United Nations Human Rights Council
Universal Periodic Review of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

I. Background.

1. **Jubilee Campaign** is a non-governmental organization which holds consultative status with the Economic and Social Council since 2003 and whose work focuses on promoting the rights of religious and ethnic minorities and raising the status of vulnerable women and children to protect them from bodily harm and exploitation.

2. **Coordination des Associations et des Particuliers pour la Liberté de Conscience (Coordination of Associations and Individuals for Freedom of Conscience)** is a secular European organization with United Nations Consultative Status, created in 1995 and dedicated to protecting the right of freedom of religion and belief. CAP Freedom of Conscience collects testimonies of discrimination and human rights violations affecting religious or belief communities in order to disseminate them to international bodies, and in order to raise awareness and inform them as well as to generate debate on the protection of the freedom of religion and belief. CAP Freedom of Conscience also advocates for any religious or spiritual group facing discrimination to have their right to freedom of religion and belief recognized.

3. **Stop Amhara Genocide** is an association committed to advocating against the ongoing genocide targeting the Amhara community in Ethiopia. Its mission includes organising advocacy campaigns to halt the violence, bring perpetrators to justice, and facilitate the restoration of the Amhara community. Stop Amhara Genocide advocates within the United Nations, European Union, and African Union to put pressure on member states and the different human rights institutions to take action.

II. Scope of international obligations and cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and bodies.

We urge the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to:

4. Ratify the Optional Protocol of the Convention against Torture; the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming to the abolition of the death penalty; the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance; the Interstate communication procedure under the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance; and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

III. Violations of human rights obligations, considering applicable international human rights legislation and humanitarian law.

A. Freedom of thought, conscience, and religion.

5. Article 11 of the 1994 Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia stipulates the separation of religion and state, prohibits the selection and promotion of a national religion, and ensures that "the state shall not interfere in religious matters and religion shall not interfere in state affairs". Article 27 guarantees that every citizen of Ethiopia is guaranteed the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion, including adoption and manifestation of such beliefs in public or private, and in the form of worship, teaching, and observance. Article 27 additionally grants citizens the right to form faith-based institutions to further organize and promote their religions, and prohibits acts of coercion of another individual "which would restrict or prevent his freedom to hold

a belief of his choice".[1]

6. In order for religious groups to register for legal personality with the Ministry of Peace Directorate of Faith and Religious Affairs, each must (1) submit an application; (2) provide a founding charter; (3) have no fewer than 50 constituents; (4) list a permanent mailing address; (4) submit founders' national identification information; (5) present financial records; and (6) provide information on any of the group's plans for future expansion and intended regional outposts. Religious groups must renew their registration every five years in order to maintain their legal status, otherwise they face fines.[2]

7. In November 2020, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed initiated an incursion of Ethiopian and Eritrean combined military forces into the Tigray region of Ethiopia to fight against the Tigray People's Liberation Front, a paramilitary ethnic nationalist and separatist movement. The offensive and subsequent violence between the Ethiopian National Defense Forces (ENDF), Eritrean Defense Forces (EDF), and Tigray Defense Forces (TDF) caused tremendous damage to the faith communities in the region. Within the span of one week, troops attacked the town of Axum, characterized by its historic Ethiopian Orthodox Christian population. Local residents who were killed by indiscriminate shelling were unable to have their bodies cleaned and buried at local churches according to their faith customs' funeral rites traditions.[3]

8. During the Tigray conflict, Ethiopian military forces and Eritrean forces were also generally supported by Amhara regional forces; the Tigrayan troops were largely supported by Oromo Liberation Army (OLA) forces. Following the resolution of the Tigray conflict, however, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed angered regional security forces by instituting a widespread dissolution of their functions and demanding their integration into the national military; "the decision was largely seen as an attempt to degrade the autonomy of the regions".[4] Tensions between Ethiopian leaders and Amhara forces had become inflamed as the latter grew concerned that the government would turn over the land they [the Amhara] gained in the war back to Tigray; they were additionally disgruntled that despite supporting Ethiopian troops greatly throughout the conflict they were given no role in negotiating the Pretoria Agreement peace resolution.[5] On the other end, the conflict between Oromo liberation forces and the Ethiopian government dates back to the 1970s, and although the rebel troops originally participated in anomalous and small-scale criminal activities, the "security vacuum" created more recently by the Tigray War has provided the Oromo forces greater capacity to launch strategic attacks. The conflict is further exacerbated by pre-existing antagonism between the Oromo and the Amhara, the two largest ethnic groups in Ethiopia; "the OLA [Oromo Liberation Army] is accused of targeting Amharas who live in Oromia, while ethnic militias from the Amhara region…have killed Oromo civilians".[6]

9. In January 2021[7], Eritrean forces in Gulo Mekeda, Tigray, ambushed Medhane-Alem Church, killing 38 civilians.[8]

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1 *Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia* [Ethiopia], 21 August 1995.

2 Enyew Deresse Arkew, *The Right of Religious Institution to Acquire Legal Personality in Ethiopia: Emphasis on the New Proclamation to Provide Legal Personality to Ethiopian Islamic Affairs General Council*, Developing Country Studies, 2020.

3 Amnesty InternationaL, *Ethiopia: The Massacre in Axum*, 26 February 2021.

4 Council on Foreign Relations Center for Preventive Action, "Conflict in Ethiopia", 19 December 2023. ; International Crisis Group, *Ethiopia's Ominous New War in Amhara*, 16 November 2023.

5 International Crisis Group, *Ethiopia's Ominous New War in Amhara*, 16 November 2023. ; Adane Tadesse, "A Reflection on the Conflict in the Amhara Region of Ethiopia", *Wilson Center*, 29 September 2023.

6 Associated Press, "Latest peace talks between Ethiopia's government and Oromo militants break up without an agreement", 21 November 2023. ; Fred Harter, "As violence subsides in Tigray, Ethiopia's Oromia conflict flares", *The New Humanitarian*, 12 January 2023.

7 Ethiopia Tigray War, *Victim V00625*.

8 Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED), *Data Export Tool [1 January 2021 - 28 March 2024] [Ethiopia] [Violence against Civilians]*, Accessed 28 March 2024.

10. In February 2021, Eritrean troops in Tigray bombed and destroyed 6th century Debre Damo Monastery, subsequently looting the remains of the building. It was reported that many of the monastery's historic and religious artifacts - including ancient manuscripts - were seized and that one monk was killed in the attack.[9] Debre Damo was the first monastery to be established in Sub-Saharan Africa.[10]

11. In April 2021, the historic al-Nejashi Mosque in Tigray, also referred to as 'the second Mecca' due to its significance in Islam, incurred tremendous damage including a destroyed minaret, partially collapsed dome, and damaged exterior. Tigrayan troops reportedly dug trenches near the mosque's perimeter and looted the building. Nearly 1500 years old, the 7th century al-Nejashi Mosque was built by the first followers of Muhammad who fled persecution in Arabia and sought safe resettlement in Ethiopia.[11]

12. In November 2021, Tigrayan troops kidnapped Abune Bernabas, Archbishop of Waghumra and Canada dioceses of the EOTC.[12]

13. In January 2022, Oromia police in Addis Ababa engaged in gunfire against Orthodox Christian participants of an Epiphany procession who were transporting a replica of the Ark of the Covenant to the local Woybela Mariam Church. Three congregants were killed and an additional ten injured.[13]

14. In April 2022 in southern Ethiopia, a group of unidentified assailants trespassed into three churches, subsequently vandalizing them and setting them ablaze; at least three people passed away in connection with the church fires.[14]

15. In April 2022, school officials in Addis Ababa prohibited Muslim students from observing Ramadan, preventing them from praying between classes. The justification was discussed during a city education bureau meeting, in which bureau head Zelalem Mulatu said that "despite the fact that education is [to be] free from religious activities, activities were observed in some high schools in violation of this internationally accepted law…". Muslim scholar Ustaz Abubeker Ahmed responded appropriately, arguing that the education bureau's decision shows that there is a misguided leadership that is pushing away religious freedom, misinterpret[ing] our country's laws and secular[] principles…" Education authorities later compromised by allowing Muslim students to temporarily leave school grounds for off-campus salat prayers throughout the day in between lessons.[15]

16. In April 2022, a mob of unidentified armed individuals interrupted funeral services in Gondar, Amhara, viciously massacring 21 Muslim mourners and further injuring no fewer than 15.[16] United Nations HIgh Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet reported that "in the retaliatory attacks that followed, two Orthodox Christian men were reportedly burnt to death, another man hacked to death, and five churches burnt down." In the aftermath, Ethiopian authorities arrested nearly 580 individuals in connection with these incidents.[17]

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9 Brandon Showalter, "Famous monastery in Ethiopia destroyed, looted amid ongoing violence: reports", *The Christian Post*, 18 February 2021.

