

## **Delegation from Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia**

### *Position Paper for the Economic and Social Council*

The topics before the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) are I. Education in Post-Conflict Situations, II. Implementing SDG 7: Ensure Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable and Modern Energy for All and III. Promoting the Political, Socioeconomic, and Cultural Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Regarding the importance of the topic for our country, Ethiopia would like to discuss topic II. first, followed by topic I. and finally topic III.

#### **I. Education in Post-Conflict Situations**

Manifested in Article 26 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, education is a basic right that should be provided for free. Unfortunately, conflicts often lead to the endangerment not only of people's lives, but also the provision of education in the long term. Many different aspects need to be considered when talking about the improvement of education in post-conflict situations, such as the psychological state of children who saw war and violence, destroyed or damaged school buildings, the lack of teachers and the problem of financing the rebuilding of the country. On an international level, the Education Cannot Wait (ECW) fund has been tackling the issues of education during crises such as natural disasters and also conflict situations. From April 2017 until March 2018, over 650.000 young people were helped and about \$82 million were invested. Additionally, great work has been done by the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), inter alia by helping to release over 800 children who were recruited into armed forces. Following General Assembly (GA) resolution 71/177 (2016), the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (SRSGCAC) highlighted the impact of the "Children, not soldiers" awareness campaign that ended in 2016, which led to increased support by Member States and civil society and consequently to the release and reintegration of thousands of children. Moving to the national level, Ethiopia cooperated, as mentioned earlier, with ECW to provide quality education to refugees who live in our country. In December of 2018, the most recent project was announced to enhance the number of refugee children enrolled in primary and secondary schools. With a budget of \$15 million, schools in refugee camps and host communities will be constructed to thereupon aid 12.000 children. In order to sustain quality education during emergencies, including areas of conflict, Ethiopia will provide teachers in such areas with "additional integrated training on school disaster management", as manifested in the "Education Sector Development Programme V" (2015-2020) by the Federal Ministry of Education. We, the Federal Republic of Ethiopia want to call upon all Member States as well as non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to support the efforts that are already made by the ECW and UNICEF to improve the situation. Additionally, to follow up on the successful awareness campaign "Children, not soldiers", Ethiopia suggest developing another awareness campaign in cooperation with UNICEF and the SRSGCAC, specifically highlighting the importance of psychosocial training during the reintegration process of children who fought in conflicts. The campaign will incorporate a separate fund under the UNICEF which can be used to train and employ personal which provides psychosocial assistance in post-conflict situations. To motivate stakeholders from governmental, private and public levels, the respective contributions should be displayed on the UNICEF Website. Initial cost of the campaign could be handled by UNICEF, supported by the ECW and by voluntary contributions from Member States and NGOs.

#### **II. Implementing SDG 7: Ensure Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable and Modern Energy for All**

As one of the 17 SDGs that were set in GA resolution 70/1 (2015), ensuring "access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all" is of utmost importance. In order to meet the goals that have been set for 2030, we need to further increase our efforts. Therefore, immediate action is required by the international community. While all four targets of SDG7 need to be addressed, Ethiopia wants to focus on clean cooking solutions. Looking at recent developments regarding the topic on an international level, the recent GA resolution 73/236 (2018) stressed the importance of access to clean, efficient and sustainable cooking and the "promotion of an enabling environment at the national and international levels". But the numbers from the 2018 Energy Progress Report show, that access expansion rates need to increase from 0.5 percent to three percent in the years 2017-2030. Should the rate not increase, 2.3 billion people will still be using traditional cooking solutions in 2030, causing harm to their health and the environment. Ethiopia has recognized the issue at hand and wants to refer to the great progress that has been made regarding the area of electrification coverage and our plans to

