

Long live Ethiopia!!

The English version

**The New Constitution of the Federal
Democratic Republic of Ethiopia**

(ኢትዮጵያ)

Adapted September 1, 2016, E. C.

IN THE NAME OF THE ALMIGHTY GOD

Preamble

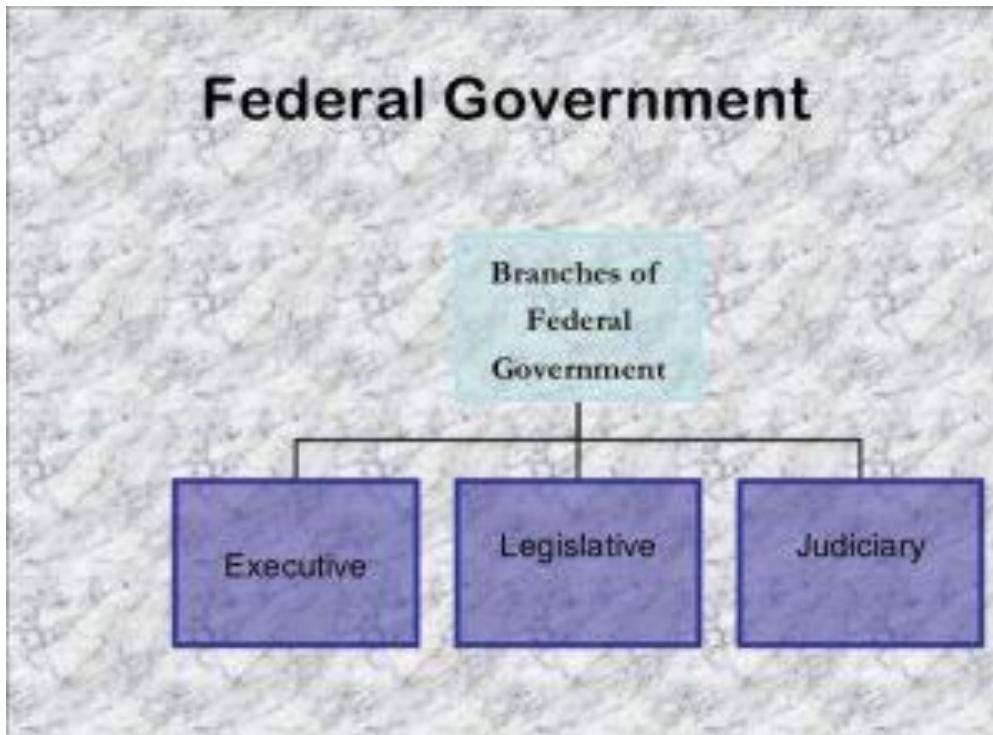
1) We, the people of Ethiopia, make a solemn declaration and affirm our commitment to freedom, justice, probation, and accountability. The principle is that all powers of Government must come from the People's Sovereign Will. The Principle of Universal Adult Suffrage, the claim of universal suffrage, The Rule of Law, The protection and preservation of Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms, Unity and Stability for our Nation; DO at this moment ADOPT, for our tranquility.

We are convinced that living as one economic community is necessary to create sustainable, mutually supportive conditions for respecting our rights and freedoms and for promoting our interests. Therefore, we are determined to consolidate, as an everlasting legacy, the peace and the prospect of a democratic order. Our struggles and sacrifices have brought this Constitution for a referendum to the Ethiopian people. Such has been the patient sufferance of this necessity, which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government to ከኢ-ኢትዮጵያ, (HigE-Ethiopia), Adapted September 1, 2016, E. C.

Federalism:

Ethiopia's Federal system is a system of equal distribution across all 14 provinces of Ethiopia, including Addis Ababa and other administrations.

The Ethiopian Federal Government



The Ethiopian upper law is called the Ethiopian Constitution (ኢትዮጵያ ፌዴራል ሪፐብሊክ).

The Ethiopian Constitution's upper law is known as the people's law

or the supreme law of the land.

The Ethiopian lower law is called the government law (ኢትዮጵያንና).

The Ethiopian independent institutions that can enforce the upper law are:

- 1) The Ethiopian Constitutional Court, Article 91. Page 72.
- 2) The Supreme Court of Ethiopia, Article 5, Page 14.
- 3) Ethiopian Justices of the Supreme Court Article 1, page 8.
- 4) The Ethiopian National Security and Defense Council Article 67 Page 53.
- 5) The Ethiopian Civil Services Commission, Article 92. Page 74.
- 6) The Ethiopian Election Commission, Article 92. Page 75.
- 7) The Ethiopian Audit Commission, Article 92. Page 76.
- 8) The Ethiopian Human Rights Commission, Article 92. Page 78.
- 10 . ETHIOPIAN SOCIOECONOMIC AGENT article 92. Page 79.

11. **Ethiopian Food and Drug Administration (EFDA)** article 89. P. 80.

The Rule of law, ከን አቶናዊያ, the people's law or Ethiopia's Constitution, is the supreme law of the land; it governs the country and its leader. Under the people's Rule, the Ethiopian government system is written by the people, for the people. The Ethiopian Constitution separates the Ethiopian Government's powers into three branches:

The **legislative** branch makes the laws.

The **executive** branch executes the laws.

The **judicial** branch interprets the laws.

"**No one** is above the law." Including the President.

EXECUTIVE: The executive branch of the Ethiopian Government is responsible for implementing and administering the legislative branch's public policy. The President of Ethiopia is responsible for implementing and enforcing laws passed by Congress and for appointing the heads of federal agencies, including the Cabinet.

LEGISLATIVE: The Ethiopian Government's legislative branch is responsible for passing federal and provincial laws and for appropriating the funds necessary to operate the Government. The Ethiopian legislative branch drafts proposed regulations and confirms or rejects presidential nominations for heads of federal agencies.

JUDICIAL: The judicial branch of Ethiopia is responsible for interpreting the Constitution and the Government's laws, and for applying those interpretations to controversies brought before it. The legislative branch drafts proposed regulations and confirms or rejects presidential nominations for agency heads.

CHAPTER ONE

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Adapted On September 1, 2016.

Article 1

Nomenclature of the State

The new Constitution (ኢትዮጵያ) establishes **the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia**.

Ethiopia is a **sovereign state with an indivisible territory** encompassing its internationally recognized land.

As a result, the provinces governing themselves in Ethiopia will be part of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

What is the Supreme Law of the Land in Ethiopia?

Answer: The Constitution (አንቀጽ ፩).

The Constitution (አንቀጽ ፩) is the supreme Law of the land because it was ratified by the Ethiopian people through a national referendum, not by the government.

What does the government law (አንቀጽ ፪) mean in Ethiopia? **Answer:**

- 1) The Ethiopian government previously referred wrongly to the Constitution as "the Government Law (አንቀጽ ፪)." However, following the adoption of the new Constitution (አንቀጽ ፩), the term "Government Law" (አንቀጽ ፪) was corrected and now represents the second-tier Law in Ethiopia. This is because it was written and ratified by the Ethiopian Congress rather than the people. Furthermore, all bills must be signed by the Ethiopian president to become Law.
- 2) Following the establishment of the new Constitution of Ethiopia (አንቀጽ ፩), the term "Ethiopian Government Law" (አንቀጽ ፪) refers specifically to the laws enacted and enforced by the federal government rather than those created by the citizens of Ethiopia. The Federal Government of Ethiopia has three branches: executive, legislative, and judicial. The Ethiopian government law encompasses a wide range of issues related to provinces, districts, and localities, as well as federal laws and regulations. This includes the protection of rights granted by the Constitution to the Ethiopian citizens. Essentially, the Ethiopian government functions as a system of social control, empowering a specific group within society to

create and enforce laws that adhere to the boundaries of Ethiopia's supreme Law of the land (ኢትዮጵያ).

- 3) What is the purpose of the Constitution (ኢትዮጵያ)? **Answer:** It establishes the government and limits the president's power through checks and balances.
- 4) What type of government structure does the Constitution of Ethiopia (ኢትዮጵያ) represent? **Answer:** Federalism (Provincial Federalism).
- 5) What does Federalism mean? **Answer:** Division of power.
- 6) According to the Constitution (ኢትዮጵያ), what type of government powers will Ethiopia have? **Answer:** Powers of the Federal Government (Ethiopian National Government) and the powers of the provincial people's self-administration government.
- 7) What are the first three words of the Constitution and the Ethiopian people's self-administration government? **Answer:** "We the People."
- 8) What is the "**Rule of Law**"? **Answer:** Everyone, including the President, must follow or obey the Law.
- 9) What will Ethiopia's economic system be?
Answer: **The Market Economy.**
- 10) What prevents one branch of government from becoming **too powerful** in Ethiopia? **Answer:** The **separation of powers**.

Ethiopia's Constitution divides the federal Government into three branches to ensure no individual or group will have too much power and to **check and balance** the Government's control.

- 1) Legislative—Makes laws (Congress—House of Representatives and Senate).

- 2) Executive—Carries out laws (President, Vice President, Cabinet, most federal agencies).
- 3) Judicial—Evaluates laws and interprets (the Supreme Court and constitutional court).

- 4) The Ethiopian President has no veto power over legislation created by Congress. However, the Ethiopian Congress can confirm or reject the President's nominees and remove the President from office in exceptional circumstances.

Ethiopian Justices of the Supreme Court

Ethiopia has 7 Supreme Court Justices elected by the people. All 7 Justices of the Supreme Court of Ethiopia must be free from any political group or party affiliation. For example, Article 39 includes the Federal Party, the Democratic Party, and the Republican Party.

Legislative Branch

- 1) Ethiopia's legislative branch can draft proposed laws that confirm or reject Presidential nominations for heads of federal agencies. In addition, the Ethiopian legislature has the authority to declare war. This branch comprises Congress (the Senate and the House of Representatives) and specialized agencies and offices that support Congress. Ethiopian citizens can vote for Senators and Representatives through free, confidential ballots.
- 2) Congress has no authority to increase or decrease the base salary paid to members of Congress until the next term of office for the Ethiopian representatives begins. This means another congressional general election must have been held before the pay raise or cut can take effect.

Senate

There are three elected Senators per Province, and the Addis Ababa administration has 42 senators. A Senate term is 6 years, and senators can run for re-election every 6 years.

House of Representatives

There are many elected Representatives from the 14 provinces and the Addis Ababa administration, in proportion to their total populations. A Representative serves a two-year term and can run for re-election every two years.

Article 2

Ethiopian Territorial Jurisdiction

- 1) Ethiopia is a Sovereign State—the land, airspace, territorial waters, and port of Asseb, including islands. Its sovereignty and territory are indivisible. Its territories and the sovereign rights therein are inalienable. All Ethiopian subjects, living within or outside the Empire, constitute the Ethiopian People.
- 2) The territorial jurisdiction of Ethiopia shall comprise the territory within its external boundaries, as determined by international agreements, as reflected on its map registered with the League of Nations. Ethiopia is located in northeast Africa, between 3 and 14 degrees north and 33 and 48 degrees

east. Its area is 1,127,127 square **kilometers**. Ethiopia's borders include the west, Sudan and South Sudan; the east, Djibouti, and Somalia; the south, Kenya; and the north, Eritrea.

