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Mr President,

New Zealand welcomes the participation of Ethiopia today.

We would like to **commend** Ethiopia for the positive reforms it has undertaken over the last twelve months. In particular, we recognise the progress in opening up the civil and political space, and the signing of the peace agreement between Ethiopia and Eritrea.

New Zealand also welcomes the steps Ethiopia has taken towards eliminating the practice of torture in detention centres and acknowledging past abuses. We **recommend** that the Government continue on this positive trajectory by undertaking effective and impartial investigations into past abuses, ensuring redress for victims, and ratifying the Optional Protocol on the Convention Against Torture.

New Zealand is **concerned** however that a significant number of people continue to be displaced due to intercommunal violence. We **recommend** that Ethiopia continue to undertake efforts to address intercommunal violence, allow full access for humanitarian agencies to displaced people, and avoid forced returns of displaced people.

Finally, New Zealand **recommends** that Ethiopia fulfils its reporting obligations under the various treaty bodies and extends a standing invitation to all special procedure mandate holders.

Thank you Mr President.