



Human Rights Council
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
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Compilation on Ethiopia

Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

I. Background

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, taking into consideration the periodicity of the universal periodic review. It is a compilation of information contained in reports of treaty bodies and special procedures and other relevant United Nations documents, presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints.

II. Scope of international obligations and cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and bodies^{1,2}

2. In 2015, the Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Ethiopia ratify the core human rights instruments to which it was not yet a party, particularly the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.³

3. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) recommended that Ethiopia consider acceding to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.⁴

4. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) encouraged Ethiopia to ratify the Convention against Discrimination in Education.⁵

5. The Committee on the Rights of the Child noted that some of its previous recommendations regarding, inter alia, the allocation of resources, data collection,



discrimination against children in vulnerable situations, birth registration, trafficking, harmful traditional practices and the administration of juvenile justice had not been fully implemented.⁶

6. The United Nations country team stated that reports to four treaty bodies were overdue. One of the main challenges when reporting to human rights mechanisms and following up on their recommendations was the shortage of dedicated human resources within the Office of the Attorney General.⁷

7. The United Nations country team stated that 12 requests for visits to Ethiopia by the special procedure mandate holders remained pending.⁸

8. In April 2018, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights stated that following his request in 2017 for access to Oromia and Amhara, the two regions most affected by protests, he had been invited to conduct a follow-up mission.⁹

III. National human rights framework¹⁰

9. UNESCO noted that the right to education was not recognized in the Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and encouraged Ethiopia to develop its legislative framework on education in order to guarantee the right to education for all.¹¹

10. UNESCO encouraged Ethiopia to enact legislation providing for freedom of information to ensure progress in achieving target 16.10 of the Sustainable Development Goals.¹²

11. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities expressed concern about the lack of mainstreaming of disability rights in the national implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and recommended mainstreaming those rights.¹³

12. The same Committee expressed concern about the absence of measures to tackle humanitarian crises, particularly in relation to persons with disabilities and their specific requirements. It recommended that Ethiopia adopt a risk and emergency strategy and ensure that disability issues were integrated into that strategy, in compliance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030.¹⁴

13. The United Nations country team expressed concern about the lack of capacity of the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission to monitor alleged human rights abuses and violations.¹⁵

IV. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law

A. Cross-cutting issues

1. Equality and non-discrimination¹⁶

14. The Committee on the Rights of the Child expressed concern at the continuous discrimination against girls, children with disabilities, children belonging to ethnic minorities, children in poverty and street situations and children living with HIV/AIDS and with noma disease.¹⁷

2. Development, the environment, and business and human rights

15. The United Nations country team stated that the Government was making considerable progress towards environmentally friendly sustainable development through development initiatives such as climate resilience and forestry projects.¹⁸

3. Human rights and counter-terrorism¹⁹

16. The United Nations country team expressed concern that the Anti-Terrorism Proclamation 652/2009 was incompatible with international human rights standards, particularly the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (2006), and regional standards such as the Principles and Guidelines on Human and Peoples' Rights while Countering Terrorism in Africa, adopted by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.²⁰

17. The Committee on the Rights of the Child expressed concern about the negative impact of the 2009 Anti-Terrorism Proclamation on the right of the child to freedom of expression. It urged Ethiopia to repeal all the provisions in the Proclamation that infringed on the right of the child to freedom of expression.²¹

B. Civil and political rights

1. Right to life, liberty and security of person²²

18. The United Nations country team expressed concern about reports that people participating in nationwide protests and demonstrations had been injured or killed by law enforcement and security forces. It was concerned by the lack of concrete measures to hold law enforcement and security forces accountable for those acts.²³

19. The United Nations country team expressed serious concern about reports that more than a million people had lost their lives or been physically attacked or displaced in the context of the ethnic conflicts that had erupted in the Gedeo and West Guji zones of the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Regional State, the Oromia Regional State and the Somali Regional State.²⁴ The country team was also concerned by the killing, injury and displacement of people during the unrest in Burayu town and Addis Ababa from 14 to 16 September 2018 and during a demonstration in Addis Ababa on 17 September 2018.²⁵

20. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities expressed deep concern about the ineffective protection, in law and in practice, of the right to life for persons with disabilities, especially persons with albinism and children with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities.²⁶

21. The Committee expressed concern that forced detention on the basis of impairment was allowed. It recommended that Ethiopia repeal the laws that permitted deprivation of liberty on the basis of impairment and draft new legislation to prohibit that practice.²⁷

22. The Committee expressed concern about the use of coercive measures, including physical restraint and isolation, against adults and children with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities. It urged Ethiopia to prohibit all forms of coercive treatment against adults and children with disabilities, including physical restraint and isolation, which were considered to be cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.²⁸

23. The United Nations country team stated that the Criminal Code did not contain a comprehensive definition of torture in line with the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.²⁹ In addition, no concrete measures had been taken to prevent the occurrence of torture, inhuman and degrading treatment in detention facilities.³⁰

24. Referring to the relevant supported recommendation from the previous review, UNHCR stated that harmful traditional practices were being carried out in both refugee and Ethiopian communities, with early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation being the most prevalent forms of violence in refugee communities.³¹

25. The Committee on the Rights of the Child expressed concern that the relevant legal provisions prohibiting and criminalizing harmful traditional practices were not adequately enforced, as shown by the very high number of children, particularly girls, subjected to female genital mutilation and cutting in all its forms (cliteridectomy, excision, infibulation, cauterization or scraping), as well as forced, early and promissory marriages and marriages

by abduction. It was concerned about the lack of criminal proceedings against those performing those practices.³²

2. Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law³³

26. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities expressed concern that the training of judicial staff, lawyers, court staff and the police on the rights of persons with disabilities was not compulsory and was not regularly conducted. It was concerned that procedural accommodation was not effectively available in law and in practice.³⁴

27. The Committee expressed concern that legislation allowed for persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities to be declared unfit to stand trial, without due process of law. It was concerned that those persons, once declared unfit to stand trial, were subjected to security measures and, on that account, deprived of their liberty. It recommended that Ethiopia repeal that legislation.³⁵

28. While welcoming the establishment of child-friendly courts and child protection units, the implementation of the community-based correction programme and the adoption of the National Criminal Justice Policy, the Committee on the Rights of the Child remained deeply concerned that the minimum age of criminal responsibility remained at 9 years, that children between the ages of 15 and 18 years were prosecuted as adults and that child offenders were not separated from adult detainees. It was also concerned by the lack of disaggregated data on children in conflict with the law, the limited psychological and legal counselling and the insufficient rehabilitation and reintegration services for children.³⁶

29. The Committee urged Ethiopia to bring its juvenile justice system fully into line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other relevant standards. In that regard, it urged Ethiopia to: raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility to an internationally acceptable level; take urgent measures to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy for the administration of juvenile justice by focusing particularly on children between the ages of 15 and 18 years; take urgent measures to separate child offenders from adult detainees and to support and treat appropriately children who accompanied their mothers in prison; ensure that the detention of child offenders remained a measure of last resort and strengthen the availability and quality of alternatives to detention, including education, rehabilitation and reintegration; collect systematic disaggregated data on the number of children who were in conflict with the law and in detention centres; address geographical disparities in terms of access to justice and take all appropriate measures to expand psychological and legal counselling and social and rehabilitation services to all regions of the country, including in the rural and remote areas, focusing particularly on vulnerable children in conflict with the law; expand further the regional presence of the Child Justice Project Office and ensure that adequate human, technical and financial resources were provided; and establish accessible and confidential complaints mechanisms.³⁷

3. Fundamental freedoms and the right to participate in public and political life³⁸

30. UNESCO stated that defamation was a criminal offence and recommended its decriminalization.³⁹

31. The Committee on the Rights of the Child expressed concern at the highly restrictive environment for non-governmental and civil society organizations through the imposition of administrative barriers to registration, low thresholds of foreign financial support for local non-governmental organizations, and the strict delimitation of authorized activities for international non-governmental organizations by prohibiting their involvement in numerous areas affecting children, such as child sexual abuse and exploitation, female genital mutilation and cutting and other harmful traditional practices, the rights of children with disabilities and the rights of children in conflict with the law. The Committee deeply regretted information on the interference of the Government in the work of the Charities and Societies Agency, the heavy restrictions imposed on non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations in accessing conflict-affected regions, detention centres and alternative care institutions, and the cases of harassment, arrest and prosecution of human rights activists.⁴⁰

32. The United Nations country team expressed concern that the Charities and Societies Proclamation had a negative impact on the exercise of the right to freedom of expression and association.⁴¹

33. In June 2018, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights stated that it was encouraged by the lifting of the state of emergency decree, three months ahead of its expiration date, and welcomed the release on 26 May 2018 of a number of political detainees, bloggers and other individuals who had been detained following their participation in protests in recent years. It noted that the Attorney General had indicated that those releases had been made with the intention of widening the political space.⁴²

4. Prohibition of all forms of slavery

34. The Committee on the Rights of the Child regretted that the sale of children was neither defined nor criminalized in the Criminal Code or the Criminal Procedure Code, and that the relevant trafficking provisions of the Criminal Code did not comply with the international standards established under the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.⁴³ The Committee urged Ethiopia to revise all relevant provisions of the Criminal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code in order to explicitly prohibit and criminalize the sale of children and to align those provisions with international standards, including the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.⁴⁴

35. The Committee urged Ethiopia to develop and implement strategies and policies to eliminate domestic rural-urban and international flows of trafficking, by paying particular attention to vulnerable children, including girls, children living in poverty, out-of-school children, children who had dropped out of school, migrant, refugee and internally displaced children, and unaccompanied and separated children.⁴⁵

36. The Committee was deeply concerned at the lack of rehabilitation and reintegration centres to provide child victims of trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation with adequate, age-sensitive medical and psychological assistance.⁴⁶

37. The Committee urged Ethiopia to effectively monitor the implementation of bilateral and multilateral agreements on the issue of trafficking, ensuring that special attention was paid to children who were returned to their country of origin and that the principle of the best interests of the child was always respected.⁴⁷

5. Rights to privacy and family life⁴⁸

38. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities expressed concern that articles 34, 51 and 220 of the Family Code allowed for discrimination on the basis of disability with regard to the rights of the family, and recommended that Ethiopia repeal those provisions.⁴⁹

39. The Committee on the Rights of the Child expressed concern about the provision in the Family Code that allowed for the adoption of children while in utero and recommended that Ethiopia repeal that provision.⁵⁰

40. The Committee expressed concern that the best interests of the child were not adequately considered with respect to decisions concerning adoption, family reunification processes and legal proceedings, alternative care and early marriage.⁵¹

41. The Committee recommended that Ethiopia develop and implement a comprehensive framework on domestic and intercountry adoptions, by paying particular attention to the child's best interests. It also recommended ratifying the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Intercountry Adoption.⁵²

42. The Committee expressed concern about the significantly high number of children deprived of a family environment and about the absence of a national strategy and action plan focusing on alternative family and community-based options for those children.⁵³ It recommended that Ethiopia, inter alia, support single-parent and vulnerable families and develop policies and tools for the purpose of reducing reliance on institutional care. It also

recommended that Ethiopia develop a comprehensive strategy on family and community-based alternative care for children deprived of a family environment, with due regard for the best interests of the child.⁵⁴

C. Economic, social and cultural rights

1. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work⁵⁵

43. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities expressed concern about the low rate of employment of persons with disabilities. It was concerned by the absence of affirmative measures to enhance the employment of persons with disabilities, both in the public and private sectors. It recommended that Ethiopia, inter alia, take effective and affirmative measures to ensure the employment of persons with disabilities in the open labour market, including by increasing vocational training opportunities.⁵⁶

2. Right to social security⁵⁷

44. The United Nations country team noted that Ethiopia had adopted a national social protection policy and strategy with the objective of providing protection to vulnerable households.⁵⁸