- 3) The northeast of Ethiopian territory must be based on United Nations resolution 390 V, adopted by the 5th General Assembly on December 2, 1950, in New York.
- 4) According to the fifth session of the General Assembly on December 2, 1950, United Nations Resolution 390 V focused on the port of Asseb as the main artery of Ethiopian economic development; the 1950 United Nations fifth session General Assembly Resolution 390 V, (C) States, "The rights and claims of Ethiopia based on geographical, historical, ethical, and economical, including in particular Ethiopia's legitimate need for adequate access to the sea." Therefore, if Eritrea decides to withdraw from Ethiopia, it **must cede** the port of Assab to Ethiopia.
- 5) The northeastern part of Ethiopian territory borders the Red Sea, including the port of Asseb and the Dahlak Islands, according to United Nations General Assembly Resolution 390 V.
- 6) According to the United Nations' fifth General Assembly decision, resolution 390 V, Ethiopia must respect and accept the United Nations' fifth

General Assembly decision, resolution 390 V, if Eritrea agrees peacefully to join Ethiopia by federation without changing UN resolution 390 V 1950.

7) Ethiopia must restore all Ethiopian-American Red Sea partnership and all Commerce, Economic, and Military assistance treaties from 1903 to 1973.

Article 3

The Ethiopian Flag

The Ethiopian flag is green, red, and yellow, and does **not have an emblem** in the center. It is recognized as the world's oldest flag and referred to as the only "Victory Flag" in Africa.

The Ethiopian flag shall consist of **Green** at the top, **yellow** in the middle, and **red** at the bottom, with no emblem at the center. The three colors shall be set horizontally in equal dimensions.



Green Color: "Represents the richness and fertility of our land, mountains, lakes, and rivers."

Yellow Color: "Represents hope, peace, religion, Christians' and Muslims' integrity and unity."

Red Color: "Represents the sacrifice of our fathers for our land, who spilled their blood in defense of Ethiopia."

Article 4

Executive Branch

President

Executive Qualifications & Responsibilities

The Ethiopian presidential election system is One Vote, One Person only.

- 1) Ethiopian citizens can vote for the President and Vice President through free, confidential ballots, and all citizens are equal under the law.
- 2) Candidates for the presidential race must come, according to Article 39, through the winning process of a) the Federal Party, b) the Democratic Party, and c) the Republican Party only. No ethnic name is allowed to be used for the presidential race.
- 3) No gender discrimination is allowed for the Ethiopian presidential candidacy.
- 4) The President must be at least 35 years old, a natural-born citizen of Ethiopia, or born abroad.
- 5) The Ethiopian people can directly elect the President without a vote in the Electoral College. In this Constitution, the Electoral College is not allowed. The President of Ethiopia serves a four-year term and may serve no more than two elected terms.
- 6) The President cannot sign any veto (reject) laws passed by Congress. However, the President can negotiate with foreign governments (with Senate approval).
- 7) The President has no authority to declare war. Only the Ethiopian Congress can declare war.

- 8) A federal court can prosecute the President for misdemeanor offenses, and Congress can remove the President by a majority vote if the President is found guilty.

The roles of the executive branch President

- 1) The President's chief duty is to ensure that the Ethiopian people's laws are faithful. They are the head of State and the leader of the Federal Government. The President serves for 4 years and may be elected no more than two terms. After that, the executive branch carries out and enforces laws.
- 2) The executive branch comprises the President, Vice President, the Cabinet, executive departments, independent agencies, and other boards, commissions, and committees.

Vice President

- 1) The Vice President supports the President. If the President is unable to serve, the Vice President becomes President.
- 2) The vice president serves as the presiding officer of the Senate.
- 3) The Vice President would become President if the office were vacated.
- 4) A federal court can prosecute the vice president for any misdemeanor, and if found guilty, Congress can remove them by a majority vote.

5) If the President and Vice President die in an accident, the House Speaker can serve as President of the nation.

Provincial Governor

The provincial governor oversees the functions of the Province's executive branch of Government. Report to the General Assembly about the condition of the Province in each quarter. The governor reviews bills approved by the provincial House and Senate. The governor can sign the bill into law without a veto.

1. The governor must obey the Ethiopian Constitution, ኢትዮጵያ, and must have at least a first degree.
2. The governor's primary responsibility is to serve as the Province's chief executive officer.
3. No gender discrimination to become a provincial governor.
4. The provincial governor must be 35 years old or above.
5. The provincial governor was born and had lived in that Province for at least 2 years and could speak the Ethiopian national language. Provincial congress decisions will add most of the governor's duties.
6. The governor accomplishes their duty by obeying the Ethiopian Constitution and federal and provincial laws. The governor can serve a 4-year term.
7. The Provincial Governor serves for four years. After that, however, they can run for the second term election.
8. The Ethiopian Constitution does not allow a provincial governor to run for a third term.
9. The provincial Government has no veto power to reject bills passed by the local Congress.
10. The vice governor will become a governor when the provincial governor passes away.
11. If the provincial governor breaches the Ethiopian Constitution, the case will be heard by the federal and constitutional court. If they are found guilty, the local Congress will impeach the governor.

Provincial vice governor

1. The provincial governor can nominate a vice governor.
2. The provincial Congress will approve the nomination of the vice governor.

Article 5

The Supreme Court of Ethiopia

- 1) The Federal Supreme Court, located in Addis Ababa, is the highest judiciary in the country.
- 2) Provincial Supreme Court justices hear appeals and decide cases from Courts of Appeals and other lower courts.
- 3) **Seven** justices are elected statewide to serve **six years**. **Seven** Justices are elected every **six** years.
- 4) Court of Appeals Judges hear appeals from the Superior Courts.
- 5) Court of Appeals Judges serve **six years**.
- 6) Superior Court Judge: Superior Courts hear felony criminal cases, civil matters, divorces, juvenile cases, and appeals from lower-level courts.
- 7) The county organizes superior Courts into districts.
- 8) Superior Court Judges can serve for only six years; however, they can run for Re-election at their term ends.
- 9) Ethiopian Federal Supreme Court justices must be free from political parties and from any affiliation with government agencies.

Article 6

National Anthem of Ethiopia

To be determined by law, the national anthem of Ethiopia shall reflect the ideals of the Constitution, the Commitment of the Peoples of Ethiopia to live together in a democratic order, and their shared destiny.

Article 7

Languages

All Ethiopian languages shall enjoy equal provincial recognition. However, the Amharic language shall be the working language of the Federal Government of Ethiopia.

Article 8

DUAL CITIZENSHIP

- 1) Any person of either sex shall be an Ethiopian national where neither parent is Ethiopian.
- 2) A citizen of Ethiopia can hold citizenship in any other country in addition to Ethiopian citizenship.

CHAPTER TWO

FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

OF THE CONSTITUTION

Article 9

The sovereignty of the people

1. All sovereign power resides in the People of Ethiopia.
2. This Constitution (Hige-Ethiopia) expresses the Ethiopian people's sovereignty equally for men and women.
3. Their sovereignty shall be expressed through representatives elected by this Constitution and their direct democratic participation.

Article 10

The Supremacy of the Constitution

- 1) Our New Constitution (**አዲስ አበባ**) is the Supreme Law of the Land.
- 2) After the ratification of the new Constitution of Ethiopia, the current governing law will be separate from it. It will continue to be produced by the

Ethiopian Congress, or lawmakers are keeping its limitation under the Ethiopian Constitution.

- 3) The Ethiopian Constitution only belongs to the Ethiopian people. Therefore, it is non-governmental, and only the Ethiopian people can consent to upcoming amendments.
- 4) Amending the Ethiopian Constitution, power belongs to most Ethiopian people (50% +1) or citizens of 14 provinces and three administrations (Gambela, Afar, Somali Ogaden) only. Therefore, any attempt by political organizations, the President, or the Ethiopian Congress to change the Ethiopian Constitution is a federal government crime. Punishment is 10 to 15 years in prison and removal from their positions.
- 5) The Ethiopian governmental law belongs to the Ethiopian Federal Government and the State Government. Therefore, it is governmental, and only the Ethiopian National Congress and the Provincial Congress, or the law-making body, can ratify upcoming governmental laws, regulations, and policies under the new Ethiopian Constitution.
- 6) Any law, customary practice, or decision of an organization of the Province or a public official that contradicts this Constitution shall be of no effect.
- 7) All citizens, organs of the provinces, political organizations, other associations, and their officials, including the President, must obey the Constitution.
- 8) It is prohibited to assume provincial power in any manner other than that provided under the Constitution.
- 9) All Ethiopian federal government treaties and provincial laws shall remain under the authority of the supreme law of the land.

Article 11

Human and Democratic Rights

- 1) Human rights and freedoms, grounded in humanity, are inviolable and inalienable.
- 2) The social and democratic rights of citizens and people are respected.

Article 12

Separation of State and Religion

1. Government and religion are separate.

There shall be no Government religion.

The Government shall not interfere in religious matters, and faith shall not interfere in government affairs.

Article 13

Conduct and Accountability of Government

1. The Government's affairs shall be transparent.
2. Any public official or elected representative is accountable for any failure in the performance of official duties.
3. When losing confidence, people may recall an elected representative.

CHAPTER THREE

FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

Article 14

The Scope of Application and Interpretation

1. All fundamental rights and freedoms specified in this Chapter are interpreted in accordance with the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights, and Other International instruments.

Article 15

Rights to life

1. Every person has the right to life. Therefore, no person may be deprived of his life except as a punishment for a serious criminal offense determined by law.

Article 16

Rights to life

- 1) Every person has the right to protection against bodily harm.

Article 17

Right to Liberty

- 1) No one shall be deprived of their Liberty except on the grounds of procedure as established by law.
- 2) No person may be subject to arbitrary arrest or detention without a charge or conviction against him.
- 3) The security of a person and every person's Liberty have inviolable and inalienable rights to life.

Article 18

The Prohibition Against Inhuman Treatment

- 1)** Everyone has the right to protection against cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment.
- 2)** No person shall be held in slavery or servitude. Trafficking in human beings for whatever purpose is prohibited.
- 3)** No person shall be required to perform forced or compulsory labor.

Article 19

The right of Persons Arrested

- 1) Persons arrested have the right to be informed promptly, in a language they understand, of the reasons for their arrest and any charge against them.
- 2) Persons arrested have the right to remain silent. However, upon arrest, they have the right to be informed promptly, in a language they understand, that any statement they make may be used as evidence against them in court.
- 3) Persons arrested have the right to be brought to court within 48 hours. Such time shall not include the time reasonably required for the journey from the place of detention to the court.
- 4) All persons appearing in court have the right to receive a quick and specific explanation of their arrest for the alleged crime.
- 5) All persons have an inalienable right to petition the court to order their physical release. The arresting police officer or the law enforcer fails to bring them before a court within the prescribed time and provide reasons for their arrest. Where the interests of justice require, the court may order the arrested person to remain in custody or, upon request, remand him for a time strictly necessary to carry out the necessary investigation. In determining the additional time required for the study, the court shall ensure that the

responsible law enforcement authorities conduct the inquiry while respecting the arrested person's right to a speedy trial.

- 6) The Government should not compel arrest or require confessions or admissions that could be used as evidence against them. Any evidence obtained under coercion shall not be admissible.
- 7) Persons arrested have the right to be released on bail. However, in exceptional circumstances prescribed by law, the court may deny bail or demand an adequate guarantee for the detained person's conditional release.

Article 20

Rights of Persons Accused

- 1)** Accused persons have the right to a public trial by an ordinary court of law within a reasonable time after being charged. However, the court may hear cases in a closed session only to (or "intending to") protect the right to privacy of the parties concerned, public morals, and national security.
- 2)** Accused persons have the right to be informed with sufficient particulars of the charge brought against them and given the order in writing.
- 3)** During proceedings, accused persons have the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty according to law and not to be compelled to testify against themselves.
- 4)** Accused persons have the right to full access to any evidence presented against them, examine witnesses testifying against them, adduce or have evidence produced in their defense, and obtain the attendance of an examination of witnesses on their behalf before the court.

