



EPRDF Program

INTRODUCTION

1. At the end of the military rule, Ethiopia was at the brink of total collapse and disintegration. The country was strangled by economic policies deleterious to development; the citizenry was captive of an undemocratic and brutal regime, and the state rocked by sharp nationalist conflicts and interminable wars. Let alone its foes, Ethiopia's friends were convinced that the country's fate was sealed and its disintegration imminent.
2. Following the downfall of the military regime, the policies of the Derg, being detrimental to the country's development were removed; policies based on the principles of free market economy were drawn up, and their implementation initiated. Among the many states effecting a transition from a command to a free economic system the timing and execution of Ethiopia's transition managed to avoid hurdles that would further weaken the economy or aggravate the crisis. In fact, the transition was made in a manner that achieved unprecedented economic growth. In addition to the satisfactory growth achieved, the experience gained on how to secure rapid progress was rich, and a firm foundation for further development laid down. Thus, significant headways were made in the economic front.
3. The undemocratic regime of the Derg was removed to be supplanted by a democratic one. Human and democratic rights were given constitutional protection and their enforcement has already commenced. The right to self-

determination and equality among Ethiopia's nations, nationalities and peoples, enshrined in the Constitution, is also in force. Like what has happened in endeavors for extensive experience has been gained in the building of a democratic order. Enabling conditions have been created to advance the struggle for the building of a democratic order. Here, too, we have achieved considerable gains.

4. Notwithstanding the advances made, the country faces many a formidable challenge. As is well known, agriculture is the mainstay of the economy and the source of livelihood for 85% of the population. It is also the sector which has been entangled, for centuries, with structural problems that were growing worse by the day. In several regions, soil depletion has worsened rendering the land uncultivable. Erratic rainfall and droughts have also become recurrent. Traditional methods of cultivation expose the population to hunger. The reduction in the size and yield of farmlands, the recurrence of drought and the crude state of farming technology militate against the agrarian population's capacity to feed itself. Agriculture therefore remains in the grip of deep crisis. The country's level of industrial development is extremely low and incapable of manufacturing products that are, in quality or price, competitive in the international market. Infrastructure is also highly inadequate. In terms of trained man power, organization, performance, orientation and outlook, government institutions have been found wanting to support the desired development effort. In consequence, the country has been relegated to charity and dependence. Unless these deep economic challenges are addressed properly, the ensuing economic crisis, as witnessed in some African countries, will open the way to political and civil crisis as well as to general turmoil and disintegration. Rapid development is therefore not merely an economic necessity but also a matter of national security and indeed, survival.
5. When it comes to building a democratic order, challenges are rife. A backward and undemocratic culture, born out of age-old backward and undemocratic political systems, constrains the peoples' capability to serve as a bulwark of

democracy. Institutions and practices, essential for democratic governance, are still at their infancy. Civic associations are not yet vibrant either. Narrow nationalism and chauvinism, attitudes that undermine unity and solidarity, are still widely prevalent in the society. As a result, Ethiopia's democratization is plagued with varied setbacks. Unless these challenges are fast addressed, it will prove impossible to mobilize the citizenry in the effort to speed up development. In that case we will neither be able to deploy democracy as a critical weapon of development, nor avert an economic crisis that poses a threat that could lead to disintegration. Unless democratization is consolidated in the nation, home to many nations and nationalities with parochialism and chauvinism successfully dealt with, our people will be vulnerable to the grave dangers of disintegration and destruction. Thus, democracy, in our context, is not just the preferred route to good governance but also a matter of national survival. The realization of peace, and development as well as survival are quite far fetched without real progress in the democratization process.

6. The EPRDF owes its successes over the past decade in guiding the Ethiopian people under its leadership, to two key instruments that define its nature; these are its partisanship to the people and revolutionary democracy it advocates. Nevertheless, inarticulation in the organization over certain issues of economic and democratic development, the decline of democratic principles within the organization and the spread of corruption at various levels eroded the EPRDF's political partisanship and undermined its revolutionary democratic disposition. These flaws not only barred new achievements that surpass those of the past, but also dissipated past achievements.
7. Having thoroughly examined and understood this danger, our organization, the EPRDF, undertook -- and continues to undertake-- a broad movement of rectification and renewal. A clear vision to guide the struggle for economic development and a democratic order is now in place and the foundation has been laid down to enable members and supporters of the EPRDF gain a clear understanding of these issues. We have created conditions that are conducive to

eliminate undemocratic outlooks and practices and to combat corruption effectively. This revised EPRDF program is, itself, a result and concrete expression of this multifaceted movement of rectification and renewal.

8. The EPRDF's revolutionary democratic objectives will be fulfilled only if they trigger a on successful economic development. Thus, economic development, the major objective of our organization is the foundation and pillar of all our goals. Our endeavor for development must quickly overcome the structural problems and defects in agriculture. In the course of development, agriculture and industry must grow rapidly exploiting inter-dependence; and, over time, industry should take the leading role. However, ensuring rapid economic growth alone will not suffice. Development that leaves the bulk of the population as mere spectators of a well-endowed few would not rescue the country from engulfing crisis. Through rapid development and the resultant outcome, the people must be the real beneficiaries and the country must be self-sufficient cutting dependency to gradually gain economic independence. By supplying goods and services that are competitive, in price and quality, to an increasingly globalize market, we must achieve economic progress, stop food aid dependency, and faster economic independence. Realizing that we can accomplish these objectives only by building a robust market economy, we must strengthen the pursuit of economic development in accordance with the rules of the market economy, which has become a fundamental aspiration of the EPRDF. It needs to be underlined that the clarion call of the EPRDF is to work for rapid growth, ensure that the multitudes are the real beneficiaries of growth: and to faster economic self sufficiency.
9. To achieve this goal, all forces of development must fully engage in the task at hand. We have to greatly accelerate the country's development, ensure that the people draw meaningful benefits from it, and rid the country of dependence on handouts and charity. For this, it is essential to enhance the peoples' productive capacity, and to contrive and implement a strategy that optimizes the developmental capacity of the people so that they can play a pivotal role in

development. It is necessary to create conditions for voluntary and organized participation of all citizens in development. The fact that participatory democracy is a key instrument of development must be demonstrated in practice.

10. Our task of building a free market economy is unthinkable without the extensive engagement of the private sector in development. The present situation encourages not the private enterprises engaged in development but rather those seeking a short cut to wealth through rent collection, exploiting scarcities in the economy and peddling favors with public authority. In order to allow the private sector to play its irreplaceable role in development, we need to devise ways that encourage those who contribute to development and discourage those bent on rent-seeking. To provide strong support for the private sector capital in development, we must do away with all bottlenecks that challenge its ventures into development. Likewise, there must be a concerted struggle to exclude rent-seeking. Through such steps, we should create a strong private sector capable of playing a constructive role in development. In tandem with this, and in addition to domestic private enterprises also foreign ones must be offered the opportunity and support to engage in the struggle for development.
11. Government must encourage and support entrepreneurs with a role in development and the citizenry so that they can fully contribute to foster effort for development. Conditions must be created so that these agents of development are able to export the maximum available resources. Beyond this, there are indeed areas of development not attended to by these agents of development --- areas where neglect creates bottlenecks for overall growth and, which must be addressed in order of priority and with careful selection. Government has a twofold responsibility: to support and coordinate the efforts of the agents of development; and to engage to the extent possible, in areas where the private sector is unable to engage while at the same time address red tapes.

12. If our democratic order is to flourish, the peoples' constitutional rights must be fully respected. With the furtherance of popular understanding as well as democracy culture, ordinary people can freely exercise and protect their rights. Democratic arrangements and institutions, the pillars of democratic order, must be strengthened so that they can fully discharge the tasks assigned to them. The people must freely organize in ways of their own choosing in order to secure active participation. We seek a thriving democratic order based on the free and organized participation of citizens, where the rights of the people are respected, where the people exercise their rights to advance their interest, where the democratic state and popular institutions thrive, and where popular democratic consciousness and culture develop based on transparency and accountability.
13. Democratic order is not limited to respecting human and democratic rights of the individual. On the basis of these rights and parallel to them, rights should extend to the right to self-determination and equality of nations and nationalities. The peoples of Ethiopia must become beneficiaries of these entitlements full and an equal footing. In this regard, their capability to exercise these rights must be augmented and enhanced. In order to create a single, vibrant and coordinated economic community, all regions must have equal right and support to develop. A concerted struggle must be waged to create unity among Ethiopia's peoples based on mutual interest and fraternity. To overcome sentiments that are hostile to the democratic unity of our people requires a relentless struggle based on democratic principles.
14. To realize these objectives the EPRDF will mobilize the people to join its march forward. Our Front is fundamentally an organization of the peasantry which is the main force behind revolutionary democracy. In consequence, to rally the peasantry around our objectives is the first and foremost task of our struggle. The broad masses in urban areas, workers, intellectuals, low- income earners of our society are also our allies and supporters. We shall, therefore, try hard to mobilize the urban populace to march forward with us. Private entrepreneurs engaged in real development also play a special (vital) role in our

development endeavor. We shall struggle so that they do not succumb to parasitic mentality and instead become our partners in the development endeavors.

