

**Official Civil Society Statement in Response to Ethiopia's 3rd National Voluntary Review
before the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2025
(FINAL)**

Ethiopia faces a persistent internal protracted crisis and an erosion of democracy despite signing several international human rights treaties that guarantee the protection of fundamental rights to life and information. However, we note with concern the steady decline of human rights targeting civic space activists and shrinking media by introducing strict CSO laws.

Thus, we urge the government to uphold the fundamental rights of the citizens and encourage inclusive and transparent consultation of the 2019 CSO law to protect civic freedom and create a stronger partnership with the government and ensure that all rights are not infringed based on respect for human rights in line with international standards and priorities and peaceful resolution of disputes. In this context, ***what concrete steps is the government taking to ensure inclusive and transparent peacebuilding to protect all communities from ethnically motivated detention and violence?***

Women and girls bear the brunt of systemic discrimination, facing widespread gender-based violence, including rape and sexual abuse in conflict zones. The Ethiopian Human Rights Commission has documented such violence across all major regions since 2022. Laws criminalizing conduct further entrenched cycles of fear, invisibility, and abuse; as such, ***what mechanisms are being established to prevent, monitor, and prosecute gender-based violence across the country?***

Food insecurity, inadequate health care, migration, and resource-based conflict are caused by climate change despite the government-initiated Green Legacy Initiative; therefore, limited efforts to design and implement climate peace nexus remain underfunded. Faced with this, ***what mechanisms and actions will be taken to transition to a resilient future based on climate policies that address growing challenges; respond to the impacts of extractive megaprojects by protecting the human rights of defenders of the territory; and involve civil society by increasing the human, technical, and financial resources appropriate for their effectiveness?***