

## **EHRC Contribution to the 54<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council**

### **ID with the International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia**

**21 September 2023**

Distinguished President and Members of the Human Rights Council,

1. The Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) takes note of the report by the International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia (ICHREE), a mechanism established to build upon and complement the work of the EHRC/OHCHR (Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights) Joint Investigation Team (JIT) Report. In that regard EHRC and OHCHR have supported ICHREE in the execution of its mandate.
2. In a tremendously challenging environment for the protection and promotion of human rights, EHRC and OHCHR demonstrated effective cooperation in what can be described as a model collaboration between a national human rights institution and an international human rights body for a timely investigation, documentation, and preservation of evidence towards a comprehensive justice and accountability process.
3. The efforts of the two Institutions on the JIT recommendations yielded successful results on transitional justice, which has officially been adopted as a national agenda to ensure accountability, establish the truth, provide reparations to victims, and ensure non-recurrence of violations.
4. EHRC and OHCHR have been providing technical and advisory support to the Working Group of Experts on Transitional Justice (WGETJ) and monitoring their public consultations, the findings of which have recently been published.
5. EHRC and OHCHR have also been monitoring the human rights situation in Tigray region following the Pretoria Peace Agreement. The most pressing issue in the region continues to be the dire humanitarian situation which has significantly affected host communities and internally displaced persons and resulted in malnutrition-related and preventable deaths. The situation has worsened following the suspension of aid for several months, and there is need for immediate resumption of adequate and responsive humanitarian assistance particularly to the most vulnerable.
6. EHRC is gravely concerned about the deteriorating human rights situation in the Amhara region since April 2023, which has resulted in civilian deaths, destruction of property, and temporary suspension of basic services. Equally worrying is the wide scope of application of the state of emergency of August 2023 which has resulted in arbitrary arrests and detention of mostly ethnic Amhara.
7. Violence in Gambella region and Oromia region which has continued to result in civilian deaths and bodily injuries is concerning. Accountability for these violations,

redress for victims, and a search for political dialogue and solution is necessary for all the political conflicts in the country.

8. EHRC urges the Government of Ethiopia to prioritise political dialogue to resolve differences, and to create a conducive environment for the implementation of a genuine and inclusive transitional justice process.
9. EHRC further urges the Human Rights Council and the international community to support and coordinate efforts towards the proper designing and effective implementation of a participatory, human rights compliant, holistic, and victim-centered transitional justice policy for Ethiopia.

I thank you.