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Ethiopia

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Introduction

1. Ethiopia is the second most populous country in Africa where diverse societies, religions, cultures and languages co-exist. Despite its long history, ensuring protection of the human rights has been a daunting challenge. Ethiopia is currently going through deep-rooted reforms. Popular demands for human rights and democracy have culminated in the Government's embarkation on the most meaningful series of political reforms in Ethiopia's recent history. These reforms are centered on enhancing the protection and promotion of human rights as well as widening the democratic space. Recognizing the universality, indivisibility and inter-relatedness of all human rights, Ethiopia places equal emphasis on the civil and political rights of its citizens as well as their economic, social and cultural rights.

I. Process for the preparation of the report

A. Approach

2. This report is prepared in line with the UN Human Rights Council Decision 17/119. It details the measures taken by the State regarding the respect, protection and fulfillment of its commitments taken up at the previous review. The report is organized to show the successes and challenges associated with the implementation of supported recommendations and information on noted recommendations that have been either fully or partially implemented as part of the on-going political reforms.

3. To provide detailed information concerning recommendations, the report is organized based on thematic clusters by the OHCHR. However, for better organization of the report, replies on some recommendations are moved to other clusters.

B. Methodology used

4. This report is prepared by an inter-ministerial team coordinated by the Federal Attorney General. All relevant government agencies at both federal and regional levels were consulted by the drafting team to provide input. Consultative forums were held on the draft report with government institutions, NHRI, CSOs and academia to enrich the document. Further public opinion was sought through the website and official Facebook page of the Federal Attorney General.

C. National mechanism for reporting and follow-up

5. Following its second review under the UPR process, the Government proceeded to establish a National Monitoring, Reporting and Follow up Mechanism (NMRF). Accordingly, the Office of the National Human Rights Action Plan within the Federal Attorney General is tasked with the responsibility to coordinate and monitor the implementation of Ethiopia's human rights treaty obligations including the supported UPR recommendations.

6. A key part of this effort is to incorporate supported UPR recommendations in to the successive National Human Rights Action Plans (NHRAP). Hence, most of the supported recommendations during the previous review were incorporated into the second NHRAP adopted in 2016. The NHRAP is monitored biannually including UPR recommendations incorporated therein. The Federal Attorney General coordinates Ethiopia's reporting obligations for the UPR and international and regional human rights instruments.

II. Implementation of accepted recommendations

A. Cross-cutting issues

Political framework and good governance (Recommendations 155.17, 155.112, 155.123, 155.167)

7. Ethiopia recognizes that ensuring good governance is a pre-requisite for development. Accordingly, it's striving to protect human rights; uphold the rule of law, transparency and accountability; fight corruption and resolve recurrent internal conflicts and ensure the 2020 national elections are, free, fair and credible.

8. The primary objective of the second Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP II) being implemented from 2016 to 2020 is reducing poverty through broad based, inclusive, accelerated and sustainable economic growth. Over the last decade, the economy has registered an average real GDP growth of 9.7%.

9. Measures have been taken to ensure vulnerable sections of society such as women, children and persons with disabilities benefit from the overall economic growth of the country. For example, 97% of public health centers provide family planning services; 30% of the government-built condominium houses are allotted exclusively for women while they participate equally in a draw for the remaining 70%. As a result of the Government's concerted efforts to increase girls' participation in school, the primary net enrolment ratio for girls from grades 1–8 has increased from 90% in 2013/14 to 95.4% in 2017/18.

Non-discrimination (Recommendations 155.17, 155.64-66, 155.98-99, 155.101-102, 155.114, 155.154)

10. Ethiopia remains committed to the eradication of all forms of discrimination. To ensure exercise of the right to self-rule, the House of Federation has received and passed decisions on a number of complaints. To thoroughly address the increasing number of self-rule and recognition claims, the Administrative Boundaries and Identity Issues Commission has been established to conduct studies and provide recommendations to the House of Federation (HoF) and other government organs in December 2018. In November 2016, the HoF found a directive that prohibited visually impaired persons from serving as judges to be discriminatory and unconstitutional.

11. To promote interreligious dialogue and prevent discrimination on religious grounds, the Ministry of Peace is working closely with non-governmental organizations such as the Interreligious Council of Ethiopia.

12. Registration of births, death and marriage is mandatory throughout the country. The Vital Events Registration Agency began registration of the same in mid 2016. In 2017/18, a total of 538,983 births, 95,719 marriages and 94,042 deaths were registered. Ethiopia also began providing birth, death and marriage registration for refugees in 2017. Accordingly, 4,852 births, 802 marriages and 100 deaths of refugees have been registered In 2017/18. The Agency provides continuous capacity building trainings to its staff and stakeholders.

National Human Rights Institutions (Recommendations 155.18-27, 155.94-95, 155.155)

13. Ethiopia believes strengthening NHRI is an indispensable part of building a democratic system. Accordingly, the Government has been working closely with the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) to provide trainings to security forces, public servants and the general public.

14. The EHRC recently completed a draft legislation to further strengthen its mandate. The draft law would allow it to enhance its independence and implementation of its findings and recommendations. The EHRC has, so far, translated and disseminated all UN human rights treaties ratified by Ethiopia into five local languages.

15. A draft proclamation has been tabled to the House of Peoples Representatives to clarify, strengthen and widen the scope of duties and responsibilities of the Institution of Ombudsman. The revised draft law, in addition to affirming its institutional independence,

further consolidates its investigation and supervision activities and enhances the enforceability of its decisions. In 2016/17, the institution opened new branches in Afar and Benishangul Gumuz regional states.

16. To further strengthen the Government's ability to fight corruption, prosecutorial powers are being consolidated under federal and regional Attorney General's Offices. To educate the public and prevent corruption, within the reporting period, the Afar and Somali established Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commissions.

The National Human Rights Action Plan (Recommendations 155.11-15, 155.37)

17. Ethiopia's NHRAP II is being implemented from 2016-2020. The Plan identifies challenges and opportunities related to the implementation of rights and incorporates a number of measures to improve their promotion, protection and fulfillment. While broad civil society participation had taken place during the drafting stages of both NHRAPs, the participation of civil society in its implementation was inadequate owing, in part, to the restrictive provisions contained under the Charities and Societies Proclamation which limits their effective participation in human rights work. This proclamation is now being revised.

Human rights education and training (Recommendations 155.39, 155.45-46, 155.119, 155.150, 155.161)

18. Civic education provided at all levels incorporates human rights. Human rights education is provided in all law schools at undergraduate level and as a specialization at post graduate level. The Ministry of Education and the EHRC are jointly undertaking a review of the educational curriculum to further entrench human rights education.

