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Human Rights our
Collective Responsibility

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Concluding Observations on the 7th - 10th Periodic Report of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia under the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (2015-2023)

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Table of Contents

Table of Contents	2
Introduction	4
Article 62	4
General recommendations.....	6
Ratifications	6
National human rights framework.....	7
Article 2: Combating all forms of discrimination.....	8
Article 8: Right to freedom of conscience	9
Article 13: Right to participate in public affairs.....	9
Article 25: NHRI and other institutions.....	10
Civil and political rights.....	13
Mandate of the Working Group on the Death Penalty, Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions and Enforced Disappearances (art. 4: Right to life)	13
Mandate of the Committee for the Prevention of Torture in Africa CPTA (Article 5 Prohibition of torture and cruel, Inhuman or degrading treatment)	14
Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Prisons, Conditions of Detention and Policing in Africa (Articles 3, 6 and 7)	15
Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa (Article 9).....	16
Mandate of the Special rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders and Focal Point on Reprisals in Africa (Articles 10 and 11 right to freedom of association and demonstration).....	17
Economic, social and cultural rights	19
Mandate of the Working Group on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Africa	19
Rights of the family and vulnerable groups.....	23
Mandate of the Working Group on the Rights of Older Persons and Persons with Disabilities (Article 18 (4) of the Charter).....	23
Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Refugees, Asylum Seekers, Internally Displaced Persons and migrants in Africa (Article 12 of the Charter on Freedom of movement and the right to seek Asylum)	24
Mandate of the Committee for the Protection of the Rights of People living with HIV/AIDS	25
Rights of peoples or collective rights	27
Mandate of the Working Group on Extractive Industries, Environment and Human Rights in Africa (Articles 21 and 24).....	27

Mandate of the Working Group on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples/Communities and Minorities (Article 19 on the Rights of Peoples)	28
Maputo Protocol.....	29
Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol)	29
• <i>Introduction Article 26 of the Maputo Protocol</i>	29
• <i>Equality and non-discrimination</i>	29
• <i>Protection of women from violence</i>	31
• <i>Rights relating to marriage (Articles 6 and 7)</i>	32
• <i>Right to peace / Protection of women in armed conflict</i>	33
• <i>Economic, social and cultural rights</i>	33
• <i>Rights of particularly protected groups of women</i>	34
The Kampala Convention	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Refugees, Asylum seekers, internally displaced persons and migrants in Africa (Kampala Convention)	Error! Bookmark not defined.
• <i>Articles 2 and 3: General objectives and obligations of States Parties</i>	Error! Bookmark not defined.
• <i>Article 4: Obligations to protect against internal displacement</i>	Error! Bookmark not defined.
• <i>Articles 5 and 9: Obligations of States Parties with regard to protection and assistance</i>	Error! Bookmark not defined.
• <i>Article 6: Obligations relating to international organizations and humanitarian agencies</i>	Error! Bookmark not defined.
• <i>Article 11: Obligations of the State Party relating to sustainable return, local integration or resettlement</i>	Error! Bookmark not defined.
• <i>Article 13: Registration and personal documentation</i>	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Conclusion	35
Appendix.....	36

Introduction

Article 62

1. The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (Ethiopia) is a State Party to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (the African Charter), since 15 June 1998. Ethiopia also ratified the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa (The Maputo Protocol) on 18 July 2018.
2. Ethiopia submitted its Initial to 4th Periodic Report to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (the Commission) at the latter's 46th Ordinary Session held in Banjul, The Gambia, from 11 to 25 November 2009.
3. Subsequently, Ethiopia has since submitted its 5th-6th Combined Periodic Report (2009-2013), considered by the Commission during its 56th Ordinary Session, held in Banjul (The Gambia) from 21 April to 7 May 2015. The related Concluding Observations were adopted at the Commission's 18th Extraordinary Session held in Nairobi (Kenya) from 29 July to 7 August 2015.
4. On 19 January 2024, Ethiopia submitted to the Commission its 7th and 10th combined Periodic Report on the implementation of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and Initial Report under the Maputo Protocol (the Report under review). While it was scheduled to be reviewed at the Commission's 79th Ordinary Session (May 2024), the Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs requested the postponement of the review to the 81st Ordinary Session (October 2024)¹, then to the 83rd Ordinary Session (May 2025)².
5. The Report was reviewed on 9 and 11 May 2025, in the framework of the Commission's 83rd Ordinary public Session, held in Banjul, The Gambia, from 2 to 22 May 2025.
6. A high-level Ethiopian Delegation,³ led by H.E. Mr. Belayihun Yirga Kifle, State Minister, Ministry of Justice, represented the State Party during the review, which was marked by a frank and constructive dialog with the members of the Commission.
7. At the end of the interactive dialog, the Ethiopian Delegation undertook to provide the Commission with more information in writing and sent a written contribution on 11 June 2025.
8. The Periodic Report covers developments in Ethiopia in the promotion and protection of human rights during the period under review. The Commission takes note with appreciation of the participatory and inclusive process that led to the preparation of the Periodic Report, by an inter-ministerial team coordinated by the Ministry of Justice, and including officials from the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Women and Social Affairs, the Central Statistics Service and Federal Prisons Commission (Paragraph 25).

¹ Note verbal UN 3-3/1/3/24 of 21 March 2024.

² Note verbal DMU 1.18/1/24 of 15 October 2024.

³ The list of the Delegation is attached as an Annex.

9. In addition, the Report has the merit of focusing on the challenges faced by the Ethiopian authorities in their quest to implement the rights enshrined in the African Charter, inter alia, security problems including the conflict in the north of the Country, health and education challenges and negative social practices.

10. The present Concluding Observations reflect positive aspects and factors limiting the enjoyment of human rights in Ethiopia. They also highlight the areas of concern identified through the review of the Report and the additional information provided subsequently.

11. Finally, the Commission presents recommendations to Ethiopia on measures necessary to strengthen the enjoyment of human rights, as guaranteed by the African Charter, the Maputo Protocol, the Kampala Convention, as well as other relevant regional and international instruments.

Recommendations : Ethiopia should :

- Continue the State Party's commitment to the submission of Periodic Reports, in accordance with the relevant ACHPR Guidelines on State Reporting.
- Include in the next periodic report a section on the implementation of the Kampala Convention, ratified by Ethiopia in June 2020.
- Include in the next periodic report a section on the implementation of the Protocols on the Rights of Older Persons, ratified by Ethiopia in June 2020, following its recent entry into force.

Cooperation with the Commission

Recommendation: Ethiopia should report to the Commission on the measures taken to implement the decisions of the Commission in finalized communications, namely:

- Communication 301/05 Haregewoin Gabre-Selassie and IHRDA (on behalf of former Dergue Officials) v Ethiopia (adopted in November 2011);
- Communication 341/07 Equality Now and Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association (EWLA) v Ethiopia (adopted in November 2015);
- Communication 419/12 The Indigenous Peoples of the Lower Omo (represented by Survival International Trust) v Ethiopia (adopted in August 2022);
- Communication 461/13 Eskinder Nega Fenta and Reyoot Alemu (represented by Media Legal Defence Initiative and Freedom Now) v Ethiopia (adopted in August 2022);
- Communication 455/13 Abubaker Ahmed Mohamed et al. v Ethiopia (adopted in March 2023);
- Communication 599/16 Ethiopian Electorate (represented by Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights and IHRDA) v Ethiopia (adopted in November 2023).