3. Right to an adequate standard of living⁵⁹

45. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities expressed concern at the absence of community support services to provide for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in society. It was concerned about the lack of availability and accessibility of personal assistance services for persons with disabilities. It recommended that Ethiopia improve the availability, accessibility and inclusiveness of existing public services and develop further community-based services for persons with disabilities to ensure that they had the opportunity to choose their place of residence and with whom they lived, including in rural areas. It also recommended that Ethiopia ensure the availability and accessibility of personal assistance services for persons with disabilities.⁶⁰

46. The Committee on the Rights of the Child expressed concern about the high rates of poverty affecting children, especially in rural areas. It urged Ethiopia to effectively implement a multidimensional approach to reducing child poverty, including by eliminating serious gaps in basic social services for children in the most vulnerable situations.⁶¹

47. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities expressed concern that 95 per cent of persons with disabilities lived in poverty, and that there were few programmes that specifically targeted persons with disabilities and covered disability-related expenses. It recommended that Ethiopia ensure that poverty reduction and social protection strategies targeted persons with disabilities.⁶²

4. Right to health⁶³

48. The Committee on the Rights of the Child expressed concern that the per capita spending on basic health care was well below the internationally accepted levels. It deeply regretted the persistence of regional disparities in the provision of health-care services and that the rates of malnutrition, infant mortality, under-5 mortality, maternal mortality and the prevalence of noma disease remained high.⁶⁴

49. The United Nations country team stated that Ethiopia had one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the world.⁶⁵

50. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Ethiopia: design and implement sex and reproductive health education programmes for adolescents, with a view to reducing the prevalence of teenage pregnancies; eliminate the barriers in terms of access to adequate mental and reproductive health services by paying particular attention to vulnerable teenagers and adolescents; ensure the adequate allocation of human, technical and financial resources for the implementation of the National Adolescent and Youth Reproductive Health Strategy and establish a specialized body within the Federal Ministry

of Health responsible for coordinating and monitoring the implementation of adolescent health programmes and policies; and strengthen the capacity of health-care services at all levels to deliver quality adolescent-sensitive services, including developmental, mental and reproductive health counselling services.⁶⁶

51. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was concerned that medical personnel working with persons with disabilities were not adequately trained on the rights of persons with disabilities, especially the right to free, prior and informed consent. It recommended that Ethiopia provide training for medical personnel working with persons with disabilities.⁶⁷

5. Right to education⁶⁸

52. The Committee on the Rights of the Child expressed concern about the lack of national legislation on free and compulsory education, the persistent regional disparities in enrolment rates, the high number of school-age children, particularly girls, who remained out of school, the high dropout rates, and the significantly low enrolment rates in pre-primary education and secondary education. The Committee expressed concern about the scarcity of school facilities to accommodate children's education needs, especially for refugee children, children of displaced indigenous and minority ethnic groups, teenage girls and children with disabilities. It also expressed concern about the absence of detailed information on vocational training programmes for children and adolescents who had left school.⁶⁹

53. While noting the establishment of inclusive education resource centres, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities expressed concern about the absence of a comprehensive strategy towards an inclusive education system and the lack of a policy to enable students with disabilities to effectively access education. It recommended that Ethiopia, *inter alia*, adopt a comprehensive strategy with a road map towards inclusive and quality education. It also recommended that Ethiopia guarantee in law a legally enforceable right to inclusive education.⁷⁰

54. The United Nations country team noted that a high proportion of children did not complete primary education and that few children were meeting minimum proficiency learning levels.⁷¹

55. UNESCO encouraged Ethiopia to develop adequate infrastructure in schools to guarantee children a safe learning environment.⁷² It also encouraged Ethiopia to take comprehensive measures to foster educational opportunities for refugees and to ensure that they had access to a safe learning environment.⁷³

D. Rights of specific persons or groups

1. Women⁷⁴

56. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities expressed concern that the rights of women with disabilities were not effectively mainstreamed or respected in law and in practice. It recommended that Ethiopia mainstream the rights of women with disabilities in law and in practice.⁷⁵