19. The EHRC works with all branches of government to raise awareness on human rights. In 2017/18, the Commission provided human rights awareness trainings and workshops to more than 32,088 members of police, prison officers, National Defense Forces, community elders, school children, women, persons with disabilities, and others. The Federal Attorney General has also provided trainings to more than 4,500 government officials, experts and the general public on human rights and Ethiopia's NHRAP in 2017/2018 (these figures are not inclusive of awareness created through media).

20. The Federal Justice and Legal Research and Training Institute and regional justice organs professionals' training centers provide regular pre-service and on-job trainings to prosecutors, judges and police officers. Furthermore, public university law schools and a number of CSOs provide free legal aid and legal awareness services to the community.

21. Beginning 2016, the Ministry of National Defense, in collaboration with the ICRC has provided a series of trainings to military court judges, prosecutors, public defense counsel and military police as well as its members on international humanitarian and human rights law. In the reporting period, 74,066 members of the army have received trainings on the use of legitimate force. The Federal Police Commission has also provided trainings on anti-terrorism and human rights to 6,500 recruits and police officers in 2017/18.

Acceptance of international norms (Recommendations 155.1-5, 155.7-9, 157.3)

22. Ethiopia is a party to seven core international human rights treaties. Work is underway to accede to the remaining two: namely, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CPED) and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICMW). Ethiopia acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention of the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography on May 14, 2014 and March 25, 2014 respectively.

23. Ethiopia acceded to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination in 1976 and has since submitted seven reports (in 1978, 1979, 1981, 1984, 1985, 1988 and in 2009) and is currently preparing its next periodic report.

24. Ethiopia ratified the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol) in February 2018. Ethiopia is also

working to accede to the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons (Kampala Convention).

Cooperation with special procedures and other international mechanisms and institutions (Recommendations 155.139, 155.47-51,)

25. Ethiopia is committed to strengthen its cooperation with the UN human rights mechanisms and other international organizations. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights visited Ethiopia twice on the invitation of the Government in 2017 and 2018. Ethiopia recently accepted the requests for visits from the UN Special Rapporteurs on the Freedom of Association, Freedom of Expression, Extreme Poverty and Education as well as the Special Rapporteur of African Commission on Human and People's Rights' on Ethiopia.

26. Ethiopia works in collaboration with the UN organizations such as the UNDP, OHCHR, UNICEF, UNWOMEN, IOM and UNODC to improve the promotion, protection and fulfillment of human rights. The Ministry of Health coordinates with WHO and since 2014/15; the WHO rendered more than 35.5 million USD in financial and technical assistance towards maternal and child health care, research in the health sector as well as capacity strengthening in the health sector.

Inter-state cooperation and development assistance (Recommendations 155.33-34, 155.36, 155.88, 155.160, 155.169)

27. The Government works closely with member states of the African Union and the United Nations towards the implementation of its responsibilities under international human rights instruments and the NHRAP. Priority sectors such as education, health and similar institutions work in close collaboration with the international community to improve the fulfillment of economic, social and cultural rights.

28. The EHRC works in collaboration with international partners including UN agencies to develop its institutional capacities in awareness raising activities, human rights monitoring and reporting as well as the translation and dissemination of international human rights instruments in local languages.

29. Ethiopia is committed to regional peace, security, development and socio-economic integration of the sub-region. Ethiopian troops are contributing to combating terrorism and promoting peace and security as part of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), the United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) and United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA). Ethiopia also ended a two-decade no-peace no-war stalemate with Eritrea and resumed peaceful relations in mid 2018. In September 2018, a Joint Declaration on the Comprehensive Cooperation between Ethiopia, Eritrea and Somalia aimed at advancing the political, economic, social, cultural and security ties between the peoples and governments of the States was signed.

Cooperation with civil society (Recommendations 155.40-44, 155.109-111)

30. The Government believes engagement with civil society is vital to better the promotion and protection of human rights. To widen the civic space, the Federal Attorney General assisted by its Justice and Legal Affairs Advisory Council composed of renowned independent legal professionals have completed a new draft legislation to replace the existing Charities and Societies Proclamation No. 621/2009, which placed restrictions on the participation of CSOs in human rights work. The Government also works in close collaboration with grass-roots, member-based and members-driven CSOs such as youth and women's associations.

31. Moreover, CSOs are also active in efforts to amend the Anti-Terrorism Proclamation 652/2009 and the Freedom of Information and Mass Media Proclamation No. 590/2008. The amendment of these laws will facilitate their roles in the enhancement of democratic governance and human rights.

Human rights and counter-terrorism (Recommendations 155.162-166, 156.11, 157.18)

32. Ethiopia's security situation is heavily influenced by its geographical location. The terrorism threat to Ethiopia is characterized by complex interrelationships between domestic, regional and international actors and factors.

33. Ethiopia ratified the African Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its related Protocols and is committed to combat terrorism including its financing. As part of the overall strategy to counter terrorism and violent extremism, the Government believes in the promotion of inter-communal and inter-religious dialogue aimed at denying terrorists tools of recruitment.

34. As discussed under paragraph 29, Ethiopia has demonstrated strong political will and commitment to combat terrorism and to promote regional stability. The Government is participating in the fight against terrorism in the sub-region such as African Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) to bring order to Somalia.

35. Following the commencement of far-reaching political reforms in March 2018, the Government has taken a series of measures to widen the political and civic space by pardoning thousands of prisoners convicted under the anti-terrorism proclamation; dropping charges against politicians, activists as well as journalists; declassifying armed groups that had been designated as terrorist organizations by the House of People Representatives.

36. Criminal investigations are underway to hold perpetrators of gross human rights violations such as torture and extra-judicial killings accountable. Some of those in custody and being investigated include former senior officials of the intelligence, police and prisons institutions.

Environmental rights (Recommendations 155.157-158)

37. The Constitution of Ethiopia provides for the right to a clean and healthy environment. Ethiopia is committed to further strengthen its efforts in accordance with its environmental policies. Ethiopia has ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Protocol, the Bio-diversity Convention and the Conventions to Combat Desertification.

38. The Government has initiated the Climate-Resilient Green Economy Strategy (CRGE) in 2011 both to adapt and mitigate climate change. To this end, measures such as integrating disaster risk reduction into development programmes, and soil and water conservation practices have been widely implemented. Ethiopia is also endeavoring towards modern, cleaner & renewable energy sources including hydroelectric and wind energy and is providing the rural people efficient stoves that use biomass fuels. In February 2017, Ethiopia launched the five year Sustainable Intervention for Green Cities programme that will enhance the linkage between urban waste management and greening six cities across the country. Practical measures are also being taken to protect the environment from industrial pollution. For example, in 2019, Ethiopia shut down four tanneries over toxic waste emission.