10 Negasi Awetehey Nega, "Endangered Legacy: Cultural Heritage Destruction during the Ethiopia-Eritrea War on Tigray (Nov. 2020 - Oct. 2022)", *Popular Archaeology*, 1 July 2023.

11 Africa News, "Heritage sites under siege in Ethiopia's Tigray war", 30 April 2021.

12 Borkena, "TPLF gunmen reportedly kidnapped Archbishop Barnabas", 9 November 2021.

13 Borkena, "Oromia police killed at least three Orthodox church followers during epiphany celebration in Addis Ababa", 21 January 2022.

14 Borkena, "Churches burned in Silte zone of South Ethiopia, at least three killed", 29 April 2022.

15 All Africa, "Ethiopia: News - Muslims Decry Restrictions by Schools During Ramadan, City's Education Bureau Responds Education Should be Free from Religious Activities", 7 April 2022.

16 Abiy Ahmed, "Ambush kills 20 Muslim worshippers in Ethiopia's Amhara region", *Al Jazeera*, 27 April 2022.

17 Al Jazeera, "UN rights chief denounces Christian-Muslim violence in Ethiopia", 7 May 2022.

17. In May 2022, Ethiopian authorities used tear gas to disperse a group of Muslims who gathered in Addis Ababa to protest the aforementioned killing of Muslims during burial services in Gondar the previous month. The group's demonstrations occurred during Eid al-Fitr prayers to mark the end of Ramadan outside of a large sports stadium. Chaos unfolded at nearby Meskel Square, as the space was simultaneously occupied both by aggravated protesters and local Muslims who chose to pray there in lieu of the over-capacity stadium. Though further details are unclear, it is reported that police's use of tear gas was unintentional and caused further tension as demonstrators launched rocks at authorities.[18]

18. In August 2022, Catholic bishops in the region of Tigray reported that large numbers of priests and nuns had fled their monasteries and chapels or otherwise closed them to the public. In addition to being a target for attack, the community service of these institutions has deteriorated due to the humanitarian assistance blockade. Bishop Tesfaselassie Medhin of the city of Adigrat explained that "it is difficult or impossible for the church to provide pastoral, health and humanitarian services, among others, due to the government and occupation forces' blockade. The two actions have isolated the church from its pastors and communities, international Catholic networks, and the rest of the world".[19]

19. In late October 2022, militants in Oromia's town of Gebre Guracha ambushed a church in the Selale Diocese, killing one deacon and kidnapping 11 priests; two of the abducted faith leaders - one of which was a parish administrator - were swiftly released after militants secured ransom payments. One anonymous Ethiopian priest expressed concern about the incident: "taking hostage[s] and asking for money by militants is not a new thing, but the fact that church servants are in the spotlight makes it a serious matter".[20]

20. In November 2022, leaders of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, based in Oromia region's East Wollega Zone, reported that 15 of the church's congregation members were killed by unidentified assailants during a worship service.[21]

21. In January 2023, three archbishops illegally ordained 25 episcopates and established the "Holy Synod of Oromia and Nations and Nationalities" under Abune Sawiros, a rival to the ordained and legally recognized Holy Synod of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church (EOTC) led by Abune Mathias. Both Synods excommunicated archbishops of the opposite sect. Under Sawiros, the new sect sought out to form a more ethnically diverse synod, accusing Mathias of showing favoritism to certain ethnicities and appointing archbishops from the Amhara area. The schism resulted in violent clashes between supporters of either synod, and the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission reported that state security actors have used excessive force when quashing the skirmishes. At least eight individuals were killed in one incident in which bishops of Sawiros' synod attempted to seize the St. Michael Church and were countered by supporters of the opposing Holy Synod; police were found to have "used unrestrained measures" to disperse the crowd. In February, it was reported that the two sects have reconciled and the schism had peacefully resolved. Prior to the resolution, Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's remarks that both sides "have truths" and should settle their differences through dialogue caused the Holy Synod to accuse Ahmed - who is not a member of the EOTC - of putting the new synod "on equal footing with the Church's legitimate authority" and thus violating the constitutional principle of separation of church and state.[22]

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18 Al Jazeera, "Ethiopian police and Muslim worshippers clash in Addis Ababa", 2 May 2022. ; DW, "Ethiopian police fire tear gas during Eid celebrations", 2 May 2022.