General recommendations

Ratifications

12. The Commission commends the Government of Ethiopia for ratifying during the reporting period the Kampala Convention and the Protocol to the African Charter on the Rights of Older Persons, in June 2020.

13. Furthermore, the Delegation informed that efforts are underway to accede to the International Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families and that a comprehensive diagnostic study to thoroughly assess the legal and practical implications of ratifying the Convention on Enforced Disappearance.

14. The Delegation also informed that ratification of international instruments is primarily linked to national priorities, the condition of the domestic legal framework, and the readiness of relevant institutions to implement them.

Recommendations: Ethiopia should:

- Strengthen its efforts to ratify the International Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families and the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.
- Engage consultations on the ratification of the following instruments:
 - At the African Union level:
 - The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (Signed on 6 June 1998);
 - The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa;
 - Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Citizens to Social Protection and Social Security;
 - The Protocol on the Court of Justice of the African Union (Signed on 1 June 2004);
 - The Protocol on the Statute of the African Court of Justice and Human Rights;
 - African Charter on the Values and Principles of Decentralisation, Local Governance and Local Development.
 - Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Specific Aspects of the Right to a Nationality and the Eradication of Statelessness in Africa, adopted in February 2024;

- The African Union Convention on Ending Violence against Women and Girls (adopted in February 2025).
- At the United Nations level :
 - The 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons as well as the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness
 - The Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture;
 - 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 to 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 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
 - The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child;
 - The Optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

National human rights framework

15. The Delegation informed that the GoE has decided to revise the draft of the Third National Human Rights Action Plan to ensure the inclusion of a broader range of rights and to guarantee the meaningful participation of the public and remains committed to allocating sufficient funding for its implementation.

16. The Commission takes note of the newly established institutional set-up called the National Implementation, Monitoring, Reporting, and Follow-up Mechanism (NIMRFM).

17. Furthermore, the Delegation informed that both federal and regional declarations of a state of emergency are constitutionally regulated to limit discretionary power. The Commission takes note of the information provided on the relating procedure engaged by the Council of Minister through the House of Peoples' Representatives, which must establish a State of Emergency Inquiry Board, composed of parliamentarians and legal experts, tasked with monitoring enforcement, publicizing detentions within a month, and recommending corrective actions in cases of inhumane treatment.

Recommendations: Ethiopia should:

- Continue efforts and consultations to adopt the Third National Human Rights Action Plan, with sufficient resources, and provide updates on this matter in the next Periodic Report.
- Regardless of the Ethiopian Constitution's Article 9(4) provisions, pursue its effort in adopting national legislation to domesticate international human rights treaty provisions, to contribute to a better protection and promotion of human rights.
- Continue efforts to disseminate African Human Rights Conventions, including the African Charter, the Maputo Protocol and the Kampala Convention.
- Continue to strengthen the capacity and mandate of the National Implementation, Monitoring, Reporting, and Follow-up Mechanism (NIMRFM).
- Ensure the full respect of the existing procedure in order to prevent and address potential core human rights violations under a State of Emergency.

Article 2: Combating all forms of discrimination

18. The Delegation informed that the Government of Ethiopia has taken steps to expand anti-discrimination protections through targeted laws in sectors such as labor, civil service, refugee affairs, and family law.

19. The Commission takes note of information on the judicial and constitutional enforcement of non-discrimination (Melaku Fenta et al case and issues of discrimination against ethnic and linguistic minorities in the Benishangul-Gumuz Regional State).

Recommendations: Ethiopia should:

- Consider adopting a comprehensive national strategy and a specific law on equality and non-discrimination.
- Strengthen concrete measures to promote inclusion and combat discrimination against people with disabilities and albinism.
- Prevent and combat possible discriminatory practices arising from customary law.
- Pursue its measures to ensure effective judicial and administrative remedies in cases of discrimination.
- Ratify the UNESCO Convention against discrimination in Education.

Article 8: Right to freedom of conscience

20. The Report informs that Ethiopia is a secular country, where State and religion do not interfere in each other's affairs and that the Constitution and other legislative texts guarantee freedom of thought, conscience and religion (Paragraphs 84-85).

21. Furthermore, the Delegation clarified that the GoE is drafting legislation to ensure equal treatment of all faiths, and the Inter-Religious Council has been restructured for proportional representation and equal participation.

Recommendations: Ethiopia should:

- Pursue its legislative efforts aiming at promoting the freedom of conscience.
- Strengthen the mandate of the Inter-Religious Council, established in January 2010 by the major religious groups, and redouble efforts to promote religious dialogue and to prevent discrimination on religious grounds.
- Implement the Commission's recommendations on addressing the inter-confessional violence in the Oromia region.
- Continue efforts to promote religious dialog.

Article 13: Right to participate in public affairs

22. The Commission takes note of the Ethiopian Electoral, political parties Registration and Election's Code of Conduct Proclamation No. 1162/2019, and National Electoral Board of Ethiopia Establishment Proclamation No. 1133/2019, as well as the amendments of the Media and the Electoral laws, to ensure more inclusive electoral debates (Paragraphs 134-135).

23. The last general elections took place on 21 June 2021, and observers concluded they were generally peaceful, inclusive and competitive.

24. The Commission notes that the Delegation provided additional information on (only) one aspect relating to Article 13, dealing with women Participation in Political and Decision-Making Process.

25. In this regard, the Commission notes with appreciation that Women's representation in the FDRE House of Peoples' Representatives has increased from 38.8% in 2015 to 42% following the 2021 elections at federal level, and that the current representation of women in the executive branch is 36%, legislative 42% and judiciary 33%.

Recommendations: Ethiopia should:

- Implement the African Union Electoral Observation Mission recommendations (deployed for the last general elections of 21 June 2021), in particular with regards to strengthening the human and financial capacities of the National Elections Board of Ethiopia (NEBE) staff
- Continue efforts to increase the participation of underrepresented groups in elective institutions, such as women, persons with disabilities and youth.
- Strengthen legal and institutional guarantees for balanced and equitable access to media coverage for all parties in the electoral process.
- Spare no effort to ensure the smooth running and transparency of upcoming election meetings in all the regions, including Oromia and Amhara.
- Ensure full respect for freedoms of expression, assembly, association and opinion in upcoming elections.

Article 25: NHRI and other institutions

26. The Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is a member of the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI), enjoys the affiliate status of the ACHPR⁴ and is accreditation by the Global Alliance of NHRI with “A” status.