B. Civil and political rights**Prohibition of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment (Recommendations 155.70, 155.85, 157.10)**

39. The prevention of acts of torture, cruel, or degrading treatment and ensuring accountability constitute the core of the on-going political reforms. Accordingly, the Government publicly admitted that there had been a systemic violation of the right by the security and law enforcement agencies. An on-going criminal investigation has resulted in the arrest of members of the National Intelligence and Security Service, police and prison administration including senior officials suspected of committing acts of torture.

40. To further strengthen the existing complaint handling mechanism, the Government is also drafting a new legislation on police use of force and accountability. It's necessitated by the realization that the existing legal framework lags behind the international standards and

human rights principles. The design of a new system of accountability is also expected to create clear, independent and effective complaint mechanism that would allow the submission of complaints concerning ill-treatment by security and law enforcement authorities.

41. Ethiopia has also designed a system that would facilitate the prevention, detection and punishment of the crime of torture. The Ethiopian Human Rights Commission and offices of the Attorney General at Federal and Regional levels have regular and unrestricted access to all places of detention. Following the political reforms, the media are also playing a visible role in exposing acts of torture and inhuman and degrading treatment and calling for accountability.

42. The Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs (MOWCYA) has adopted a Manual on Positive Child Disciplining. The Manual aims to prevent corporeal punishment against children in schools, orphanages and by parents at home. The Ministry conducts regular awareness raising and regulation functions around the manual.

Conditions of detention (Recommendations 155.71-72, 156.1)

43. Ethiopia recognizes that the conditions of detention centers and prison facilities require significant improvement to meet international standards. Thus, with designs complying with international human rights standards, the federal Government is building four new prison facilities to ensure prisoners are kept in conditions that respect their human dignity. Similar efforts are underway in all regional states and city administrations to improve the conditions of detention including through the improvement of water supply, medical and sanitation services, sporting facilities, libraries and the likes.

44. As part of the political reforms, the *Ma'ekelawi* detention center where suspects of serious crimes used to be tortured and kept in inhuman conditions has been closed. A subsequent criminal investigation led by Federal Attorney General uncovered and shut down a number of secret detention and torture centers run by former officials of the National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS). Other places of torture and inhuman treatment have also been shut down such as the Jigjiga Central Prison located in the capital of the Somali Regional State.

45. The EHRC regularly visits police detention centers and prisons across the country to evaluate their compliance with international human rights standards. The Commission publishes an annual police station and prison reports. The findings are shared with the relevant authorities and measures are taken regularly to improve the conditions of detention with available resources. The House of People's Representatives and Regional Councils, and the federal and regional Attorney General's Offices conduct regular visits to police detention centers and prisons to ensure these facilities continually improve the conditions of detention.

46. Independent observers are also given access to places of detention. The ICRC and local NGOs that work on human rights issues visit places of detention. The ICRC has signed a MoU with the Government to allow them free access to all prison facilities. In 2017, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights also visited the *Kilinto* Remand Center located in Addis Ababa.

Trafficking in persons (Recommendations 155.75, 155.86-87, 155.89-90)

47. The Government is committed to combating human trafficking. Measures taken include enactment of a law on human trafficking and smuggling of migrants; strict enforcement through prosecution and setting out the conditions for legal migration; continuous awareness creation efforts using several methods of communication; victim rehabilitation; conclusion of law enforcement cooperation agreements with neighbouring countries such as Djibouti and Sudan; and job creation which addresses the root causes of human trafficking and smuggling.

48. Since the promulgation of the Prevention and Suppression of Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants Proclamation No. 909/2015, 2,686 persons have been indicted at both federal and regional levels out of which 1178 have so far been convicted.

49. The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs undertakes awareness raising campaign to combat human trafficking. It uses public and private television & radio stations, print media, pre-existing community organizations and other mechanisms to raise awareness on human trafficking and smuggling. Moreover, 325 Community Conversation Centres are set up in four regional states. Trained facilitators run community conversations on human trafficking, smuggling and irregular migration. These efforts have reached about 18 million people across the nation. Furthermore, the Anti-Human Trafficking Taskforce Secretariat at the Federal Attorney General also works to raise awareness of the general public on the dangers of human trafficking. Since its establishment in 2016, the Secretariat has provided awareness raising trainings to 41,635 persons through distribution of pamphlets, musical drama, theatre and the likes.

50. Concerted efforts are underway to ensure the safe return of irregular migrants detained abroad. Returnees are provided with emergency medication, shelter and pocket money to allow them integrate with their family. The returnees received skills training and assistance enabling support themselves through engaging in business activities. However, substantial work remains with regard to facilitating victim's support.

Liberty and security (Recommendation 156.4)

51. Police authorities in Ethiopia inform the consulate of a detained foreign national when he/she so requests. The consulate is permitted to pay visits without limitations while its national is awaiting trial or is serving sentence.

Arbitrary arrest and detention (Recommendation 156.5)

52. Since the deep-rooted political reforms began, large numbers of journalists, bloggers, members and leaders of opposition or formerly banned political groups have been released from prison through pardon, dropping of charges and amnesty. Members and leadership of opposition political parties now have complete freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly. In November 2018, the Committee to Protect Journalists reported "for the first time in 13 years, there are no journalists in jail in Ethiopia".¹

Freedom of thought, conscience and religion (Recommendations 155.100, 155.103)

53. The major religious groups in Ethiopia have established an Inter-Religious Council in January 2010. The objectives of the Inter-Religious Council are to work together on religious tolerance, respect and peaceful co-existence amongst faith institutions and their followers. The Ministry of Peace has been working closely with the Council. Adherents of the various religions have also freely exercised their right to establish institutions of religious education, and to publish and disseminate religious books, newspapers and magazines.

54. The Government has undertaken activities to strengthen intercultural and interreligious dialogue, to foster mutual understanding of heritage and the sharing of common values with a view of contributing towards social progress and social cohesion. It has been implementing policies and legal frameworks for the protection and safeguarding of Ethiopia's natural, tangible and intangible cultural heritage. In 2006, the House of Federation declared December 8th of each year Ethiopian Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Day. The aim is to promote inter-cultural dialogue, lifestyles and other values of all ethnic groups in Ethiopia, and to strengthen their ties. It was designed to contribute to the effort of creating one political and economic community. The day affirms the necessity of respect for the fundamental rights of individuals and of the nations and nationalities of the country and the development of the country's various cultures and religions.

Freedom of opinion and expression (Recommendations 155.104-108, 156.7-8, 158.104)

55. Freedom of opinion and expression is one of the areas of focus in the on-going political reforms in Ethiopia. The Government is working closely with the Justice and Legal Affairs Advisory Council to Federal Attorney General to amend the Freedom of the Mass Media and Access to Information Proclamation No. 590/2008. The amendment aims at removing any structural and institutional impediments to the free exercise of the freedom of opinion and expression.