15. There will be forces that are dissatisfied with the aspirations and goals of revolutionary democracy. Parasitic elements who make no real contribution to development, and seek quick fortunes by peddling favors with authorities or opportunities offered by economic scarcities will be uncompromising opponents of the developmental direction charted by revolutionary democracy. Although these forces profess to stand for democracy, they are unable to practice their avowed slogans except as facade covering for their deeds. To carry out the objectives of revolutionary democratic embraced by the EPRDF, it is mandatory to fight against these forces. We must legally foil all their actions contravening the constitution and the country's laws; we must also make sure that their rights are respected, provided they pursue their programmes peacefully and in compliance with the constitution and other laws of the land. Accordingly, the EPRDF is obliged to engage them in a political struggle through peaceful and legal means.
16. In the world we live in today we find a myriad of relationships among nations that keep growing stronger with each passing day. Our country too, must become an active participant in this system of relations. All Nations seek to advance their national interest. Likewise, Ethiopia aims at rapid economic development and the building of a democratic order-the alpha and omega of our national interest. It is also obvious that there are countries that would gain from Ethiopia's successful transition to a free market economy and to a democratic rule, which would in tandem promote the people's well being and the nation's economic independence. However, there would be dimensions in such change with adverse effects on others. Based on our national interest, we shall support those countries whose actions contribute to the realization of our objectives and shall closely cooperate with them. Actions obstructing our progress will meet

stiff opposition and we shall devise ways of overcoming these impediments and their impacts from whichever direction they come.

17. To see the implementation of the aforementioned basic goals, the EPRDF has drawn up the following program, spelling out its economic, political, social and foreign policies. We call upon all the peoples of Ethiopia, who stand to benefit from this democratic revolutionary program, to rally around these objectives and fight for their realization.

II. POLITICAL PROGRAM

1. EPRDF'S STRATEGIC POLITICAL OBJECTIVES.

The EPRDF'S strategic political objective is to put in place a stable multiparty democratic system whereby the human and democratic rights of citizens, upheld in the Constitution, are fully respected and where democratic institutions and culture flourish through ensuing popular participation in the country's political and economic life. It strives to ensure a firm solidarity among Ethiopia's peoples forged through respect for the rights of peoples and on the basis of equality and justice.

2. To enforce respect for rights; to strengthen democratic institutions and culture.

- 2.1. To ensure respect for rights recognized in the Constitution, with all citizens enjoying them to the full, while progressively strengthened.
- 2.2. Staunchly fighting for the full exercise of these rights by the broad masses in a democratic system where rights of citizens are respected.
- 2.3. To ensure that parties contesting legally¹⁴ and democratically for public office flourish that they organize citizens legally, and that they exercise their rights to free expression and political participation.

- 2.4. To ensure the establishment and growth of a free and vibrant press, which in accordance with the law, disseminates news, analysis and other media products.
- 2.5. To ensure the creation and entrenchment of a fully independent judiciary that is subject and loyal to the Constitution and rule of law, and which is administered by capable judges and legal professionals.
- 2.6. To enable that the executive and the legislative capably discharge their constitutional responsibilities.
- 2.7. To enable the full implementation the Constitutional provisions on independence as well as on checks and balances among the executive, the legislative and the judiciary.
- 2.8. To ensure the development and vibrancy of professional, civic and other nongovernmental organizations, essential for a dynamic democracy.
- 2.9. To ensure, through struggle, the emergence of a public culture where differences are tolerated and where they receive democratic resolution, and where political competition and debate prevail.
- 2.10. To remain vigilant to ward off and put under control violations or infringements of rights, or illegal acts seeking to alter and overthrow the democratic order.

3. To build a democratic order rooted in free, active popular participation.

- 3.1. To ensure that special attention is given to active, free and democratic participation of the peasantry and the urban public through effective exercise of their rights in the democratic order, upholding the human and democratic rights of all.

- 3.2. To ensure that citizens are freely organized in trade and civic associations and also to ensure that these associations are democratic, and to enable citizens to advance their entitlements and interests.
- 3.3. To ensure that conditions are created whereby citizens directly and through their civic associations can freely and fully participate in the government's programs of economic and social development.
- 3.4. To ensure that organs of government- particularly, districts (woreda) and neighborhood associations (kebele) -- that allow wide and popular participation are granted broader, legally conferred authority, which provides room for active participation through trade, civic, self-help and community associations.
- 3.5. To put in place arrangements whereby elected representatives at all levels are accountable to the electorate, and, in case of dissatisfaction on the part of the latter it can exercise the right of recall and elect new representatives.
- 3.6. To ensure that organs of government, at all levels, discharge their responsibilities with transparency and accountability; to ensure active popular participation so that citizens can be the guarantor and beneficiary of governmental transparency and accountability.
- 3.7. To ensure that the people can make effective use of their rights through universal elementary education, which creates democratic consciousness and a sense of loyalty to the Constitution.
- 3.8. To ensure that policies and plans proposed by the EPRDF are subject to popular deliberation, criticism, commentary and recommendations in ways that enhance a democratic public culture.

3.9. To ensure that the bureaucracy at all levels has a sense of public duty, and the human, organizational and professional capability to fully understand, and implement, effectively, policies of the government.

3.10. To enable government bureaucracy at all levels to be recruited and promoted on the basis of its merits alone; clearly demarcating political appointment and the bureaucracy; In this regard, working for gradual proportional representation of national within the bureaucracy of the federal government.

4. To struggle for the creation of a firm democratic unity based on respect for the equality and rights of all people's and a sense of solidarity and fraternity among them.

4.1. To ensure that the constitutionally guaranteed right to self-determination of the nations nationalities and peoples including the right to secession is not eroded.

4.2. To ensure, through concerted effort, a strong solidarity among the Ethiopian peoples through free consent and fraternity in a condition where their constitutional rights are fully respected.

4.3. To ensure respect for the peoples' rights to local self-government, and their right to use their own language and ensure also capacity building so that they can effectively exercise all their rights as well as ensure that inequities in their executive capacity are addressed to close the gap effectively.

4.4. To ensure that all people enjoy equal representation in public institutions, with power to make collective decisions, and in elected bodies of government; to also ensure that their representatives in such bodies have the capacity of effective participation.

4.5. To ensure public knowledge of the histories of the peoples, and the preservation and enrichment of their cultures.

- 4.6. To ensure that the people have an equal right to develop the territories they inhabit and to ensure that disadvantaged regions receive special support to develop their implementation capacity, and their capacity to establish the infrastructure necessary for development; and to ensure that the effort at balanced development is guided by the goal of creating a single, integrated economic community.
- 4.7. To ensure the strengthening of Ethiopian unity based on equality, mutual respect and fraternity through unwavering commitment.
- 4.8. To ensure that fight against narrow nationalism and chauvinism, detrimental to the democratic unity of the peoples of Ethiopia, continue unabated, and their influence on citizens overcome.
- 4.9. To ensure that the cultural and historical heritage of all our peoples, a shared legacy, is protected, preserved, recognized and developed.
- 4.10. To ensure mutual interaction, knowledge and cooperation with respect to collective interests, rights and causes are strengthened and enhanced.

5. The creation of a capable national defence and law enforcement bodies.

- 5.1. To ensure the building of a strong, popular defence force that is fully knowledgeable of and loyal to the Constitution, that stands for popular sovereignty, and that protects the country against external aggression.
- 5.2. To ensure that the defence force, has the required efficiency and size, with all the necessary structures in fact to carry out its mission commensurate with the country's economic resources while it grows more efficient progressively.