27. The Delegation informed that Ethiopia has enhanced the independence of human rights institutions, notably through Proclamation No. 1224/2020, which reformed the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC). This law granted the EHRC financial and structural autonomy, aligning it with the Paris Principles and international standards. As a result, the EHRC regained its “A” status from Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI).

28. The Commission notes with satisfaction the active role of the EHRC in promoting regional instruments (translating the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights and the Kampala Convention and disseminating both instruments at the national level).

29. However, in September 2016, the Commission expressed concerns about reports that members and human rights monitors of the Human Rights Commission of Ethiopia have been arrested and detained in the Amhara and Oromo regions, while allegedly monitoring and documenting the crackdown on protestors in these regions⁵.

⁴ Granted in 2006 / ACHPR 40th Ordinary Session.

⁵ <https://achpr.au.int/index.php/en/news/press-releases/2016-09-02/press-statement-african-commission-human-and-peoples-rights-hu-0>

30. The Delegation informed that the Ombudsman has been mandated to oversee the protection of the rights and freedoms of citizens, especially from the abuses of the executive, to ensure good governance and rule of law and to duly rectify or prevent unjust decisions and orders of the executive organs and officials.

Recommendations: Ethiopia should:

- Continue efforts to strengthen the human and financial capacities of the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission.
- Ensure the effective functioning and full independence of the EHRC and prevent any kind of potential reprisals against its members.
- Encourage the Office of the Ombudsman to apply for affiliate status of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.
- Ensure full coordination to avoid any overlap of responsibilities between the EHRC and the Ombudsman.

Conflict in the Northern Part of Ethiopia

31. During the period under review, the Commission issued around 14 press statements and 9 resolutions on the human right situation in Ethiopia (Including on the establishment and renewal of the Commission of Inquiry into the Situation in the Tigray Region of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia).

32. Through its resolution ACHPR/Res. 482 (EXT.OS/XXXII) 2021 of 4 May 2021, the Commission decided to establish a Commission of Inquiry (COI) into the situation in the Tigray Region⁶ for an initial period of three 3 months. The Commission was reconducted until 12 November 2023 (4 times).

33. On 13 June 2023, after the signing of the Agreement for Lasting Peace through a Permanent Cessation of Hostilities between the GoE and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), on 2 November 2022, in Pretoria (South Africa), the Commission decided⁷ to terminate the mandate of the COI on the Situation in the Tigray Region of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, effective from 23 May 2023.

34. The Delegation informs that, following the joint investigation conducted by the EHRC and the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), which documented serious human rights violations committed in the context of the conflict in

⁶ <https://achpr.au.int/index.php/en/adopted-resolutions/482-resolution-fact-finding-mission-tigray-region-federal-democ>

⁷ <https://achpr.au.int/index.php/en/adopted-resolutions/556-resolution-termination-mandate-commission-inquiry>

the northern part of the country, an Inter-Ministerial Task Force was established by the Government of Ethiopia to oversee the implementation of the Joint Investigation Team's (JIT) recommendations. The Task Force formed four specialized committees and have undertaken extensive work, including the collection of over 10,000 statements from victims and witnesses.

35. The Government launched a national transitional justice initiative, followed by the National Transitional Justice Policy, adopted on 17 April 2024, after more than 80 nationwide consultations to gather inputs on the Transitional Justice policy option document.

36. It was agreed to establish an independent Special Prosecution Office and a dedicated special bench to handle transitional justice cases, focusing on serious human rights violations committed since 1995.

Recommendations: Ethiopia should:

- Ensure full compliance of its transitional justice process with the relevant regional standards.
- Provide in its next Periodic Report an update on the work of the Inter-Ministerial Task Force, the implementation of the Joint Investigation Team recommendations and the achievements of the National Transitional Justice Policy.

Civil and political rights

Mandate of the Working Group on the Death Penalty, Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions and Enforced Disappearances (art. 4: Right to life)

37. The Report indicates that capital punishment under Ethiopian law is imposed for crimes strictly considered serious and prejudicial, and that numerous procedural limitations are established to limit the execution of death sentences (paragraph 40).

38. The Delegation informed that Ethiopia has not altered its position on the abolition of the death penalty or on joining the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Nevertheless, the draft Criminal Procedure and Evidence Code includes a provision that allows a death sentence to be commuted to life imprisonment if it is not executed within two years following the judgment.

39. Currently, as of April 2025, there are 130 convicts (125 men and 5 women) on death row. All of the convicts have been found guilty and sentenced to the death penalty for exceptionally serious crimes.

Recommendations: Ethiopia should:

- The Commission reiterates its recommendation to Ethiopia to adopt a moratorium against the death penalty and eventually move towards *de jure* abolition of the death penalty.
- Disseminate the Commission's General Comment No. 3 of 2016 on the Right to Life.⁸
- Consider commuting the death sentences on individuals currently on death row (125 men and 5 women) to life imprisonment, in light of the ongoing amendment of the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Code.
- Ensure that investigations and prosecutions are initiated concerning allegations of summary or arbitrary executions.
- Complete the ratification process of the International Convention for the Protection of all persons from Enforced Disappearance and consider the adoption of legislation to internalize its provisions.
- Disseminate the Guidelines of the Commission for the Protection of all persons from enforced disappearance in Africa.⁹

⁸ https://achpr.org/public/Document/file/French/general_comment_no_3_french.pdf

⁹ <https://achpr.au.int/fr/documents/2022-10-25/lignes-directrices-protection-personnes-disparitions-forcees-afrique>

Mandate of the Committee for the Prevention of Torture in Africa CPTA (Article 5 Prohibition of torture and cruel, Inhuman or degrading treatment)

40. Ethiopia ratified the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in March 1994. In its Article 28(1), the Ethiopian Constitution provides for an absolute prohibition of torture, recognised as part of crimes against humanity (Paragraph 56).

41. The Commission notes that, according to Article 28 of the Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, crimes against humanity—including genocide, summary execution, enforced disappearance, and torture—are not subject to amnesty or pardon.

42. The Delegation informed that the Government of Ethiopia has drafted legislation on Fundamental Crimes Committed in violation of International Law, which includes a definition of torture in line with Article 1 of the Convention against Torture.

43. Also, the Ethiopian government has adopted a comprehensive strategy to guarantee free legal aid for those in need, including victims of torture and related acts.

Recommendations: Ethiopia should:

- Finalize the adoption process of the draft Criminal Procedure and Evidence Code and ensure the inclusion of a definition of torture and the inadmissibility of any evidence gathered through coercion or torture.
- Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and establishing a national mechanism for the prevention of torture or entrusting this mandate to the ECHR.
- Continue efforts to prevent and punish police brutality, excessive use of force and the culture of impunity.
- Strengthen measures to provide free legal assistance to victims of torture and ensure effective implementation of redress, compensation and rehabilitation measures, in line with Commission Resolution ACHPR/Res.303 (LVI) 2015 on the right to rehabilitation of victims of torture.
- Take steps to ensure that none of the equipment that has any legitimate purpose for maintaining law and order (such as direct contact with electric shock weapons, whips or restraint devices such as thumb handcuffs, weighted handcuffs or wall/floor fixtures) is currently in use by law enforcement, including prison authorities.

Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Prisons, Conditions of Detention and Policing in Africa (Articles 3, 6 and 7)

44. The Commission takes note of the Proclamation of the Federal Penitentiary Commission No. 1174/2019 and the Criminal Investigation Manual, developed by the Federal Police in 2019 (Paragraphs 72-73), which assumes the protection of the rights and respect for the dignity of suspects and detained persons.

45. The Commission notes with satisfaction that the EHRC is mandated to conduct regular and unannounced visits to all places of detention, including police stations and prisons, to assess compliance with human rights standards.

46. However, the figures provided by the Delegation on prison infrastructure (121 prisons nationwide, including 6 federal prisons and 115 distributed across regions) and prison population (a total of 102,428 prisoners, including 2-4% women) don't indicate the occupancy rate, which is a very determinant indicator in this area. Additionally, the Commission cannot find any detail on the duration of pre-trial detention respect in Ethiopia.

47. The Delegation did not provide additional information on issues raised by the Commission, such as the total capacity created by the newly built prisons, any alternative or non-custodial sentences that are effective in Ethiopia, measures concerning the issuing of bails and bonds, data on the staff assigned to the judiciary at the national level, and any public officials prosecuted for non-compliance with police custody or pre-trial detention procedures.

48. The Commission is particularly concerned that the age of criminal responsibility in Ethiopia is 9 years old, which is quite low, compared to international practice and standards.

Recommendations: Ethiopia should:

- Consider adopting legislative measures to guarantee equal access to justice and equal treatment before the law for citizens (in addition to the constitutional guarantee provided for in Articles 37, 78 and 79).
- Consider the use of alternative or non-custodial sentences for minor offences, where deprivation of liberty may be a measure of last resort.
- Strengthen bail measures to reduce the number of people in pre-trial detention and combat prison overcrowding.
- Ensure that the use of pre-trial detention is an exceptional measure.
- Ensure in practice respect for the physical separation of convicts and detainees in prisons.

- Strengthen efforts to disseminate the instruments adopted by the ACHPR, such as the Luanda Guidelines, the Mandela Rules and the Principles on the decriminalization of minor offences and the study on the use of firearms.
- Ensure the opening of investigations, prosecution and rehabilitation of victims of illegal or irregular detention.
- Continue implementing measures to pay particular attention to the situation of minors in conflict with the law.
- Strengthen the prison health circuit, in terms of: Medical assistance, clinical examinations, medication assistance, including for chronically ill and mentally ill persons, improvement of hygiene conditions and water supply.
- Strengthen efforts in training law enforcement officials at the national level in areas related to the promotion and protection of human rights.
- Increase the number of magistrates and pursue efforts to create decent conditions enabling people working in the justice system to perform their work with dignity.
- Continue efforts to ensure that vocational training and leisure programs for prisoners in the country are respected and implemented.
- Revise upwards the age of criminal responsibility (9 years currently), bearing in mind that the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child defines a child as every human being below the age of 18 years.

Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa (Article 9)

49. In Ethiopia, Article 29 of the Constitution provides for access to and freedom of information (Paragraph 91). The Report also informs that the access to information is a key that can be used to unlock access to other socio-economic rights and help ensure accountability of government to the people (Paragraph 92).

50. The Commission takes note of the landscape relating to the freedom of expression and access to information in Ethiopia, in particular the recently adopted legal instruments (The Mass Media Proclamation No.1238/2021, Commercial Radio and Television Service Directive No. 925/2022, Public Radio and Television Service Directive No. 926/2022, and Media Service Complaints Application, Investigation and Decision-Making Procedure Directive No. 901/2022).

51. The Delegation provided detailed information on the governmental policy with regards to the implementation of the freedom of expression and access to information at the national level.

Recommendations: Ethiopia should:

- Implement the new Media Proclamation No.1238/2021 in a way that enshrines the right of access to information, in conformity with international and regional human rights standards.
- Ensure that the provisions of the new media law (Proclamation Number 1238/2021) on ending pre-trial detention, which enhance the protection of journalists and media organizations, are fully respected.
- Disseminate the Commission's Model Law on Access to Information in Africa¹⁰, which should inspire the governmental policies in this area.
- Ensure effective decriminalization of the offence of defamation.
- Strengthen respect for freedom of expression, including on the Internet and more especially in the context of elections.
- Ensure that restrictions on the freedom of expression under certain legislative instruments (*inter alia*, Proclamation No. 1176/2020 on the Prevention and Suppression of Terrorism Crimes and Proclamation No. 1185/2020 on the Prevention and Suppression of Hate Speech and Disinformation), due to security, defence and international relations of the country, as indicated by the Delegation, observe effectively the principle of justifiable limitations.
- Strengthen the mandate, independence and resources of the Ethiopian Media Authority to create a conducive enabling environment to fully enforce the rights of freedom of expression and access to information.
- Continue efforts to ensure the effective protection of journalists, including protection against harassment and reprisals they may suffer as a result of the exercise of their profession, in accordance with Resolution ACHPR/Res.468 (LXVII) 2020 on the safety of journalists and media professionals in Africa and Principle 20 of the Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa (the Declaration).
- Strengthen citizens' fair access to the Internet, access to information and freedom of expression on the Internet and prevent abusive blockages, in accordance with Principle 38 of the Declaration.

Mandate of the Special rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders, Focal Point on Reprisals and independence of the Judiciary in Africa (Articles 10 and 11 right to freedom of association and demonstration)

52. During the period under review, Ethiopia adopted the Organizations of Civil Society's Proclamation No. 1113/2019, to address the shortcomings of the restrictive Proclamation No. 621/2009.

¹⁰ <https://achpr.au.int/en/node/873>

53. The Commission takes note of the information provided by the Delegation on the Agency for Civil Society Organizations (ACSO), whose main functions include registering organizations, providing support and coordination and monitoring their compliance through annual reports and necessary actions.

54. The Delegation informed that individuals who want to hold a demonstration or a public political meeting should notify the relevant authorities of municipalities or local administrations and that there is no current restriction on the right of peaceful assembly in Ethiopia.

55. Regarding access to regional/international human rights bodies, Ethiopia has not ratified the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (Signed on 6 June 1998).

Recommendations: Ethiopia should:

- Strengthen the mandate and the resources of the Agency for Civil Society Organizations (ACSO), in order to promote the freedom of association in the State Party.
- Ensure effective respect on the ground of notification regime for freedom of assembly and demonstration.
- Ensure dissemination and implementation of the ACHPR Guidelines for policing rallies by law enforcement officials in Africa¹¹.
- Adopt a specific law on the protection of human rights defenders, as recommended by the Commission in 2015.
- Strengthen measures to protect human rights defenders from reprisals, intimidation and judicial harassment.
- Continue awareness-raising and training efforts for police forces and other stakeholders on national provisions and international standards on the rights to peaceful assembly and association.
- Ratify the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights and, subsequently, make the Declaration provided for in Article 34(6), accepting the jurisdiction of the Court to receive cases submitted by NGOs with observer status before the Commission and individuals.