56. The Government has recently allowed access to more than 246 websites and TV channels including news outlets and blogs that were previously blocked because of their political contents. As a result, Ethiopia is witnessing a surge in the number of private print and electronic media outlets. At the national level, there are currently 9 public and 15 commercial television stations as well as 10 public and 9 commercial radio stations. Furthermore 31 community radio stations are also operating. There are also 30 print media currently operational in the country. It's hoped that the amendment of the Mass Media and Access to Information Proclamation coupled with the reforms will significantly boost the number and type of both print and electronic media and thereby contribute to the better protection and exercise of the freedom of opinion and expression in Ethiopia.

Administration of justice and fair trial (Recommendations 155.91-92, 156.3, 157.12)

57. The Ethiopian Constitution establishes an independent judiciary. A number of laws have been enacted at the federal and regional levels to further ensure the independence of the judiciary. The Federal Supreme Court is conducting an inspection aimed at identifying the practical challenges and legal loopholes that may contribute to the erosion of the judicial independence and decline in public trust in the courts. Similar initiatives are underway in a number of regional states.

58. The Federal Supreme Court of Ethiopia has recently established a Judiciary Affairs Reform Task Force. The taskforce is composed of 20 prominent independent legal professionals and is mandated to identify and recommend measures that will enhance the independence and professionalism of the courts. To enhance the accessibility, video conference and e-litigation centers are being expanded across the country and a study to connect all federal courts via Wide-Area Network (WAN) is underway.

59. A series of trainings continue to be provided to police officers, prosecutors and judges on human rights and other legal issues to enhance the compliance of the criminal justice system with constitutional and international human rights standards. For example, in the period 2013/2014–2016/17, the Federal Attorney General provided nine rounds of trainings to the police and prosecutors. The Federal Justice and Legal Affairs Research and Training Institute and its regional counterparts also provide regular trainings to judges, prosecutors and police officers.

60. As part of the principle of the presumption of innocence, suspects have a right to bail save for a limited number of serious criminal offences as specified in the law. Public prosecutors at both federal and regional levels conduct regular visits to police stations to ensure that all suspects are brought before a court of law within 48 hours after their arrest and their human rights are respected.

Right to participate in public affairs and right to vote (Recommendations 155.115-16, 157.14)

61. Ethiopia is committed to ensure all national and regional elections are free and fair. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has repeatedly stated that the Government's primary focus will be ensuring the upcoming national elections in 2020 are free, fair and credible. A key part of the on-going political reforms is the widening of the political space to allow complete freedom to all political parties irrespective of their ideologies. Accordingly, a number of formerly banned political parties, some of whom had been designated as terrorist organizations by the House of People's Representatives have had their terrorist designations cancelled and returned to the country to pursue peaceful political struggles.

62. The current national electoral laws are being amended through consultations between the ruling and opposition parties. The revised laws are expected to shift Ethiopia's electoral system from first-past-the-post to a mix between proportional and first-past-the-post systems and redefine the composition and functions of the National Electoral Board thereby opening up opportunities for diverse voices to join the national parliament. The on-going revision of the media law, the charities and societies legislation and the electoral laws will create more room for civil society engagement in civic and voter education as well as election monitoring and improve public and commercial media access to opposition political parties to ensure more inclusive electoral debates.

63. To enhance the independence and credibility of the National Electoral board, a new Chairperson has been sworn in by the House of People's Representatives after consultation with opposition political parties. The Board's new leadership is taking a series of measures to enhance its capacity to hold free and fair national elections in 2020 and beyond.

64. In the 2015 national elections, 58 national and regional political parties took part with 5819 candidates of whom 1270 and 4549 were women and men respectively. Voter registration and voter turnout rates saw significant numbers rising from 31 million in 2010 to 36.8 million (26% increase) in 2015. 48% of registered voters were women. 500 hours of radio, 100 hours of television and 700 columns of government-owned press were allotted free of charge to political parties to conduct their election campaigns in a fair and proportional manner.

Rights related to marriage and family (Recommendations 155.62, 155.96-97)

65. Ethiopia is committed to taking all the necessary measures to ensure the protection of the family. Several legislative and procedural measures have been taken to this end. To mention few, the Government has enacted a new legislation in 2017 that guarantees favorable working environment for civil servants particularly working women. The provision of day care in office spaces, the extension of maternity leave from 90 days to 120 days and paternity leave from 5 days to 10 are among the major developments made to support and strengthen the role of family in the society.

66. The Constitution guarantees women equal rights as men during and after marriage. The Family Code enacted by the Federal Government and family laws of the regional states provide for the equal rights of women to communal property during the dissolution of marriage. Special family benches have been designated in federal court structures to entertain all family matter cases. These courts are equipped with trained judges and social workers to ensure best interest of the family members throughout the litigation process. Moreover, free legal aid service on cases of family matters are offered by the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission, MOWCYA, the federal and regional offices of the Attorney General, Regional Justice Bureaus as well as CSOs.

C. Economic, social and cultural rights

Economic, social and cultural rights – general measures of implementation (Recommendations 155.135, 155.130)

67. Ethiopia's overarching vision is to become a middle income country by 2025. The Government has a well-articulated set of development strategies and policies. Its pro-poor economic policies have yielded encouraging results in the expansion of health, education, infrastructure, clean water supply etc. The agricultural sector has also seen significant improvement in productivity and food security. It has set up milestones for social, cultural and economic development in its Growth and Transformation Plans (GTP II). GTP II is based on the assumption that economic growth will continue to run at 11% a year, which will also lead to advances in social development and poverty reduction.

68. The Constitution guarantees the Nation, Nationalities and Peoples of Ethiopia the right to speak, write and develop their own language, culture and preserve their history. Significant efforts have been undertaken to preserve heritage and cultural sites in many parts of the country.

69. Ethiopia continuously strives to improve the implementation of economic, social and cultural rights of its citizens. To attain its goals of ensuring the enjoyment of economic and social rights as set out in GTP II, the Government is also collaborating with other governments and international organizations.

Right to food (Recommendations 155.132-133)

70. Ethiopia has made significant strides towards securing the right to food. The Food Security Strategy (FSS) highlighted Government plans to address causality and effect of food insecurity in Ethiopia. The regional food security programs and projects were subsequently

designed on the basis of that strategy. This updated strategy is targeted mainly to the chronically food insecure moisture deficit and pastoral areas. A clearer focus on environmental rehabilitation as a measure to reverse the level of degradation and also as a source of income generation for food insecure households through a focus on biological measures marks a deviation from the 1996 strategy.