- 5.3. To ensure that arrangements are in place to enable popular participation in defence, and to encourage continual enhancement and improvement of popular participation.
- 5.4. To ensure that the armed forces are firmly united based on knowledge of and allegiance to the Constitution, its ideals as well as its own mission; to ensure that its members are rewarded on the basis of merit and contribution and also to ensure that the defence force is modern and capable; to ensure that the composition of the armed forces is a balanced reflection of the country's national and ethnic composition.
- 5.5. With their rights of citizenship respected, members of the armed forces are excluded from membership in any political party and to ensure that they are only accountable to a duly elected government, and remain free of the control or influence of any political organization.
- 5.6. To ensure the establishment and strengthening of a capable police force that is knowledgeable about and loyal to the Constitution and the law of the land.
- 5.7. To ensure that the police, at all levels, respect and guarantee respect for the rights of citizens and also; to ensure that they (the police) have the capacity and determination to apprehend criminals and the lawless, and to bring them before the court of law.
- 5.8. To ensure arrangements are in place that allow citizens to participate in the fight against crime and to ensure the progressive strengthening and improvement of such arrangements.
- 5.9. With their rights of citizenship respected, to ensure that, the police are excluded from membership in political organizations and to ensure mutual support and cooperation among different police forces.

III. ECONOMIC PROGRAM

6. EPRDF's Strategic Economic Objective

The EPRDF'S strategic economic objective is to build a robust free market economy whereby: rapid economic growth is guaranteed, where the people are genuine beneficiaries of growth and development and where the share and position of the country in the global economy is improved to ensure the country's economic independence.

7. Rural Centered Agriculture Led Development Strategy

- 7.1. To ensure that development is centered on the agricultural sector in recognition of the pivotal role of human capital in rapid and sustainable development, as most of the population is rural, and in further recognition of the fact that it is in agriculture that limited investment yields great returns in development.
- 7.2. To ensure rapid development through land-use policy whereby farmers have sufficient farming land and that this resource would be put to optimal use with a view of protecting and preserving the environment.
- 7.3. To ensure that, labour, the decisive developmental resource, is rendered more productive through education and training, health care, and the provision of improved technology.
- 7.4. To ensuring the creation of organizations and associations that encourages broad, active popular participation in development; and to ensure the independence of these organizations and associations so that they can serve as arena for active, free and democratic participation.
- 7.5. To ensure that our efforts agricultural development improve the productivity of land and labour.
- 7.6. To ensure the building of infrastructure supporting agricultural development: education and training, health services, irrigation schemes and the like. To ensure also organizational forms that enable greater

coordination of agricultural development programs. To strengthen executive bodies of government, particularly at the district (Woreda) and local (kebele) levels.

- 7.7. To ensure that agricultural development is governed by the market-- particularly, the global market --- and is attuned to its mechanisms and to ensure the growth and enhancement of cooperatives as a means of improving the rural market. To ensure that farmers produce commodities that are in demand and competitive in quality and price, by gaining access to new technologies; and also to ensure the participation of the private sector in the agricultural market.
- 7.8. To ensure that agricultural development releases agriculture itself from confinement to the cultivation of a few crops and to a limited range of activities. To ensure that it extends its scope to: animal husbandry, environmental protection and agro-forestry cultivation of crops fruits and other plants spices and products needed for industrial production. To ensure that different areas regions select from these activities a set that promises optimal yield in their specific overall condition and environment. To ensure also that some areas diversify while others specialize, and that there is mutual support between specialization and diversification.
- 7.9. To ensure that there is coordination and mutual support between agriculture and other sectors of the economy. To ensure that the agricultural sector contributes labor, capital accumulation and markets to the other sectors so that gradually industry, commerce and service will become the leading sectors of the economy. To ensure that agrarian finance grows stronger and better organized in order to support the envisioned direction of development.
- 7.10. To ensure the country's food security. To ensure food security through improved land use and proper selection of agricultural work with optimal yield in a given area, and through efficient use of rainfall and dry land

water. To ensure also food security through improvement of trade among rural and urban communities. To ensure better food security through voluntary resettlement and free movement of labour. To ensure food security by launching income-generating activities based on agriculture. To ensure that such schemes are fully realized in practice through coordination, and attention to local peculiarities.

- 7.11. To ensure animal husbandry flourishes among pastoralists through improvement in the number and quality of animals, and growth in the market for animals and animal products. To ensure that pastoralists in selected areas are provided an opportunity to lead sedentary life. Also to ensure that pastoralist development is planned and is progressively improved through cooperation with pastor list communities and community leaders.
- 7.12. To ensure that land tenure is in strict compliance with constitutional provisions.
- 7.13. To ensure that the right of pastoralists to use land is secure and to institute measures to improve effective exercise of this right. To ensure that modern farms that can widely utilize pastoralist labour can lease rural land for extended periods. To ensure that such practices do not displace rural labor or create rural unemployment.
- 7.14. To ensure that investors who seek to develop modern farms are granted long-term leases and other incentives for investment. To ensure that these areas well-built in infrastructure crucial for development. To ensure also that labour employed in modern farms is provided with adequate work. To ensure that investors in rural development are provided with training and services.
- 7.15. To ensure that agricultural development is supported by sustained research and that it is an integral part of agrarian development both by enhancement

of domestic research and by transfer of foreign technology research and knowledge ascertained to be adaptable and appropriate to our conditions. To ensure growth, both in quality and magnitude, of agricultural research.

- 7.16. To ensure rapid, and high productivity of agricultural technology and to effect a transition from subsistence to commercial agriculture through the provision of training that capitalizes on the expansion of rural primary education. To ensure also that this trend receives coordinated support from education and training, research and technology, market and financial services. To ensure in the middle and long term that agricultural development is guided by the same strategy.

8. Optimal and Coordinated Use of Resources.

- 8.1. To ensure that the rural as well as the urban population fully participate in development through better health care, education and training and other inputs to human productivity. To ensure, also, that strategies in industrial development focus on areas that are labour-intensive and that promote the productivity of labour.
- 8.2. To ensure that government focuses on providing support to popular initiatives for development, as popular participation is indispensable to rapid, sustainable growth.
- 8.3. To ensure that investors engaged in the production of goods and services that contribute to economic growth are supported, since the private sector plays a unique role in the building of a free market economy. To ensure that domestic private enterprises receive special support and encouragement.
- 8.4. To ensure that the private sector engaged in development receives full and coordinated support so that it can produce goods and services that are competitive. Ensuring that it has access to efficient infrastructure at competitive, reasonable cost; adequate financial services, information

services, expertise and training. To ensure that government contrive means of working in cooperation and partnership with the private sector.

- 8.5.** To encourage local entrepreneurs operate without any restriction to capital in all areas, save those reserved for government. To ensure that foreign entrepreneurs are encouraged freely in all areas, save those reserved for government and local entrepreneurs.
- 8.6.** To ensure, alongside support for private enterprise engaged in development, that those in the private sector nor engaged in real development, seeking quick enrichment through corruption, illicit trade, rent collection and the like are fully checked and discouraged.
- 8.7.** To ensure comprehensive support for the private sector engaged in development, government shall create a stable macroeconomic environment conducive to economic progress and capacity building and all round support for development inertia.
- 8.8.** To ensure that government is widely engaged in the creation and expansion of the infrastructure for rapid development. To ensure, in this regard, that road construction is carried out in full cooperation between government and the people. To ensure that national and foreign private enterprise fully participate in the production of electric power and to ensure also that private enterprise work in partnership with government in the expansion of telecommunications.
- 8.9.** To ensure, in addition, that government invests in sphere where there are bottlenecks to development, and areas where the private sector is unable to engage itself at a desirable scale and quality, and to ensure, likewise, that government breaks away from areas free from such setbacks.

- 8.10.** To ensure that defence industries are under government and that in this area there are cooperative efforts to facilitate technological transfer and managerial improvement.
- 8.11.** To ensure expansion of the financial sector by guaranteeing access to national and foreign private enterprises and improvements in the quality and competitiveness of the financial sector as well as creating favorable conditions for the management of financial institutions by foreign nationals or firms in order to alleviate managerial deficiencies of government or local private enterprises in finance, also to ensure greater efficiency in the financial sector by facilitating greater competition.
- 8.12.** To ensure that the bureaucracy lives up to its goal of providing public service, and of supporting citizens and entrepreneurs engaged in development. To ensure the removal of bureaucratic bottlenecks to development. To ensure, likewise, that institutions of government secure trained manpower, better organizational capability and systems of work so that they can serve as instruments of development. To ensure that these measures undergo sustained improvement.
- 8.13.** To ensure that government pay special attention to capacity building so that it can coordinate and enhance the capacity of other agents of development as well as to guarantee its own effective agency in development.

9. To enable balanced development in all regions and to enhance the country's economic development.

- 9.1.** To ensure that development in various regions is guided by the twin aims of speeding up the country's overall economic growth, and creating a fully integrated, single economic community. To ensure widespread and free movement of capital and goods across the country.