- 5)** Accused persons have the right to be represented by the legal counsel of their choice. However, if they do not have sufficient means to pay for it, the miscarriage of justice would provide legal representation at its expense.
- 6)** Any person may appeal to a competent court against an order. In addition, they have the right to request an interpreter at the Province's expense during the court proceeding.

Article 21

The Rights of Persons Held in Custody and Convicted Prisoners

- 1)** All persons held in custody and persons imprisoned upon conviction and sentencing have the right to Treatment respecting their human dignity.
- 2)** All persons shall be able to communicate with and visit their spouses or partners, close relatives, friends, religious counselors, medical doctors, and legal counsel.

Article 22

Non-retroactivity of Criminal Law

- 1)** No one shall be held guilty of any criminal offense because of any act or omission that did not constitute a criminal offense when it.
- 2)** Nor shall a more massive penalty be imposed on any person than the applicable one.

Article 23

Prohibition of Double Jeopardy

- 1) No person shall be liable to be tried or punished again for an offense for which he has already been finally convicted or acquitted by criminal law and procedure.

Article 24

Prohibition and Crime

- 1) Drinking and driving are criminal offenses and prohibited under Ethiopian Law.
- 2) No smoking or drinking for those under 21 years old. It is a crime under Ethiopian Law.
- 3) Parents are not entitled to their children's criminal offenses unless they are involved in the same crime.
- 4) All kinds of gambling in Ethiopia are prohibited, and it is the Ethiopian federal Government's crime under the new Constitution of Ethiopia.

Article 25

Right to Honor and Reputation

- 1)** Everyone has the right to respect for their human dignity, reputation, and honor.
- 2)** Everyone has the right to the free development of their personality in a moral, cultural, and religious manner compatible with the rights of other citizens.
- 3)** Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person.

Article 26

Right to Equality

- 1) All persons are equal before the law and are entitled, without any discrimination, to the equal protection of the law. In this respect, the law shall guarantee all persons equal and adequate security without discrimination based on social origin, Color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, property, birth, or status.

Article 27

Right to Privacy

- 1) Everyone has the right to privacy. This right shall include the right not to be subject to searches of the home.
- 2) Everyone has the right to the inviolability of their notes and correspondence, including postal letters and communications made using the telephone, telecommunications, and electronic devices.
- 3) Public officials shall respect and protect these rights. No restrictions may be placed on the enjoyment of such rights except in compelling circumstances and by specific laws whose purposes shall be the safeguarding of national security or the public peace, the prevention of crimes, or the protection of health, public morality, or the rights and freedoms of others.

Article 28

Freedom of Religion, Belief, and Opinion

- 1)** Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion. This right shall include the freedom to hold or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice and the space, either individually or in community with others, and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in worship, observance, practice, and teaching.

- 2)** Believers may establish religious education and administration institutions to propagate and organize their religion without prejudice.
- 3)** No one shall be subject to coercion or other means that would restrict or prevent their freedom to hold a belief of their choice, except by breaking our long-time culture, because Ethiopia is a country that respects Christian and Muslim religious beliefs equally.
- 4)** Parents and legal guardians can raise their children, ensuring that their religious and moral education aligns with their convictions.
- 5)** Freedom to express or manifest one's religion or belief may be subject only to such limitations as are prescribed by law and are necessary to protect public safety, peace, health, education, public morality, or the fundamental rights and freedoms of others, and to ensure the independence of the Province from religion.

Article 29

Crimes against Humanity

- 1)** Criminal liability of persons who commit crimes against humanity, so defined by Ethiopia's international agreements and by other laws of Ethiopia, such as genocide, summary executions, forcible disappearances, or torture.
- 2)** Ethiopia shall adhere to INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS in its dealings with other nations.
- 3)** The Government of Ethiopia must promote and protect the interests of Ethiopians.

- 4)** The Government of Ethiopia shall seek to establish justice and an equitable international economic and social order.
- 5)** Ethiopia's Government shall promote respect for international law, treaty obligations, and the peaceful settlement of international disputes.
- 6)** The Government of Ethiopia shall adhere to the principles enshrined in international organizations, international human rights treaties, the Charter of the United Nations, the Charter of the Organization of African Unity, the Commonwealth, the Treaty of the IGAD Countries, and any other international organization of which Ethiopia is a member.

CHAPTER 4

DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS

Article 30

The right to Thought, Opinion, and Expression

- 1)** Everyone has the right to hold opinions without interference.
- 2)** Everyone has the right to freedom of expression without any interference. These rights should include freedom to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or print, in the form of art, or through any media of his choice.
- 3)** Freedom of the press, other mass media, and artistic creativity is guaranteed. Freedom of the press shall specifically include the following elements.
- 4)** In the interest of the free flow of information, ideas, and opinions, which are essential to the functioning of a democratic order, the press shall, as an

institution, enjoy legal protection to ensure its operational independence and its capacity to entertain diverse opinions.

Article 31

The right of opinion and expression through peaceful demonstrations

- 1) Ethiopian citizens have unlimited freedom to express their views freely through peaceful protests.
- 2) Any citizen who violates any legal limitations on exercising these rights may be held liable under the law.

Article 32

Freedom of Association

- 1) Every person has the right to freedom of association for any cause or purpose.
- 2) Ethiopian organizations formed in accordance with the law can promote peaceful freedom of activity.

Article 33

Freedom of Movement

- 1)** Any Ethiopian or foreign national lawfully in Ethiopia has, within the national territory, the right to Liberty of movement, the freedom to choose their residence, and the freedom to leave the country at any time they wish.
- 2)** Any Ethiopian national has the right to return to their country.
- 3)** It eliminates migration and the denial of young Ethiopians' suffrage; all Ethiopians can travel anywhere in the world without delay due to bureaucratic processes.

- 4)** All Ethiopians can possess their names and travel documents from the day of their birth, with their parents.
- 5)** All Ethiopians over 18 can obtain their travel documents alone, without their parents' accompanying requirements, at their nearest passport offices to travel abroad without any governmental interference.
- 6)** Ethiopia's Government must reach an agreement with all embassies in Ethiopia to grant free entry/exit visas to all Ethiopians, to stop the migration problem, and ensure our young generation's suffrage.

Article 34

Rights of Nationality

- 1)** No Ethiopian national shall be deprived of their Ethiopian nationality against their will. Furthermore, the marriage of an Ethiopian citizen of either sex to a foreign national shall not annul their Ethiopian race.
- 2)** Every Ethiopian national has the right to enjoy all rights, protection, and benefits derived from Ethiopian nationality as prescribed by law.
- 3)** Any national has the right to change their Ethiopian nationality.
- 4)** Ethiopian nationality may be conferred upon foreigners by a law enacted and procedures established consistent with international agreements.

Article 35

Marital, Divorce, Personal, and Family Rights

- 1)** Marriage shall be between men and women, without discrimination regarding race or religion.
- 2)** Ethiopians have equal rights while entering, during the wedding, and at the time of divorce.
- 3)** The Ethiopian Constitution shall be enacted to protect children's rights and interests during divorce proceedings.
- 4)** Marriage should be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.
- 5)** The family is the natural and fundamental unit of society and is entitled to protection from the community and the Government.
- 6)** Under the Ethiopian Constitution, marriage is defined as the union of one man and one woman.
- 7)** Under Ethiopian law, marriage is prohibited for anyone under 18, and no wedding should be permitted for anyone under 18.

Divorce:

- 8)** In a divorce, the treatment of premarital Property: Assets owned before marriage. Generally, premarital assets are regarded as separate Property and are not divided during divorce proceedings.

9) Separate Property: Premarital assets are usually classified as separate Property, meaning they remain the Property of the original owner and are not subject to division in a divorce.

10) Marital Property: Assets acquired during the marriage, regardless of who holds the title, are considered marital Property and are subject to equal division between both parties.

Article 36

Rights of Women

- 1)** In the enjoyment of rights and protections provided by this Constitution, women shall have equal rights with men.
- 2)** Women have equal rights with men in marriage as prescribed by this Constitution.
- 3)** The historical legacy of inequality and discrimination suffered by women in Ethiopia is taken into account; women, to remedy this legacy, are entitled to affirmative measures. Such measures shall provide special attention to women to enable them to compete and participate on an equal basis with men in political, social, and economic life, as well as in public and private institutions.
- 4)** The Province shall enforce women's rights to eliminate harmful customs. Laws, businesses, and practices that oppress or cause bodily or mental harm to women are prohibited.
- 5)** Women have the right to maternity leave with full pay. The duration of maternity leave shall be determined by law, considering the nature of the work, the mother's health, and the child and family's well-being. (b)

Maternity leave may include prenatal leave with full pay, as provided by law.

- 6)** Under the Ethiopian Constitution, female genital mutilation is illegal, and it is a federal government crime with up to 15 years imprisonment and a 15 thousand Ethiopian birr punishment fine.
- 7)** Women can acquire, administer, control, use, and transfer property. In particular, they have equal rights in land use, transfer, administration, and management with men. They shall also enjoy equal Treatment in the inheritance of property.
- 8)** Women shall have a right to equality in employment, promotion, pay, and the transfer of pension entitlements.
- 9)** Women have the right to access family planning education, information, and the capacity to prevent harm arising from pregnancy and childbirth and safeguard their health.
- 10)** Sexual assault of women in Ethiopia, urban or rural violence, all serious bodily injury acts of violence, stalking, burning of women's faces or their bodies with different chemicals or acid, all brutal killings of women in Ethiopia, as proven by the court, must be punished with death.

Article 37

Rights of Children

- 1)** All children have the right to life, a name, and nationality, and to know and be cared for by their parents.
- 2)** Legal guardians can be subject to exploitative practices, neither required nor permitted to perform work that may be hazardous or harmful to their

education, health, or well-being, free of corporal punishment or cruel Treatment in schools and other institutions, and reasonable for children's care.

- 3)** In all actions concerning children undertaken by public and private welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities, or legislative bodies, the primary consideration shall be the child's best interest.
- 4)** Juvenile offenders are admitted to corrective or rehabilitative institutions.
- 5)** Parents shall keep juveniles who become wards of the court placed in public or private orphanages separately from adults.
- 6)** Children born out of wedlock shall have the same rights as children born in wedlock.
- 7)** The Province shall accord superior protection to orphans and encourage institutions that ensure and promote their adoption and advance their welfare and education.
- 8)** The Ethiopian Government must protect all disabled children, whatever they need.
- 9)** The Ethiopian supreme law of the land broadly protects and looks after survivors of child sexual abuse. Under the Ethiopian New Constitution, an adult who engages in sexual contact with minors is held criminally and civilly responsible. Under a new Ethiopian constitution, sexual assault of a child is commonly referred to as a "constitutional rape crime." A person, including the President, knowingly commits a child's sexual organ to contact and penetrate the mouth, anus, and sexual organ; these crimes are considered "constitutional rape crimes." Therefore," if criminals are found

guilty by the court, punishments are electrocution or another form of the death penalty.