¹¹ https://www.veritaszim.net/sites/veritas_d/files/achpr_guidelines_on_policing_assemblies_eng.pdf

Economic, social and cultural rights

Mandate of the Working Group on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Africa

56. The Delegation of Ethiopia provided detailed additional information on the implementation of the right to health, provided for in Article 16 of the African Charter. Nevertheless, some other concerns raised by the Commission under the economic, social and cultural rights chapter have not been addressed by the State Party.

Recommendations: Ethiopia should:

- Consider ratifying the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the right of citizens to social protection and social security (opened for ratification in early 2022).
- Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Article 14 – right to property and right to housing

57. In Ethiopia, the right to property is constitutionally recognised in Article 40 thereof, which provides that every Ethiopian citizen has the right to the ownership of private property (Paragraph 144).

58. The Delegation informed that Ethiopia has undertaken a comprehensive review of its land policy to address gender concerns, with the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) prioritizing women's interests in the land registration and certification process. The Government has implemented public housing programs to support the right to adequate housing, reserving 30% of condominium units for women, in addition to their share of the remaining 70%. Furthermore, 5% of units are set aside to persons with disabilities.

Recommendations: Ethiopia should:

- Continue efforts to address the mismatch between population growth in the country and the construction of resident houses, in particular through the implementation of the Low-cost Housing Program.
- Continue to combat discriminatory practices based on customary law in relation to access to land.
- Pursue public-private partnerships for housing construction to address the challenges of implementing the right to housing.
- Continue efforts to address the problem of precarious housing and affordable rental homes.

Article 15 - right to work under fair conditions

59. The State Party provided detailed statistics on Ethiopia's employment and unemployment rates (Paragraph 185). Furthermore, Ethiopia adopted Proclamation No.1178/2020 that explicitly prohibits slavery and servitude and the Overseas Employment Proclamation No.1246/2021 that promotes safe migration for Ethiopian workers abroad.

60. The Commission takes note of the new civil service regime and the Basic Law on the Civil Service (Law No. 6/22 of 8 August 2022).

62. However, the increase in the unemployment rate (from 4.5% in June 2013 to 8% in February 2021), despite the efforts of the Ethiopian Government, continues to give cause for concern to the Commission.

Recommendations: Ethiopia should:

- Ratify ILO Convention 2011 No. 189 on domestic workers.
- Continue efforts to ensure that growth and economic diversification translate into increased employment opportunities.
- Continue the implementation of the Industrial Strategic Plan (2013-2025) in a way that strengthens the employment and ensure that the Youth Revolving Fund contribute to the implementation of the right to work.
- Strengthen measures to support the private sector in job creation, in particular through entrepreneurship.
- Continue efforts to adapt technical and vocational training to labor market needs.
- Continue efforts to extend social protection to persons working in this sector, in particular domestic workers.

Article 16 - right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health

63. The Commission takes note of the detailed information provided by the Report and the additional information on the legislative and institutional framework of the right to health in Ethiopia (Pages 51-74).

64. With regards to the financial resources, the Report informs that the proportion of the health budget of the total Government annual budget was 13.8% in 2022 (Paragraph 212), which is, in fact, commendable.

65. The Delegation also informed that the total health workforce has increased from 462.820 in 2023 to 490.016 in 2024 (67% are health professionals and the remaining are administrative / support staff, general practitioners and specialists represent only 5,7%).

Recommendations: Ethiopia should:

- Continue efforts to meet the Abuja Declaration standard for health financing (15% of the general state budget).
- Provide information in its next Periodic Report on the implementation of key financing reforms and innovative funding mechanisms (public-private partnerships, performance-based financing and the creation of an Equity and Resilient Fund).
- Pursue the implementation of the Community-Based Health Insurance scheme that has covered over 85% of districts in 2024.
- Redouble efforts to implement the National Quality Strategy (NQS 2015/16-2019/20) and the National Health Equity Strategy (2020/21-2024/25).
- Disseminate the Commission's General Comment No. 7 on the obligations of States under the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights in the context of the private provision of social services.
- Continue efforts to strengthen access to health in rural and remote areas and access to quality health care.

Article 17 - right to education

66. The Report indicates that Education remains the priority sector for the GoE, with a 24% share of the total budget in 2020/21 (Paragraph 286).

67. The Delegation informed that primary education and secondary education were free in Ethiopia.

68. On 27 March 2020, the Commissioner Rapporteur on the Human Rights Situation in the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia transmitted a Letter of Appeal to the State Party regarding the abduction of at least eighteen (18) university students from Dembi Dollo University, South-West of Ethiopia in December 2019¹².

69. The Delegation did not provide any information on measures taken to implement the Commission's recommendations in this regard.

¹² <https://achpr.au.int/index.php/en/news/press-releases/2020-03-30/press-release-letter-appeal-ethiopia>

Recommendations: Ethiopia should:

- Ensure adequate coordination and avoid overlap and duplication between the various Government initiatives to promote the right to education.
- Strengthen respect for compulsory schooling for all children of both sexes aged 6 to 16, in particular through coercive measures against offending parents/guardians.
- Redouble effort to implement the revised Education and Training Policy of 2022.
- Ensure equal access to education for all, especially for internally displaced persons and girls in rural areas.
- Continue efforts in the field of human rights education.
- Continue efforts to revitalize technical education and vocational training.

Article 22 - Right to Economic, Social and Cultural Development

70. The Report states that the GoE has a well-articulated set of economic, social and cultural development strategies and policies with overarching vision to become a middle income Country in the near future (Paragraph 440).

Recommendation: Ethiopia should pursue its efforts to ensure that vulnerable people have income security to meet basic needs.

Rights of the family and vulnerable groups

Mandate of the Working Group on the Rights of Older Persons and Persons with Disabilities (Article 18 (4) of the Charter)

71. The Commission wishes to reiterate its congratulations to Ethiopia for having ratified, during the reporting period, the Protocol to the African Charter on the Rights of Older Persons (in June 2020).

72. The Delegation informed that according to Addis Ababa's Directive No. 3/2019, 5% of low-cost housing are reserved for persons with disabilities. No other substantial information was provided to address the Commission's concerns on the rights of older persons and persons with disability.

