

**WRITTEN STATEMENT BY THE FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA ON AGENDA ITEM 138 - REVISED ESTIMATES: HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL, AT THE FIRST PART OF THE RESUMED SESSION OF THE SEVENTY-SIX SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY: 16 MARCH 2022**

**Distinguished delegates,**

*“International commission of human rights experts on Ethiopia”* established by Human Rights Council Resolution S-33/1 is an illegitimate mechanism established to advance a political agenda in the pretext of human rights.

The budget requested for approval by the General Assembly is an attempt to legitimize a process that is designed to undermine the sovereignty and independence of Ethiopia. Ethiopia will not cooperate with the mechanism and the Commission will have no access to any part of Ethiopia or its institutions.

**Distinguished delegates,**

Ethiopia has an exemplary relationship with the UN Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights. Ethiopia hosts the regional office of OHCHR and we have a considerable cooperation with the office in the field of human rights. This exemplary relation extended to conducting joint investigation of alleged human rights violations with OHCHR. Last year, the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission at its own initiative conducted a joint investigation with OHCHR, over alleged human rights violations committed in the Northern Part of Ethiopia. The Government of Ethiopia allowed access and cooperated with all the means at its disposal with the joint investigation.

The joint investigation report is released on November 3, 2021. The Government of Ethiopia, despite its serious reservations with the approach and content of the joint investigation report, acknowledged the report as an important input for measures of redress, prevention and accountability.

In the midst of the joint investigation, members of the Human Rights Council who had their preconceived vilification of Ethiopia disproved by the joint investigation report, instigated the establishment of “*International commission of human rights experts on Ethiopia*”. This move is a clear violation of the principles of independence, objectivity and non-selectivity, and the elimination of double standards and politicization, enshrined under General Assembly Resolution 60/251. The Human Rights Council and its decision is used to circumvent the successful working relation OHCHR established with Ethiopia. The Experts Commission before the General Assembly is a mechanism created to match the hostility against Ethiopia propagated in the past year.

**Distinguished delegates,**

Ethiopia will have no relationship or cooperation with the so called “*International commission of human rights experts on Ethiopia*”. No aspect of the mandate created for the mechanism will be implemented on Ethiopia. None of the budget that may end up allocated will be used to advance any activity that has to do with Ethiopia.

Therefore, we request members of the General Assembly to vote against a decision to approve the budget under agenda item 138: revised estimates for the human rights council. Member states

voting against will serve the integrity of multilateralism and the UN human rights system. Voting against this budget will reverse the dangerous trend in the politicization of human rights for the attainment of political objectives.

**I thank you**