71. Water harvesting and the introduction of high value crops, livestock and agro-forestry development further inform the content of the Strategy. In recognition that the pursuit of food security is a long-term and multi-sector challenge, institutional strengthening and capacity building is included as a central element of the strategy. As in the past, however, the overall objective of the FSS is to ensure food security at the household level, while Agricultural Development Led Industrialization (ADLI) will focus on creating the conditions for national food self-sufficiency. Food productivity in Ethiopia has been steadily rising from 266.8 million Quintals in 2015/16 to 306.1 million quintals in 2017/18. The economy recovered from a serious drought in 2015/16.

72. The Urban Food Security Strategy, the National Social Protection Policy, Urban Development Policy, Job Creation Strategy and Household Asset Building Programs are initiatives of the Government to sustain and reinforce food security.

Right to social security (Recommendation 155.138)

73. Ethiopia has launched its National Social Protection Policy in 2014. The Policy focuses on the vulnerable, which includes children, women, people with disabilities, elderly people, the underemployed and those at risk because of social and natural problems and others. The focus areas of the Policy are social safety nets, livelihoods and employment support, social insurance, access to health, education and other social services as well as addressing violence, abuse and exploitation. To this end, various strategies and programmes such as the health extension and the productive safety net programmes are underway to support the implementation of the policy.

74. The Ethiopian social security scheme covers employees of both the public and private sectors. The Public Servants' Pension Proclamation No. 714/2011 which primarily came into effect during the previous review period provides conditions for receiving social security payment during retirement and in the incidence of incapacity to work due to illness and injury. The benefits therein are retirement pension, invalidity pension, incapacity pension or survivors' pension and include gratuity and refundable pension contribution. Further, the Proclamation provides for the principle of non-discrimination on the basis of sex in the age of retirement, payment of social security as well as transfer of the right to survivors.

75. Private Organization Employees' Proclamation No. 715/2011 fills the gap in the social security legal framework that previously covered only public servants. Accordingly, this proclamation provides the same benefits and social security to private sector employees as extended to public employees under proclamation number 714/2011.

Human rights and extreme poverty (Recommendations 155.124, 155.126-127, 155.129, 155.131, 155.128)

76. Ethiopia is investing heavily to reduce poverty and promote social development. The proportion of public spending on pro-poor sectors has increased by two-thirds from 2004/05 to 2016/17. Among these sectors education and roads are top-priorities, each receiving more than one-fifth of the Government's total budget. The Government is also implementing a huge social protection program to help the poor maintain their livelihood. The Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) is the largest social protection program in Africa which support close to 8 million chronically food insecure people and it has been implemented since 2005.

77. Ethiopia has created an enabling policy environment to effectively implement the SDGs at national and sub-national levels. Poverty reduction is the core objective and central development agenda of the Ethiopian government. The national headcount poverty fell from 29.6% in 2010/11 to 23.5% in 2015/16 while the income inequality using GINI coefficient in 2015/16 was 0.328. The per capita figure reached USD 883 in 2017/18 from USD 373 in 2009/10. This is a surge of 137% within a decade.

Human rights and drinking water and sanitation (Recommendation 155.134)

78. Ethiopia has adopted the Water Resources Management Policy in 2014. Following its adoption, various strategies to promote access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene have been developed and implemented. In 2017/2018, a total of 23,189 rural water installations were built including those built by the community while twenty-five new cities have acquired drinking water supply. These measures have benefited 4,613,611 rural and 1,471,620 urban residents in accordance with the improved water services standard. Accordingly, the number of rural population with access to clean water has significantly risen from 42,800,370 in 2015/16 to 56,483,664 in 2017/2018 while the number of urban residents with access to clean water has risen from 8,913,780 in 2015/2016 to 12,082,892 in 2017/2018. This represents 73.9% rural, 60.2% urban water coverage and 71.1% national coverage.

79. Ethiopia adopted the Hygiene and Environmental Health strategy for 5 years (2016-2020) focused, among others, on the construction and constant use of improved latrine; food safety (including storage, preservation and protection from vermin); improvement of the living environment (including vector control, indoor air pollution and safe energy use) and enhancing institutional (schools and health facilities) hygiene. The proportion of the population having access to unimproved sanitation facilities increased to 67.7% in 2016 from 65.7% in 2014. Access to improved sanitation facilities showed a slight increase from 8% in 2014 to 9% in 2016.

Right to just and favorable conditions of work (Recommendations 155.168, 157.15)

80. The Government is committed to improve the working conditions of individuals living in rural areas. To this end, improved extension package services were implemented in accordance with the existing environmental and market conditions and were geared towards addressing problems of production and productivity as well as to better respond to farmers' needs. Through the Agricultural Technical Vocational Education and Training Initiative, farmers were trained and encouraged to shift to small-scale modern farming practices. Moreover, developmental safety-net programs have been implemented to raise the living conditions of farmers, pastoralists and semi-pastoralists.

81. The Government has fixed minimum wage for the public sector workers which is applicable to civil servants who are the largest group of wage earners. This is not binding in the rest of the economy, particularly the private sector. However, study is underway to have a universal minimum wage applicable to all sectors and employees.

82. To improve the working conditions and protect the rights of Ethiopian migrant workers, the Government has signed bilateral overseas labour agreements with four Middle East countries. Efforts are also being made to assign labour attachés to provide advice and follow-up in Ethiopian embassies and missions in countries where there are significant numbers of Ethiopian migrant workers. Ethiopia has recently reached an agreement with Saudi Arabia and Qatar on a minimum wage for Ethiopian domestic workers in those countries. Further negotiations on the same are also on-going with the UAE and Kuwait. These measures, coupled with the labour agreements are expected to improve the working conditions of Ethiopian migrant workers.

Right to health (Recommendations 155.136-137, 155.140-143, 155.152, 155.157, 156.9)

83. The Constitution under its article 90 imposes an obligation on the State that, to the extent the country's resources permit, policies shall aim to provide all Ethiopians access to public health. Article 41/4/ of the Constitution also states that the Government has the obligation to allocate ever-increasing resources to provide for public health services.

84. After successfully implementing the 20-year Health Sector Development Program (HSDP), the Government has launched the five years Health Sector Transformation Plan (HSTP), which is part of the country's GTP-II and the first phase of a 20 years plan titled 'Envisioning Ethiopia's Path to Universal Health Care through Strengthening of Primary Health Care'. The highest priority areas for the HSTP are identified as maternal and newborn care, child health, and the halting and reversing of the spread of major communicable diseases such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

85. Promotion of gender equality; empowerment of women; and increasing the utilization of health services by women are also the main focus areas of the HSTP. Furthermore, the Ministry of Health has adopted a health sector Gender Mainstreaming Manual that is applied at federal, regional, and local levels.