Recommendations: Ethiopia should:

- Ratify the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, relating to persons with disabilities.
- Provide in its next Periodic Report disaggregated statistics on people with disabilities and older persons in the country.
- Continue efforts to promote inclusion in the education system, employability and accessibility of people with disabilities.
- Redouble effort to increase job opportunities created for people with disabilities (0.35% in 2022/23).
- Ensure that the definition of an elderly person in the Ethiopian legislation or government policies is consistent with the Protocol to the African Charter on the rights of older persons, stating that an elderly person is someone aged 60 or over.
- Finalize the adoption of the National Action Plan, and the Standard of Operating Procedures for institutions established to care and aid older people (Paragraph 398) and make sure that it's consistent with the Protocol's provisions.
- Ensure that existing programs and legal safeguards are known as they should be by older people and people with disabilities.
- Ensure the participation of older persons and persons with disabilities in the development and implementation of all initiatives to promote and protect their rights.
- Ensure that the implementation of existing social policies pays particular and specific attention to the rights of older persons and persons with disabilities.
- Include in the next periodic report a section on the implementation of the Protocol on the Rights of Older Persons, ratified by Ethiopia in June 2020, following its recent entry into force.

Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Refugees, Asylum Seekers, Internally Displaced Persons and migrants in Africa (Article 12 of the Charter on Freedom of movement and the right to seek Asylum)

73. With 950,000 refugees, Ethiopia hosts the second-largest refugee population in Africa, mainly coming from South Sudan, Somalia and Eritrea (Paragraph 126). The Delegation informed that the GoE, in partnership with key stakeholders, has adopted progressive policies, including the revised Refugee Proclamation and pledges under the Global Compact on Refugees, to promote inclusion, access to education, livelihoods, and durable solutions.

74. In Addis Ababa, the proportion of urban refugees increased from over 2% in 2019 to more than 7.5 % by 2025.

75. Regarding the concerns expressed in 2021 by the Commission, about the situation of Eritrean refugees living in camps in Tigray region¹³, the Delegation informed that the GoE facilitated the relocation of refugees from the Tigray Regional State to Amhara Regional State into a new settlement called Alemwach.

76. The Delegation recognizes that the case of Internally Displaced Persons has been a big concern in the context of Ethiopia, due to conflicts taking place in some parts of the country and natural disaster like droughts and floods.

77. Ethiopia ratified the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention) in 2020, through Proclamation No. 1187/2020.

78. Concerning the non-submission of a report on the Implementation of the Kampala Convention, the Delegation informed that the report under review was submitted in January 2024, and at that time two years had not lapsed since the deposit of the instrument of ratification of the Kampala Convention.

79. With regards to migrants, the Delegation informed about Directive No.969/2023 which formed a task force led by the Ministry of Labor and Skills that provides psychosocial support, reintegration assistance and employment opportunities for victims of migrant returnees (In 2023 alone, Ethiopia has repatriated 35,097 migrant returnees from the Middle East and African countries).

80. With regard to statelessness, the State Party has not ratified the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons as well as the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. Neither the Report under review, nor the additional replies provide information on the situation of stateless persons in Ethiopia.

¹³ Resolution on the Fact-Finding Mission to the Tigray Region of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia - ACHPR/Res. 482 (EXT.OS/XXXII) 2021.

Recommendations: Ethiopia should:

- Continue to address the challenges to the national refugee response, ranging from protracted displacement situation and limited resources, especially with regards to the lack of food assistance.
- Continue measures to protect refugees and asylum seekers from all forms of discrimination and arbitrary detention.
- Redouble efforts to implement the 9 pledges made by Ethiopia following the adoption of the 2016 New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants.
- Ensure the domestication of the Kampala Convention provisions as well as the effective implementation of the new proclamation aimed at providing or recognizing various protections and entitlements to IDPs in the Country.
- Finalize the ratification process of the Convention on the Rights of Migrant workers and Members of their families.
- Provide in its next Periodic Report information on the legal and institutional framework governing migration in Ethiopia.
- Ratify the Protocol to the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community on the Free Movement of Persons, the Right of Residence and the Right of Establishment.
- Adopt a human rights-based approach to the treatment of irregular migrants and involve the national human rights institution and civil society organizations in the protection and promotion of their rights.
- Ratify the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Specific Aspects of the Right to a Nationality and the Eradication of Statelessness in Africa, adopted in February 2024.
- Ratify the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons as well as the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

Mandate of the Committee for the Protection of the Rights of People living with HIV/AIDS

81. The Commission commends The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for various measures detailed in the Periodic Report, adopted to prevent the further spread of HIV, to increase accessibility to HIV care, treatment, and to provide support to people living with HIV (Paragraphs 259-264). Particularly, the Commission would like to commend Ethiopia for the adoption of a National HIV/AIDS Strategic Plan for the years 2021-2025 with the goals of attaining HIV epidemic control and reducing new HIV infections and mortality due to AIDS (Paragraph 260).

82. The Commission takes note of the detailed information provided by the Delegation on the factors contributing to the higher HIV prevalence rate among women (1.12%) compared to men (0.6%) in Ethiopia.

83. The Commission also commends the GoE for the following achievements:

- In 2024, 97% of pregnant and lactating women were tested for HIV and know their status thus receiving treatment;
- Youth HIV Prevention programs In-School and out-of-School;
- Over 148.000 vulnerable women, including commercial sex workers, received income generating training and start-up capital; and
- Efforts made to address disruptions that affected the availability and accessibility of antiretroviral therapy (ART), viral load testing, and other essential services for people living with HIV during the early stages of COVID-19 pandemic.

Recommendations: Ethiopia should:

- Continue efforts to achieve the 95% (situation awareness), 95% (treatment) and 95% (virological suppression) targets.
- Continue to pay increased attention to vulnerable/at-risk fringes in the design and implementation of public policies to combat HIV/AIDS.
- Take legislative measures that explicitly criminalize forced sterilization and intentional/deliberate transmission of HIV.
- Continue efforts to combat stigmatization of people living with HIV/AIDS.
- Disseminate and implement the recommendations of the Commission's study on HIV, law and human rights in the African human rights system (2017)¹⁴.

¹⁴ <https://achpr.au.int/index.php/en/special-mechanisms-reports/hiv-law-human-rights-key-challenges-opportunities-rights-based-responses>

Rights of peoples or collective rights

Mandate of the Working Group on Extractive Industries, Environment and Human Rights in Africa (Articles 21 and 24)

84. The Commission reiterates its gratitude to the GoE for authorizing the Working Group on Extractive Industries, Environment and Human Rights Violations of the African Commission to conduct an advocacy visit to Ethiopia, during the reporting period (In December 2019).

85. The Report informs about the natural resources available for exploitation and in Ethiopia, which include metallic minerals, fertiliser raw minerals, gemstones, energy minerals, cement raw minerals, ceramics raw minerals, glass raw minerals, dimension stones, natural gases and hydrocarbons (Paragraph 428).

86. The Commission welcomes the launch of a standalone National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights in May 2024, which was one of the ACHPR 2019 advocacy visit recommendations.

87. The Delegation informed that the Environmental Pollution Control Proclamation No. 300/2002 provides both judicial and non-judicial (Article 3) avenues for addressing environmental concerns arising from extractive industries, including impacts on water, land, and agriculture, as well as legal guarantees for compensation to individuals and communities negatively impacted by environmental degradation.

