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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE FEDERAL
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Statement by

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The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia**

**At the 57th Session of the Commission on the Status
of Women**

**Theme: “Elimination and prevention of all forms of
violence against women and girls”**

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Madam Chair,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you and the other members of the Bureau for the excellent manner you have been guiding the work of the Commission on the Status of Women. Ethiopia wishes to associate itself with the Statement made by Fiji on behalf of Group of 77 and China, and Chad on behalf of the African Group.

It is indeed a great pleasure and honor for me to make this remark at this session of the Commission on the theme *'Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls'*.

Violence against women and girls, takes many forms including: domestic violence, harmful traditional practices, rape and early and forced marriage.

Violence against women and girls is a human rights violation of the worst kind and which also hinders their participation in economic and social affairs. Such violence not only impacts on the individuals affected, but the entire wellbeing of a society in terms of increased social inequalities, decreased productivity, lowered overall educational outcomes and strains on public services.

Sustainable economic and social development cannot be achieved without fully freeing women and girls from all forms of violence. It is a must if we are to build healthy and prosperous society.

Success in this requires sustained, targeted and dedicated intervention at the household, community, national and international levels. Governments have a responsibility to create conditions for this. What is needed is concrete action. There is a need to move from rhetoric to action.

In fact, Member States have committed themselves to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls through a number of international and regional instruments including the

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (**CEDAW**) and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

Madam Chair

I am glad to report that the **Government of Ethiopia** has taken a number of concrete measures to eliminate violence against women. The adoption of the revised Criminal Code, the Family Law and gender sensitization programs as well as multi-sectoral interventions, such as, one stop services, legal aid services and shelter for victims, establishment of Government- NGO's forum, etc., have helped to mitigate the problem and bring improvements. The newly introduced Growth and Transformation Plan also stresses on the reduction of rate of HTPs which is one part of violence against women to single digits pointing towards zero tolerance.

In addition, the empowerment of women and girls is at the heart of our social and economic policy. We know the low economic status and poverty of women is linked to their access to education. The government has designed an education and training policy suitable to raise their academic and skill level. At present the number of girls and women who receive primary and secondary school education as well as join higher education and vocational training institutions is increasing.

Again the Government of Ethiopia works to improve the economic status of women since empowering them is a key to their assertiveness and upgrading of their social status. One of such modalities focuses on the enhancement of their participation in economically benefitting works and facilitation of access to savings & credit, market and business skill.

Having acquired their full constitutional rights in Ethiopia women are now exercising their right to own, administer and inherit property, including land. They are also benefiting from micro finance services. And women's political participation and decision making power has reached about 30%. Taking into account these and other measures taken by the government, it can be said conducive environment is created for women to acquire economic independence. These are important endeavors since political, social and economic empowerment of women is one of the cornerstones in the prevention of violence against women and girls.

Madam Chair

It is important that we recognize and address the cultural issues that perpetuate the suffering of women. In many cultures the views and insight of women and girls are generally undervalued or even shunned. This dysfunctional cultural syndrome must be properly scrutinized and addressed so that the knowledge of women fully contributes to societal advancement.

My government is proud to associate itself with the work of UN Women's ongoing efforts in combating violence against women and girls. During this meeting my delegation is looking forward to share the best practices and initiatives of Ethiopia in addressing violence against women.

Distinguished participants and colleagues, this is an opportunity for us as representatives of Governments across the globe to renew our commitment to invest in, and strengthen initiatives to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls. That is why it is so critical that at the end of this session we have an agreed outcome document. Failure to do so cannot be excused. On our part, I would like to reiterate Ethiopia's firm commitment in this regard and to implement the Beijing Platform for Action and Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Thank you for your attention