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## Press Release

**The Ethiopian Civil Society Organizations Council acknowledges the declared commitment for peace talks between the FDRE government & the Tigray People's Liberation Front and expresses the full support of its members for the process when needed.**

*August 15, 2022, Addis Abeba:* The Ethiopian Civil Society Organizations Council (ECSOC) welcomes the formation of a negotiation committee by the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) to start peace talks with the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) to resolve the internal armed conflict that began in November 2020. ECSOC also acknowledges the parties' positive moves to engage in peace talks to end the armed conflict which has brought enormous suffering to all Ethiopians. The Council urges both parties to take part in the negotiation process in good faith.

In this regard, the announcement made by both parties to seek an end to the conflict through negotiation is a crucial decision benefiting all citizens of the country. It is the firm conviction of ECSOC that this decision should be seized with the highest sense of urgency and responsibility not only by the negotiating parties but also by all key domestic and foreign actors.

The Council, which is legally mandated to represent and coordinate the civil society sector in Ethiopia, has been strongly advocating for peace and has repeatedly called for a negotiated settlement through its position statements. ECSOC fully supports the current peace making initiative and strongly believes that successful peace-making processes



require the inclusion of a full range of key stakeholders, particularly civil society organizations (CSOs). Furthermore, it is believed that including CSOs in the peace making process will enhance ownership of the peace settlement and thereby increase the sustainability/durability of peace.

To this end, ECSOC requests all parties to be mindful of the important roles the civil society organizations could play in the peace-making process at all stages. It also requests for the negotiators and the African Union Commission (AUC) to support the meaningful inclusion of civil society in the peace-making process whenever the situation demands.

Therefore the Ethiopian Civil Societies Organizations Council reiterates its full support to the peace talks to end the armed conflict through a negotiated settlement. The Council expresses its deep commitment and readiness to play its role to contribute to the peace-building process in bringing a just and durable peace to Ethiopia.



### **About Ethiopian Civil Society Organizations Council**

*The Ethiopian Civil Society Organizations Council is established in accordance with Article 85 of Proclamation No. 1113/2019 and is mandated by the FDRE Civil Society Organizations Authority to operate in Ethiopia on behalf of all recognized civil society organizations. Currently, more than 3,700 civil society organizations are members of the council.*