19 Fredrick Nzwili, "Nuns and priests flee, more churches shut in Ethiopia's Tigray region", *Crux,* 4 August 2022.

20 Addis Standard, "News: Nine priests abducted by militants since last week remain missing in North Shewa, Oromia Region", 4 November 2022.

21 All Africa, "Ethiopia: News - Evangelical Church Condemns Killing of Dozens of Its Worshipers in East, West Wollega, Expresses Dismay on Government", 14 November 2022.

22 Desta Heliso, "The Crisis of Schism in the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church", *Religion Unplugged,* 4 February 2023. ; Ethiopia Insight, "A rift in Ethiopia's Orthodox Church has been healed, but tensions remain", 28 February 2023.

22. In early February 2023, following both the schism in the Orthodox Church and subsequent formation of the Synod of Oromia, and the central government's dissolution of ethno-regional militias, an attack on a church in Shashamene by Oromo troops killed eight civilians - including two Orthodox Christian adolescents - and injured four additional civilians.[23] According to the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project, on February 6, Oromo troops and police in two towns - Asela and Bule Hora - physically assaulted local Christian civilians who dressed in black and gathered at local churches. The day prior, the EOTC official Holy Synod had encouraged Christian civilians to participate in a three-day fast and prayer period to mourn the schism of the EOTC. A few days later on 9 February, Oromo militants near Addis Ababa fired shots at EOTC Christians gathered in prayer at Yohanes Church; "this attack occurred when the Orthodox Tewahedo believers tried to block the takeover of the church by the group led by Abune Sawrios, whom the Orthodox Tewahedo Church Synod excommunicated".[24]

23. In September 2023, unnamed attackers shot and killed six Orthodox Christians in Bilo Kebele, Oromia.[25]

24. In October 2023, Ethiopian troops in Adet, Amhara, killed 12 civilians, some of whom were Orthodox Christian students below the age of 18 years.[26]

25. In October 2023, unidentified individuals shot and killed two EOTC ministers of the Artu Arsema Church in Oromia's Eastern Showa Diocese, Father Tekle-Ab and Deacon Meseret.[27]

26. In November 2023, Ethiopian soldiers used heavy artillery in Amhara's Christian town of Lalibela, a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) heritage site renowned for its eleven medieval monolithic rock-hewn churches; the vibration of the weapons' use has reportedly deteriorated the structural integrity of the ancient churches.[28]

27. In November 2023, two separate attacks on communities in Oromia's Arsi and Kellem Wollega zones caused 45 casualties, all of whom were identified as Orthodox Christian men, women, and children. The first of the two attacks killed 36 in total at Sole Michael Church, Digelo-Mariam Church, and Robe-Andeto Debre-Mitmaq Mariam Church. The second ambush killed nine Christians while they were participating in an overnight prayer gathering; their deceased bodies were only discovered two days later. Ethiopian troops and Oromo liberation troops traded accusations for the attacks.[29]

28. In December 2023, gunmen in Oromia's Shirka District ambushed a bus and forced four EOTC Christians to exit the bus after which they killed them. The deceased include a liturgics and hymnology teacher named 'Merigeta', a deacon named Abebe Tsegaye, and two additional religious servants Mr. Awgechew Moges and Mr. Semere Adefres.[30]

29. On Christmas Day 2023, an aerial strike by Oromo liberation militants on the compound of the Baro Full Gospel Church killed eight individuals including two deacons, two church band musicians, and a

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23 Voice of America, "Three Killed in Attacks on Ethiopian Orthodox Church, According to Report", 4 February 2023. ; Agence France Presse, "Eight Killed in Ethiopia Church Attacks: Rights Body", 10 February 2023.

