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## Press Release

The Ethiopian Civil Society Organizations Council remains deeply concerned about the death, displacement and suffering of citizens in Western Oromia, East Wollega and calls on the government to fulfill its responsibility of ensuring the security of citizens

December 6, 2022, Addis Abeba: The Ethiopian Civil Society Organizations Council (ECSOC) is established in accordance with Proclamation No.1113/2019 to represent and coordinate Civil Society Organizations in Ethiopia. The Council has been striving to ensure that the civil society sector is properly represented in matters of national interest.

In this regard, the Council has been voicing its concern on behalf of civil societies issuing statements on the country's peace and security. As indicated in these statements ECSOC has repeatedly called up on the government and all parties to uphold their responsibility to ensure the security of citizens and provide much needed assistance for those affected by the conflict.

Based on information coming out of East Wollega of Western Oromia, the Council is aware of the killings of civilians due to ongoing violent unrest and hostilities in the area. ECSOC is deeply concerned about the death, displacement and suffering of the citizens in the area and urges the government to:



1. Step up its effort in fulfilling its responsibility to protect all citizens and ensure their security;
2. Clarify any confusion and misinformation by providing up-to-date, factual and verified information on the matter to the general public;
3. Make sure that due investigation is conducted in the area and accountability is ensured;
4. The council also urges concerned parties to provide immediate humanitarian assistance and support to victims and work for a sustainable and comprehensive solution to the issue

To this end, the Council reaffirms its commitment and readiness to do its share in strengthening the peace building that it is already undertaking to ensure a lasting peace and security of citizens living in all corners of the country.



#### **About the Ethiopian Civil Society Organizations Council (ECSOC)**

*The Ethiopian Civil Society Organizations Council is established in accordance with Article 85 of Proclamation No. 1113/2019. The Council is mandated to operate in Ethiopia on behalf of all recognized civil society organizations. Currently, over 4,300 civil society organizations are members of the council.*