10) The Ethiopian supreme law of the land broadly protects and looks after survivors of child sexual abuse. Under the Ethiopian New Constitution, parents or guardians who commit sexual contact with a minor are held criminally and civilly responsible. Under a new Ethiopian constitution, sexual assault of a child is commonly referred to as a "constitutional rape crime." Parents or guardians commit this crime knowingly by a child's sexual organ to contact and penetrate the mouth, anus, and sexual organ; these crimes are considered "constitutional rape crimes." Therefore," if the court finds the criminals, punishments are the death penalty.

11) The Ethiopian supreme law of the land broadly protects and looks after survivors of child sexual abuse. However, under the Ethiopian new Constitution, teachers or priests who commit sexual contact with a minor are held criminally and civilly responsible. Under a new Ethiopian constitution, sexual assault of a child is commonly referred to as a "constitutional rape crime." Teachers or priests commit this crime knowingly, involving a child's sexual organ to contact and penetrate the mouth, anus, and sexual organs; these crimes are considered "constitutional rape crimes." Therefore," if the court finds the criminals, punishments are the death penalty.

Article 38

The Right of Access to Justice

1) Everyone has the right to bring a justiciable matter to a court of law or any other competent body with judicial power and to obtain a decision or judgment. Has the right to bring a justiciable case and to get a decision or judgment by a court of law or any other competent body with judicial power.

Article 39

The Right to Vote and to be elected

ORGANIZATION OF POLITICAL PARTIES

Under this new Ethiopian Constitution, only the three parties' right to form political parties is guaranteed. These are:

- 1) Federal Party**
- 2) Democratic Party**
- 3) Republican Party.**

Under this Ethiopian Constitution, it is strictly prohibited for any political party to be formed based on ethnicity, gender, religion, region, or profession. Other sectional divisions use words, slogans, or symbols to arouse ethnic, gender, religious, regional, professional, or other sectional divisions.

Every Ethiopian national, without discrimination based on Color, race, sex, language, religion, political opinion, or status, has the following right: to participate in public affairs. Act directly through freely chosen representatives.

Article 40

The Land of Ethiopia

Right to Property/Land Ownership

- 1)** Every Ethiopian citizen has the right to own private property in the public interest; this right shall include the right to acquire, use, and, in a manner compatible with other citizens' rights, dispose of such property by sale, bequest, or other transfer.
- 2)** In this Article, "Private Property" means all tangible or intangible products produced by an individual citizen's labor, creativity, or capital, or associations that enjoy juridical personality under the law. Also, in appropriate circumstances, laws empower communities to jointly own property.
- 3)** The right to ownership of rural and urban land and all natural resources is exclusively vested in the provinces and the Ethiopian peoples. Therefore, the land is a common property of the People of Ethiopia.
- 4)** Ethiopian peasants have the right to obtain land without payment and to be protected against eviction from their land.
- 5)** Ethiopian pastoralists have the right to free land for grazing and cultivation and not to be displaced from their lands. Without prejudice to the rights of the Ethiopian people regarding land ownership, the Government shall not grant private investors the right to use Ethiopian land through payment arrangements or leases.
- 6)** All TPLF (EPRDF) and Prosperity Party (PP) treaties with foreign organizations, individuals, domestic organizations, documents for land leases or sales, and other national property leases or sales are **void** and **null** after this constitution ratification.

Article 41

Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights

- 1)** Every Ethiopian has the right to engage in economic activity freely and pursue a livelihood anywhere within the national territory.
- 2)** The Federal and Provincial Congress in Ethiopia are responsible for limiting the skyrocketing inflation that affects the vital economic goods of the Ethiopian people. The Federal and Provincial Congress should determine the prices of gas, teff, milk, Oil, and corn to ensure they remain affordable for citizens.
- 3)** Every Ethiopian has the right to choose their means of livelihood, occupation, and profession.
- 4)** Every Ethiopian national has the right to equal access to publicly funded social services.
- 5)** The Province must allocate ever-increasing resources to provide public health, education, and other social services.
- 6)** Within available means, the Province shall allocate resources to provide rehabilitation and assistance to the physically and mentally disabled, the aged, and children who are left without parents or guardians.
- 7)** The Province shall pursue policies to expand job opportunities for the unemployed and the poor and undertake programmers and public works projects.
- 8)** The Province shall undertake all measures necessary to increase opportunities for citizens to find gainful employment.

- 9)** Ethiopian farmers and pastoralists have the right to receive a fair price for their products, improving their conditions of life and enabling them to obtain an equitable share of the national wealth commensurate with their contribution. This objective shall guide the Province in formulating economic, social, and development policies.
- 10)** The Province is responsible for protecting and preserving historical and cultural legacies and contributing to promoting the arts and sports.

Article 42

Rights of Labor

- 1)** A) Factory and service workers, farmers, farm laborers, other rural workers, and government employees whose work compatibility allows for it and who are below a certain level of responsibility have the right to form associations to improve their employment and economic conditions and well-being. This right includes forming trade unions and other associations to bargain collectively with employers or other organizations that affect their interests. (b) Categories of persons referred to in paragraph (c) of this sub-Article have the right to express grievances, including the right to strike. (c) Law shall determine which government employees enjoy the rights provided under paragraphs (a) and (b) of this Article. (d) Women workers have the right to equal pay for equal work.
- 2)** Workers have the right to limit working hours reasonably, to rest, to leisure, to periodic leave with pay, to remuneration for public holidays, and to a healthy and safe work environment.

3) Without prejudice to the rights recognized under sub-Article 1 of this Article, laws enacted to implement such rights shall establish procedures for forming trade unions and regulating the collective bargaining process.

Article 43

The Right to Development

1) The people of Ethiopia, as a whole and in particular, have the right to improved living standards and sustainable development.

2) Ethiopia's people have the right to participate in national development, primarily by being consulted on policies and projects affecting their communities.

3) All international agreements and relations concluded, established, or conducted by the Province shall protect and ensure Ethiopia's right to sustainable development.

The primary aim of development activities shall be to enhance citizens' capacity for growth and meet their basic needs.

Article 44

Environmental Rights

1) All persons have the right to a clean and healthy environment.

2) All persons displaced or whose livelihoods have been adversely affected by provincial programs have the right to commensurate monetary or alternative forms of compensation, including relocation with adequate provincial assistance.

CHAPTER 5

SOCIAL OBJECTIVES

Article 45

- 1) The Province shall endeavor to secure and protect a social order founded on ideals of freedom, equality, justice, integrity, and accountability.
- 2) This Constitution shall direct its policy towards ensuring every citizen has equal rights, obligations, and opportunities before the law.

Article 46

Provinces of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

- 1) The Federal Democratic Republic shall comprise 14 provinces, including the Addis Ababa administration.
- 2) Ethiopia's fourteen provinces shall not be limited by the settlement patterns, languages, identities, or consents of the people concerned.

Article 47

Provinces of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

Provinces of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia are the Following:

Provinces and their capital cities

- 1) The Province of Arsi..... Assela

- 2)** The Province of Bale..... Goba
- 3)** The Province of Begemidr..... Gondar
- 4)** The Province of GamoGofa..... Arbaminch
- 5)** The Province of Gojam..... Bahrdar
- 6)** The Province of Harerge..... Harar
- 7)** The Province of Ilubabor..... Metu
- 8)** The Province of Keffa..... Jimma
- 9)** The Province of Shewa..... Addis Ababa
- 10)** The Province of Sidamo..... Hawassa
- 11)** The Province of Tigray... Mekele
- 12)** The Province of Wolega... Nekemt
- 13)** The Province of Wollo..... Dessie

Administrations equivalent to provinces

- 1)** Addis Ababa administration Addis Ababa
- 2)** Afar administration..... Asseb
- 3)** Gambela administration..... Gambela
- 4)** Ogaden Somale administration..... JiJiga



Article 48

All 14 provinces and administrations of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia shall have equal economic distribution and self-administering powers under the supreme law of the land.



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Article 49

Capital City

- 1)** Addis Ababa shall be the capital city of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.
- 2)** The residents of Addis Ababa shall have full self-government.
- 3)** The Administration of Addis Ababa shall be responsible for the democratically elected Mayor and the democratically elected City Councils of Addis Ababa.
- 4)** Residents of Addis Ababa shall have, by the provisions of this Constitution, representation in the House of Peoples' Representatives and the Senate.

CHAPTER 6

THE STRUCTURE AND DIVISION OF The House of People's Representatives POWERS

Article 50

- 1)** The House of Peoples' Representatives is the highest authority of the Federal Government of Ethiopia. The House is responsible to the People.
- 2)** All Ethiopian legislative bodies are elected by the Ethiopian people every four years. These representatives are composed of the federal party, the Democratic Party, and the Republican Party.
- 3)** Each Province can pledge 3 Senators and one House representative from each province district to serve in Addis Ababa for 4 years.

Article 51

Powers and Functions of the Federal Government

- 1)** Under this Constitution, Ethiopia's federal democratic republic has a national government system and a local administrative system.

Article 52

Powers and Functions of Provinces

- 1)** Not all powers are given to the Federal Government alone or concurrently with the Province, because the Province is reserved.
- 2)** Provinces shall have the following powers and functions: To establish a provincial administration that best advances self-government, a democratic order based on the Rule of law, and to protect and defend the federal government's constitution.
- 3)** Also, enact and execute the state constitution and other laws to formulate and implement the Province's economic, Social, and development policies, strategies, and plans.
- 4)** Additionally, to administer land and other natural resources under Federal laws. Also, to levy and collect taxes and duties on revenue sources reserved.
- 5)** The provinces can draw up their provincial budgets to enact and enforce local civil service laws. Also, their condition of work; in the implementation of this responsibility, it shall ensure that educational, training, and experience requirements for any job, title, or position approximate national standards, to establish and administer a local police force, and to maintain public order and peace within the Province. Powers are not expressly given

to the Federal Government alone or concurrently, and the provinces can reserve them for themselves.

Article 53

Immunity of Members of the House of the Federal Government

- 1)** After this new Ethiopian constitution ratification referendum, the current ethnic federalist parliament will dissolve on day one.
- 2)** After the new Ethiopian constitution ratification referendum, on day one, the current Ethiopian ethnic federalism parliamentary system will change into a presidential system.
- 3)** Under this, the new Ethiopian Constitution, the Senate floor, and people's representatives form a bicameral legislative body known as the Ethiopian Congress.
- 4)** No member of the House of the Federal Government may prosecute on account of any vote they cast or opinion they express in the House, nor shall any administrative action be taken against any member on such grounds.
- 5)** No member of the Federal Government has immunity from arrest or prosecution for any crime; according to Article 4, number 2, all Ethiopian citizens are equal under the law.

Article 54

THE HOUSE OF PEOPLE'S REPRESENTATIVES

- 1) The People shall elect members of the House of People's Representatives and the Senate for four years by universal suffrage and direct, accessible, and fair elections held by secret ballot.
- 2) Members of the House shall be elected from candidates in each electoral district by a plurality of the votes cast. In addition, the law shall provide for exceptional representation of the People.
- 3) Members of the House and the Senate are representatives of the Ethiopian people as a whole. The Constitution governs them, and they cast votes only by attending.

Article 55

Budget

- 1) Provinces shall take all necessary action to ensure that the national economy is managed in such a manner as to maximize the rate of agricultural economic development and to secure the maximum welfare, freedom, and happiness of every person on the family farm of Ethiopia. To provide adequate livelihoods and public assistance to needy people, the federal and provincial governments must provide free land and tractors to farmers' associations.
- 2) In particular, the provinces shall take all necessary steps to establish a healthy economy and guarantee fair and realistic remuneration for production and productivity by the federal and provincial governments to

encourage continued production and higher productivity by sponsoring the harvesting material combiners.