- 9.2. To ensure equality of rights and opportunities among regions so that they can achieve the optimal growth possible. To ensure balanced growth in the executive capacity of regions, key to overall balanced growth. To ensure that special capacity-building support is extended to regions disadvantaged in implementation capacity.
- 9.3. To ensure that all regions have access to a fair share of infrastructure compatible with the requirement as the construction of developmental infrastructure promotes rapid overall growth, speeds up economic integration and is cost-effective.
- 9.4. To ensure that subsidies to regional budgets are made on the basis of transparent formula of appropriation. To ensure that the formula are reviewed for improvement. To ensure that regions disadvantaged in development receive additional subsidies to that effect.
- 9.5. To ensure maximum popular participation in development, since the people are the decisive resource in the quest for balanced development. To ensure that the private sector is encouraged to participate fully in all areas of development. To ensure that a policy of incentives for private enterprise is in place in regions extremely disadvantaged in development.
- 9.6. To ensure our county's share and standing in the global economy, since overcoming dependency on both relief and aid hinges on the country's ability to be a real player in the powerful and growing relations of globalization. To ensure that we have the capacity to produce goods and services that are, in quality and price, competitive in the global market.
- 9.7. To ensure that our developmental resources can rescue us from relief and economic dependency provided they are deployed to maximize and sustain growth. To ensure, in this regard, that all options and opportunities are fully explored.

- 9.8. To ensure that the purchasing capacity of the people is enhanced in order to create an interdependent and integrated domestic market, essential to the achievement of rapid development and economic independence. To ensure that the interdependence of rapid economic growth and a large domestic market is recognized and exploited.
- 9.9. To ensure close economic cooperation and integration with countries in the region and across Africa that would help the effort to overcome economic dependence and to gain economic autonomy.
- 9.10. To ensure peaceful international relations and cooperative ties that offer opportunities for avoiding dependence and attaining economic independence. To ensure that challenges that obstruct such ties are removed or alleviated. To ensure that devices are found for securing rapid growth and economic autonomy in pace with changes in international relations. To ensure progressive improvements in these methods and devices.

10. To draw up and realize an urban development strategy that speeds up development.

- 10.1. To ensure the establishment of cities and towns that support rural development and serve as hubs for commercial and industrial development closely linked to agriculture. To ensure that urbanization and urban development is planned in coordination with agricultural and industrial development.
- 10.2. To ensure that the infrastructure services of cities are tailored according to their role in the economic development of their environs. To ensure that the function of urban centers and their infrastructure is clearly determined and implemented according to plan.
- 10.3. To ensure that the provision of urban land and infrastructure accords priority to commercial and production plants to be established in the area.

To ensure that land is reserved for these purposes in keeping with the rate of urban growth.

- 10.4. To ensure that problems surfacing during the implementation of urban land-lease policy are speedily resolved. To make sure that the grant of leases encourages development and is both transparent and efficient. To ensure that these steps are progressively improved.
- 10.5. To ensure popular participation in the political administration, security and development of urban centers. To ensure that urban planning and implementation is based on popular participation.
- 10.6. To ensure capacity- building in municipal services, urban growth, and the drawing up and execution of master plans. To ensure that the role of experts in such activities is enhanced and also to ensure advancement of the capacity of urban administration.
- 10.7. To ensure that urban centers develop their capacity to raise funds and collect the revenue necessary for urban administration and development. To ensure that municipalities develop the capacity to raise funds at least covering running costs.

11. To guarantee rapid industrial development.

- 11.1. To ensure that expansion of industry is based on agricultural growth and coordinated with the agricultural sector.
- 11.2. To ensure that new industries are as far as possible labour-intensive.
- 11.3. To ensure that industrial growth focuses on the production of exportable commodities that are, in quality and price, competitive in international markets.

- 11.4. To ensure that adequate support is given to encourage private enterprise to play the key role they have in industrial development; to ensure that public development enterprises are privatized, and that those that remain in the public sector extend full support to industrial development undertaken by the private sector.
- 11.5. To create favorable conditions to foreign enterprise to boost industrial growth. To ensure close coordination and cooperation between local and inter national industrialists.
- 11.6. To ensure consolidation of local industrialists by encouraging their effort to organize; to ensure close coordination and cooperation between government and industrialists based on the shared interest in rapid industrial growth.
- 11.7. To ensure support for the spread and growth of small private development enterprises that can strengthen industry and furnish it with a broad base. To ensure that trained youth are encouraged to engage in these enterprises.

IV Social Programme

12. The Strategic Social Objective of EPRDF

The strategic social objective of EPRDF in integration with our economic development is to realize rapid social development out of which the people will savour utmost gains. To effect this social objective it will implement the following social programme.

13. Establish a high standard, expanded educational and training system that is integrated with our production and development activities.

- 13.1 Provide primary schooling for all. Design the education in such a way that it produces duty-bound productive citizens well aware of their rights with entrenched democratic attitudes..
- 13.2 Expand secondary school education in parallel with economic development. Design the education in such a way that it generates productive, duty-bound citizens well aware of their rights and duties promoting democratic attitudes.
- 13.3 To enable citizens who have had primary and secondary education actively engage in the on going development activities, specially in our efforts to rapidly bring our farming technology to highly improved state and to make cardinal participation in strengthening the capacity of the public, government and investors to expedite our industrial development. Design a broad vocational training system oriented towards our development strategy that qualifies citizens to extensively participate in the aforementioned activity and equip them with new ideas and career that makes them productive and job-creating as well. Encourage investors put paramount contribution into this system. Make this vocational training system evolve and improve constantly instep with our economic development.
- 13.4 Expand higher education in coordination with our economic development. The educational system has to produce researchers, citizens highly aware of their rights and duties, with deep democratic understanding as professionals.

- 13.5 Enable the higher institutions to be extensively engaged in researches essential for the economic, social and political development of our country. Design the education in such a way that it is of high standard and functions together with our development efficiently. Effect a cost sharing system with supports higher learning financially without giving rise to school drop outs in consequence of financial difficulties.
- 13.6 Expand as much as possible informal and specialized education, increase nursery schools through the involvement of the public and investors.
- 13.7 To directly involve the public in the administration of schools and make the public contribute in educational finances and particularly in school building activities. Exploit all available opportunities that enable schools to engage themselves in income generating schemes during the course of the teaching learning activities so that they may cover certain expenses.
- 13.8 Encourage investors and non-governmental organization to participate in educational services at all levels and disciplines within the range of the curriculum set by the government.
- 13.9 Give extensive training that helps to upgrade teacher's professional ethics and capacity and see that there is capable administrative systems put in place. Create favorable conditions to improve the lives of teachers and safeguard their rights. To ensure that teachers and students have extensive democratic participation in school administration.

14. Build Prevention Oriented Health Service System

- 14.1 Make our health service tasks mainly focused on disease prevention. Coordinate this activity with our city and rural development endeavors. Professionals have to be trained for this purpose and the prevention system must be well organized and expeditious. This system must be developed and improved unceasingly.
- 14.2 Taking into consideration the impact of AIDS pandemic on social and economic development of our country and the challenge against the very existence of our people, continuous and constant participatory anti-AIDS campaign have to be launched, with presentations at the core activities.
- 14.3 To make the health service focus on basic health services and benefit the public in general and specifically the rural population, who so far had been denied of this service.
- 14.4 The government, shall as much as possible, build hospitals of varied status. Make these health institutions have a system that enables them hire and maintain highly qualified professionals. Improve and upgrade this system consistently.
- 14.5 Encourage investors and non-governmental organizations to extensively participate in rendering health services.
- 14.6 To extensively involve the public in building health service institutions especially in the basic health service facilities. To have the public share

health care expenses. Expanding health insurance system inline with our economic development.

15. Standing unflinchingly for the right of the workers and equality of women.

- 15.1. Fighting for improvement of wages and working environment in an integrated manner with the economic achieved. Enforcing constitutional rights of workers to organize, negotiate and call strike. Ensuring organizational independence and democratic operation of trade unions. Supporting workers to improve productivity through sustained training.
- 15.2. Putting in place a system that guarantees pension and social welfare. Enabling the system to gradually cater for the private sector.
- 15.3. Exerting efforts for sustainable industrial peace, pivotal for development; encouraging and coordinating integrated endeavours by government employers and employees for sustained improvement in productivity of workers. Improving wages and working condition, based on these undertakings.
- 15.4. Encouraging workers the have a conscious, free and democratic involvement in nation building and political activities. Adhering to a direction that will allow organized undertaking to this end.

- 15.5. Fighting for participation on equal footing of women in political, economical and social affairs while savouring equally the benefits of economic growth.
- 15.6. Encouraging the formation of women's association and consolidating them to foster the struggle for equality of women, working for heightened independence and democratic operation of the association. Encouraging women to boost their democratic participation in their associations. Raising women's educational participation to the level of men.
- 15.7. Ensuring their right for maternity leave and respecting their right for pension and promotion on equal footing with men.
- 15.8. Ensuring women's right to property ownership, management use and transfer; ensuring the right of rural women to get access to land in order to use it.
- 15.9. Enabling the younger generation acquire innovative ideas; professional competence, good ethical background in order for it to engage with vigor in development and the building of a democratic order; encouraging the youth to organize independently paving the way for its engagement in the political, economic and social arena and reap the benefits at all levels.

IV. Foreign Affairs Program

16. The EPRDF strategic foreign affair policy objectives

The EPRDF's strategic objective in foreign affairs policy is to create international and regional conditions fostering to our chief national interest of building a democratic order and establishing a thriving market economy. Our aim is to create a lasting peace essential to the attainment of those aspirations, which are the central expressions of our national interest and sovereignty. To realize our strategic goal in foreign affairs policy, we shall carry out the following program.

17. A foreign policy that safeguards the rights and interests of citizens.

17.1. To ensure that our foreign affairs policy is guided by and is in the service of programmes guaranteeing rapid development that benefits the people and promotes our economic independence, in which, in turn, the pillar and foundation of our national interest, democracy can take root.

17.2. To ensure friendly and cooperative relations with all countries that is of mutual advantage. To ensure support for all activities that are mutually advantageous, to oppose and do away with activities contrary to the national interest.

17.3. To ensure, through firm commitment the peace and stability of the region as regional peace is of great importance for the flourishing of our democratic order and for our rapid development. Our contribution to regional peace is potentially of considerable significance. To ensure that the principles of the equality of peoples, the cooperative advancement of shared interests and

noninterference in internal affairs are observed. To ensure the use of political, diplomatic and economic means to check disruptions of regional peace. To ensure that these measures are used in cooperation with peaceable forces. To ensure the arrest of any acts of subversion directed at the nation.

17.4. To ensure firm support for African unity and African cooperation. To ensure also that Ethiopia plays a constructive role in the expansion of African fora.

17.5. To ensure support of international efforts for peace, justice and development.

18. Capacity-building in implementation of the program in foreign affairs policy.

18.1. To ensure that government has the institutional and organizational capacity to execute foreign policy and to guarantee respect for the national interest and national sovereignty. To ensure capacity - building. To ensure that capacity building is progressively improved and sustained.

18.2. To ensure the creation and strengthening of centers of foreign policy research and study that can carry out sustained research and investigation on foreign affairs and national security. To make sure that the findings of such centers enhance the conduct of foreign policy.

18.3 To ensure that institutions responsible for the execution of foreign policy have the requisite consciousness, commitment and expertise to implement the program on foreign policy.

19. To encourage broad popular participation in the execution of foreign policy.

19.1. To ensure that the public has a firm grasp of the fundamental direction of foreign policy and that it is provided with timely and adequate information to enable its participation in the conduct of foreign policy.

19.2. To ensure encouragement of fora where experts and the public can deliberate and debate on topical issues of foreign policy. To ensure adequate public knowledge and deliberation about the meaning and purpose of international agreements and relations entered by government.

19.3. To ensure that the rights and interests of Ethiopians residing in other countries are respected in accordance with international law. To ensure encouragement of their participation in Ethiopian political and economic life as well as in foreign policy implementation.

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**ETHIOPIAN PEOPLES REVOLUTIONARY
DEMOCRATIC FRONT (EPRDF)
STATUTE**

/Draft/

I. INTRODUCTION

EPRDF is governed by the principles of revolutionary democracy and struggles for the objectives as specified in its party programme. Its objectives being democratic and revolutionary and if put in action, will enable the people to rid themselves from abject states of poverty and backwardness and people to rid themselves of justice, democracy and prosperity. Therefore, EPRDF vehemently struggles to realize its programme which is believed to be the key for transforming the Ethiopian society.

For the realization of the programmes of EPRDF, the people should internalize and struggle for their achievement. In order to enable people to rally behind the objectives of revolutionary democracy and to struggle for their accomplishment, EPRDF is expected to play the role of a vanguard by bracing up its organizational capacity to lead the people in their efforts to raise their consciousness and organize themselves.

In order for EPRDF to play a leading role in the process of the mobilization of the entire people in realizing its revolutionary democratic programme, it is imperative that there is a lasting unity of ideas and practice between EPRDF and its member organizations and from top to bottom. In order to create and persistently develop the unity of ideas and practice within the front of member organizations, it is essential to have a firm and regular democratic forum. There should be a lasting legal and organisational environment for the democratic struggle among ideas. Our statute allows for the creation of a legal and organisational environment that guarantees for free struggle among ideas within EPRDF and its member organizations. Consequently, our statute by creating a lasting democratic environment within our organization leads us towards the development of mature consensus through the democratic struggle within ideas. Because of this, all organs and members should assume the highest awareness about its details and struggle towards its realisation.

By employing our democratic practices which have gained legal and organisational framework, our statute enables us to create the unity of ideas and its realization in an

intensified form. When democracy assumes legal and organisational form, it enhances the creation of a reliable environment for the free struggle among ideas but it does not mean it eliminates differences. The preponderance of a democratic situation does not guarantee the absence of differences between the front and its member organizations regarding its programme or issues pertaining to the programme. The democratic situation is not to make differences not to arise or to be eliminated but without threatening the unity of the Front and its member organizations, it enables them to manifest themselves in a systematic way.

Our statute besides its being democratic has another feature which emphasizes the employment of the felt needs of the masses as a directive for operation and the struggle towards its realization. Without this operational unity, our Front cannot be seen as different from an ordinary discussion forum. Thus, our statute on one side by reinstating a democratic environment for the free and transparent struggle of ideas and on the other by proclaiming discretely the mutual obligations for the promotion of the realization of the needs of the masses it enables our Front and its member organizations for a strong unity of ideas and their operations. As a result, we have to uphold and staunchly struggle for the realization of our statute.

EPRDF is a front of a number of national organizations. Member organizations realize the programme of EPRDF by synchronizing it according to their respective objective realities. They also pursue national issues together on the basis of this programme. The EPRDF statute stipulates that the political leadership we provide both at the national and regional levels is conducted by clear lines of the division of duties and makes clear the limits of the responsibilities of the Front and member organizations. By stipulating the limits of the rights and expected obligations of either EPRDF or each member organization, it consists of a system of dealing with situations where rights are transgressed or when obligations are not properly met. As a result, our statute, by enabling EPRDF and member organizations to have political, economic and social activities that are interwoven and supportive of each other, ensures the realization of our revolutionary democratic programme.

The Statute of EPRDF enables the Front to have the legal and organisational system by specifying the duties and obligations of members of the different organs which will be organized and the members of the Front who are assigned to work in the different organs of EPRDF, by stipulating the process of decision making and execution, and by specifying the principles of operation and management to be used by specifying the principles of operation and management to be used by the structures.

The statute of EPRDF provides us clear guidelines to tackle issues to deal with the specification of the duties and responsibilities of the higher management organs, of when there are problems dealing with interpretations.

To sum up, our statute will bring ties in between the Front and member organizations, as well as the management organs, and as opposed to individualistic relationships, it will also bring an institutionalized work and management system thereby ensuring the objectives of the revolutionary democratic programme.

II. GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF ORGANIZATION PURSUED BY EPRDF

1. Since the development of a democratic system and sustainable development could be achieved through the practice of the objectives of the revolutionary democracy in our country, member organizations have the obligation to struggle for the realization of revolutionary democratic objectives by fighting the idea of dependency and the tendency and practice of rent collection. It is also the obligation of member organizations to ardently struggle for the realization of the objectives of the Front and for the Statue.
2. Since Ethiopia is a multi-national country, the way to guide its different nationalities and peoples together for the struggle should be through a Front made up of multi-national member organizations, and not in an organizational framework of individuals. Because the Front consisting of multi-national organizations will fulfill two basic questions:

- a. Ethiopian nations and nationalities by forming an organization based upon nations and nationalities of their own are practically showing the will their rights and benefits be protected in a fundamental way. The current situation indicates that nations and nationalities could secure a better organizational leadership and political participation when they are in struggle under the leadership of nations and nationality organizations of their own. As thus each nationality, under a respective national organization will improve the condition for the respect of their rights and benefits. EPRDF, being an organization of nations and nationalities and dedicated to the respect of rights and values of Ethiopian nations and nationalities, should embrace organizations that are formed on the basis of nations and nationalities to protect the rights and benefits of nations and nationalities.
 - b. National organizations are organizations that are formed in order to protect the rights and benefits of their nations and nationalities under the revolutionary democratic programme. Keeping this in mind, the formation of organizations of nations and nationalities that are governed by the democratic objectives which foster fraternity and unity among different organizations is fundamental. The formation of nations and nationality organizations under one revolutionary democratic Front will be the better choice to realize this objective. So, as EPRDF is an organization which stands to secure equality and unity among the peoples of Ethiopia, it realizes the objective by embracing member organizations that are dedicated to protect the rights and also gain support from their people easily.
3. Due to the fact that EPRDF is dedicated to the realization of revolutionary democratic objectives, the organizations under its embrace are only those which have clearly dictated the revolutionary democratic objectives within their programme. EPRDF does not either embrace organizations of every nations and nationality or organizations that simply claim to have accepted its revolutionary democratic programme. They should struggle for the realization of its programme Individuals that need EPRDF membership through their respective organizations should also be aware of this fact.

