



Date: 31 January 2023

**H.E. Dr. Gedion Timothewos
Minister of Justice
Ministry of Justice of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
Jomo Kenyatta St., Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

Your Excellency,

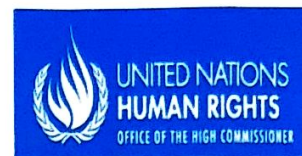
Subject: Response to request for support to the Government's efforts on Transitional Justice

The Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) and the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights East African Regional Office (OHCHR-EARO) present their compliments to the Ministry of Justice of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and acknowledge receipt of the request to support relevant national authorities in the design and implementation of a Transitional Justice Policy in line with international human rights standards, as outlined in your letter dated 29 November 2022.

Once again, we welcome the Agreement for Lasting Peace through permanent Cessation of Hostilities signed by the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the Tigray Peoples' Liberation Front on 2 November 2022 and the progress so far made in the implementation of the agreement. As discussed with you during our meeting on 19 December 2022, the provisions of the agreement on human rights including the adoption of a transitional justice policy framework provide the much-needed momentum to move the implementation forward as they are consistent with the recommendations of the EHRC/OHCHR Joint Investigation report. We acknowledge the work you and your team at the ministry have done in leading the national efforts including the conceptualization of possible policy options for transitional justice.

In response to your request to OHCHR and EHRC to support this process, we wish to confirm that, in line with our respective mandates, we will contribute to the government's efforts in designing and implementing a genuine, participatory, inclusive, and human rights compliant transitional justice process in the country. This will include technical support through sharing standards, experiences, and best practices from other contexts. The recently released EHRC/OHCHR Joint Advisory Note on transitional justice which was shared with the Government is one such initiative.

Similarly, we confirm our full contribution to the consultations, we are already discussing with your technical team the available resources, timelines, and modalities of support to complement government's efforts to conduct the consultations. OHCHR is also coordinating with the wider United Nations family, the African Union, and other relevant national and international stakeholders to ensure sufficient coordination of the process from our side.



We also welcome your vision of rolling out country-wide consultations with an official launch of the national transitional justice process, tentatively scheduled on 15 February 2023 in Addis Ababa, according to government's roadmap. It is our humble view that instead of four distinct sessions planned on the same day with a total of 70 representatives of the Federal and Regional governments, we would recommend one high-profile national conference with broader representation to set the tone and visibility of the upcoming process, including the regional consultations. The one-day conference could gather over 100 national and regional institutions, civil society, media, conflict-affected populations as well as national and international experts present in Ethiopia. We have been informed that the global expert on transitional justice – The Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation, guarantees of non-recurrence has expressed interest to support the process and we believe the conference would provide the best opportunity to leverage his expertise and support.

In this regard, we wish to suggest 6 March 2023 to be the date for the high-profile national conference in Addis Ababa for the official launching of the national consultation process.

If this proposal is acceptable, our technical teams from the EHRC and OHCHR-EARO would also be available to support the Ministry to organize such activity while the planning for additional consultations continues over the course of the next weeks.

We also welcome your request for monitoring and commit to providing such support in line with our respective mandates.

We look forward to working closely with the Government, and the Ministry of Justice in particular, on all the above, for accountability, sustained peace, reconciliation, and healing for the people of Ethiopia.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Daniel Bekele

**Chief Commissioner
Ethiopian Human Rights Commission**

Mr. Marcel Clement Akpovo

**Regional Representative
East African Regional Office – Office of
the United Nations High Commissioner
for Human Rights**