ethiopia has significantly improved birth registration to provide legal identity, prevent statelessness, and ensure access to basic rights and services, including for migrants and refugee children.[49]

203. Proclamation No.1110/2019[50] ensures equal treatment for refugees in vital event registration. Based on this, RRS, in partnership with UNHCR, manages vital event registrations for refugee and migrant children, set up registration offices and assigns officers in all refugee camps and key urban locations. From 2019 to 2024, the RRS registered 43,892 births in refugee camps.

204. As of June 2024, Ethiopia hosts more than 1,064,587 refugees and asylum seekers from 27 countries in 22 camps, sites, and settlements. Among these, 8,739 are asylum seekers.

205. In June 2024, 919 survivors of GBV and those at risk in refugee camps received psychosocial support, counseling, and medical referrals. Furthermore, 14,022 women and girls of reproductive age received sanitary pads. Awareness-raising sessions to prevent GBV and enhance protection from sexual exploitation and abuse reached 13,286 individuals, including through home visits and safe spaces for women and girls. 350 Information, education, and communication materials were prepared in Tigrigna, Arabic, and English, particularly for new arrivals at the Metema entry point and transit area. Nationally, 152 refugee community leaders participated in GBV community dialogues.

206. Over 6700 refugees have been issued ID Cards as part of a pilot project by the National ID Program (NIDP), RRS, and UNHCR in June 2024.

207. In 2023, 2,520 refugee students attended higher education in Ethiopia of which 695 enrolled in technical and vocational training and the rest in universities. Furthermore, 187,494 refugee children were able to go to school.

208. Security personnel receive training from partner organizations on child protection and GBV prevention, enhancing their ability to combat violence. Vulnerable asylum seekers, especially unaccompanied and separated children affected by GBV, receive comprehensive medical, psychological, legal, and physical health services.

209. Ethiopia's commitment to safe, voluntary resettlement for IDPs is underscored by strategic policies like the 2019 National Durable Solutions Initiative and the 2020 National Social Protection Policy, focusing on informed decision-making and support provision for returning, integrating, or relocating IDPs voluntarily.

210. Ethiopia has also exerted its efforts in working with UN agencies and various NGOs to enhance IDP protections and support and to ensuring unhindered access for humanitarian actors, addressing administrative barriers and providing safe corridors for aid delivery.

211. The CoHA between the GoE and the TPLF has facilitated voluntary resettlements and opened humanitarian corridors to better assist IDPs and returnees.

212. Ethiopia is aligning its treatment of IDPs with the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. In this regard, it has taken major steps including the launching of the National Durable Solutions Initiative in 2019 to support IDPs in returning, integrating locally, or relocating voluntarily and focuses on community-driven and government-led programs.

213. The new National Policy and Strategy on Disaster Risk Management (DRM) is also designed in 2024. This policy includes provisions for protecting and assisting IDPs during disasters and conflicts.

214. The GoE has made significant strides in addressing the root causes of internal displacement, promoting reconciliation, and safeguarding the rights of IDPs and returnees. In this vein, a draft Proclamation to Prevent Internal Displacement and Provide Protection and Assistance to IDPs was prepared, aimed at protecting vulnerable groups and addressing factors contributing to displacement.

215. Furthermore, MoP has been empowered by Proclamation 1263/2021 to facilitate community-based dialogue and implement peace building strategies tailored to local contexts. Accordingly, the Ministry has formed the National Peace Council in 2023.

216. The signing of the CoHA marked a pivotal step towards ending hostilities and promoting sustainable peace nationwide. This agreement has enabled significant humanitarian support, including aid distribution and shelter provision, crucial for facilitating the safe return and integration of IDPs, particularly in conflict-affected regions.

Notes

[1] SDG 8.
[2] African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa.
[3] Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa.
[4] These Pledges are: to develop, validate, adopt, and commence the implementation of a victim-centred, genuine, participatory, inclusive, and comprehensive national transitional justice policy which is grounded on applicable international and regional human rights standards and principles (*adoption by the end of 2023; implementation to start in early 2024); t*o adopt and implement the third National Human Rights Action Plans which prioritizes civil and political rights as its main focus areas; to provide capacity-building training based on international and regional standards and best practices on techniques of investigating atrocity crimes, including conflict-related sexual violence, to prosecutors and police officers; to enact a comprehensive legislation on the crime of torture in line with the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) to which Ethiopia is a party to since 1994; to enact a comprehensive legal frameworks and working procedures to implement the recently inaugurated National Free Legal Aid Strategy; and to adopt and implement a national migration policy in accordance with international standards and accepted principles.
[5] SDG 17.
[6] SDG 16.
[7] SDG 1-17.
[8] SDG 16.
[9] SDG 1-17.
[10] SDG 16.
[11] SDG 16.
[12] The newly established regions are Sidama in 2020, South West Ethiopia in 2021, Central and

Southern Ethiopia regions in 2023.

[13] SDG 16.

[14] SDG 3, 5 and 10.

[15] According to WHO, awareness campaigns in Ethiopia covered 65% of the population in 2022, 75% in 2023, and 85% in 2024.

[16] ENAPAL stands as the Ethiopian National Association of Persons Affected by Leprosy.

[17] SDGs 1-17.

[18] The Ministry of Planning and Development (MoPD) prepares a consolidated quarterly and annual progress reports on the implementation of the national development plan alongside the SDGs. Ethiopia presented its VNR on SDGs in 2017 and 2022 to showcase how the country localized SDGs into the national development plan.

[19] SDG 13.

[20] Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

[21] SDG 16.

[22] SDG 16.

[23] For instance, more than 600,000 IDPs from Gedeo Zone and 455,949 IDPs from Benishangul Gumuz Region have returned to their homes. Moreover, more than 2.3 million IDPs were returned to their homes in Oromia, Amhara, former SNNP (Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples), Somali, Harari, Tigray regions, and Dire Dawa City. Likewise, 5,222 insurgents in the Benishangul Gumuz Region alone have laid down their arms, integrated with the community and started leading their normal lives.

[24] SDG 16.

[25] Such as EHRC and the Institution of the Ombudsman.

[26] SDG 16.

[27] SDG 16.

[28] SDG 10 and 16.

[29] SDG 16.

[30] SDG 16.

[31] Ethiopian Electoral, Political Parties Registration and Election's Code of Conduct Proclamation No. 1162/2019.

[32] SDG 5, 10 and 16.

[33] United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

[34] SDG 8.

[35] SDG 10 and 16.

[36] SDGs 1, 3 and 4.

[37] As indicated in the last assessment, poverty rate decreased from 23.5% in 2015/16 to 19% in 2019/20. Currently, although an assessment is undergoing, it is not finalized yet.

[38] SDG 2.

[39] SDG 16.

[40] SDG 6.

[41] SDG 3.

[42] SDG 4, 5 and 10.

[43] SDG 4, 5, 8, 10 and 16.

[44] APLC/CONF/2019/WP.4.

[45] SDG 5, 10 and 16.

[46] SDG 5, 10 and 16.

[47] SDG 10, 16 and 17.

[48] The pledges are: considering the interests of IDPs in climate change initiatives, human settlement, inclusion of refugees into national systems, private sector engagement, access to land and digital connectivity and access to document.

[49] The Ethiopian Digital Identification Proclamation No. 1284/2023 includes all residents, including refugees and migrants' children to register births.

[50] The Proclamation further grants refugees and asylum-seekers, including children, the same rights as nationals regarding access to justice, including legal counselling and assistance. This allows victims to bring cases of enforced disappearance and violence, including sexual violence to justice organs and obtain remedy.