PRESS RELEASE

Statement by the Ethiopian CSOs' 4th UPR Working Group on the occasion of Ethiopia's 4th Universal Periodic Review at the 47th session of the UN Human Rights Council

12 November 2024, Addis Ababa:

Ethiopian CSOs' Working Group on the 4th UPR welcomes the 4th Cycle Universal Periodic Review (UPR) held today the 12th of November 2024 in Geneva, the United Nations Human Rights Council. The CSOs' WG also welcomes the Ethiopian delegation's appreciation for the recommendations received during the session, affirming the government's intent to carefully review and address these recommendations as part of the nation's broader commitment to promoting human rights for all Ethiopians.

The **Consortium of Ethiopian Human Rights Organizations (CEHRO)**, has been coordinating the Working Group of Ethiopian Human Rights Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) on Ethiopia's 4th UPR. The Working Group brought together 26 human rights CSOs that jointly submitted parallel reports covering civil and political rights, socio-economic rights, and rights of vulnerable groups including women, children, persons with disabilities, and people under detention. Specifically, the reports produced by the Working Group addressed issues related to the rights of internally displaced persons (IDPs), children, persons with disabilities, and persons under detention; gender equality, women's political participation and gender-based violence; right to freedom of thought, expression and religion, social security, freedom of thought, conscience and religion, freedom from torture; accountability for human rights violations; transitional justice; acceptance of international human rights norms; and civic space situation in Ethiopia. The reports provided a comprehensive, evidence-based, and well-rounded perspective on the state of human rights in Ethiopia. These contributions ensured that the UPR's assessment was based on diverse sources and comprehensive information, reflecting civil society's commitment to supporting Ethiopia's progress.

The 4th CSOs' UPR WG is pleased to note that the recommendations proposed by the CSOs' WG were reflected in the recommendations of participating States. Notably, countries participating in the review commended Ethiopia for the progress it has made, recognizing the strides taken towards improving its human rights framework and addressing key issues identified in the previous UPR. The CSOs WG appreciates the thoughtful recommendations by the States, the support from different embassies during the preparation of the CSOs' submissions, and Ethiopia's constructive response to these recommendations. We also appreciate the fact that the Government of Ethiopia undertook consultations with human rights CSOs in the preparation of the national report for Ethiopia's UPR.

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Accordingly, the CSOs WG would like to:

1. Acknowledge and appreciate all the support from the development partners, Embassies, and other CSOs who were actively supporting and participating in the submission process.
2. Renew its commitment to engage with the government of Ethiopia on the implementation of the recommendations through the 4th National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP) and other modalities.
3. Call upon the Ethiopian Government to organize stakeholder consultation prior to making decisions on the recommendations received today and develop a comprehensive, transparent, and participatory mechanism to ensure effective implementation of the recommendations, including, but not limited to, the adoption of a comprehensive national human rights action plan that outlines specific measures, timelines, responsible bodies and indicators for monitoring and follow up.
4. Further call upon the Government of Ethiopia to organize broad-based stakeholder consultations, including civil society, the media, political parties, the academia, and the private sector to discuss and adopt a roadmap for the implementation of the UPR recommendations.
5. Call on development partners to support the engagement of CSOs in the 4th UPR monitoring process through expertise, technical, and other means.

Finally, the CSOs' WG would like to underscore its commitment to contribute to the effective realization of the recommendations by enhancing public awareness on the UPR process and recommendations, actively monitoring their implementation, and advocating for legislative and policy measures that enable their meaningful execution. We hereby reaffirm our resolve to collaborate with relevant stakeholders to support Ethiopia's commitment to upholding human rights.

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