86. The Government developed the National Reproductive Health Strategy to be implemented from 2016–2020 in order to reduce maternal mortality and promote reproductive health. The Strategy provided the means for reducing mortality and morbidity and improving the health of mothers and newborns. It also incorporates initiatives in response to emerging reproductive health issues. Furthermore, facilities providing family planning services have expanded both in terms of number and outreach. Currently, 97% of government health institutions across the country provide family planning services five days a week.

87. The Government has strengthened the implementation of the Health Extension Program, which deploys 38,000 (98% female) health extension workers in rural and urban areas. The extension workers provide door-to-door services in order to facilitate access to quality and affordable health care. The Program gives special attention to mothers and children in rural areas.

88. Moreover, considerable progress has been made to improve the provision of health services during the past four years by community-level volunteers who were trained by the health extension workers to focus more intensively on increasing local behavior changes.

89. In order to improve child health services, significant efforts have also been made to increase pentavalent and measles vaccination coverage. The country's under-five mortality rate has steadily declined, falling from 88 deaths per 1000 livebirths in 2010 to 58.5 deaths per 1000 in 2017. The infant mortality rate also declined from 59 per 1000 livebirths in 2010/11 to 48 per 1000 in 2016.

90. There has been a linear increase in Health Posts (HP) and Health Centers (HC). The total number of health posts rose from 16,048 in 2012/13 to 18,816 in 2017/18. Expansion of health centers also plays a pivotal role for the achievement of universal primary health coverage. Through the joint efforts of Federal Government and the regional states, the total number of health centers increased from 3,100 in 2012/13 to 3956 in 2017/18. Progress has also been made in increasing the number of hospitals from 127 in 2012/13 to 402 in 2017/18.

Right to education (Recommendations 155.142, 155.144-149, 155.151, 156.10, 157.16)

91. The Fifth Education Sector Development Program (ESDP) (2015/16–2019/2020) has been issued in August 2015. While the main educational goals of the country remain access, equity, quality and relevance in education, attention to disadvantaged groups, delivery of quality education, upbringing competent citizens through creating and transferring of knowledge and technology and excelling in educational planning and management are at the centerpiece of the 5th ESDP.

92. The Government has given high priority to education for which it is allocating ever-increasing resources to the sector with the view to realizing the right to education. The primary strategic direction of the education sector is to ensure equitable access to quality education at all levels. Primary education is free to all citizens, and all children of school age are strongly encouraged to attend school. In 2017/18, primary education was provided in more than 51 mother tongue languages compared to 49 in 2014/2015.

93. The number of primary schools (Grades 1-8) increased from 30,495 in 2012/13 to 36,466 in 2017/18. In other words, almost 6000 primary schools were either constructed or opened during the last four years. The net enrolment rate increased from 85.9 percent in 2012/13 to 100.05% in 2017/18 (the net enrollment ratio for primary level has been exceeded but figures suggest inaccuracies in population calculations and recorded child age at the point of enrollment). The number of students in primary schools increased from 17.4 million in 2012/13 to 20,783,078 in 2016/17. Currently the national pupil section ratio (PSR) has reached 56 and all regions have achieved a primary pupil teacher ratio of below 50 with the exception of Somali and Oromia regional states; in 2017/18 this figure stood at 43. The Gross Enrolment Rate in primary schools was 96.4% by 2010/11. The figure rose to 109.3% in

2017/18. This trend however is not followed through to secondary level with the gap becoming higher at tertiary level.

94. Towards addressing challenges relating to distance between residence and schools, the Government has developed guidelines on the provision of hostel services for female students. Similarly, through United Nations Joint Program (UNJP) Gender flagship, the Ministry is providing financial assistance to girls from underprivileged families to attend school. This program that targets reduction of dropout rates is operational in the four emerging regions of the country namely Benishangul Gumuz, Gambella, Afar and Somali Regional States.

95. Ethiopia has also greatly expended higher education over the reporting period. The number of government owned higher education institutions stands at 45 in 2018 compared to 33 in 2014 while accredited non-governmental higher education institutions have reached 128.

96. Ethiopia has launched Integrated Functional Adult Education (IFAE) which is a two year programme designed for illiterate adults. It's anticipated that it will enhance the participation of communities in the national development and poverty reduction struggle and make adult learners more productive and self-reliant. In 2017/18, a total of 4,941,062 adults participated in this scheme.

97. Despite all the successes registered in increasing access to education, ensuring quality of education has remained a challenge. To overcome the challenge, the Ministry of Education is developing an Education Development Roadmap. When implemented, the Roadmap is expected to improve the quality of education. Moreover, the Ministry is implementing the Second Phase of General Education Quality Improvement Project which aims to improve learning conditions in primary and secondary schools and strengthen institutions at different levels of educational administrations.

D. Rights of specific persons or groups

Persons with disabilities (Recommendation 155.152)

98. Ethiopia recognizes the need to take special measures to ensure that persons with disabilities enjoy the full range of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

99. To reduce the impact of the wrong perceptions of society about persons with disability, especially after the accession to the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Government has worked to develop public awareness and delivered successive trainings on its implementation. Moreover, the Convention has been translated into five local languages and distributed to the public.

100. Government institutions and private organizations give due emphasis to address the problems of children with disabilities at different levels and scales of interventions within their respective mandates. The Ministry of Education, for instance, has been providing inclusive support and attention to children with disabilities starting from their pre-school education. Nonetheless, despite all the efforts, accessibility of social services to persons with disabilities remains a major challenge.

101. The Public Servants Pension Proclamation and the Private Organization Employees' Pension Proclamation (714/2011 and 715/2011 respectively) extend the age of pension benefit coverage from 18 to 21 in cases where the survivors are persons with disabilities.

Refugees and internally displaced persons (Recommendations 155.153-156)

Regarding refugees

102. The 2016 New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants is considered a milestone for global solidarity on refugees' protection which sets out key elements of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) and lays the groundwork for the Global Compact on Refugees. Following the adoption of the declaration, Ethiopia co-hosted

a leader's summit where it made nine pledges to improve the lives of refugees. The CRRF was officially launched in Ethiopia in November 2017.

103. Ethiopia has already made progress in implementing the CRRF. First, civil registration of refugees, including birth, marriage, divorce and death, started in October 2017. More than 4852 refugees have had their birth registered including retroactive registration. Secondly, the Biometric Information Management System, a countrywide refugee registration infrastructure, was initiated in 2017. The system records information on refugees' education and professional skills as well as profiles of their family members. Both civil registration and the new biometric system will enable refugees to access CRRF opportunities. Thirdly, the Government has been working towards a mechanism to allow refugees to access work.

104. Currently, with 950,000 refugees, Ethiopia is host to the second largest refugee population in Africa, the majority of whom come from South Sudan, Somalia and Eritrea. In January 2019, Ethiopia adopted a new Refugee Proclamation which allows refugees to obtain work permits, access primary education, obtain driver's licenses, legally register life events such as births and marriages and access national financial services such as banking. The new law has been recognized as one of the most progressive in Africa.²

Regarding internally displaced persons

105. Ethiopia is a signatory to the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons, and the process for the ratification of the Convention is undergoing currently. There are currently a high number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ethiopia. Internal conflicts and natural hazards are leading causes.

