

## Press Release

### Completion of the Validation Workshops on the Draft National Transitional Justice Policy

Since the establishment of the Transitional Justice Working Group of Experts (TJWGE) in November 2022, Ethiopia's extraordinary journey in the public consultations and policy design process has come a long way. The TJWGE concluded the most critical phase of its mandate - after holding 58 nationwide consultations - in addition to 22 tailored workshops jointly organized with various offices of the UN (UNHCR, UN Women, OHCHR-EARO), the African Union, IGAD, and CSOs. The TJWGE publicly issued the '**Transitional Justice Policy Options: A Comprehensive Report of the Public Consultations Process**' in December 2023, and furthermore delivered the '**Draft National Transitional Justice Policy**' in January 2024.

Last week, the Ministry of Justice conducted successful validation workshops on the Draft National Transitional Justice Policy. Four consecutive events were organized in Addis Ababa with key stakeholders, namely: leadership of political parties (February 21, 2024); representatives of democratic and human rights institutions, civil societies, media professionals, academia, transitional justice experts, UN family offices in Ethiopia, and embassies (February 22, 2024); representatives of the wider population from all regions - including victims, women's associations, persons with disabilities, child rights defenders, youth/youth associations, and IDPs (February 23, 2024); and federal and regional government, justice and security functionaries (February 24, 2024).

On each of the occasions, participants were offered considerable space to voice their positions and share perspectives on the contents of the Draft Policy. They debated freely and proactively, and offered critical insights that reinforce, challenge, and present alternatives to the positions reflected in the Draft Policy. Indeed, the level of engagement demonstrated by the public was not only reassuring, it also reaffirmed the public's greater sense of ownership and confidence in the process - as offering a national solution grounded on accountability, truth, reconciliation and justice.

As this phase now concludes, the Ministry of Justice will continue to review and address the huge volume of inputs received during the validation workshops and via written submissions. The next milestone involves completing the final text of the National Transitional Justice Policy and submitting the draft for approval of the Council of Ministers in the coming few weeks.

The Government of Ethiopia is grateful to the TJWGE for discharging its responsibilities in an independent, professional and timely manner, and also expresses its earnest gratitude to the EHRC, Ethiopian civil society consortiums, the African Union, IGAD, the OHCHR, UNHCR, UN-Women, GIZ-Ethiopia, US Embassy and the USAID for their unrelenting support throughout the process.

**Ministry of Justice**

**Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia**

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