



**Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations
Human Rights Council – 19th Session of the Universal Periodical Review
Geneva, 6 May 2014
ETHIOPIA**

Mr President,

Allow me to welcome the Delegation of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia led by H.E. Berhane Gebre Christos, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The National Report notes the significant achievements of Ethiopia in addressing economic, social justice and good governance issues through its Growth and Development Plan. Progress has been made in the areas of inter-group tolerance by promoting a culture of peace, of inter-religious dialogue, a progressive policy of inclusion of all ethnic groups and of measures enhancing youth education.

Poverty has been reduced and conditions have improved. There are still challenges that remain: for example, improvement of the judicial system, of police and military services, the strengthening of a more articulate civil society.

My Delegation would like to present the following recommendations for consideration:

- To continue improving the outreach to all ethnic communities to actively participate in the political process so as to strengthen Ethiopia's democracy and prevent potential conflicts
- To keep encouraging inter-religious and inter-ethnic dialogue so that Ethiopia's pluralism of traditions and cultures remains an enriching and valued dimension of the country
- To continue supporting health and educational institutions, both public and private, so that excessive bureaucratic constraints may not weaken their efficiency
- Finally, for the continued development of the country, to take into account and support the family, based on the stable relationship between a man and a woman, as the natural and fundamental unit of society, both in taxation and general legislation .

Thank you Mr President.