57. The Committee expressed concern about the existence of harmful practices such as female genital mutilation, and recommended that Ethiopia effectively address female genital mutilation both in law and in practice.⁷⁶

58. The United Nations country team expressed concern that Ethiopia was yet to criminalize marital rape.⁷⁷

59. While noting the various initiatives to promote the socioeconomic development of women, the United Nations country team stated that women continued to face economic constraints due to the lack of access to credit and inexperience in marketing their products.⁷⁸

2. Children⁷⁹

60. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities expressed concern about the lack of specific legislation to ensure the protection of the rights of children with disabilities against abandonment, neglect, mistreatment and corporal punishment in all aspects of life. The Committee recommended adopting the appropriate legislation.⁸⁰

61. The Committee on the Rights of the Child expressed concern about the high levels of child sexual abuse and the absence of information on specific strategies and initiatives to target children at particular risk of becoming victims of sexual abuse. It was concerned about the large proportion of girls who experienced forced sexual initiation, particularly within the context of early marriage and sexual harassment. It regretted the significantly low reporting rates of child abuse, including sexual abuse, the absence of mechanisms to assess and monitor the extent of such violations, the lack of prosecution of alleged perpetrators and the lack of adequate rehabilitation and reintegration services for victims.⁸¹

62. The United Nations country team expressed concern about the rampant practice of child marriage.⁸² It noted that at a summit held in London in 2014, Ethiopia had publicly renewed its commitment to end child marriage and female genital mutilation and cutting by 2025.⁸³

63. The Committee on the Rights of the Child expressed concern that violence against children persisted in the school, in the home and in alternative care settings.⁸⁴ It recommended that Ethiopia take urgent measures in order to, inter alia, establish effective procedures and mechanisms to receive, monitor and investigate cases of child abuse and neglect, ensure the proper prosecution of alleged perpetrators and guarantee that abused children were not victimized in legal proceedings, and train teachers, law enforcement officials, care workers, judges and health professionals to effectively identify, report and manage ill-treatment and abuse cases.⁸⁵

64. The Committee remained concerned at the high number of children living and/or working in the streets, particularly in urban areas. It was concerned about the absence of specific programmes aimed at facilitating access to education and health care for children in street situations, the absence of programmes for children in street situations with disabilities, girls and those living with HIV/AIDS, and the lack of shelters and rehabilitation centres.⁸⁶

65. The Committee expressed concern about the persistent high prevalence of child labour, including its worst forms, the lack of disaggregated data on children engaged in the worst forms of child labour, and the fact that the existing legal framework allowed children over the age of 14 to be engaged in hazardous work, when that work was part of a vocational training programme. The Committee was also concerned about the situation of child domestic workers, called *seratenyas*, and orphans, children in street situations and young girls who were moving to foreign countries and being economically exploited and abused.⁸⁷

66. The Committee remained concerned that traditions and cultural attitudes continued to limit the full implementation of the right of the child to be heard. Furthermore, except for the specific provision in the Revised Family Code concerning the adoption process, there was no information on other legal provisions guaranteeing respect for the right of the child to be heard in schools, judicial and administrative proceedings, alternative care settings and in the family.⁸⁸

3. Persons with disabilities

67. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities expressed concern about the lack of effective complaint mechanisms or remedies for disability-based discrimination and that multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination were neither recognized nor sanctioned in law and in practice. It recommended that Ethiopia provide legal protection against disability-based discrimination and establish effective legal remedies. It also recommended adopting a national disability awareness strategy to effectively prevent and combat disability-based stereotypes and discrimination.⁸⁹

68. The Committee on the Rights of the Child expressed deep concern at the persistence of negative attitudes and discrimination against children with disabilities, and at the fact that the vast majority of children with disabilities were deprived of education and faced obstacles in accessing appropriate social and health-care services.⁹⁰

69. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities expressed concern that derogatory terms continued to be employed in legislation and policies to refer to persons with disabilities such as “insane”, “infirm” and “deaf-mute”. It recommended that Ethiopia eliminate the use of all such derogatory language and ensure that all existing and new laws and regulations were in compliance with the human rights-based model of disability in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.⁹¹ The Committee also recommended that Ethiopia ensure systematic and meaningful consultation with organizations for persons with disabilities in the development of laws and policies.⁹²

70. The Committee expressed concern that the legislative provisions of the Civil Code contradicted article 12 of the Convention and restricted persons with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities from fully enjoying and exercising their rights. It recommended that Ethiopia repeal the legislative provisions that were not in compliance with article 12 of the Convention.⁹³

71. The Committee noted with appreciation that Ethiopia had adopted the National Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities (2012–2021). It welcomed the incorporation of the obligation to provide reasonable accommodation into the Employment of Persons with Disabilities Proclamation and the Federal Civil Servants Proclamation, and the upcoming revision of the Civil Code.⁹⁴ However, the Committee expressed concern that the concept of reasonable accommodation did not relate to other areas covered by the Convention and it recommended that Ethiopia adopt a comprehensive definition of reasonable accommodation in law that applied to all rights.⁹⁵

4. Minorities and indigenous peoples⁹⁶

72. The Committee on the Rights of the Child expressed concern about the forced relocation of indigenous families, including Anuak and Nuer, which had taken place in 2010, particularly in the regions of Gambella, Benishangul-Gumuz, Somali and Afar, due to agricultural planning strategies and investments.⁹⁷

5. Migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons

73. UNHCR referred to the relevant supported recommendation from the previous review and stated that a new proclamation on refugees was under review by the House of Peoples’ Representatives, which, when passed, would expand the rights of refugees and asylum seekers. However, the Constitution lacked provisions to cover the various dynamics of displacement, and the national human rights action plan and the disaster risk management policy did not cover the needs of internally displaced persons. Responses to displacement were ad hoc and insufficient.⁹⁸

74. The Committee on the Rights of the Child expressed concern about the lack of security and protection of refugee, asylum-seeking and internally displaced children from violence, exploitation and abuse within and outside refugee camps. It was seriously concerned about reports of disappearances of refugee and asylum-seeking children from refugee camps, and about the living conditions in those camps. It was also concerned that children of refugees were not registered at birth. It regretted the absence of information on the situation of internally displaced persons, particularly children, due to natural disasters, and on the situation of asylum seekers, including a large number of unaccompanied children.⁹⁹

75. Referring to the relevant supported recommendation from the previous review, UNHCR stated that in October 2017 the national civil registration and vital statistics system had been made accessible to refugees, allowing for the registration of births, marriages, divorces and deaths.¹⁰⁰ However, accessibility had been hindered by difficulties related to limited technical capacity and staff constraints in the relevant institutions and weaknesses in the data management system.¹⁰¹

6. Stateless persons

76. UNHCR stated that despite the regional obligation stemming from article 6 of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, which had been ratified by Ethiopia in 2002, the Ethiopian Nationality Proclamation did not contain any provisions to ensure that children born in Ethiopia, who would otherwise be stateless, would be granted Ethiopian nationality.¹⁰²

77. While welcoming the measures that had been taken with regard to birth registration, the Committee on the Rights of the Child remained concerned at the high rate of unregistered children and that only 5 per cent of children had been registered in rural areas.¹⁰³ It urged Ethiopia to adopt a comprehensive birth registration policy and provide all the human, financial and technical resources necessary for its effective implementation, especially in rural areas.¹⁰⁴

78. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities expressed concern that the birth registration process for all newborn children with disabilities across all territories was not carried out to its fullest extent. It recommended that Ethiopia strengthen the birth registration system to ensure that all newborn children with disabilities in all areas of the country, in particular those living in remote and rural areas and those living in refugee camps, were registered immediately upon birth.¹⁰⁵