106. To prevent and resolve internal conflicts, a National Reconciliation Commission has been established in December 2018. Ethiopia adopted Disaster Risk Management Policy to reduce risks associated with disasters and to protect those at risk in such circumstances. The Government also works closely with national and international counter parts to prevent internal displacement through early warning mechanisms and to provide care and resettlement for IDPs.

107. Ethiopia has introduced institutional mechanisms to help meet IDPs' immediate and longer-term needs for both humanitarian and development assistance. Among these initiatives are an IDP Advisory Group (comprising the UN Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator, the UN Office for the Coordination of the Humanitarian Affairs, IOM, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Danish Refugee Council), and a national steering committee (under the leadership of the Deputy Prime Minister) to support close to a million individuals displaced following the border conflict in the adjacent areas of the Somali and Oromia Regional States.

Discrimination against women (Recommendations 155.53-61, 155.117-118, 155.52)

108. The prevention of all forms of discrimination against women is a priority for Ethiopia. As part of this effort, the Government has taken a number of measures.

Political participation of women

109. In 2018, Ethiopia marked a major milestone for the participation of women in politics by achieving gender parity at cabinet level by appointing women to 50% of the ministerial posts in the new and slimmed down cabinet of 20 ministers. Women now head key national institutions such as the Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Peace (which oversees the intelligence, police and other security apparatus), Ministry of Revenue and Customs, Ministry of Trade and Investment, as the first Female Supreme Court President and a Chair Person of National Electoral Board of Ethiopia amongst others. In October 2018, Ethiopia also elected its first female head of state in 102 years. These efforts will continue to be replicated at regional levels. Women's representation in the national parliament has risen from 138 in 2010 to 202 in 2015 including equal number of headship positions out of the 10 Standing Committees of HPR.

110. The existing electoral laws provide for a number of incentives to political parties which nominate women candidates. 1,270 women candidates were registered during the 2015 election period. The laws, currently being amended with the participation of governing and opposition political parties, are expected to provide for more incentives to enhance women's participation in politics.

Economic and social empowerment of women

111. The National Social Protection Policy (2014) targets the promotion of women's socio-economic rights through the promotion of employment and income generating opportunities. The Policy envisages the provision of skills training and micro-finance credit services for the poor and vulnerable as well as the establishment of labour market information system.

112. One of the major challenges for women was access to finance, market networking and training on entrepreneurship. To address this gap the National Micro and Small Enterprises (MSE) Strategy was adopted. The Strategy facilitates access to finance through saving and credits, capacity building, skills training and market access for women entrepreneurs.

113. In 2017/18 alone, more than 6 million women participated in large scale awareness and advocacy platforms on the subject of economic empowerment at federal and regional levels and 13,421,215 women were able to save 3,252,050,038 Birr through Small Scale Micro Finance Associations throughout the country while 2,140,105 women were given credit opportunity and received a total of 13,325,717,507. Currently, 439,117 women are engaged in small scale enterprises out of which 144,597 were provided with market access and networking opportunities.

114. Cooperatives play a major role in promoting the socio-economic rights of women. During the reporting period, the number of women in Cooperatives reached 6,180,038 at the end of 2017/2018 showing a significant increment compared to 1,322,299 in the year 2010/2011. The Federal Cooperatives Agency, which is the institution that monitors and supports cooperatives, ensures the issuance and implementation of favourable policy and regulatory regimes for Cooperatives.

115. Women are increasingly becoming owners of houses or land in both rural and urban areas of the country. Sixteen percent of women age 15-49 own a house themselves, and 35% own a house jointly with someone. From the total beneficiaries of the low-cost housing program at federal level, 52% of the beneficiaries are women. Concerning land ownership rights, the ownership rate of women is 40%, while 25% own land jointly with someone. 1,383,937 women in rural areas had received land ownership certificate on their own or jointly with their husband. The Government is focused on structural reforms on land management and administration as the majority of rural land right holders still do not have title deeds for their possession.

116. Regarding the provision of medical services to women, over the current reporting period, significant developments have been registered in the anti-natal care, skilled delivery, reduction of maternal and child mortality, contraceptive use and other indicators. The number of health stations and health centres at *kebele* level has increased leading to better access of the facilities for women. As a result, The proportion of women aged 15-49 in Ethiopia who received antenatal care (ANC) from a skilled provider has increased from 27% in 2000 to 34% in 2011, and 62% in 2016. During the same period, home deliveries decreased from 95% in 2000 to 90% in 2011, and 73% in 2016. Seventeen percent of women and 13% of new-borns received a postnatal check within the first 2 days of birth.

117. On the other hand, the proportion of women aged 15-49 who report having at least one of the specified problems in accessing health care decreased from 96% in 2005, to 94% in 2011, and 70% in 2016. Similarly, the pregnancy related mortality ratio has declined to 412/100,000 live births during 2010-2016 compared to 676/100,000 during 2005-2011.

118. Concerning the employment sector, in 2016/2017 women held 36.53% of positions in government employment at national level compared to 32.8% in the year 2009/2010. Moreover, the revised Federal Civil Servants Proclamation number 1064/2017 has incorporated various provisions such as equal pay for equal work among men and women,

the extension of maternity leave and the provision of day care at office space and more. Currently, 75 day care facilities are provided across various government institutions for working mothers. The Government has also focused on improving the working conditions of women both in terms of payment and safety in the informal sector. Currently, bi-lateral agreements have been reached with Saudi Arabia and Qatar on matters of minimum wage and favourable working environment.

**Gender based violence, female genital mutilation and early marriage
(Recommendations 155.62, 155.77, 155.79-83)**

119. In Ethiopia, violence against women and girls continues to be a major challenge and a threat to women's empowerment. Women and girls face physical, emotional, and sexual abuses that undermine their health and ability to earn a living, disrupt their social systems, their childhood and education. As Ethiopian Demographic Health Survey (EDHS) conducted in 2016 indicate, among women aged 15–49, 23% have experienced physical violence and 10% have experienced sexual violence in their life time.

120. The Government recognizes gender based violence as violation of basic human rights. Accordingly, effective legal and policy frameworks are put in place to promote the rights of women and girls. These rights are enshrined in the Constitution as well as in International and regional agreements that promote and protect women's rights, including the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and the Protocol to the African Charter on the Rights of Women in Africa (the Maputo Protocol). Specific legal measures and actions are being taken to address violence, including the Revised Family Law of 2000 and the Revised Criminal Code in 2005. The Government has also put in place the requisite institutional mechanisms at federal and regional levels, including the establishment of Federal and Regional Women, Children and Youth Affairs Offices, Special Child and Women Protection Units within the police and prosecution offices and special benches for violence against women cases within the federal and numerous regional courts.

