



Open Letter to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States of America

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Ref. No. ECSOC 136/2022
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Joseph R. Biden, President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500
United States

ECSOC
Addis Ababa
Ethiopia
Email: rufihen@gmail.com

Dear President Biden:

The Ethiopian Civil Society Organizations Council/ECSOC was established in December 2020. It represents over 3700 civil society organizations registered by FDRE Authority of Civil Society Organizations. These organizations comprised of International and National NGOs, professional associations and community based organizations.

We, members of the Ethiopian Civil Society Organizations Council, would like to take this opportunity to bring to your kind attention, the utmost necessity of carefully examining the effects of the Bills known as **"Ethiopia Stabilization, Peace and Democracy Act"(HR 6600) and "Ethiopia Peace and Democracy Promotion Act of 2021" (S3199)**.

The core values of US foreign policy are to promote freedom, democracy and global economic growth and development. According to our understanding, HR6600 and S3199 call for the imposition of sanctions and thrust unjustifiable measures against the people and government of Ethiopia and other countries in the Horn. HR6600 and S3199 will undoubtedly subvert the peace initiative, all-inclusive dialogue, the unfettered Humanitarian access the CSOs advocating for and ceasefire, which the government of Ethiopia has taken recently, if the United States Senate approves them. It gives the impression that the Bills fail to recognize the reality on the ground and their imminent and far-reaching adverse effects on human rights issues and peace for sustainable development. Furthermore, they dishonor Ethiopia's historical ties with your country, The United States of America.



Ethiopia is presently dealing with compounded humanitarian, economic and social disruptions caused by COVID-19 and the ongoing war that affected millions of people, especially women and children. You do well know, Mr. President, the ongoing conflict in the Country inflicted heavy casualties on the people. Reports from various sources indicate the killing of tens of thousands of people, the displacement of more than two million, and the observation of massive humanitarian crisis. The fighting that was going on over the past year exposed many to severe famine, disease, malnutrition, and death. It also destroyed their properties and damaged infrastructures needed for their lives and livelihoods.

Millions of people are currently in urgent need of humanitarian assistance, particularly, in areas where the conflict has been taking place. Ever since the conflict erupted, our government, humanitarian agencies and civil society organizations have been making unreserved efforts to address the heightened needs of the affected people. However, their efforts are being stymied by the harsh environment that impedes their overall operations.

We believe, Mr. President, that HR6600 and S3199 are not the proper means to address the current hostile situation in the country. They shall not play a productive role in addressing the problems at hand. They will do nothing good to the people they intend to help; rather they will profoundly affect their daily lives negatively. We certainly believe that sanctions and unilateral coercive measures are inconsistent with the U.N. and A.U. leading principles and mottos. It is also against the core values that the U.S.A is advocating.

Mr. President, we passionately believe that you are fully cognizant that our country, Ethiopia is at a crossroads. The new political reality requires consistent support from countries like the USA in helping the Country's economy in order to lead to sustainable democracy and development.

We, therefore, respectfully request your honorable Administration to recognize the interest and aspiration of the people of Ethiopia in this regard and support the Country in all developmental ventures it is currently undertaking. Moreover, we, members of the Civil Society Organizations do not only denounce the U.S. unilateral sanctions for their detrimental and



comprehensive effects on the people that they claim to benefit, but also kindly request Your Administration, regarding HR6600 and S3199, to take corrective measures that benefit both Ethiopia and the USA.

Sincerely,

Ethiopian Civil Society Organizations Council / ECSOC

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