Notes

- ¹ Tables containing information on the scope of international obligations and cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and bodies for Ethiopia will be available at www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/ETIndex.aspx.
- ² For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/27/14, paras. 155.1–155.9, 155.33–155.34, 155.36, 155.47, 155.49–155.51, 155.88, 155.139, 155.160, 155.169, 156.6, 157.1–157.6, 157.8–157.9, 158.1–158.15, 158.18–158.22, 158.30 and 158.48.
- ³ CRC/C/ETH/CO/4-5, para. 74. See also United Nations country team submission for the universal periodic review of Ethiopia, para. 1.
- ⁴ UNHCR submission for the universal periodic review of Ethiopia, p. 5.
- ⁵ UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of Ethiopia, para. 10.
- ⁶ CRC/C/ETH/CO/4-5, para. 6.
- ⁷ United Nations country team submission, para. 2.
- ⁸ *Ibid.*, para. 4.
- ⁹ See www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=22990&LangID=E.
- ¹⁰ For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/27/14, paras. 155.10–155.32, 155.35, 155.37, 155.39–155.46, 155.67–155.69, 155.75, 155.89, 155.94–155.95, 155.109–155.112, 155.119, 155.123, 155.150, 155.155–155.156, 155.159, 155.161, 155.167, 155.170, 156.6, 157.7, 157.11, 158.17 and 158.23–158.25.
- ¹¹ UNESCO submission, paras. 1 and 11.
- ¹² *Ibid.*, para. 20.
- ¹³ CRPD/C/ETH/CO/1, paras. 67–68.
- ¹⁴ *Ibid.*, paras. 23–24.
- ¹⁵ United Nations country team submission, para. 27.
- ¹⁶ For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/27/14, para. 155.52, 155.64–155.66, 155.98–155.99, 155.101–155.102, 155.144, 155.154 and 157.17.
- ¹⁷ CRC/C/ETH/CO/4-5, para. 23.
- ¹⁸ United Nations country team submission, para. 51.
- ¹⁹ For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/27/14, paras. 155.162–155.166, 156.11, 157.18, 158.50 and 158.52–158.53.
- ²⁰ United Nations country team submission, para. 52.
- ²¹ CRC/C/ETH/CO/4-5, paras. 35–36.
- ²² For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/27/14, paras. 155.70–155.74, 155.77, 155.79–155.83, 155.85–155.87, 155.90, 156.1, 156.4–156.5, 157.10, 158.26–158.29, 158.31 and 158.33.
- ²³ United Nations country team submission, paras. 19–20.
- ²⁴ *Ibid.*, para. 22.
- ²⁵ *Ibid.*, para. 23.
- ²⁶ CRPD/C/ETH/CO/1, para. 21.
- ²⁷ *Ibid.*, paras. 31–32.
- ²⁸ *Ibid.*, paras. 33–34.