4. The Revolutionary democratic objective could be represented in a nation and nationality only through one organization. Therefore, unfortunately if there are more than one organization in a nation/nationality which want to join the Front primarily they should be merged. Because if they are not merged both or one of them will be subject for incorrect objective and organization.
5. For those national/nationalities organizations which will observe the realization of revolutionary democratic objectives assure their benefits and who are ready to work in collaboration with EPRDF, the Front will seek an organizational framework to work in partnership and jointly and also will have a supportive organizational structure to accommodate other supporters.
6. Women as well as youth members of organization, who accept the revolutionary democratic programme and ready to struggle for its realization will be organized under women and youth leagues within EPRDF. The women and youth leagues allow not only members of EPRDF but also other women and youth who accept the objectives of leagues, and they are thus forums that promote revolutionary democratic ideas and practices.
7. The objective of revolutionary democracy could be realized only if the internal and work ethics of the organization which stood for it remain to be democratic. Therefore, EPRDF will embrace the applicant organization whose leadership is elected in a democratic participation and decision of its members; whose members are free to express their ideas; democratic centralism system is in operation; endorsement of criticism, self criticism and evaluation system are available; and when the Statute of the organization is respected and is only legally supreme to justify the organization.
8. Since EPRDF is a Front representing the unity of organizations, organizational membership of the Front is endorsed only by accepting its revolutionary democratic programme and statute. Thus members will not have distinct political and ideological existence outside the Front. Due to this, member organizations should realize

revolutionary democratic objectives in their respective regions and have the duty to implement the decisions of the EPRDF at national level. However, each member organization of the Front will have the opportunity to synchronize the programme and the general plan of the Front in accordance to their respective regions; facilitate their own internal organizational affairs; send representatives to different organs of the Front and would have the right to replace their representatives when needed. Since the member has joined the Front by its own interest, its freedom to quit from the Front is reserved. However, the need to quit membership is made effective by the articles stipulated within this statute.

9. EPRDF will protect its unity and realize its political programme when there is equality among member organizations. And since it is the Front of various revolutionary democratic organizations, the relationship among member organizations will never having thought without equality. Therefore, all members of the Front while having the same rights and obligations, will have the right to consult equally on common issues; participate in decision making processes and to be equally represented in the Front leadership.

CHAPTER ONE

Briefs

Article 1 Topic

This statute can be referred to as the statute of the Ethiopian Peoples Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) modified and approved by the 6th Congress of the EPRDF.

Article 2 Name of the Front

The name of the Front is the “Ethiopian Peoples Revolutionary Democratic Front” (EPRDF).

Article 3 Emblem of the Front

The background being red, on the right wheat, on the left a wheel and conjoined with the shape of half a circle, a torch handled by two hands in the middle; at the top the of torch on the tips of the wheel and wheat an amber star.

Article 4 Interpretation of the Emblem

1. The red background stands for the sacrifice paid for the establishment of a democratic order.
2. The wheat, half the wheel and torch represents the sectors of the society both in rural and urban areas which are the social foundation of revolutionary democracy who have organized themselves under EPRDF.
3. The two hands represent the readiness of the peoples' to rally behind the revolutionary democracy and their comradeship.
4. The star represents the bright hope we have to establish a sustainable democratic order in our country.

Article 5 Organ of the Front

1. The Front's organ is "Revolutionary Democracy".
2. The organ uses Amharic which is the working language of the Front.
3. Although stated in sub article 2 above, organs of member organizations prepared in different languages will serve to express EPRDF'S public stand.

Article 6 the Headquarters of the Front

The Headquarters of the Front will be in Addis Ababa.

Article 7 The principles of organization and operation of the Front

1. The Front's organizational principles
 - a. EPRDF is a Front founded by the union of revolutionary democratic organizations. It is not a Front organized by recruiting individuals.
 - b. All EPRDF member organizations have the obligations to make the national revolutionary democracy operational in their respective regions.
 - c. While keeping in mind what is stated in 'b', all member organizations have the freedom to realize EPRDF programme in a way suited to the objective realities of their respective regions.
 - d. EPRDF is a Front for organizations which are equal.
 - e. All organizations that come under EPRDF umbrella are those which are led by democratic principles and those which respect democratic centralism.
 - f. EPRDF by making the basis and respecting the laws of the country promotes its activities.
2. Mutual actions and individual obligations
 - a. All organs of EPRDF found at all levels will pass decisions after mutual discussions and through majority votes.
 - b. One person will have only one vote. A proposed decision will be a common guideline if it wins above 50% +1 votes of the total voices in the particular meeting. When there is a draw, the side the chairman belongs or supports will be the winning side.
 - c. All members supposed to be present in regular or urgent meetings have the obligation to attend the meetings. Any intentional move to avoid a quorum before a meeting or in the middle of a meeting is prohibited.

- d. Anyone who internationally left in order not to fulfill a quorum will be considered to have dismissed self. Each member organization assigns instead of the dismissed person; and until the end of the replacement, the quorum will be counted by the rest. Yet, having a special reason, the dismissed person has the right to appeal.
- e. Any decision that wins above 50%+1 will be effective on the body passing the decision and on all bodies and members under it.
- f. Excepting those which are specified by this Statute, any meeting by any body can be taken as fulfilling the quorum when there is a 50%+1 of the expected participants are present.
- g. Members who are supposed to attend the regular as well as the urgent meetings must attend.
- h. Any decision by a committee can be realized by giving the responsibility to the committee members or to those bodies or members below the committee individually or in collaboration.
- i. Any lower committee or a member of a lower committee has the obligation to put into action any decision passed to it.
- j. Any member who has complaints or who does not agree with the decisions of a committee while putting them in practice has the legal right to ask the respective decisions to be reviewed.
- k. If 1/3 of the meeting members ask for review of any decision, the issue will be open for discussion. If above 50%+1 demand for a review, the issue will be seen as a new item to be discussed for decision.
- l. If any complaint on any decision is not accepted on the same forum, the complaint is not forwarded for the second time. The complaint, however, will

be brought forth while continuing participation and the issue be posed for a review by gathering a signatory.

- m. The complaint will be brought for a review orally or in a written form before the committee that had made decision, and the case will be justified according to the statement on article 'L'. If the former decision making body is dismissed, the appeal will be made through a written application. And the written appeal is presented clearly with legal grounds. The presenter submits the written appeal to the chairperson of the decision making body. And the chairperson will in due time distribute the appeal to supporters to sign agreement. If one-third of the people concerned have made agreement in their signatory, the appeal will be discussed thoroughly on the next meeting or in an urgent meeting called according to conditions stipulated.
3. The working conditions of EPRDF are based on clarity and accountability.
- a. Higher body decisions will be announced downwards throughout the hierarchy unless they are intended to be kept confidential.
 - b. Decisions kept confidential are only those which may eventually damage the revolutionary path if disclosed.
 - c. Decisions made by the high body of EPRDF and stands that negatively affect the country's peoples are disclosed in due time to peoples with supportive explanations.
 - d. The Front will consult women and youth leagues; Para organizations and communities on basic issues, and will develop the trend for use.
 - e. Respective EPRDF leadership bodies will report in a given period of time to the higher body the details of their work performance.
 - f. Respective leadership bodies will take responsibility for what they have decided upon. In addition, they are accountable to less performance or abuse.

- assigned for a different duty without the knowledge and confirmation from EPRDF.
- c. Organizations that participate in this multinational structure will recruit their members independently but in compliance with the EPRDF structure.
 - d. The details of the rules and regulations of the communal committees will be set by the Office of the EPRDF.
6. Regarding the organizational structure of other nations and nationalities organizations in the regions.
- a. Other nations nationality revolutionary democrats may operate by their own organizational structure where the national member organizations are in function.
 - b. The mission of organizational structure of sister organizations is to materialize Public Relations and organizational activities among members and to act social basics of revolutionary democratic foundations within members, nations or nationalities. Yet these bodies will not have separate administrative responsibilities.
 - c. Sister organizational structures of areas may obtain their basic directives from the national organization operating in their respective region. They also report their performance in due time to the regional organization. Besides they send similar report to their own national organization.
 - d. Details of implementation of this guide are set by the EPRDF Executive Committee.