24 *Supra note 8.*

25 Ethiopian Peace Observatory, *EPO Weekly: 23-29 September 2023*, 4 October 2023.

26 Human Rights Watch, *Ethiopia: Submission to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child*, 27 March 2024. ; *Supra note 8.*

27 Borkena, "Slain Orthodox Christian priest, deacon laid to rest", 7 October 2023. ; *Supra note 8.*

28 Al Jazeera, "Ethiopian troops force armed group out of Orthodox holy site of Lalibela", 9 November 2023.

29 All Africa, "Ethiopia: 45 Believers Killed in Two Separate Attacks in Arsi and Kellem Wollega Zones, Oromia Region", 1 December 2023. ; Borkena, "Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church vehemently condemns attacks perpetrated on Orthodox Christians", 5 December 2023.

30 Orthodoxy Cognate PAGE, "Targeted Killings of Orthodox Christians Continue in Arsi, Oromia, Ethiopia", 23 December 2023. ; *Supra note 8.*

church choir singer; another five were injured while harvesting corn on the church complex.[31]

30. On 29 December 2023, gunmen opened fire against a group of five EOTC Christians who were in a vehicle returning to Addis Ababa from their biannual pilgrimage to Kulubi Gebreil Church in Meta Aanaa. In addition to killing the five Christians, the assailants abducted ten others and confiscated large sums of money and multiple cell phones.[32]

31. In February 2024, Oromo militants in Oromia attacked the Zikwala Debre Kewakibt's Abune Gebre Mefes Kidus Monastery Monastery, abducting and subsequently killing four EOTC priests - Aba Tekele Asrat, Aba Kidanemariam Tilahun, Aba Gebremariam Abebe, and Aba Hailemariam Wolde Senbet. The attackers also seized the monastery's security equipment and food before carrying out the slaughter of over 20 spiritual students, their teachers and clergy members at the monastery.[33]

32. In February 2024, Ethiopian authorities deported His Grace Archbishop Abune Petros, Secretary of the EOTC Holy Synod; having traveled to the United States to participate in church activities in New York, Ethiopian police intercepted him at Bole International Airport in Addis Ababa and deported him via Dubai. Archbishop Petros released a statement that he would be returning to the United States, though there have been no updates from the Ethiopian government regarding the reason for the archbishop's expulsion.[34]

33. In February 2024[35] Ethiopian troops shot and killed at least 11 clerical students of Lay Gafit Saint Gabriel Church in North Gojjam Diocese who they baselessly accused of sheltering Amhara militants.[36]

34. In March 2024, unidentified gunmen in the West Arsi zone of Oromia killed two EOTC priests - Cantor Merigeta Simret (Semre) Menasae and Archdeacon Daniel - from the Church of Debre Kidusan Gebre Kirstos in Dodola. The perpetrators additionally killed the two men's family members, including their wives and children, as well as an additional third victim whose identity remains unknown. The assailants callously riddled their victims' bodies with bullets.[37]

35. In March 2024, OLF-Shene (ONG-Shene) forces interrupted mass at St. George Church in Asgori Repa, South West Showa Diocese, subsequently abducting five EOTC clergy and eight parishioners. Eyewitnesses reported gruesome killings, including dismemberment. Four of the five kidnapped clerics - Priest Cherenet Bizuwerk, Priest Samuel Wedajo, hymnist Yared, and Deacon Beza Baye - were killed, and only the rector and eight abducted laity were released after ransom payments.[38]

36. In March 2024, EOTC Priest Kesis Melaku was kidnapped from the Church of God the Father in Becho District, and another unnamed deacon was abducted in Tole district.[39]

B. **Principle of non-refoulement.**

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31 Dawit Endeshaw, "Aerial strike on Ethiopia church grounds kills eight - witnesses", *Reuters,* 28 December 2023.

32 Borkena, "At least five Orthodox Christian Pilgrims killed in Oromia region", 3 January 2024.

33 Agenzia Nova, "Ethiopia: four Orthodox priests killed by Oromo rebels in the Zequala monastery", 25 February 2024. ; Further details from Stop Amhara Genocide.

34 Borkena, "Ethiopian Orthodox Church Patriarchate Secretary deported to the United States", 6 February 2024. ; Borkena, "Ethiopian security forces deported Archbishop Abune Petros", 6 February 2024.

