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Consejo de Derechos Humanos

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Tema 3 de la agenda

**Promoción y protección de todos los derechos humanos,
civiles, políticos, económicos, sociales y culturales,
incluido el derecho al desarrollo**

Comunicación escrita de la Comisión de Derechos Humanos de Etiopía*

Nota de la Secretaría

La Secretaría tiene el honor de transmitir al Consejo de Derechos Humanos la comunicación escrita de la Comisión de Derechos Humanos de Etiopía**, que se distribuye de conformidad con el artículo 7 b) del reglamento del Consejo (véase la resolución 5/1, anexo) y con las disposiciones y prácticas convenidas por la Comisión de Derechos Humanos en su resolución 2005/74.

* La institución nacional de derechos humanos tiene la acreditación de la categoría “A” ante la Alianza Global de Instituciones Nacionales de Derechos Humanos.

** Se distribuye tal como se recibió, en el idioma en que se presentó únicamente.



Anexo

Comunicación escrita de la Comisión de Derechos Humanos de Etiopía

State of the right to development in Ethiopia

The Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) recognizes the right to development. In 2020, the country adopted a ten-year National Development Plan from 2021-2030 to position Ethiopia as a prosperous nation by creating the necessary conditions. Different development projects have also taken place over the past years.

While the process of development is as significant as the goal itself, some development projects are not implemented using Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA). For example, EHRC's monitoring of the impact and process of expropriation in selected locations in Addis Ababa and other cities shows several instances of expropriation of land for 'public and development' purposes that occurred without adequate consultation, accountability, and transparency which has led to severe human rights violations, causing livelihood loss and grievances among affected communities.

On the other hand, the overall socio-economic rights situation is in a crisis due to conflict and natural disasters. As per the Situation Reports of UNOCHA, 15.8 million people require food aid (August 2024), the number of internally displaced persons has reached 4.4 million (March 2024) and UNICEF estimates that over 8 million children are out of school. At least 7 of the 13 regions of the country are affected by conflict of varying intensity, which has led to a destruction of infrastructure, including schools and health facilities, which the government itself estimates the damage to have reached to date 40 billion USD. This is compounded by the fact that the conflict itself has diverted an amount of financial and other resources away from development that is yet not fully accounted for. For example, between 2021 and 2022 the Ministry of Defense's budget increased by 114% to reach over 1 billion USD.

Moreover, with inflation having reached, by government estimates, nearly 20% and more recent measures to float currency exchange, in addition to shortages of basic necessities such as food, medicine and fuel, the cost of living has significantly increased. The effects of more sector or location specific measures such as demolitions in the capital city to make way for "beautification projects" such as pedestrian and cyclist lanes and increase of utility costs as well as additional taxes imposed on basic necessity items, including utilities is yet to be monitored and accounted for.

The Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) urges the Government of Ethiopia to prioritize the sustainable resolution of conflicts through peaceful dialogue. It also calls upon the government to ensure that any ongoing or existing development initiatives do not exacerbate the already precarious human rights situation in the country. HRBA should be integrated at every stage of the development projects and socio-economic policies, including planning, design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation.