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REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

EMBASSY/PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

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*Statement by Amb. Sabine Böhlke-Möller, Ambassador/Permanent Representative,
UPR of the Republic of Ethiopia, 19th Session of the Human Rights Council, UN HRC
Working Group on the UPR, 6 May 2014*

Mr. President,

Namibia warmly welcomes the Ethiopian delegation to its Universal Periodic Review. My delegation is pleased to be a member of the troika for Ethiopia's review and commends the leadership of the Permanent Mission of Ethiopia in Geneva for coordinating the African Group on human rights issues. We would like to applaud the Ethiopian Government, which, despite its own challenges, has been very generous in opening up its borders and allowing an overwhelming influx of refugees to come into the country and providing them with life-saving assistance.

My delegation takes further positive note of the adoption of the National Human Rights Action Plan in 2013 and wishes for its successful implementation.

Namibia would like to make the following recommendations to the Government of Ethiopia:

1. To consider ratifying the AU Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa;
2. To further enhance the institutional and financial capacities of the Ethiopia Human Rights Commission to effectively carry out its mandate vis-à-vis the affected communities, especially its working relations with the Oromo, Ogaden, Gambella and the Somali Communities;
3. To strengthen the Human Rights Commission in order to make it compliant with Paris Principles.
4. To extend free primary education throughout the country; and
5. Cognizant of the de facto moratorium on capital punishment, consider abolishing the death penalty.

We wish the UPR to be beneficial to Ethiopia.

All official correspondence should be addressed to the Head of Mission