35 *Supra note 8.*

36 Orthodoxy Cognate PAGE, "11 Clerical Students Killed by Government Forces in North Gojjam, Ethiopia", 4 March 2024.

37 Ethiopia Observer, "Priests killed in Dodola town of Oromia region", 27 March 2024. ; Orthodoxy Cognate PAGE, "Six Orthodox Servants and Five Family Members Slain and Gunned Down in Elu and Dodola, Oromia, Ethiopia", 1 April 2024.

38 *Ibid.*

39 *Ibid.*

37. In March 2024, it was reported that Ethiopian authorities are detaining and repatriating Eritrean asylum seekers and refugees. The Ethiopian Human Rights Commissions condemned these actions and cited the 1951 Refugee Convention, noting that "forcible return of an estimated 200 Eritreans, including minors. Under international human rights law, the principles of non-refoulement guarantees that no one should be returned to a country where they could face torture, cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment or punishment or other irrepairable harm". An estimated 450 Eritrean nationals - many of whom are women and children who are "destitute and lacking support" - are being deported as they officially became redesignated as undocumented migrants in 2018 following peace negotiations between Ethiopia and Eritrea. Since 2022, Ethiopia's Agency for Refugees and Returnees Services (RRS) has declined to issue birth certificates of children of Eritrean refugees who have been born in and spent their childhood in Ethiopia.[40]

38. In March 2022, it was reported that Eritrean refugees in displacement camps across the Tigray region were greatly suffering from starvation and malnourishment due to Ethiopian troops' blockade on the region. Hunger- and malnutrition-related deaths are on the rise, and drinking water and medical care became negligible.[41]

Recommendation(s).

We urge the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to:

39. Continue to comprehensively investigate and gather evidence on human rights violations committed by Ethiopian state actors and regional armies, and ensure that perpetrators are prosecuted and fully brought to justice;

40. Undertake dialogue with regional armed groups and ethnic militias to address grievances, promote conciliatory negotiation, and foster inclusive and sustainable peacebuilding initiatives in order to "ease broader tensions and restabilise the Ethiopian polity";[42]

41. Take measures to prevent unjust attacks - and prosecute culprits thereof - on ordinary Ethiopian civilians and civilian infrastructure, including homes, hospitals and health centers, water systems, churches, mosques, houses of worship, by Ethiopian forces and armed regional militias;[43]

42. Focus on rebuilding and restoring damaged and totally destroyed civilian infrastructure to ensure that internally displaced individuals can return to their home communities securely;

IV. Non-compliance with UPR recommendations.

43. The Ethiopian government's above-listed activities show disregard towards or failure to fulfill the Universal Periodic Review Working Group's 2019 recommendations,[44] including:

- Training security forces and state actors in conflict mitigation and the human rights of civilians, and ensure accountability of public servants (recommended by: Azerbaijan, *163.120*; Egypt, *163.125*; Mauritius, *163.118*; United States of America, *163.117*);

- "Enhanc[ing] Federal Government efforts to provide security for Ethiopia's citizens and to prevent abuses by intervening in conflicts to ensure the rule of law and the facilitation of local peace settlements" (recommended by United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, *163.181*);

40 Human Rights Concern Eritrea, "Ethiopia is Breaking International Law by Forcibly Returning Eritrean Asylum-Seekers to Eritrea", 30 June 2023.

41 Human Rights Concern Eritrea, "Mass Starvation of Eritrean Refugees and the Tigrayan People in Tigray Region: Ethiopia's Blockade of all Humanitarian Supplies Could Result in Thousands of Deaths", 27 March 2022.

42 *Supra note 5.*

43 Human Rights Watch, *Ethiopia: Events of 2023*.

44 United Nations Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Ethiopia, A/HRC/42/14,* 5 July 2019.

- "Protect[ing] individuals across the country against rising inter-ethnic violence, guarantee respect for human rights in the regions, and promote conditions allowing security forces to intervene to ensure the protection of populations in the event of threats" (recommended by France *163.183*);

- Encouraging inter-ethnic and interfaith dialogue and cooperation in order to establish a peaceful and diverse society (recommended by: Barbados, *163.216*; Holy See, *163.209*; Kazakhstan, *163.210*; Libya *163.211*; Malta, *163.214*; Romania, *163.213*; Tajikistan, *163.215*)