

The logo for the Ethiopian National Priorities Consultative Process (ENPCP) features the acronym 'ENPCP' in a bold, green, sans-serif font. The letters are set against a white background that is partially enclosed by a green and yellow border, which also forms part of the overall header design.

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Ethiopian National Priorities Consultative Process

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FINAL RESOLUTION AT THE CHICAGO CONFERENCE

9th July 2009

We, members of the Ethiopian National Priorities Consultative Process (ENPCP) comprising civic society organizations and individuals, after having met in Chicago on 2nd July 2009, after having conducted serious deliberations on the basis of ENPCP's fundamental principles, and:

RECOGNIZING the importance of civic societies for the achievement of democracy, peace and development;

CONCERNED by the continued instigation and perpetuation of conflict by the ruling regime, and the lack of opportunities for citizens in Ethiopia to freely and fully participate in conflict prevention and resolution as well as democratic governance and development;

ALARMED by the series of repressive proclamations that are being passed by the ruling regime, and the continued violations of rights, as demonstrated in the recent promulgation of draconian NGO, media and so-called anti-terrorism laws;

REALIZING the challenge of forming effective and sustainable civic organizations in Ethiopia due to limited capacity, lack of cooperation, and the absence of an enabling environment;

ACKNOWLEDGING the desperate situation being faced by the Ethiopian people, including the lack of democratic governance and widespread abuse of human rights, as documented by local human rights organizations, and confirmed by independent and credible international organizations such as Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and the US State Department about the prevalence of disappearances, extra-judicial killings, imprisonment, and torture in Ethiopia;

NOTING the fact that over the last 18 years, there have been gross human rights violations in various parts of the country and despite several calls for justice, the perpetrators operate with impunity, thus leading to petitions by outside organizations such as Genocide Watch International;

ALARMED by the continued onslaught on the members of the free press, leading to the death, disappearance, imprisonment, and exile of Ethiopian journalists;

RECOGNIZING the problems faced by Ethiopian women and children, being victims of conflict, poverty and forced migration, leading to enslavement and sexual abuse and harassment in various parts of the world;

NOTING the unabated and debilitating conflict and lack of sustained and effective collaboration among the various Ethiopian political parties, citizens' movements and similar entities;

RECOGNIZING the fact that there have been no fair and free elections in Ethiopia where the ruling regime has systematically practised continued rigging thereby perpetuating its power against the expressed will of the Ethiopian people; and that Ethiopia is entering the next election without resolving the May 2005 crisis;

RECOGNIZING the widespread and tragic prevalence of hunger, poverty, pandemic diseases such as malaria, TB, and HIV/AIDS in Ethiopia;

NOTING the rampant corruption being perpetrated by the ruling regime which owns and operates over 60 major political party controlled companies whose start up capital and periodic accounts remain undisclosed to the general public and to the tax man, and are believed to be engaged in illicit trade, enriching the ruling clique, excessive borrowing from State owned banks, harrassment and detention of competing entrepreneurs and tampering with State tender processes to get preferential treatment;

AWARE of the fact that the ruling regime's long standing policy of ethnic politics continues to have a devastating effect on the long-standing harmony, tolerance, peace and stability among the Ethiopian people;

RECOGNIZING further, that as a result of the regime's failed socio-economic policy including the system of land ownership by the government, the advent of environmental degradation, Ethiopia remains at the bottom of the development ladder, which, according to the UNDP Human Development Index, places it at 169th out of 179 nations in the year 2008;

COGNIZANT of the ruling regime's disastrous cessationist policy which has resulted in making Ethiopia one of the biggest densely populated landlocked countries and the regime's shameful argument about the link between port and development;

ABHORED by the regime's contribution to the worsening destabilization of the Horn of Africa region;

Now, therefore, we resolve to:

1. Continue with ENPCP's role in strengthening the capacity and participation of civic societies as well as Ethiopian citizens at large in the struggle for the achievement of democracy and respect for human rights;
2. Promote and facilitate the education and increased awareness of citizens' rights by building the capacity of civic society organizations in Ethiopia and the diaspora; and encouraging them through incentives as well as recognition of their achievements;
3. Provide support to political parties and movements as well as other appropriate organizations engaged in the struggle for democracy, accountability, the rule of law, peace and stability;
4. Urge the immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners and prisoners of conscience, including Miss (Judge) Birtukan Mideksa, the President of the Unity for Democracy and Justice (UDJ) as well as the renowned artist, Teddy Afro;
5. Seek and apply effective conflict resolution mechanisms to foster collaboration and strategic alliances among political parties and movements that uphold democracy, the rule of law, and the unity and territorial integrity of the country;
6. Fully support the resolution of the African Civil Society Organization of 11th May, 2009 which was held in Cape Town, and former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan's statement in June 2009 with regard to the mission of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in ending impunity in Africa and elsewhere; and, further, call for an international investigation of the crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity and gross human rights violations in Ethiopia, committed during the last 18 years in Addis Ababa, Ambo, Arba Gugu, Awassa, Bedeno, Borena, Dessie, Gambela, Hossana, Jimma, Ogaden, Teppi, Somalia and elsewhere;

7. Condemn all acts that promote inter-religious conflicts, violence and killings;
8. Condemn the continued killings, harrassment and imprisonment of human rights defenders, including the targeting of the renowned lawyer and current president of the Ethiopian Human Rights Council, Mr Abebe Workie;
9. Strongly urge the immediate cessation of the regime's harrassment and imprisonment of members of the free press as well as the rescinding of the draconian laws with respect to NGO's, the media, and the so-called anti-terrorism activities;
10. Support the efforts of organizations and individuals who strive: to promote accountability and transparency; to expose crimes against humanity, corruption and impunity;
11. Reaffirm ENPCP's 15th June 2009 Declaration on Free and Fair Election in Ethiopia;
12. Affirm ENPCP's commitment to the unity of the Ethiopian people and, to this end, seek the revision of the relevant sections of the Ethiopian constitution;
13. Promote and support initiatives for the achievement of an accelerated socio-economic development based on sound macroeconomic policy and protection of individual rights and choices;
14. Support and promote initiatives and efforts for the achievement of peace, stability, and socio-economic cooperation among the Horn of Africa nations for the benefit of the people of the region;
15. Call, fervently, upon the peaceloving international community and friends of Ethiopia to stop supporting tyranny and stand with the Ethiopian people in our struggle to advance the democratic process and, in particular, call upon the Governments of the United States, the United Kindgom, Canada, the European Union, China, India, South Africa and others to revisit their policy towards Ethiopia, and avoid the use of double standards;
16. Arrange, as soon as possible, a Convention to bring together civic society organizations and other stakeholders for the purpose of conducting an action oriented dialogue on identifying national priorities, and formulating solutions; and call upon all concerned entities and individuals to support and participate in the Convention;
17. Call upon all Ethiopian political organizations, including the ruling regime, to support the planned Civil Society Convention, and create mechanisms for cooperation in averting pre- and post-election violence;
18. Call upon other civil society organizations to join the Ethiopian National Priorities Consultative Process.

ADOPTED ON THIS SECOND DAY OF JULY IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND AND NINE IN THE CITY OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Participant Civil Society Organizations

Constituants for Democracy (Dejen Le Democracy)
Ethiopian Forum for Peace and Democracy (EFPD)
Ethiopian Free press Journalists Association (EFPJA)
Ethiopian National Congress (ENC)
International Ethiopian Womens' Organization (IEWO)
Network of Ethiopian Scholars - Scandinavian Chapter (NES)
Solidarity Committee for Ethiopin Political Presioners - Canada (SCEPP-C)
Solidarity Movement for New Ethiopia (SMNE)