- 3) To afford ample opportunity for farmers' associations' initiative and creativity in economic activities and to foster an enabling environment, federal and provincial governments must sponsor equal access to free land with an artificial rainfall system or irrigation technology for all farmers' associations to play the most significant economic role in our country.
- 4) The right to establish a business ensures that the farming sector bears its fair share of social and national responsibilities, including the obligation to contribute to the nation's overall development. The Ethiopian Congress can ensure equal development across all provinces in every part of each Province of Ethiopia. In particular, to improve the living conditions of rural populations.

Article 56

Speaker of The House

- 1) The Speaker of the House exercises duties as a Member of Congress, presiding officer of the House of Representatives, and leader of the House's majority political party. These responsibilities include voting on legislation, performing administrative duties such as maintaining order in the House chamber, and appointing special committees.
- 2) The Speaker of the House is the PRESIDING OFFICER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.
- 3) Speaker of the House's duties as presiding officer of the House, including administering the oath of office to Members, calling the House to order, preserving order and decorum within the House chamber and galleries,

recognizing members to speak on the House floor, and making rulings about House procedures.

- 4) The Speaker usually delegates some of these administrative duties to other majority parties, such as acting as Speaker pro tempore and leading House legislative sessions.
- 5) The Speaker also appoints members and chairpersons of regular, special, or select conference committees and designates a majority of the Committee on Rules. In addition, the Speaker determines which legislation can be assigned to each committee and which legislation reaches the House floor for a vote. Furthermore, the Speaker decides the House's legislative agenda in consultation with party leaders, committee chairpersons, and the President. The Senate Speaker presides over all joint sessions with the Senate because they are held in the House of Representatives.
- 6) The Speaker of the House is the LEADER OF THE MAJORITY PARTY IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. This means the Speaker is responsible for passing legislation with a majority vote.
- 7) The Speaker usually has a less prominent role as a party leader when the President belongs to the same party. In contrast, the Speaker's prominence and public position typically increase when they are from a different political party than the President.

Article 57

Meetings of the House, Duration of its Term

- 1)** The presence of more than half of the members of the House constitutes a quorum.

- 2)** The House's annual session shall begin on Monday of the final week of the Ethiopian month of Meskerem and end on the 30th day of the Ethiopian month of Sene. The House may adjourn for one month of recess during its annual session.
- 3)** The House of Peoples' Representatives shall be elected for four years.
- 4)** The Speaker of the House may call a meeting of the House when it is in recess.
- 5)** Meetings of the House shall be public. However, holding a closed session at the Executive's or members of the House's request is supported by a decision of more than one-half of the House members.

Article 58

Member of the House

- 1) Prohibition of Simultaneous Membership in the Two Houses: No one may simultaneously be a member of the House of Peoples' Representatives and the Senate of the Federal Government. Members of the House may vote only when they are present in person in the House.

Article 59

Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

The President

- 1) There shall be a President of the Democratic Republic of Ethiopia who shall be the Head of State and Head of Government.

Article 60

Presidential Election and Oath

- 1) The President of Ethiopia shall be elected nationally every four years through the "**one person, one vote**" rule.
- 2) The Oath of Office:
- 3) I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and will, to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

Article 61

Powers of the President of the Democratic Republic of Ethiopia President

- 1) **Appoint Ambassadors and Officers:** The President's appointments may include public ministers and consuls, ambassadors to foreign countries, cabinet members, and all officers whose assignments are provided for in the Constitution. Some presidentially appointed positions also require candidates to undergo the Senate confirmation process.
- 2) **Grant Commissions and Call Special Sessions of Congress;** the President also has the power to fill vacancies that may happen during a Senate recess. These commissions expire at the end of the next Senate session.
- 3) **Grant Reprieves and Pardons:** The President has the power to grant reprieves and pardons to people for federal crimes. A reprieve temporarily postpones punishing a person for their crimes, while a pardon forgives the crime and its penalty. Pardons do not need the approval of Congress. Many presidents issue pardons as they exit the office.
- 4) **Make Treaties:** The Constitution grants the President the power to make treaties, or formal agreements, with other nations. These treaties might mark

the end of wars or conflicts. The President must receive the consent of a majority of the Senate to make all treaties official and enforceable.

- 5) The most common inherent powers are emergency powers, exercised only in times of great need. Some emergency powers are limited in scope. For example, the President can declare a place devastated by a storm a federal disaster area, making it eligible for federal aid. Other emergency powers are much faster in scope.
- 6) The President of Ethiopia chairs the National Security and Defense Council, which comprises seven members.

Article 62

Powers and the Functions of the Judiciary of the Federal Government

- 1) The House has the power to interpret the Constitution. However, the judiciary analyzes laws and issues rulings on legal questions. Additionally, it determines if laws passed by national, provincial, or local legislatures violate the Ethiopian Constitution. In this way, the judicial branch plays a crucial role in the Government's system of checks and balances.

Article 63

The duty President

- 1) It shall organize the Council of Constitutional Inquiry.
- 2) It shall promote the Peoples of Ethiopia's equality enshrined in the Constitution and their unity, based on mutual consent.
- 3) It shall exercise the powers concurrently entrusted to it and the House of Peoples' Representatives.

- 4)** It shall determine the division of revenues derived from joint Federal Government and local tax sources and the Federal Government's subsidies to the Province.
- 5)** It shall evaluate civil matters that require the enactment of laws by the House of Peoples' Representatives.
- 6)** It shall order Federal intervention if any province violates this Constitution and endangers the constitutional order.
- 7)** It shall establish permanent and ad hoc committees.

Article 64

The meetings between the Council of Ministers

- 1)** The Cabinet comprises many senior ministers with key portfolios, including defense, home affairs, and education. Meetings of the Council of Ministers are rare. The board of ministers usually consists of all ministers of the Government.

Article 65

Federal Government budget

1. Budget: The federal Government's executive branch shall submit its budget for approval to the House of People's Representatives.

Article 66

Foreign relations of Ethiopia

The fundamental principles that guide Ethiopia's foreign policy are contained in Ethiopia's Constitution to provide the broad principles underpinning its foreign policy as follows:

- 1) Promote and protect Ethiopia's interests, and establish international justice equitably, economically, politically, and socially.
- 2) Promoting respect for international law and treaties of obligation shall remain the basis for the rise of global dispute settlement through peaceful means.
- 3) Adhere to the principles enshrined in the Charter and aims or ideals of the United Nations, the African Union, and IGAD.
- 4) Promote a foreign policy grounded in protecting national interests and respecting the country's sovereignty.
- 5) Promote mutual respect for national freedom, state equality, and non-interference in other nations' internal affairs. Ensure that the country's foreign relations policies align with provinces' mutual interests and equality, and that international agreements promote Ethiopia's interests.
- 6) Observe international agreements that ensure respect for Ethiopia's sovereignty and do not contradict its people's interests. Forge and promote an ever-growing economic union and fraternal relations between peoples in Ethiopia, its neighbors, and other African countries. Seek and support peaceful solutions to international disputes.

Article 67

Principles for National Security and Defense

Separation of Powers.

- 1) According to the Ethiopian Constitution (ኢትዮጵያ), the powers of the President and the Minister of National Security and Defense are distinct and separate.
- 2) The Ethiopian Minister of National Security and Defense must be a civilian and can be either male or female.
- 3) Once Ethiopia's new Constitution is ratified through a national referendum, the Ministers will operate independently of the President's control. They will be part of an independent institution established under the new Constitution (ኢትዮጵያ).
- 4) The Ethiopian Minister of National Security and Defense is nominated by the Ethiopian National Security and Defense Council, confirmed by the Ethiopian Congress, and approved by the Ethiopian President.

Article 68

The Ethiopian National Security and Defense Council

- 1) According to the Ethiopian Constitution, seven members of the Ethiopian National Security and Defense Council are elected by popular vote every four years, with no term limits for re-election.
- 2) Ethiopian National Security and Defense Council members must be free from any political group or party affiliation. For example, Article

39 includes the Federal Party, the Democratic Party, and the Republican Party.

- 3) The President of Ethiopia serves as the Chairman of Ethiopia's National Security and Defense Council.
- 4) The President of Ethiopia cannot make decisions in this area without the votes of the National Security and Defense Council members.
- 5) The Ethiopian National Security and Defense Council can elect the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ethiopia by a vote of the Ethiopian Congress.
- 6) The President of Ethiopia has no authority to remove the Commander-in-Chief of the Ethiopian Armed Forces. Only the National Security and Defense Council can make this decision, which requires a majority vote in the Ethiopian Congress.
- 7) Ethiopia's National Security and Defense Council is the primary coordinating body for national security and defense matters. It has full authority to oversee and manage all aspects of Ethiopian national security and defense.
- 8) The National Security and Defense Council of Ethiopia has full authority to supervise the President's and executive authorities' activities concerning national security and defense. Additionally, it has decided to organize the protection of critical infrastructure facilities across Ethiopia.
- 9) The Council has implemented this decision to ensure the safety and proper functioning of Ethiopia's critical infrastructure and energy facilities, particularly in conflict or hostilities.
- 10) Ethiopia's National Security and Defense Council must enhance the defense capabilities of fire groups from the Armed Forces and the

National Guard of Ethiopia by increasing their numbers and strengthening their operational readiness. This will ensure air cover, protection, and the defense of critical infrastructure facilities.

- 11) Ethiopia's National Security and Defense Council must prepare Critical infrastructure operators at relevant facilities to protect personnel and establish emergency evacuation protocols. Additionally, they should maintain equipment and spare parts reserves to facilitate the timely restoration of damaged facilities.

Article 69

The Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ethiopia

- 1) According to the Ethiopian Constitution, the Ethiopian National Security and Defense Council has full authority to appoint the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ethiopia, a position confirmed by the Ethiopian Congress.
- 2) The Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ethiopia is responsible for directing military operations and overseeing the condition of the army's equipment, weapons, and resources.
- 3) The Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ethiopia must report to the National Security and Defense Council of Ethiopia on the progress made toward achieving military-strategic goals related to national defense.
- 4) The Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ethiopia can initiate mobilization efforts and ensure sufficient personnel on the front lines, including transferring service members from logistics and support roles to infantry positions as needed.

- 5) The Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ethiopia must prepare highly skilled soldiers who have completed specialized training to operate aircraft effectively in support of the strategy.
- 6) The Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ethiopia must work to expand the number of personnel in mechanized brigades, thereby enhancing mobilization capabilities to maintain sustainable levels of military logistics, support, and servicing.
- 7) The Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ethiopia candidate must be a male or female of Ethiopian descent through both parents, currently residing in Ethiopia or abroad.
- 8) The Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ethiopia operates based on the advice and recommendations of all the defense army generals.
- 9) The Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ethiopia may request an appropriate budget from the Ethiopian Congress to support military advancements and to provide modern military training in electronic warfare, domestically and abroad. This initiative aims to enhance our national security, ensure the safety of our people, and safeguard our constitution (ኢትዮጵያ).

Article 70

The Ethiopian Army National Guard

- 5) All Ethiopian citizens who complete high school, aged 18 to 32, can register by choice for a two-year term of service in the national guard, earning a minimum of 6,000.00 Birr per month, without any obligation by law. Benefits for the National Guard include Health insurance coverage, a Full scholarship, and a priority to get hired for government and private job opportunities after two years of National Guard service completion.

However, under this Constitution, the Ethiopian Government cannot obligate or force anyone into the national guard service. Therefore, it is the free will of individuals to participate in the Ethiopian Army National Guard for their benefit only.