Recommendations: Ethiopia should:

- Observe the ACHPR Guidelines on State Reporting under Articles 21 and 24¹⁵ when preparing the next Periodic Report.
- Ensure that the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights implementation addresses all business-related human rights concerns and align business practices with international human rights standards.
- Strengthen legal safeguards that require communities to have sufficient opportunities to participate fully in all stages of the start-up of extractive industries.
- Strengthen the involvement of marginalized groups, especially women, in processes at different stages, from licensing to the implementation of extractive industries.
- Enshrine the right of local communities to benefit from revenues from the extraction process.

¹⁵ <https://achpr.au.int/en/documents/2018-05-07/state-reporting-guidelines-and-principles-articles-21-and-24-african>

- Strengthen the fight against corruption and illicit financial flows in the extractive industries sector.
- Ensure compliance with the obligation to carry out prior environmental impact assessments in the context of extractive industries activities.
- Guarantee effective compensation for those affected by environmental degradation.
- Integrate the human rights dimension into the development of any policy or legislation related to extractive activities.
- Continue awareness-raising campaigns among the population so that they adopt more responsible behavior in terms of preserving the environment.

Mandate of the Working Group on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples/Communities and Minorities (Article 19 on the Rights of Peoples)

88. The Commission notes that neither the Periodic Report under review, nor the additional contributions do contain any substantial information on issues relating to the rights of indigenous peoples/communities.

89. On the rights of minorities, the Delegation referred to the House of Federation case that addressed issues of discrimination against ethnic and linguistic minorities in the Benishangul-Gumuz Regional State, confirming that the constitutional requirements for both electing and being elected are the minimum period of residence in the region and knowledge of the region's official language, not necessarily fluency in the languages of all local ethnicities.

Recommendations: Ethiopia should:

- Consider ratifying ILO Convention 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of 1989.
- Strengthen the legal or administrative framework that specifically protects the rights of ethnic and linguistic minorities, including their right to own, use, control and manage their ancestral lands.
- Take measures for the effective participation of all communities in decision-making bodies, where necessary, through the establishment of quotas.
- Strengthen and improve access for all communities to essential services, such as education and health.
- Strengthen the fight against marginalization and discrimination against people from ethnic and linguistic minorities.

Maputo Protocol

Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol)

- *Introduction Article 26 of the Maputo Protocol*

90. The Commission commends Ethiopia for having ratified the Protocol to the African Charter on the Rights of Women in Africa (The Maputo Protocol) during the reporting period, on 18 July 2018.

91. The Commission also commends Ethiopia for submitting its Initial Report on the implementation of the Maputo Protocol provisions, as a detailed part “B” of the national Periodic Report.

Recommendation: Ethiopia should:

- Continue efforts to domesticate, disseminate and popularize the provisions of the Maputo Protocol.
- Disseminate and implement the Commission’s General Comments on the Maputo Protocol.
- Consider the use of the Maputo Protocol Dashboard and Index (MPSI)¹⁶, published in 2022 by the Directorate of Women, Gender and Youth of the African Union Commission, for the identification and continuous monitoring of progress in the implementation of the Maputo Protocol.

- *Equality and non-discrimination*

Article 2: Equality, non-discrimination

92. The Commission takes note of the initiatives taken by the GoE in order to give effect to Articles 25 and 35 of the Constitution, which guarantee non-discrimination and equal rights for women across all spheres.

93. In this regard, the Commission welcomes Supreme Court rulings affirming equal division of marital property and expanded maternity rights under the 2018 Civil Servants Proclamation.

94. In general terms, the Commission considers that prohibiting discrimination in law, without providing for monitoring and enforcement mechanisms, does not necessarily mean that discrimination does not exist in everyday practice.

¹⁶ <https://au.int/fr/node/38758>

Recommendations: Ethiopia should:

- Continue addressing gaps between urban and rural populations, in terms of women's rights implementation.
- Provide mechanisms for monitoring and enforcing existing measures to prevent and combat discrimination against women.
- Continue to combat discriminatory practices, particularly those based on customary law, such as land acquisition and conservation, including inheritance.

Article 8 - Access to justice and equal protection before the law

Recommendations: Ethiopia should:

- Ensure that women are fully aware of their right to access to legal aid.
- Effectively implement the specific and targeted measures provided for in the national free legal aid strategy to improve women's access to justice and strengthen legal aid for women.
- Continue awareness-raising campaigns to encourage women to report cases of violence, and ensure their protection against possible reprisals.

Article 9 - participation in the political process and decision-making

95. The Delegation informed that the Electoral reform under Proclamation No. 1162/2019 prioritizes gender inclusion and mandates political parties to adopt gender-sensitive policies and provides financial incentives to enhance women's participation in political leadership.

96. The Commission took note of the statistics provided by the Delegation on the representation of women in various sectors of activity. The figures show that Women's representation in the FDRE House of Peoples' Representatives has increased from 38.8% in 2015 to 42% following the 2021 elections at federal level, and that the current representation of women in the executive branch is 36%, legislative 42% and judiciary 33%.

97. Nevertheless, cabinet women representation declined from 50% to 30.4%, according to the Delegation.

Recommendations: Ethiopia should:

- Take effective measures to promote women's representation in the Cabinet.
- Ensure that the Ten-Years Development Plan (2021-2030) implementation positively affects gender parity.
- Continue efforts to promote women's representation in the private sector and in leadership positions.

• *Protection of women from violence*

Articles 3 and 4: Right to dignity and right to life, integrity and security

98. The Delegation informed that the Strategic Plan for an Integrated Response to Violence against Women and Children (2010) introduced One-Stop Centers offering coordinated psychosocial, legal, and medical support.

99. In this regard, the Commission welcomes the establishment by the GoE, in collaboration with stakeholders, of 84 one stop centers to provide comprehensive psychosocial support, legal, and medical service to survivors of SGBV and 24 safe houses also providing shelter, psychosocial support and medical services.

Recommendations: Ethiopia should:

- Ratify the African Union Convention on Ending Violence against Women and Girls (adopted in February 2025).
- Disseminate and take into account the Commission's Guidelines on combating sexual violence and its consequences in Africa¹⁷, as part of the measures aiming at combatting gender-based violence.
- Strengthen the capacity of centers for the care and protection of women and girls victims of violence.
- Strengthen rehabilitation and reparation efforts for victims of sexual violence.
- Prevent and punish digital violence against women, in line with the Commission Resolution on the Protection of Women from Digital violence in Africa (ACHPR/Res. 522 (LXXII) 2022)¹⁸.
- Continue awareness-raising efforts around the prevention and punishment of gender-based violence.
- Ensure that the national Transitional Justice policy implementation includes specific measures to address GBV (Prosecution, reparation, and Guarantees of non-repetition) that took place during the recent conflict.