CHAPTER TWO

Membership

Article 8 Becoming a member of the Front

EPRDF membership will require the following criteria.

1. That which accepts EPRDF Programme and the Statute and ready to ardently struggle for implementation; that which has operational internal democratic system; that which has social basis to implement the Programme, and that shows active participation;
2. A national political organization or a Front that is formed by a group of regional national revolutionary democratic organizations or a multi-national organization;
3. That which participates according to the rules and principles of the Front and if necessary that which is ready to participate in the system for a tangible contribution;
4. That which is ready to contribute financially for the implementation of EPRDF activities;
5. An organization which has completed membership probationary period.

Article 9 Temporary Membership

1. Any organization will have a probationary period of one year before getting approval for membership.
2. When it has found it to be fundamental, the Executive Committee can extend the probationary period up to a duration of one year.

Article 10 Approving Membership

1. Acceptance in a probationary membership will be decided by the EPRDF Council.
2. Full membership will be consolidated by the EPRDF Congress.

Article 11 The rights of a member organization.

Every member organization of the Front will have the following rights.

1. Equally filling up higher vacant positions held up in the Front according to the rules and regulations stipulated in the Front Statute;
2. Representing candidates for the high positions held or replacing them when needed on the basis of the Front Statute;
3. Disseminating and voicing of ideas within the Front according to the rights allowed in the Front Statute;
4. Recruiting organizing and teaching people within the framework of one's organization;
5. Acting accordingly with one's internal organizational framework;
6. Using the Front property commonly and equally;
7. Making decisions on the common issues of the Front equally;
8. Resigning from the Front membership at any time according to the articles stated in the Statute.

Article 12 The obligations of a member organization

Each member organization of the Front will be subject to the following obligations.

1. Respecting and implementing Programmes, statute rules and regulations decisions and plans of the Front;
2. Respecting of and pursuing with the operational and leadership principles of the Front;

3. Keeping the wellbeing and secrets of both the Front and member organizations;
4. Participating in regular and urgent meetings of the Front through representatives and maintaining quorum life;
5. Fighting the anti-unity attitudes and activities and consolidating unity of the Front;
6. Consolidating and maintaining the relationship among member organizations equally;

Article 13 Dismissal and willful resigning from membership

1. Disciplinary ban and full dismissal
 - a. Organizations that are not in compliance with the obligations under article 12 above will temporally be banned or fully be dismissed from the Front membership.
 - b. Temporal ban or full dismissal from membership will be made effective on an organization only after giving a prior criticism and correction time and only if it does not show any improvement.
 - c. Ban or dismissal decisions will be passed up on a member organization by the EPRDF Council.
 - d. An organization subject to ban or dismissal will have the right to appeal to the EPRDF Controls Commission and will have its complaints be reviewed by the Congress. And if the Congress agrees to see the case representatives of the banned or dismissed organization will be allowed to the Congress only to present their appeal. The decision passed by the Congress will be final.
 - e. An organization formerly dismissed from membership will present membership application after correcting mistakes and the case will be examined and will be a member after getting acceptance by the Congress.

2. Resigning from membership
 - a. Any member organization can resign from membership after a prior notification to the Front.
 - b. In consistence to the statement in article “a”, the decision to resign will be made final by the Congress of the organization.
 - c. In consistent to what are stated in article “a” and “b”, the resigning organization shall give chance for other member organizations to forward their opinion.
3. Council of the Front shall adopt detailed regulations of ban, resigning and dismissal from membership.

Article 14 The Rights of a provisional member organization

1. Every provisional member organization shall abide by the following obligations.
 - a. Participating in different training forums, forwarding, voicing ideas within the framework and Statute of the Front;
 - b. Mute participation in the Congress and Council of the Front;
 - c. Working within the reach of people, recruiting, organizing and teaching persons for membership anywhere and under its own organizational pursuit;
 - d. Working within the framework of its own organization;
 - e. Departure by its own as far as it does not want continuance in the provision membership;
2. In consistent with sub article 1 (d), the intention to resigning from membership shall be notified to the Council.
3. The implementation of this article shall be governed by articles 13(2) and 13(3) above.

Article 15 Obligations of a provisional member.

Including EPRDF membership fee, the details stated as obligations for member organizations in this Statute shall also be the obligations of the provisional members.

Article 16 about Partner Organizations

1. Any national organization that can fulfill the following criteria shall work in partnership with EPRDF.
 - a. That can recur to work cooperatively with EPRDF in the struggle for peace, development and democracy;
 - b. That can play a leadership role to popular mobilization in the struggle against poverty and backwardness;
 - c. That struggles the idea of dependency and materializes a democratic system within its own internal structure.
 - d. That have a positive attitude towards revolutionary democracy.
2. EPRDF can work together with the partner organizations on common issues; takes the leadership role; and at times offers support.
3. The details of EPRDF'S communal work with partner organizations shall be set by the Council of the Front.

CHAPTER THREE

Organizational Structure

Article 17 Management organs and various structures of the Front

1. General Congress of EPRDF
2. Council of EPRDF
3. Executive Committee of EPRDF
4. Chairperson of EPRDF
5. Assistant Chairperson of EPRDF
6. Controls Commission of EPRDF
7. Office of EPRDF
8. Structure of EPRDF Parliament members
9. Women League
10. Youth League
11. Lower Bodies of EPRDF

Article18 Congress of EPRDF

1. Establishment and Announcement of the Congress

- a. The congress of EPRDF shall be conducted within 2 to 21/2 years. However, the Congress may extend it to not greater than the duration of six months depending upon situations.
- b. The Congress is structured by people voted equally from member organizations; members of the EPRDF Council and Controls Commission directly participate in the Congress.
- c. Members of the Congress assume place permanently until replaced by the next Congress.

- d. Necessary facilities for the congress are provided by a committee formed for this purpose by the Executive Committee.
- e. The committee formed to facilitate activities for the Congress gathers agendas from the Executive Committee, the EPRDF Council and from member organizations.
- f. Regarding the number and composition of participants of the Congress, the Facilitation Committee sets initial ideas; presents to the Executive Committee; and implements when it is approved.
- g. Representatives of the EPRDF Congress shall be recruited from their respective organizational Congress. However, any organization that has not conducted congress in due time shall represent its participants by conducting elections starting from a lower level.

2. Urgent Congress

- a. Upon decision made by the council of the Front with votes, or upon a request by at least half of member organizations, or by a request from permanent Congress members who have got support from 50% + 1 of them, an urgent Congress be called.
- b. When EPRDF'S Controls Commission gets 1/3 of support from or permanent members of the Congress, it can make an urgent Congress.
- c. When an urgent Congress is held, the former members of the Congress are made to participate directly; even if some members are absent and as far as it does not affect the quorum, a new election will not be conducted.
- d. The desired number of members of a quorum to hold an urgent congress shall be 50% +1.

3. Duties and responsibilities of the Congress

- a. The Congress is the highest body of the Front.
 - b. It approves, modifies, and accordingly changes the Programme and the Statue of the Front.
 - c. Sets national policies and strategies for the Front to pursue.
 - d. Decides on activities and goals for the Front to implement until the next Congress.
 - e. Specifies the number of members for the Council and the Executive Committee of the Front.
 - f. Hears, evaluates and gives decision on the reports persented by the Council and the Controls Commission of the Front.
4. The Mode of Operation of the Congress
- a. Before the Congress to assume work, the Facilitation Committee will report on the future operational plans, activities of the Congress and gets them approved.
 - b. The Congress shall be led by a Presidium. Members of the Presidium will be the Secretaries of each member organizations.
 - c. Issues planned for discussion under the Congress shall be approved by the Congress.

Articles 19 EPRDF Council - Establishment, Duties and Responsibilities and Mode of Operation.

1. The Establishment of the Council
 - a. The Council is the second highest body of the Front next to the Congress.

- b. The Council is represented with equal number of members from organizations. Members of the Council shall be elected from the Central Committee of each organization.
- c. Each member organization has the right to sack or replace other Council members.
- d. The Council is accounted to the EPRDF Congress.