- 6) This Ethiopian Constitution (ኢትዮጵያ) separated all responsibilities of the federal and provincial Ethiopian military services, placing them firmly under the Ethiopian Congress's civilian control, separating them from the national or provincial President's power.
- 7) The composition of the national armed forces shall reflect the equitable representation of the People of Ethiopia. Therefore, the security services for all 14 provinces and the Addis Ababa administration should be equally pledged.
- 8) The armed forces shall protect the sovereignty of the country and carry out any responsibilities assigned to them under any provincial emergency declared by the Ethiopian Constitution (ኢትዮጵያ). The armed forces shall, at all times, obey and respect the Ethiopian Constitution (ኢትዮጵያ).
- 9) The armed forces shall perform their functions without partisanship to any political organization(s) or affiliation.
- 10) According to the Ethiopian Constitution (ኢትዮጵያ), unlawful possession or carrying of firearms is punishable by imprisonment. Using or attempting to use arms when committing a scheduled offense because of people's identity, tribe, or clan discrimination killing is punishable by death if the killers are found guilty by the court, and this kind of criminal case to prosecute against someone can be pursued without any time limitation.

Article 71

Political Principles for Provinces-Federal Relations

- 1) The Ethiopian Constitution governs the relationship and authority of the Province and the Federal Government. Therefore, federal action is limited to situations where constitutional authority for action is clear and specific; unless the national interest is at risk, the federal act should not preempt additional provincial action.
- 2) The federal Government delegates specific enumerated powers, while all other powers not otherwise prohibited by the Constitution are reserved for the provinces. However, the National Governors Association must work to preserve and promote a balanced relationship between the regions.
- 3) Federal action should be limited to national problems in scope, preserving provincial securities regulation and the management of provincial personnel programs.
- 4) Congress should not interfere with local revenue systems. The independent ability of provinces to develop their revenue systems is a basic tenet of self-government and our federalist plan. Therefore, the Federal Government should not enact legislation or adopt regulations that would directly or indirectly preempt provincial sources of revenue, provincial tax bases, or provincial taxation methods.
- 5) The judicial branch should respect the Province's authority. Avoiding federal preemption of state laws and policies also extends to the judicial branch.
- 6) Provinces are actively involved in developing policy and administrative procedures cooperatively. However, the federal government should respect the authority of the provinces to determine the allocation of administrative

and financial responsibilities within their borders, in accordance with their constitutions and statutes. Federal legislation should not infringe on this authority.

- 7) Provinces should transfer a limited amount of funds from one grant program to another or administer related grants in a coordinated manner. Federal funds should provide maximum state flexibility without specific set-asides.
- 8) Federal reporting requirements should be minimized. The Federal Government should not dictate to the Province or local government organization.

CHAPTER SEVEN

THE EXECUTIVE

Article 72

Economic Objectives

- 1)** The Government shall have the duty to formulate policies that ensure that all Ethiopians can benefit from its legacy of intellectual and material resources.
- 2)** The Government must ensure that all Ethiopians have equal opportunities to improve their economic conditions and promote equitable wealth distribution.
- 3)** The Government shall take measures to avert any natural and human-made disasters and provide timely assistance to the victims in the event of a catastrophe.
- 4)** The Government shall give a special gift to the least advantaged people in the field of economic and social development.

5) On behalf of the people, land, and other natural resources, the Government must hold and deploy them for their common benefit and growth.

6) The Government shall promote the participation of the People in the formulation of national development policies and programs; it shall also have the duty to support the People's initiatives in their development endeavors.

7) The Government shall ensure the participation of women in all economic and social development endeavors.

8) The Government shall endeavor to protect and promote the health, welfare, and living standards of the country's working population.

Article 73

Social Objectives

- 1) To the extent the country's resources permit, policies shall aim to provide all Ethiopians access to public health and education, clean water, housing, food, and social security.
- 2) Education shall be free from religious influence, political partisanship, or cultural prejudices.

Article 74

Cultural Objectives

- 1) The Government shall have the duty to support equality, growth, and the enrichment of cultures and traditions compatible with fundamental rights, human dignity, democratic norms and ideals, and the provisions of laws.

2) The Government and all Ethiopian citizens shall protect the country's natural endowment, historical sites, and objects. Furthermore, to the extent its resources permit, the Government shall have an obligation to support the development of arts, science, and technology.

Article 75

Environmental Objectives

- 1)** The Government shall ensure that all Ethiopians live in a clean and healthy environment.
- 2)** The design and implementation of programmers and development projects shall not damage or destroy the environment.
- 3)** People have the right to full consultation and express their views in the planning and execution of environmental policies and projects that directly affect them.
- 4)** The government and citizens shall have the duty to protect the environment.

Article 76

Declaration of State Emergency

- 1)** The Council of Ministers of the Federal Government shall have the power to decree a state of emergency. For example, an external invasion, a breakdown of law and order that endangers the Constitutional order and cannot be controlled by traditional law enforcement agencies, a natural disaster, or an epidemic occurs.

- 2)** Provincial executives can declare a Province-Wide state of emergency in the event of a natural disaster or epidemic. Particulars shall be determined in the provincial Constitutions as promulgated in conformity with this Constitution.
- 3)** Sub-Article 1(a) of this Article declared a state of emergency: (a) announced when the House of Peoples' Representatives is in session. The decree shall be submitted to the House within forty-eight hours of its declaration.
- 4)** A state of emergency decreed by the Council of Ministers, if approved by the majority vote of the House of Peoples' Representatives, can remain in effect for up to six months.
- 5)** When a state of emergency is declared, the Council of Ministers shall, by regulations issued by it, have all necessary powers to protect the country's peace and sovereignty and to maintain public security, law, and order.

Article 77

Financial Expenditures

- 1)** The Federal Government and the provinces shall bear all financial expenditures necessary to carry out all responsibilities and functions assigned to them by law. Unless otherwise agreed, the delegating party shall pay the province's financial expenses for carrying out any delegated part.
- 2)** The Federal Government may grant to the States emergency, rehabilitation, and development assistance and loans, with due care taken that such

services and loans do not hinder the proportionate growth of provinces. The Auditor General of the Federal Government shall have the power to audit and inspect the provinces' proportional development.

Article 78

Federal Revenue

1. Revenue, the Federal Government, and the provinces shall share revenue, taking the federal arrangement into account.

Article 79

The Federal Government's Power of Taxation

- 1)** The Federal Government shall levy and collect customs duties, taxes, and other import and export fees.
- 2)** It shall charge and collect income tax on employees of the Federal Government and international organizations.
- 3)** It shall levy and collect income, profit, sales, and excise taxes on enterprises owned by the Federal Government.
- 4)** It shall tax the income and winnings of national lotteries and other games of chance.
- 5)** It shall levy and collect taxes on the payment of air, rail, and sea transport services.
- 6)** It shall charge and collect taxes on the income of houses and properties owned by the Federal Government and fix rents.

7) It shall determine and collect fees for licenses issued and services rendered by the Federal Government's organs.

8) It shall levy and collect taxes on monopolies.

9) Under the Ethiopian New Constitution, all newly imported goods

Tariffs are only **5.63%**

10) Under the Ethiopian New Constitution, all new or used electronic goods imported are free of tariffs—computers, TVs, and others.

11) Under the Ethiopian New Constitution, all imported goods
Tax tariffs are only **1.30%**.

12) Under the Ethiopian New Constitution, all exported goods
Tax tariffs are only **13%**.

13) Under the Ethiopian new Constitution, all import and export goods, tax tariffs, customer insurance, and shipment expenses are deductible based on receipts. Therefore, all tax tariffs are based only on the value of goods.

FEDERAL TAX TARIFFS SHARE

- 1) Payroll Tax = 3%
- 2) Sales Tax = 3%
- 3) Property Tax = 0. 12 %
- 4) Corporation Tax = 5%.
- 5) Houses and Goods renters' Tax = 0

Article 80

Province's Power of Taxation

- 1)** Provinces shall levy and collect income taxes on employees of the provinces and private enterprises.
- 2)** Provinces shall determine and collect fees for land rights.
- 3)** Provinces shall levy and collect taxes on the incomes of private farmers and farmers incorporated in cooperative associations.
- 4)** Provinces shall levy and collect profit and sales taxes on individual traders within their territory.
- 5)** Provinces shall levy and collect taxes on income from transport services rendered on waters within their territory.
- 6)** They shall levy and collect taxes on income from private houses and other properties within the Province. In addition, they shall collect rent on homes and other property they own.
- 7)** Provinces shall levy and collect profit, sales, excise, and personal income taxes on the income of enterprises owned by the provinces.
- 8)** Provinces shall levy and collect taxes on income derived from mining operations, royalties, and land rentals on such operations.
- 9)** They shall determine and collect fees for licenses issued and services rendered by provincial organs.
- 10)** They shall fix and collect a royalty for the use of forest resources.

PROVINCES TAX TARIFFS

- 1) Payroll Tax = 5%
- 2) Sales Tax = 5%
- 3) Property Tax = 0. 12 %
- 4) Corporation Tax = 7%
- 5) Houses and Goods renters Tax = 0. 13%

ADMINISTRATIVE TAX TARIFFS

(Addis Ababa, Gambela, Afar, Ogaden Somali)

- 1) Payroll Tax = 5%
- 2) Sales Tax = 5%
- 3) Property Tax = 0. 12 %
- 4) Corporation Tax = 7%
- 5) Houses and Goods renters Tax = 0. 13%

ADMINISTRATIVE, FEDERAL TAX TARIFFS SHARE

(Addis Ababa, Gambela, Afar, Ogaden Somali)

- 1) Payroll Tax = 3%
- 2) Sales Tax = 3%
- 3) Property Tax = 0. 12 %

- 4) Corporation Tax = 5%.
- 5) Houses and Goods renters' Tax = 0

Article 81

Concurrent Power of Taxation

- 1)** The Federal Government and the provinces shall jointly levy and collect profit, sales, excise, and personal income taxes on enterprises they establish together.
- 2)** They shall jointly assess and collect taxes on companies' earnings and dividends due to shareholders.
- 3)** They shall jointly levy and collect taxes on incomes derived from large-scale mining and all petroleum and gas operations and royalties on such operations.
- 4)** Under the Ethiopian federal government administration, the Ethiopian people's national natural resources are listed or unlisted; all other natural wealth governed by the federal Government include Oil and petroleum, gold, silver, diamond, tantalum, potassium, large rivers, dams, Ethiopian airlines, railroads, national media, all-natural minerals, national banks, and insurances, all historic properties, example, Hilton hotel, Gion hotel, tourist organizations, black lion hospital, and Addis Ababa University.

Article 82

Undesignated Powers of Taxation

1. Undesignated Powers of Taxation The executive branch of the Federation and the House of Peoples' Representatives shall, in a joint session, determine by a majority vote on the exercise of taxation powers that have not explicitly been provided in the new Constitution.

Article 83

Directives on Taxation

- 1) In exercising their taxing powers, provinces and the Federal Government shall ensure that any tax is related to the revenue source and is determined after proper consideration.
- 2) They shall ensure that the tariff does not adversely affect their relationship and that the rate and amount of taxes are commensurate with the services the taxes help deliver.
- 3) Neither the provinces nor the Federal Government shall levy and collect taxes on each other's property unless it is a profit-making enterprise.

