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Excellency,

I write to inform you that at its 72nd session (18th February to 7th March 2008), the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) considered further the situation in the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in the light of the information provided by your Government.

The Committee wishes to thank the Ethiopian Government for its communication dated 24 January 2008 in response to its letter of 3 September 2007. It welcomes the Government's openness to dialogue and takes note of the information provided on the Ethiopian federal system and its recent history as well as its approach to addressing ethnic conflicts. The Committee remains concerned, however, about the existence of serious tensions between different ethnic groups and grave allegations of human rights violations against certain ethnic groups.

The Committee regrets that the overdue report on the implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which should have been submitted before the end of February 2008, has not yet been received. The Committee welcomes, however, the Treaty Bodies project jointly implemented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) with the technical assistance of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) through its Regional Office in Addis Ababa. It also welcomes the establishment of a national ad hoc Committee and of a drafting Committee with a view to drafting and submitting a common core document and the CERD-specific report as soon as possible, as well as reports due to other treaty bodies.

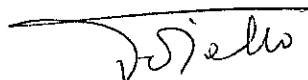
H.E. Mr. Fisseha YIMER
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The Committee reminds the State party that its CERD-specific report should be drafted in line with its revised reporting guidelines (CERD/C/2007/1) herewith attached. Furthermore, the report should address all points raised in its concluding observations (CERD/C/ETH/CO/15) adopted on 9 March 2007 and should include detailed information on the effective and concrete preventive measures taken by the State party to combat racially motivated violence and racial prejudice and intolerance between ethnic groups as well as to ensure the right to security for members of all ethnic groups. The Committee also encourages the State party to include detailed information in its report on the follow-up to the recommendations made by the Independent Expert on Minority Issues following her mission to from 28 November to December 2006 (A/HRC/4/9/Add.3).

The Committee strongly encourages the State party to pursue its technical cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights with a view to submitting the common core document and the CERD-specific report at the latest by **1 August 2008**. In case of non-receipt of the overdue report by this date and in accordance with article 9 (1) of the Convention and article 65 of its rules of procedure, the Committee will decide at its 73rd session, to be held from 28 July to 15 August 2008, on any further action to be taken under one of its procedures, including its early warning and urgent action procedure.

Allow me, Excellency, to reiterate the wish of the Committee to pursue a constructive dialogue with your Government, and to underline that the Committee's observations and requests for information are made with a view to assisting your Government in the effective implementation of the Convention.

Yours sincerely,



Fatimata-Binta Victoire Dah

Chairperson of the Committee for the
Elimination of Racial Discrimination