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A statement from the Ethiopian Civil Society Organizations Council on current issues

The Ethiopian Civil Society Organizations Council (ECSOC) is an organization established in accordance with Proclamation No. 1113/2019 to represent and coordinate the civil society sector. To fulfill this mandate, the Council works in collaboration with governmental and non-governmental institutions in order to increase the overall contribution of the sector by endeavoring to ensure a free and suitable environment for civil society organizations.

However, the Council has been greatly concerned about the recent attacks on humanitarian aid workers in some areas of our country. ECSOC is aware of recent loss of lives of humanitarian aid workers in the Afar and Amhara Regional States and strongly condemns this act of violence that has caused the untimely death of the aid workers. The Council would like to express its deepest condolences to the bereaved families, friends and colleagues of the victims.

It is evident that conflicts occurring in different parts of the country since recent years are costing immense loss of lives, injury, psychological trauma on civilians as well as causing damage to property and infrastructure. The Council watches with deep concern the recent clashes in some areas of the Gambella Regional State, particularly in the Itang Special District, Gambella District, Gog district and Gambella town; that have caused the deaths of innocent civilians, displacement and humanitarian crisis, posing threat to the security of citizens in the affected area.

The Council recognizes that the rapidly changing dynamics of conflict in Ethiopia demands the special attention to be given by all stakeholders and the government. As a country, an end to the cycle of conflict we are facing and the achievement of a lasting solution can only be found through an inclusive peace and political processes and efforts to resolve differences through dialogue. ECSOC believes that the key to conflict management intervention lies in identifying the early signs of conflict and responding rapidly, through solid conflict prevention activities, as well as holding perpetrators accountable, upholding the rule of law.

Therefore, the Ethiopian Civil Society Organizations Council urges that:

- For all parties involved in conflicts to respect and protect the safety of civil society organizations' humanitarian aid workers;



- For all stakeholders to play their part so that root causes of the conflicts observed in each area can be resolved in a peaceful and sustainable manner;
- For efforts to be made to resolve disputes and differences through alternative means of discussion and negotiation
- For the government to take adequate measures in fulfilling its duty to ensure the peace and security of the citizens of Ethiopia;

The Council reiterates its commitment to continue to strengthen its efforts in the peacebuilding works it has started.



About Ethiopian Civil Society Organizations Council (ECSOC)

The Ethiopian Civil Society Organizations Council is an independent institution established as per Article 85 of 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.