achieve universal electrification by 2025, which will allow for the widespread use of clean, electric cookstoves in our country. Measures that have been taken include our nationwide “Clean Cooking Energy Program”, aiming to increase energy access to poor and vulnerable households that depend on wood and fossil fuels for cooking. The program aims to implement alternative energy technologies that will reduce indoor air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, benefiting the health of our citizens while reducing environmental pollution. An example for effective alternative energy technologies would be off-grid solar power. Especially for enhancing electrification rates in rural areas, this is an affordable and sustainable solution. Additionally, Ethiopia is registered as a national partner country of the UN Foundation’s Clean Cooking Alliance (CCA), reaffirming our national commitment toward cleaner stoves and fuels within our borders. In order to provide all people worldwide with clean cooking technologies, Ethiopia wants to encourage all Member States to show their continued support by joining the CCA as Alliance Donor Countries (ADCs). With an enhanced budget which results from a higher number of ADCs, the CCA should develop a framework to simplify the implementation of national action plans for Member States who struggle with providing their citizens with clean cooking solutions. Should the CCA budget not suffice, the working group could be financially supplemented by the SDG Fund or the UNDP fund. Using the 2018 developed “International Organization for Standardization” standards regarding clean cooking by a CCA working group as a reference point and guided by the already existing action plans, inter alia for Kenya, an additional working group would develop this framework over the course of the next year. The members of the working group should be provided by Member States who have already implemented clean cooking programs and by Member States from countries which are currently addressing the topic, which can provide insight-knowledge on the issue. Additionally, the CCA itself should also provide experts who will act as mediators, as they are experienced in the international situation of clean cooking. Upon completion, the framework can be adjusted toward the needs of particular Member States to be implemented as an action plan on a voluntary basis.

### **III. Promoting the Political, Socioeconomic and Cultural Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

With 2019 being proclaimed as the International Year of Indigenous Languages in GA resolution 71/178 (2016), the major importance of not only protecting indigenous languages, but also promoting the political, socioeconomic and cultural rights of indigenous peoples was once again stressed. Ethiopia, being a culturally diverse country, has a high variety of distinct ethnic groups (over 90) and shows a great diversity of languages with more than 80 different ones being spoken. A major step towards the enhancement of the rights of indigenous people on a global scale was taken on an international level in the year 2000, as the ECOSOC adopted resolution 2000/22, thereby establishing the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII). As an advisory body of the ECOSOC, the forum provides a platform to develop and recommend measures to the ECOSOC in order to improve the situation of indigenous peoples globally. Looking at the most recent developments, the GA discussed in their 73<sup>rd</sup> session the rights of indigenous peoples and adopted resolution 73/156 (2018). In said resolution, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the national efforts to achieve its ends were remarked as particularly important. Regionally, the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights established a working group mandated to inter alia consider recommendations on the monitoring process and the protection of indigenous communities in accordance with the African Charter. Ethiopia provides one of the ten independent experts that form this working group. On a national level, substantial progress to improve the rights of indigenous peoples has been made by recognizing ethnic groups such as the Oromo as indigenous populations and by therefore acknowledging specific human rights that need to be protected. Through maximizing the use of land for agricultural purposes, we are currently tackling the issue of food insecurity for all our citizens, indigenous or not. Additionally, said expansion will create new jobs, benefiting all member of our society. Ethiopia is determined to promote the political, socioeconomic and cultural rights of indigenous people and will continue to abide by the UNDRIP principles in the future, also inviting fellow Member States to strive for an enabling environment for indigenous populations. Furthermore, Ethiopia would appreciate closer international cooperation via the UNPFII and the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples to develop policy recommendations promoting indigenous peoples’ rights. More specifically, Ethiopia supports the development of policy recommendations that implement quotas for indigenous people in the private and the public sector. We suggest a quota of five percent for each sector, promoting the indigenous population economically and politically. Furthermore, to endorse the cultural rights, Ethiopia suggests the development of a program for indigenous peoples to become tutors, educating school children about their origin and history. This will create new jobs for indigenous people in particular while providing children with knowledge about the indigenous peoples of their country.