



ቁጥር/Ref.No: ECSOC 213/23

ቀን/Date August 10/2023

A Statement from the Ethiopian Civil Society Organizations Council Regarding the Conflict in the Amhara Regional State

August 10, 2023, Addis Abeba: It is known that the Ethiopian Civil Society Organizations Council (ECSOC) has been making various efforts and continuously advocating for the peaceful resolution of conflicts that have been occurring in Ethiopia since recent years. However, the conflicts arising in different parts of the country have been constantly changing in appearance while causing significant loss of life and material damage.

The Council is also closely monitoring the recent armed conflict that flared up in the Amhara Regional State. ECSOC realizes that the conflict is taking place in densely populated areas, notably cities, thereby causing the loss of innocent lives, restricting the fundamental rights of citizens; causing instability in the region and portending a great social and humanitarian crisis.

Recognizing the potential threat to peace and security at national level if the armed conflict in the region is not peacefully resolved in the short term, and taking into account the wide ranging problems that are already challenging the country, the Council makes the following call to the relevant stakeholders:-

1. For the parties involved in a conflict to prioritize seeking a peaceful and lasting solution instead of resorting to the use of force, taking a lesson from past experiences;



2. For the government to make the necessary efforts to resolve the conflicts that have arisen in the Amhara region so that the activities for peacemaking that have previously commenced can bear fruit; as well as, for the armed groups to restrain from resorting to violence and give priority to a peaceful solution;
3. For religious leaders, elders, public figures, scholars and other members of society to support and advocate for peaceful efforts;
4. For relevant government bodies to take the necessary care in the implementation of the declared state of emergency; to respect human rights standards recognized in international human rights instruments ratified by Ethiopia and stipulated under the FDRE constitution; for law enforcing bodies to refrain from using unnecessary and disproportionate force when discharging their duties;
5. For Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to diligently provide support to citizens who are in need of humanitarian assistance; in order to end the conflicts that are increasing in scope and causing large-scale damage in the country and to find an enduring solution, CSOs should be vigilant more than ever.
6. For media institutions, activists, and social media influencers to act responsibly and refrain from actions that can aggravate the conflict, and to play a positive role in resolving conflicts peacefully

ECSOC hereby reiterates its commitment to contributing to and supporting all efforts towards peaceful resolutions of conflicts and disputes that may arise.

About Ethiopian Civil Society Organizations Council (ECSOC)

The Ethiopian Civil Society Organizations Council is an independent institution established by Proclamation No. 1113/2019 and is mandated to operate in Ethiopia on behalf of the civil society sector. Currently, over 4,600 civil society organizations are members of the council.