Article 84

The Auditor-General

- (1) As an independent office, the Auditor-General has 14 board members elected from 14 provinces through a one-person, one-vote by the people for four years of service and two terms under this Constitution. The Auditor-General's Office is a watchdog office for the Ethiopian people, protecting public funds.
- (2) The Auditor General shall examine, inquire into, and audit the accounts of all accounting officers and receivers of revenue and all persons entrusted with the assessment of, collection, receipt,

custody, issue, or payment of public amounts of money, or with the receipt, custody, issue, sale, transfer, or delivery of any stamps.

- (3) The auditor general is responsible for conducting post-audits of the State's financial transactions and accounts, as well as those of all branches, departments, offices, boards, commissions, agencies, authorities, and institutions of the State.
- (4) The auditor generally conducts or performs a)
Financial/Regularity audits, b) Performance audits, c)
Compliance audits, d) Forensic investigations, e)
Environmental audits, f) IT audits, g) Audit of classified expenditure, and h) Audit of procurement processes.
- (5) In this Constitution, the Auditor General ensures checks and balances in the exercise of public power. Accordingly, an accountant in private practice will audit the Auditor-General's accounts.
- (6) The people entrust the Auditor-General to examine every public body's accounts, exercising power on their behalf.
- (7) The Auditor-General shall audit and inspect the accounts of ministries, courts, and other federal government agencies to ensure that expenditures for activities are carried out during the fiscal year in accordance with approved allocations, and shall submit his reports to the House of Peoples' Representatives.

Article 85

Election Board and Election Fraud

- 1)** There shall be a National Election Board, independent of any influence, to conduct impartial, free, and fair elections in the Federal Government and provincial constituencies.
- 2)** Under the Ethiopian Constitution, election fraud, including that involving the President, carries a 15-year prison sentence.

Article 86

Population Census Commission

- 1) Under this Constitution, a National Census shall be conducted only for a) Men, b) Women, and c) children (boys or girls).
- 2) Under this Constitution (ኢትዮጵያ), a National Census is prohibited from including race, tribe, and Color among the Ethiopian people. For example, Amhara, Oromo, Tigre, etc.
- 3) A National Census Commission shall be established to conduct a population census periodically.
- 4) The House of Peoples' Representatives shall appoint the National Census Commission members upon the President's recommendation.
- 5) The Commission shall have a Secretary-General and necessary professional and support staff.
- 6) The Commission's annual budget shall be submitted to the House of Peoples' Representatives for approval.
- 7) A national population census shall be conducted every ten years. The House of the Federal Government shall determine constituencies' boundaries based

on the census results and a proposal submitted to the House by the National Election Board.

- 8) The Commission shall be accountable to the House of Peoples' Representatives. Accordingly, it shall submit periodic reports on its programs and activities to the House.

Article 87

Initiation of Amendments

- 1) Initiation of Amendments: Any proposal for a constitutional amendment, if supported by a majority vote in the House of Peoples' Representatives.
- 2) Initiation of Amendments by majority vote in the House of the Federal Government or the Provincial Councils of the member Provinces.
- 3) The amendment was initiated by a majority vote in each Council that supported it; it needs discussion and a decision by the general public and those whom the amendment concerns.

Article 88

Amendment of the Constitution

- 1) All rights and freedoms under this Constitution can be amended only by all Provincial people who approve the proposed amendments by a majority vote.

Article 89

Cessation

- 1) Under the Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, all provinces, including their administrations, are distributed equally.

- 2) Under the Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, demanding cessation is prohibited and is a federal constitutional crime.
- 3) Under this Constitution (ኢትዮጵያ), Ethiopia is a universal land for all Ethiopians, and every Ethiopian has the right to live anywhere or any place they like to live in the country.

Article 90

Election of the mayor and city councils

- 1) Under the Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, all cities and municipalities in Ethiopia shall elect their mayors only by direct public vote.

Article 91

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia National Constitutional Court

- 1) The Constitutional Court Justices of the Democratic Republic of Ethiopia have formal authority to decide the boundary of conflicts between courts, the administration, the Federal Government, and the provincial governments.
- 2) The Constitutional Court hears election complaints and holds elected officials accountable for their conduct in office.
- 3) The Constitutional Court adjudicates (issues formal decisions) on liability claims, or the partners accept any risks posed by our country and its bureaucracy.
- 4) The Ethiopian Constitutional Court has the legal authority to make a judgment on the disputed matter or competing claims as follows:
 - a) between courts and the bureaucracy, b) between federal courts

and provincial courts, c) between other courts and the Constitutional Court, d) between local governments and the Federal Government.

- 5) The Ethiopian Constitutional Court Judges shall be led by one chairperson and fourteen Judges, who shall be elected from 14 provinces and additionally from Addis Ababa City for a single eight-year term. However, all Judges have an unlimited period to run for re-election every eight years. Also, they must possess the following qualifications: a) be a natural-born citizen of Ethiopia, residing in or abroad in Ethiopia. b) At least thirty-five years of age; c) Proven capacity for public administration; d) Must not have been a candidate for any elective position preceding their appointment and must be free from the governmental body.
- 6) Besides, the chairperson and most of the Ethiopian Constitutional Court Judges must be lawyers residing in Ethiopia or abroad.
- 7) The Constitutional Court Justices must be free from governmental and political party affiliation.

Article 92

The Ethiopian Constitutional Commission

The Ethiopian CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION, aside from the three branches of Government, stated in Chapter One of this Constitution, established four independent, fiscally-autonomous commissions:

- 1) The Ethiopian Constitutional Civil Service Commission (ECCSC)

- 2) The Ethiopian Constitutional Commission on Elections (ECCOE)
- 3) The Ethiopian Constitutional Commission on Audit (ECCOA).
- 4) The Ethiopian Commission on Human Rights (ECHR).
- 5) ETHIOPIAN SOCIOECONOMIC AGENT (ESEA)

Ethiopian Constitutional Civil Service Commission (ECCSC)

The Constitution entrusts the civil service administration, including all branches, subdivisions, instrumentalities, government agencies, and government-owned or controlled corporations, to the Ethiopian Constitutional Civil Service Commission (ECCSC).

The ECCSC acts as the central personnel agency of the Government. It is mandated to adopt measures to promote morale, efficiency, integrity, responsiveness, progressiveness, and courtesy in the bureaucracy. It strengthens government agencies' merit and rewards system, integrates human resources development programs for all levels and ranks, and institutionalizes a climate conducive to transparency and accountability. In addition, the ECCSC administers the Career Service Eligibility examinations for prospective government officers and employees. The ECCSC shall be led by one chairperson and fourteen commissioners, elected from 14 provinces and Addis Ababa City for a single eight-year term. However, all commissioners have unlimited time to run for re-election every eight years. Also, they must possess the following qualifications:

- a) a natural-born citizen of Ethiopia residing in or abroad in Ethiopia.
- b) at least thirty-five years of age;
- c) proven capacity for public administration;

- d) Candidates must not have been candidates for any elective position preceding their appointment and must be free from any governmental body.
- e) The ECCSC must be free from governmental and political party affiliations that reside inside or abroad in Ethiopia.

Ethiopian Constitutional COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS (ECCOE)

The Ethiopian Constitutional Commission on Elections (ECCOE) is Ethiopia's independent government body responsible for regular and special elections. Like other constitutional commissions, the ECCOE is an independent, fiscally autonomous body free from political interference or influence from the three branches of government, making accessible, fair, and honest elections possible. According to the Constitution, the ECCOE shall exercise and perform the following powers and functions:

- A) Enforce and administer all laws and regulations governing elections, plebiscites (direct votes), initiatives, referendums, and recalls.
- B) Exercise exclusive original jurisdiction over contests relating to the election returns and qualifications of elective regional, provincial, and city officials, as well as appellate jurisdiction over battles involving elective municipal officials decided by trial courts.
- C) Decide all questions affecting elections, including determining the number and location of polling places, the appointment of election officials and inspectors, and voters' registration.
- D) The Government's law enforcement agencies and instrumentalities, including the Armed Forces of Ethiopia, ensure peaceful, orderly, and credible elections.

- E) Register political parties, organizations, or coalitions, and accredit citizens' arms or watchdogs.
- F) File petitions in court for inclusion or exclusion of voters, investigate and prosecute cases of violations of election laws, including election fraud, offenses, and malpractices.
- G) Recommend to Congress measures to minimize election spending, limit places for propaganda materials, and prevent and penalize all forms of election fraud, offenses, and nuisance candidates.
- H) Submit a comprehensive report on each election's conduct, plebiscite, initiative, referendum, or recall to the President and Congress.

The ECCOE shall have a chairperson and fourteen commissioners elected from the fourteen provinces and Addis Ababa City for eight-year terms. However, all commissioners have unlimited time to run for re-election every eight years. In addition, they must satisfy the following qualifications:

- 1) A natural-born citizen of Ethiopia, residing in or abroad in Ethiopia.
- 2) at least thirty-five years of age;
- 3) the holder of a college degree;
- 4) has not been a candidate for any elective position in the immediately preceding elections, free from the governmental body.
- 5) ECCOE must be free from governmental and political party affiliations, whether within or outside Ethiopia.

Ethiopian Constitutional COMMISSION ON AUDIT

The Ethiopian Constitutional Commission on Audit (ECCOA) was established in this Constitution to audit, examine, and settle all revenue funds, expenditures, and property owned or held in trust by the Government. Additionally, agencies,

including other constitutional commissions, government-owned or -controlled corporations, autonomous state colleges and universities, and non-governmental entities, receive subsidies or equity from or through the Government.

ECCOA's additional powers and functions in this Constitution include:

- 1) Promote compliance with accounting, auditing, and regulatory rules and regulations, and prevent unnecessary, excessive, extravagant, or unreasonable expenditures of government funds and property.
- 2) Submit annual reports to the President and Congress on the Government's financial condition and operation.
- 3) Recommend measures to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of government operations.
- 4) Keep the Government's general accounts and preserve the vouchers and supporting papers.
- 5) Decide any case brought before it within 60 days.

The ECCOA shall comprise a chairperson and fourteen commissioners elected from the fourteen provinces and Addis Ababa City for eight-year terms. However, all commissioners have unlimited time to run for re-election every eight years. The officials mentioned must possess the following criteria:

1. A natural-born citizen of Ethiopia and residing in or abroad in Ethiopia.
2. At least thirty-five years of age;
3. A certified public accountant with not less than five years of auditing experience or an Ethiopian Auditing Association member.
4. Has not been a candidate for any elective position in the preceding elections or accessible from any governmental body.

5) ECCOA must be free from governmental and political party affiliations that reside inside or abroad in Ethiopia.

Ethiopian COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

The Ethiopian COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS (ECOHR) is an independent Commission of Ethiopians on Human Rights. The ECOHR has the following powers and functions:

- 1) Investigate all forms of human rights violations involving civil and political rights.
- 2) Provide appropriate legal measures to protect the human rights of all persons in Ethiopia and of Ethiopians residing in or abroad.
- 3) Provide preventive measures and legal aid services to the underprivileged whose human rights have been violated or need protection.
- 4) Exercise the visiting powers (directed by Congress) of jails, prisons, or detention facilities.
- 5) Establish a research program, education, and information to enhance respect for human rights.
- 6) Recommend to Congress effective measures to promote human rights and provide compensation to victims of human rights violations or their families.
- 7) Investigate all forms of human rights violations involving civil and political rights.
- 8) Provide appropriate legal measures to protect the human rights of all persons in Ethiopia and of Ethiopians residing in or abroad.
- 9) Provide preventive measures and legal aid services to the underprivileged whose human rights have been violated or need protection.
- 10) Monitor the Government's compliance with international human rights treaty obligations. Grant immunity from prosecution to any person whose

testimony or possession of evidence is necessary or convenient to determine the truth in any matter it investigates.