121. Ethiopia's second Growth and Transformational Plan (GTP II) has, for the first time, included ending violence against women as a priority. During the period of implementation, Ethiopia will establish hotlines for women and children experiencing violence, set up 11 new One-Stop Centers and rehabilitation centers, and also strengthen existing ones. In line with this plan, currently, there are 9 One Stop Centers and 16 safe houses throughout the country. The establishment of free hot line service on cases of GBV is expected to undertake before 2020.

122. The new National Women's Development and Change Strategy and the revised package for the realization of the strategy have put in place a clear direction on protection, prevention, and provision of services for women survivors of violence. Furthermore, the MOWCYA is committed to ending violence against women by including indicators on violence reduction in its 5-year sectoral plan (2016–2020).

123. Harmful traditional practices such as Female Genital Mutilation or Cutting (FGM/C) and early marriage are still widely practiced and remain a major challenge. Ethiopia is committed to eliminating harmful practices through strategic and programmatic measures. These include putting in place a National Harmful Traditional Practices (HTPs) Strategy founded on the three-pillar approach: prevention, provision, and protection. This targeted approach guides the national effort and helps to galvanize the support of stakeholders to end the practice as well as mitigate the impact of FGM/C.

124. Moreover, the Government refreshed its commitment to end FGM/C and child marriage by 2025 at the London Global Girls' Summit held in July 2014. The commitment, which employs an integrated and comprehensive strategy, puts girls at the center and targets girls themselves, families and communities, service providers, and policy makers. As part of the commitment, the following key areas have been identified: improving availability of data; strengthening coordination; putting in place accountability to enhance enforcement of the existing law; and increasing the budget by 10% for the effort to end the practice altogether or decrease it to the minimum.

Children: General principles, protection (Recommendations 155.38, 155.84, 155.153)

125. Ethiopia adopted the National Children's Policy in 2017. The policy is aimed at enhancing the participation of children and to create a safe and conducive environment for the upbringing of children, protect the rights of vulnerable children and to protect children from HTPs amongst other objectives. More than 500 Children's Parliaments exist in Ethiopia at all levels of governance. The mechanism has enhanced the participation of children in decision making.

126. Ethiopia is committed to improve the welfare of children and to protect and respect their rights. Measures are being taken to prevent violence and exploitation of child labour. To this end, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs adopted a national action plan (2011-2017) to prevent child labour exploitation. It also enacted a directive to implement the labour proclamation to protect the rights and welfare of the child. A National Steering Committee has been established to give directions and adopt strategies on child sexual violence, child labour exploitation and the rehabilitation of victims of sexual violence and labour exploitation. Currently, there are 9 One-Stop Centers and 16 safe houses throughout the country to ensure the safety and rehabilitation of victims of sexual and psychological violence.

127. The Ministry is engaged in extensive sensitization of the public on child labour and trafficking. It works with grass roots associations and utilizes traditional gatherings to advocate for the education of children and preventing child labour.

128. The Ministry of Education adopted Gender Equality and Girls Education Strategy that provides for detailed strategies to address sexual harassment and other forms of violence in educational institutions. Further, anti-sexual harassment code of conduct has been prepared and rolled out for implementation at all levels of schools.

129. The Government is also committed to improve access to education for persons with disabilities. The Ministry of Education issued a Strategy on Special Needs Education in 2012 and the fifth Education Sector Development Program (2015/16–2019/20) deals with the issue of disability in relation to access to and achievements in education.

130. The National Child Protection Strategy has been implemented (2017–2019). Urban Child Protection Center in Addis Ababa gives comprehensive access to vulnerable refugee children.

Juvenile justice (Recommendation 155.93)

131. The 2011 Criminal Justice Policy aims to promote recovery and reintegration of children in conflict with the law. It also recognizes the importance of taking steps leading to prevention of re-offending and the use of detention only as a measure of last resort.

132. Ethiopia has taken organizational measures to facilitate the effective implementation of the laws and procedures that deal with the respect of rights and protection of the special needs of children in conflict with the law. Special investigation units, prosecutors and child friendly benches are created at different levels. A separate child protection structure is established in Addis Ababa which provides psychological and legal counseling to children in conflict with the law and services related to their rehabilitation and reintegration.

Human rights defenders (Recommendation 155.113)

133. The Government is committed to protecting human rights defenders. All human rights defenders that had been detained or imprisoned in Ethiopia have been released. Ethiopian human rights defenders who had been based abroad have also returned in large numbers to Ethiopia and resumed their activities.

III. Implementation of noted recommendations

134. Of the recommendations given to Ethiopia during the previous reviews, 64 were "noted". However, mainly in connection with the on-going political reforms, the Government has implemented a significant part of these recommendations. New developments relating to

noted recommendations have been addressed in the relevant clusters above. However, to provide a clearer picture and for ease of reference, recommendations that had been noted but are either fully or partially implemented are enumerated below.

Acceptance of international norms

135. Partial Implementation of recommendations 157.1, 157.2, 157.3, 158.2, 158.11 (para. 23), 158.1 (paras. 22 & 23), 158.9 (para. 46), 158.30 (paras. 39, 43 and 44), 158.6 (para. 78).

Cooperation with special procedures

136. Partial implementation of recommendations 158.20, 158.21, 157.9, 158.22 (para. 25).

Institutions and policies

137. Partial Implementation of recommendation 158.17 (para 14).

Conditions of detention.

138. Partial implementation of recommendation 158.31 (para. 46).

Arbitrary arrest and detention

139. Full implementation of recommendation 158.33 (para.35 and 52).

Freedom of opinion and expression

140. Full implementation of recommendations 158.34 (para 55), 158.35 and 158.51 (paras. 31, 35, 36, 55).

Freedom of association

141. Full implementation of recommendations 158.37, 157.13, 158.39, 158.40, 158.41, 158.46, 158.36, 158.42, 158.43, 158.44, 158.49, 158.45, 158.38 (para. 17, 30, 62).

Right to just and favorable conditions of work

142. Partial implementation of recommendation 157.15 (para 81 and 82).

Human rights and counter-terrorism

143. Full implementation of recommendations 158.53, 155.163, 158.5,0 158.52, (para. 35).

Human rights defenders

144. Full implementation of recommendation 158.47 (para. 30, 35, 134).

Notes

¹ <https://twitter.com/pressfreedom/status/1065052812239880192>

² UNHCR Press Release: accessed at <https://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2019/1/5c41b1784/unhcr-welcomes-ethiopia-law-granting-rights-refugees.html> on 26 January 2019