¹⁷ <https://achpr.au.int/en/node/848>

¹⁸ <https://achpr.au.int/fr/adopted-resolutions/522-resolution-sur-la-protection-des-femmes-contre-la-violence-numerique-en>

Article 5: Elimination of harmful practices

100. The Delegation informed that National FGM rates dropped from 75% to 65%, and early marriage declined to 40%. Despite this positive development, the Commission is still concerned that FGM rate in Ethiopia remains high, which requires additional efforts by the Government in this regard.

Recommendations: Ethiopia should:

- Continue efforts to raise awareness of harmful practices such as female genital mutilation and domestic violence, targeting in particular rural communities where such practices may be more prevalent.
- Continue to address patriarchal norms and gender inequalities, especially in rural areas.
- Disseminate and use the Joint General Comment of the Commission and the African Committee of experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child on female genital mutilation (FGM)¹⁹.

• *Rights relating to marriage (Articles 6 and 7)*

101. The Commission takes due note of Article 7 of the Revised Family Law, which stipulates that the minimum age of marriage for both women and men is 18 years. However, the Delegation informed that in a special case upon the request of the spouses or one of their parents with the permission of the Ministry of Justice, the marriageable age can be reduced by two years.

Recommendations: Ethiopia should:

- Consider repealing the possibility of reducing the marriageable age to 16 years to ensure full compliance with the Maputo Protocol provisions.
- Ensure the dissemination of the Joint General Comment of the African Commission and the African Committee of experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) on ending child marriage.²⁰
- Ensure effective implementation of the 2nd Five Years National Costed Roadmap to End Child Marriage.
- Ensure that judicial and non-judicial procedures that determine, in practice, the division of matrimonial property in the event of the dissolution of marriage do not discriminate against women.

¹⁹ https://www.acerwc.africa/sites/default/files/2023-11/Observation%20Ge%CC%81ne%CC%81rale%20Conjointe%20CADHP-CAEDBE%20sur%20les%20FGM_0.pdf

²⁰ <https://achpr.au.int/en/special-mechanisms-reports/joint-general-comment-african-commission-human-and-peoples-rights-ac>

- Ensure the dissemination and implementation of the recommendations of the Commission's General Comment No. 6 on the Maputo Protocol: The right to property in the event of legal separation or divorce²¹.

• *Right to peace / Protection of women in armed conflict*

Articles 10 and 11

102. The Commission takes note that Ethiopia has initiated the process of developing its first National Action Plan in alignment with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325.

Recommendation: Ethiopia should undertake the necessary efforts for the finalization and implementation of the 1st National Action Plan for the implementation of the Women's Agenda.

• *Economic, social and cultural rights*

Article 12: Right to education and training

Recommendations: Ethiopia should:

- Strengthen concrete measures to protect pregnant pupils from dropping out of school and facilitate the reintegration of young mothers into education.
- Adopt measures to encourage women and girls to choose non-traditional fields of education and careers, including science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Article 14: Right to health

103. The Commission takes note that the Criminal Code of Ethiopia (2005) provides circumstances in which termination of pregnancy is allowed by law. Accordingly, termination of pregnancy by a recognized medical institution is allowed in cases of rape and incest, in situations when the pregnancy endangers the life of the mother or the child or the health of the mother.

²¹ <https://achpr.au.int/sites/default/files/files/2021-10/achpr-general-comment-no6-french-2020.pdf>

Recommendations: Ethiopia should:

- Continue efforts to counter the misperception that the population may have of voluntary termination of pregnancy, under the conditions set out in Article 14 of the Maputo Protocol.
- Continue to implement existing measures to reduce maternal and child mortality and HIV rates among women.
- Strengthen young people's access to sexual and reproductive health services and products.
- Exploit and disseminate the Commission's General Comment on Article 14 of the Maputo Protocol²², which provides for access to reproductive health and rights, including medical abortion in some cases.

• *Rights of particularly protected groups of women*

Articles 20-24

Recommendations: Ethiopia should:

- Continue efforts to address the specific needs of women in prison settings, particularly pregnant and nursing mothers.
- Continue to pay particular attention to women and girls with disabilities in addressing the specific needs of this category.

²² <https://achpr.au.int/index.php/fr/node/854>

Conclusion

105. The consideration of Periodic Reports submitted by States Parties is an important part of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights mandate.

106. This procedure constitutes a powerful tool for assessing the implementation of the provisions of the Charter and other relevant instruments by States Parties.

107. The Commission reiterates its congratulations to the Government of Ethiopia for its constructive participation in the review of the State Party's 7th – 10th Periodic Report on the implementation of the provisions of the African Charter and the Maputo Protocol.

108. Ethiopia is now up to date with its obligations under Article 62 of the Charter.

109. The State Party is strongly encouraged to continue its constructive engagement with the Commission in the submission of Periodic Reports.

110. The Commission hopes that these recommendations will be taken into account and implemented by Ethiopia.

111. In accordance with the provisions of Resolution ACHPR/Res.517 (LXX) of 9 March 2022, on methods for calculating deadlines for the submission of Periodic Reports:

The Government of Ethiopia is expected to submit its next report on the implementation of the African Charter and the other ratified instruments in **August 2027**, two years from the date of notification of these Concluding Observations.

Adopted at the 84th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, held virtually in July 2025

Appendix

List of the Delegation of the Republic of Ethiopia

1. H.E. Mr. Belayihun Yirga Kifle, State Minister, Ministry of Justice of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia / Head of Delegation;
2. H.E. Mrs., Hikma Keyradin Mohammed, State Minister, Ministry of Women and Social Affairs / Delegate;
3. H.E. Mrs., Teyiba Hassen Kayo, Director General, Refugees and Returnees Service/ Ethiopia / Delegate;
4. Mr. Yesuf Jemaw Seide, Director, International Cooperation Legal Affairs, Ministry of Justice of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia / Delegate;
5. Ms. Mekdelawit Taye Alemayehu, Director, Human Rights Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia / Delegate;
6. Mr. Awel Sultan Mohammed, Director, Human Rights Monitoring, Ministry of Justice of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia / Delegate;
7. Ms. Hawani Taddese Ayana, Director, Federal Laws Implementation Monitoring, Ministry of Justice of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia / Delegate;
8. Mr. Nurign Endris Gebril, A/ Director, International Law, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia / Delegate;
9. Mr. Zekarias Desalegn Delbu, Head, Women Rights Protection and Response, Ministry of Women and Social Affairs / Delegate;
10. Mr. Yoseph Shiferaw Duressa, Head, Legal Service Ministry of Education / Delegate;
11. Mrs. Mihirete Kiristos Tamiru Forsido, Head, Women and Social Affairs Mainstreaming, Ministry of Education / Delegate;
12. Mr. Hassen Shemsedin Hassen, Head, Legal Service, Refugees and Returnees Service/Ethiopia / Delegate;
13. Mr. Getnet Abeble Dagnaw, Senior Expert, Ministry of Women and Social Affairs / Delegate;
14. Mrs. Eyerusalem Kebede Gebresilassie, Technical Assistant, Health Information System, Ministry of Health / Delegate.

ACHPR, July 2025