

Mr. President,

I wish to thank delegations questions, constructive comments and recommendations. I am pleased to provide significant developments and additional information on the area of women and children.

The Government of Ethiopia has taken various measures to fully realize the fundamental rights of women, acknowledging their strategic role in the realization of an accelerated, participatory, broad based, sustained and equitable socio economic development.

Mr. President,

We recognizes that violence against women is deeply rooted in systemic gender based inequality and linked to some harmful traditional practices that perpetuate bias, discrimination and victimization compromising girls' or women's general wellbeing. The Government is fully committed to addressing gender inequality and enhancing women's empowerment through awareness raising and mobilization, designing and implementation of national strategy and plan of action, provision of legal, administrative and institutional measures through

coordination and multi-sectoral approach, grassroots advocacy campaigns, engaging different target groups such as school clubs, religious institutions, civil society organizations, community based organizations and traditional leaders as well as the establishment of community liaisons with law enforcement agencies.

A special bench is established within the Federal First Instance Court to handle cases of violence against women particularly sexual violence cases. Similar benches are now established in almost all the regional cities, in the prosecution of perpetrators of violence against women. The Federal Supreme Court has issued sentencing guideline in 2010 which was revised in 2012 to ensure the precision and uniformity of sentencing that covers a wide range of crimes including rape. The Government has established a one stop integrated legal, psychosocial and health service delivery center which is operational in three regional states. The Government is now on the process of scaling the service to other regional cities.

The prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against women is placed at the center of the poverty eradication and the democratization endeavors of the country as violence

against women and harmful traditional practices are also related with poverty. The Government of Ethiopia has introduced an innovative one to five women development army network which has been playing a critical role in the prevention and elimination of violence against women and harmful traditional practices through peer evaluation and awareness creation. Education, social mobilization and capacity building training have also been effectively embodied in the strategies of the Government with a view to mounting attitudinal problem to the determinant of women's positions in the society. Community conversation and existing community structures Women's and youth organization is widely used to change the social norm and bring about public commitment towards its total elimination.

Mr. President,

Religious leaders have been instrumental in the fight against female genital mutilation and other harmful traditional practices. Religious leaders in Afar Regional State have enabled the abolishment of female genital mutilation and a consensus is reached to voluntarily declare its abloishen. Currently, female genital mutilation prevalence has dropped from 73% 1997 to 37.7 in 2009/10 and to 23% in 2011 among 0-15 aged children,

The Government has taken various measures to fight female genital mutilation and early, child and forced marriage. Abduction prevalence dropped from 23.3% in 1997 to 12.7% in 2009/10. Early marriage prevalence has dropped from 33.1% in 1997 to 21.4% in 2009/10 and to 8% in 2011. We are committed to intensifying our engagement at the regional and international level, including at the Human Rights Council.

Mr. President,

The Government has put in place affirmative actions aimed at empowering women by setting clear target and taking additional capacity building measures. This has fostered the increase in the participation of women in public affairs, including in the decision making process.

With regard to women economic environment, the Constitution of Ethiopia provides that women have the right to acquire, administer, control, use and transfer property. In particular, they have equal right with men with respect to use, transfer, administration and control of land. The Federal Rural Land Administration and Land Use Proclamation No. 456/2005 reaffirms this Constitutional right by ensuring the right to be

provided and use rural land for rural women who want to engage in agriculture.

Title deed will be prepared in the name of all the joint possessors. Up to June 2013, 7.38 million joint land holding certificates, in the name of the husband and the wife, have been issued. 2.1 million land holding certificates have been issued to families headed by women. The certificate has become a guarantee for Women in owning land and strengthening the position of women in land disputes.

The Government has taken strong measures in the economic sphere to ensure women's equal access to economic resources such as credit, science and technology. Up to June 2013, a total of 103,132 female farmers were able to build household asset and graduate from the productive safety net program. The ration of women that has participated in and benefited from micro and small enterprises in urban settings was 48.4% in 2011. The rate of women entrepreneurs has also reached at encouraging level of 61.6 % in 2011 of which micro-enterprises 65%, small enterprises, 26%, 10% in medium enterprises and 15% in large-scale enterprises.

The Association of Ethiopian Microfinance Institutions has developed a 4 year action plan aimed at providing gender responsive services to the clients and build the institutionalization of gender mainstreaming. Networking mechanism has been established to strengthen the economic forum aimed at enhancing women's benefit from micro and small scale enterprise development strategy. The forum involves women entrepreneurs, women cooperatives, micro and small scale enterprises, micro finance institutions and banks. The forum has already developed strategic plan that is being implemented through harmonized annual plan towards achieving the ongoing Growth and Transformation Plan.

In order to reduce the maternal and child mortality rates, the government devised various strategies, packages and action plans that have helped to ensure the achievement of the MDGs for the reduction of child and maternal mortality rates. The antenatal care provided for mothers has increased from 31% in 2009/10 to 97.4% in 2012/13. The post-natal service coverage for mothers increased from 34% in 2009/10 to 50.5% in 2012/13, and the percentage of births attended by skilled health personal increased from 15.7% in 2009/10 to 23.1 in 2012/13. By the end of 2012, 812

Ambulances had been distributed to all regions to enhance maternal health.

The Government of Ethiopia is committed to improving the rights and welfare of children. The Government is taking all the necessary measures to eliminate corporal punishment in family settings which is prohibited under the Constitution of Ethiopia.

Mr. President,

While much has been done in promoting and protecting the women's and child right, we acknowledge that challenges still remain. We are determined to meet the challenges and continue our efforts to maximize our achievements in this regard.

I thank you.