- 29 United Nations country team submission, para. 17.
- 30 *Ibid.*, para. 18.
- 31 UNHCR submission, p. 3, referring to A/HRC/27/14, para. 155.78 (Japan).
- 32 CRC/C/ETH/CO/4-5, para. 47.
- 33 For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/27/14, paras. 155.91–155.93, 156.3 and 157.12.
- 34 CRPD/C/ETH/CO/1, para. 29.
- 35 *Ibid.*, paras. 31–32.
- 36 CRC/C/ETH/CO/4-5, para. 71.
- 37 *Ibid.*, para. 72. See also United Nations country team submission, para. 29.
- 38 For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/27/14, paras. 155.100, 155.103–155.108, 155.113, 155.115–155.116, 156.7–156.8, 157.13–157.14, 158.32, 158.34–158.49 and 158.51.
- 39 UNESCO submission, paras. 3, 5 and 19.
- 40 CRC/C/ETH/CO/4-5, para. 19.
- 41 United Nations country team submission, para. 34.
- 42 See www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=23174&LangID=E.
- 43 CRC/C/ETH/CO/4-5, para. 69.
- 44 *Ibid.*, para. 70 (a).
- 45 *Ibid.*, para. 70 (b).
- 46 *Ibid.*, para. 69.
- 47 *Ibid.*, para. 70 (c).
- 48 For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/27/14, paras. 155.62 and 155.96–155.97.
- 49 CRPD/C/ETH/CO/1, paras. 49–50.
- 50 CRC/C/ETH/CO/4-5, paras. 51 and 52 (e).
- 51 *Ibid.*, para. 25.
- 52 *Ibid.*, para. 52 (a) and (f).
- 53 *Ibid.*, para. 49.
- 54 *Ibid.*, para. 50 (a)–(b).
- 55 For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/27/14, paras. 155.121–155.122, 155.168 and 157.15.
- 56 CRPD/C/ETH/CO/1, paras. 59–60.
- 57 For the relevant recommendation, see A/HRC/27/14, para. 155.138.
- 58 United Nations country team submission, para. 38.
- 59 For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/27/14, paras. 155.124–155.129, 155.131–155.135 and 155.138.
- 60 CRPD/C/ETH/CO/1, paras. 43–44.
- 61 CRC/C/ETH/CO/4-5, paras. 27–28.
- 62 CRPD/C/ETH/CO/1, paras. 61–62.
- 63 For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/27/14, paras. 155.136–155.137, 155.140–155.143, 155.152, 155.157 and 156.9.
- 64 CRC/C/ETH/CO/4-5, para. 55. See also United Nations country team submission, para. 40.
- 65 United Nations country team submission, para. 15.
- 66 CRC/C/ETH/CO/4-5, para. 60.
- 67 CRPD/C/ETH/CO/1, paras. 37–38. See also paras. 53–54.
- 68 For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/27/14, paras. 155.144–155.149, 155.151, 156.10 and 157.16.
- 69 CRC/C/ETH/CO/4-5, para. 61.
- 70 CRPD/C/ETH/CO/1, paras. 51–52. See also UNESCO submission, para. 13.
- 71 United Nations country team submission, para. 43.
- 72 UNESCO submission, para. 12. See also pp. 4–5.
- 73 *Ibid.*, para. 14.
- 74 For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/27/14, paras. 155.53–155.61, 155.63, 155.76, 155.78, 155.117–155.118, 155.120 and 156.2.
- 75 CRPD/C/ETH/CO/1, paras. 13–14.
- 76 *Ibid.*, paras. 39–40.
- 77 United Nations country team submission, para. 30.
- 78 *Ibid.*, para. 9.
- 79 For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/27/14, paras. 155.38, 155.84 and 155.153.
- 80 CRPD/C/ETH/CO/1, paras. 15–16.
- 81 CRC/C/ETH/CO/4-5, para. 43.
- 82 United Nations country team submission, para. 31.
- 83 *Ibid.*, para. 11.
- 84 CRC/C/ETH/CO/4-5, para. 45.
- 85 *Ibid.*, para. 46.
- 86 *Ibid.*, para. 65.

- ⁸⁷ Ibid., para. 63.
⁸⁸ Ibid., para. 31.
⁸⁹ CRPD/C/ETH/CO/1, paras. 11–12 and 18.
⁹⁰ CRC/C/ETH/CO/4-5, para. 53.
⁹¹ CRPD/C/ETH/CO/1, paras. 5–6.
⁹² Ibid., para. 8.
⁹³ Ibid., paras. 25–26.
⁹⁴ Ibid., para. 4.
⁹⁵ Ibid., paras. 9–10.
⁹⁶ For the relevant recommendation, see A/HRC/27/14, para. 155.158.
⁹⁷ CRC/C/ETH/CO/4-5, para. 21.
⁹⁸ UNHCR submission, pp. 2–3, referring to A/HRC/27/14, para. 155.55 (South Africa).
⁹⁹ CRC/C/ETH/CO/4-5, para. 67.
¹⁰⁰ UNHCR submission, p. 2, referring to A/HRC/27/14, para. 155.154 (Argentina).
¹⁰¹ UNHCR submission, p. 4.
¹⁰² Ibid., p. 5.
¹⁰³ CRC/C/ETH/CO/4-5, para. 33.
¹⁰⁴ Ibid., para. 34 (a).
¹⁰⁵ CRPD/C/ETH/CO/1, paras. 41–42.
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