



UK Mission to the
United Nations
in Geneva

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United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland
National Statement

Universal Periodic Review – Ethiopia
April 2014

Thank you,

The UK welcomes the Ethiopian Government's commitment to poverty reduction, and progress towards meeting the MDGs. We recognise steps taken to implement certain recommendations from the last UPR.

We are concerned about implementation of the Anti-Terrorism Proclamation and the Charities and Societies Proclamation, which appear to limit legitimate attempts to challenge policy and hold the Government to account. The UK is also concerned by reports of mistreatment of prisoners, and allegations of abuses by the "Special Police" in Somali Region, and in relation to relocation programmes. We are keen to see credible mechanisms in place to investigate these allegations.

We have **two recommendations**:

1. To invite the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture and other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment to visit Ethiopia.
2. To take concrete steps to ensure the 2015 national elections are more competitive than those in 2010, especially around freedom of assembly and encouraging debate between political parties.