11) The ECOHR comprises a chairperson and fourteen commissioners elected from fourteen provinces and Addis Ababa City for an eight-year term. However, all commissioners have unlimited time to run for re-election every eight years. The qualifications for the chairman and commissioners of ECOHR are as follows:

- a) A natural-born citizen of Ethiopia who is residing in or abroad in Ethiopia.
- b) At least thirty-five years of age.
- c) Has not been a candidate for any elective position preceding their appointment, or is not accessible from any government body.
- d) ECOHR must be free from governmental and political party affiliations, whether within or outside Ethiopia.

ETHIOPIAN SOCIOECONOMIC AGENT

- 1) Determine socioeconomic status, the position of an individual or group on the socioeconomic scale, equal distribution, which is determined by a combination of social and economic factors such as income, education, health, occupation, place of residence, and in societies, parts of the community for all ethnic origins equally.
- 2) Solve the critical issues by reporting fundamental economic problems. Give Explanations of what to produce. How to produce? For whom to have? What provisions can be made for economic growth?
- 3) The qualifications for 15 ETHIOPIAN SOCIOECONOMIC AGENTS are as follows:
 - a) At least thirty-five years of age.

- b) ESEA, a natural-born citizen of Ethiopia, must be free from governmental and political party affiliations that reside inside or abroad in Ethiopia.

Article 93

According to the new Constitution of Ethiopia (ዲንብ ኢትዮጵያ),

All the federal treason and Corruption crimes.

The treason crimes here shall include adhering to Enemies of Ethiopia and giving them Aid and Comfort. Therefore, treason crimes would be our federal Government's severe crime, especially if Ethiopia's President intentionally betrayed their country's allegiance by levying war against our Government, providing part of Ethiopian land and our natural resources, or giving aid or comfort to its enemies.

1) **President**, if they are convicted of treason for holding the office of President of Ethiopia, the punishment is life imprisonment.

2) **All defendants are prohibited from holding any national office, including congressional seats. If convicted of treason, the penalties are 10 years' imprisonment and a 500,000 Ethiopian birr fine.**

3) **Corruption of public officials:**

The President, Vice President, Cabinets, Ambassadors, and all civil public Officers of Ethiopia shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other High crimes and Misdemeanors.

4) **Corruption can take many forms**, such as money, gifts, benefits, services, favors, or promises of future benefits. It involves using power or authority for personal gain, often through illegal or unethical means, and can include influencing women in the workplace. According to the Ethiopian

Constitution, it is prohibited for anyone, including the President, ministers, or ambassadors, to accept gifts as expressions of goodwill, whether from foreign or domestic sources, without the consent of the Ethiopian Congress. Additionally, every Ethiopian official may receive a personal gift from a foreign head of State with the permission of the Ethiopian Congress.

- 5) **The penalties for bribery of a public official** include a fine of up to two times the value of the bribe and imprisonment for up to 13 years in federal prison if convicted by the court. A conviction can also disqualify the individual from holding any office of honor, trust, or profit under the Ethiopian Constitution.
- 6) **Counterfeiting Ethiopian Currency penalties:** Anyone who intends to defraud by falsely creating, forging, counterfeiting, or altering any obligation, security, or currency of Ethiopia, whether within the country or abroad, shall face a fine of up to 500 million Birr and/or imprisonment for up to 25 years.

Ethiopian Food and Drug Administration (EFDA)

- 7) The Ethiopian Food and Drug Administration (EFDA) is an independent agency that protects public health by ensuring the safety, effectiveness, and security of human and veterinary drugs, biological products, medical devices, the nation's food supply, cosmetics, and radiation-emitting products. Additionally, the EFDA provides accurate, science-based health information to the public.
- 8) The Ethiopian Food and Drug Administration is an independent body whose candidates must be Ethiopian nationals chosen for their ability, knowledge, and talent through a vote by the Ethiopian Congress. Candidates must have

100% Ethiopian descent through both their father and mother. All candidates must register independently and undergo a congress vote and confirmation process.

- 9) EFDA criminal prosecution is a legal requirement for all actions, particularly the distribution of birth control drugs and providing addictive drugs without obtaining legal consent from patients, to comply with the Ethiopian Food and Drugs Administration (EFDA). This requirement applies to actions taken against private companies or federal and provincial government agents. Offenders may face significant consequences, including the loss of professional licenses, fines, and imprisonment for up to 15 years. Fines can range from Eth. Birr 2,000,000 per violation to Eth Birr 5,000,000 per proceeding.

Article 94

Free Movement rights and prohibition of domestic control of customs borders

- 1) The Ethiopian people have the right to free movement and to work, live, learn, and do business anywhere in the territory of Ethiopia.
- 2) Ethiopia shall not permit the establishment of domestic land borders, customs borders, duties, levies, or any other barriers. Therefore, there are no domestic checkpoints to the free flow of goods, services, and financial resources.
- 3) The Ethiopian Government shall guarantee the integrity of Ethiopia, the economic space, the free flow of goods, services, and financial resources, support for competition, and freedom of economic activities.

Article 95

Food and Adequate Housing Rights

12) Under this Constitution, all Ethiopian low-income people, people experiencing homelessness, persons with disabilities, and young people are guaranteed by the Federal Government, Provincial Government, and municipalities to evaluate the welfare reform on the right to food and adequate housing.

13) Under this Constitution, all vulnerable Ethiopian people face the highest risk of being deprived of their rights to food, such as indigenous communities, and the standard of living, without any guarantee of non-discrimination guaranteed for food and adequate housing. Therefore, eradicating hunger and malnutrition was achievable and required province-driven reform at all levels.

Article 96

Universal coverage of Education Rights

- 1) All individuals from Ethiopia's middle- and low-income families shall have the right to universal education.
- 2) All Ethiopians have unrestricted access to free pre-school, secondary, and secondary vocational education, and the federal and provincial governments shall guarantee municipal educational institutions and enterprises.
- 3) Everyone shall have the right to receive free higher education on a competitive basis in State and municipal educational institutions and enterprises.

- 4) All Ethiopians shall have primary general education. In addition, parents or guardians shall ensure that children receive primary public education.
- 5) The Ethiopian federal and State governments shall establish a national State.
- 6) Everyone in Ethiopia shall be guaranteed the freedom to engage in literary, artistic, scientific, technical, and other creative activities, as well as teaching. Furthermore, intellectual property shall be protected by law. Educational standards support various forms of education and self-education.

Article 97

Universal Coverage of Ethiopians' Healthcare Rights

- 1) Under this Constitution, all Ethiopian citizens, regardless of income, are guaranteed universal healthcare coverage. It shall be protected and certified at all levels by the federal and provincial governments.
- 2) The Ethiopian federal and provincial governments shall guarantee a minimum wage of support for low-income families, as well as maternity, fatherhood, childhood, disabled, and elderly citizens.
- 3) The Ethiopian federal and provincial governments shall develop a social services system to guarantee pensions, allowances, and other social security guarantees.
- 4) In Ethiopia, the Federal Government, provinces, and municipalities shall recognize universal healthcare coverage and protection for middle-income and low-income families of the Ethiopian people, as needed, on an equal basis.

Article 98

Ethiopian Sports Commission agents

According to the Ethiopian new constitution, every child in Ethiopia has the right to play, as sports are essential for promoting holistic development, regardless of age, gender, origin, or any disability or special needs. Athletics is part of Ethiopia's legacy worldwide, especially in long-distance running, including marathons. It is the most popular sport in Ethiopia, producing numerous world record holders and Olympic champions and fostering immense national pride.

- 1) Ethiopian Sports Commission agents ensure equal access and fair selection for all, promote drug-free sports, and oversee sports institutions, facilities, administration, and management in Ethiopia.
- 2) Ethiopian Sports Commission agents ensure all Ethiopian children, nationally and provincially, have equal access to sports facilities across urban and rural areas.
- 3) The Ethiopian Sports Commission agents ensure equal access to sports and fair selection for all individuals. They also work to encourage and promote drug-free sports and recreation and oversee sports institutions, facilities, administration, and sports management in Ethiopia. Additionally, they monitor all Ethiopian children at the federal and provincial levels to ensure equal access to sports facilities in all municipalities and rural societies.
- 4) The Ethiopian Sports Commission agents ensure that all Ethiopian children have equal access to various sports, including athletics, such as short or long-distance marathon running and track running, as well as soccer,

basketball, volleyball, boxing, swimming, tennis, and cycling at all levels of administration. Selection is based solely on their scores and abilities to promote further participation. The government must provide equal sponsorship for low-income children in urban and rural areas.

- 5) All Ethiopian Sports Commission agents shall be elected every four years at the national, provincial, and district levels, covering all municipalities and rural societies in Ethiopia.
- 6) The Ethiopian Sports Commission agents ensure the registration and regulation of sports organizations, license professional sports and athletes, ensure fair selection of marathon runners and trainers, support soccer players and coaches, and arbitrate disputes between sports organizations.
- 7) Ethiopian Sports Commission agents can oversee the Ethiopian Sports Federation, audit its expenditures, and prevent unfair influences on players, trainers, and coaches.
- 8) The Ethiopian Sports Commission agents, responsible for overseeing and promoting drug-free sports and recreation, are committed to addressing unfair issues in the sports arena.
- 9) The Ethiopian Sports Commission agents have independent authority over the Ethiopian Sports Federation. They monitor athletes, trainers, and coaches at federal, provincial, municipal, and rural sports facilities to ensure fair play and justice.
- 10) The Ethiopian Sports Commission agents can sue the Ethiopian Sports Federation officials in the federal or constitutional court if they violate any of the requirements outlined in Article 95, sub-articles 1-9.
- 11) The Ethiopian Federal Sport Commission officials may be disqualified from holding any government office of honor or trust if convicted by the Ethiopian federal or constitutional courts. They can face

significant consequences, including the loss of their professional licenses, fines, and imprisonment. If found guilty, the punishment can be up to 5 years, and the penalty can range from 300,000 to 500,000 Ethiopian Birr.

12) The Ethiopian Sports Commission agents shall comprise a chairperson and fourteen commissioners elected from the fourteen provinces and Addis Ababa City for four-year terms. However, all commissioners have unlimited time to run for re-election every four years. The officials mentioned must possess the following criteria:

- A) A natural-born citizen of Ethiopia who is residing abroad or in Ethiopia.
- B) At least thirty-five years of age.
- C) Has not been a candidate for any elective position in the preceding elections or been accessible to any governmental body.
- D) Must be free from governmental and political party affiliations that reside inside or abroad in Ethiopia.

Article 99

Legal Authority of this Constitution

- 1) Amharic & English versions of this Constitution shall have legal authority upon ratification by a majority of Ethiopian people, or 50% +1.
- 2) The Amharic & English versions of this Constitution shall have final legal authority after the majority of the people of Ethiopia hold a Referendum on this New Constitution of Ethiopia (ዲን-ኢትዮጵያ).
- 3) The new Constitution of Ethiopia (ዲን-ኢትዮጵያ) will become a Supreme Law of the land after a Constitutional Referendum held in Ethiopia.
- 4) Future generations can amend the Ethiopian Constitution (ዲን-ኢትዮጵያ) if the majority of Ethiopian people require it.

Almighty God, help us. God bless Ethiopia.

The original draft of the English part was written and edited.

By *Mekonnen Doyamo Ph. D. Candidate*