2. Duties and Responsibilities of the Council.

The council will have the following duties and responsibilities

- a. Leads the Front from the present to the next Congress.
- b. Based on the decisions of the Congress, it adopts policies on national roles and other relevant issues; and also plans the organization's activities.
- c. Elaborates interpretable and debatable points in the Front Statute.
- d. Sets and approves guidelines in order to implement the Statute.
- e. Organizes and improves structures needed to foster activities of the Front.
- f. Hears, evaluates and also makes decision when it is necessary.
- g. Accepts organizations to full Front membership by having the two-third vote of the Council members; bans or dismisses a member organization not fulfilled its obligation.
- h. Temporarily bans members from the Council for violations based on the 2/3rd vote obtained from the Council. The decision will be practical after getting approval by its national organization.
- i. Elects the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson of the Front.
- j. Approves the Front's annual budget.

3. Meeting and mode of operation of the Council.
 - a. The Council regular meeting will be conducted every six months
 - b. In consistent to the statement in “a” above, the Council may call an urgent meeting if it is requested by getting 1/3 of the Council members or by the Executive Committee.
 - c. Any decision passed by the Council shall be effective in all member organizations.
 - d. The Council meeting shall be chaired by the Front Chairperson.
 - e. An issue that only refers to a specific organization may be discussed separately by its own Central Committee.

Article 20 The EPRDF Executive Committee - Establishment, Duties and Responsibilities.

1. The Establishment of the Executive Committee.
 - a. The Executive Committee shall be formed by equal votes from the Executive Committees of all the member organizations.
 - b. Based on essentialities, each executive committee of member organizations may replace its Executive Committee representatives.
 - c. The Executive Committee shall be accounted to the EPRDF Council.
 - d. Members of the Executive Committee who are represented from each member organization shall be accountable to the EPRDF Executive Committee and to their own Organizational Central Committees.
2. Duties and responsibilities of the Executive Committee

- a. Implements decisions and guides of the Council;
 - b. Leads the duties and activities of different communal member bodies;
 - c. By consulting with national organizations, it assigns human power to communal institutions;
 - d. Prepares reports and sets agendas for the Council meetings;
 - e. Organizes temporary structures and operates when needed;
 - f. Prepares operational manuals to implement the Council decisions;
 - g. Takes agreements in the name of the Front;
 - h. Admits provisional members; cancels at any time the provisional membership of organizations that have not accomplished the given practical assignments.
 - i. Structures a committee that implements preliminary tasks for the Congress established on the basis of equality; prepares and presents a work manual with details for the Congress.
3. Meeting and Mode of operation of the Executive Committee
- a. The Executive Committee conducts a regular meeting every three months.
 - b. When the Chairperson or the Deputy Chairperson as well as 1/3rd of members of the Committee request, an urgent meeting may be called.
 - c. The meeting of the Executive Committee shall be held on prior agenda, unless and otherwise an urgent need arises.
 - d. The decisions of the Executive Committee shall be effective in all member organizations.
 - e. The Executive Committee meeting shall be chaired by the Front Chairperson.

Article 21 The EPRDF Chairperson, Duties and Responsibilities

1. Chairs the Council and Executive Committee meetings of the Front;
2. Implements Council decisions; coordinates the Executive Committee tasks;
3. Meets with other bodies by representing the Front;
4. Presents activity reports to the Executive Committee; and sets agendas for the Executive Committee meetings;
5. Coordinates the tasks of the Central bodies;
6. Implements additional tasks given by the Council and the Executive Committee.

Article 22 The EPRDF Deputy Chairperson, Duties and Responsibilities

1. Assumes the place of the Chairperson during absence.
2. Implements the tasks given by the Executive Committee and the Front Chairperson

Article 23 EPRDF Controls Commission-Establishment, duties and responsibilities, and mode of operation

1. Establishment
 - a. The EPRDF Controls Commission is established by electing two members from each member organization.
 - b. The Controls Commission is accountable to the EPRDF Congress.
2. Duties and responsibilities of the Controls Commission.
 - a. The Commission examines the respect of rights of assigned workers in each member organization and communal institutions of the Front. It examines cases

of violation of rights committed by communal committees; and also passes its own decisions.

- b. Monitors the proper use and state of the Front finance and property according to the Front operation system. It also provides solutions to correct faults in this regard.
- c. If it believes and gets 1/3rd of support of the permanent EPRDF Congress members, it can call on urgent Congress.
- d. If the decision of the Commission is in line with that of the Executive Committee, it will fully be implemented. If there is a difference, the difference is passed to the EPRDF Council. Decision passed by the Council is implemented until the next Congress.
- e. If there are cases that refer to the Front or member organizations which need inquiry, the commission, requested by the Front Council, will serve as an independent examining body; and also reports to the Council.
- f. Consults concerned bodies on issues that need measures to take, and implements; closely works with the EPRDF Council and the Executive Committee.
- g. Establishes its own structures in line with sections under EPRDF direct control; prepares work manuals for these sections and for its other activities.
- h. Takes disciplinary actions within its staff; bans or dismisses members from power with the support of 2/3 of member votes;
- i. Reports regularly to the Front;
- j. Works closely with the Controls Commissions of the national organizations;
- k. Elects its Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and Secretary, and informs to the Congress.

1. Based on this Statute it prepares its own guides and manuals.
3. Meeting and system of operation of the Controls Commission
- a. Conducts regular meetings every three months;
 - b. The Chairperson and the Secretary will have their permanent office; they do not implement activities that are against their duties and responsibilities;
 - c. Members of the Office report their duties and responsibilities to the Commission;
 - d. The Commission prepares its annual plan and implements accordingly.

Article 24 The Office of EPRDF

1. Establishment
 - a. Office of the EPRDF is structured in a way to implement regular and supportive public relations and organizational activities together.
 - b. It is chaired by a Head and Deputy Head assigned by the EPRDF Executive Committee.
 - c. In connection with “b” above it is structured downwards as an Administrator Deputy administrator and in other positions related.
 - d. It is accountable to the Chairperson of the Front.
2. Duties and Responsibilities of the EPRDF Office.
 - a. Facilitates public relations, organizational, financial and administrative activities of the Front; acts as Centre for the Public Relations and organizational activities for the Front;

- b. Leads and implements PRs and organizational activities inside and outside the country in a regular and supportive manner;
 - c. Plans and implements activities based on the EPRDF Council and Executive Committee decisions; it monitors and controls the implementation.
 - d. Directs and coordinates Public Relations and organizational activities which are implemented through the national organizations;
 - e. Leads directly EPRDF communal activities and bodies;
 - f. Publicizes the Front activity implementation; answers to questions posed by the public which are related to the Front;
 - g. Administers the budget approved by the EPRDF Council;
 - h. Administers Front finance, property and its personnel based on the manual approved by the EPRDF Executive Committee;
 - i. Controls the proper documentation and utilization of the Front documents;
 - j. Communicates with third parties representing the Front as directed by the Executive Committee and the Chairperson.
 - k. Charges and gets charged representing of the Front;
 - l. Reports implementation activities to the Executive Committee and the Chairperson.
3. Mode of Operation of the EPRDF Office
- a. The leadership Committee of the Office will have regular meetings.
 - b. The Office reports regular and occasional implementation activities to the Executive Committee and the Chairperson.

- c. Its communication with member organizations will be conducted through Office of the member organizations.
 - d. The detail operational activities, duties and responsibilities of the Office will be decided by the Executive Committee established rules.
 - e. Its heads as well as supportive workers will be assigned proportionally from all the member organizations.
4. Head of the EPRDF Office
- a. The Head is accountable to Front Chairperson;
 - b. The Head coordinates and leads Public Relations, and organizational, financial and human power administrative activities of the Office;
 - c. As directed by the Executive Committee and the Chairperson, the Head communicates issues with third parties;
 - d. Administers the budget and property of the Office;
 - e. Reports regular implementation activities to the Front Chairperson;
 - f. Takes different agreements by representing the EPRDF Office;
5. Deputy Head of the EPRDF Office
- a. The Deputy Head is accountable to the Head of the EPRDF Office.
 - b. Implements activities of the Head in the case of absence;
 - c. Leads a separate department.
 - d. Implements additional activities given by the Front Chairperson and Head of the EPRDF Office.

Article 25 Structures Accountable to the EPRDF, Office

1. Keeping the general structural principles of EPRDF, the following structures will be accountable to the EPRDF Office with regards to their organizational activities.
 - a. EPRDF structures in cities and offices which are accountable to the Federal Government;
 - b. Activities implemented by Ethiopians living abroad;
 - c. The EPRDF structure in Universities, Higher Institutions and Workers' Unions.
2. Details of the mode of operation of the structures stated in article 25.1 above will be decided by the EPRDF Office.

Article 26 EPRDF Parliament Structure

1. Structure of the EPRDF Parliament
 - a. EPRDF members found in the House of People's Representatives will be organized the parliament.
 - b. The Structure will be led by a Committee assigned by the EPRDF Executive Committee.
 - c. The EPRDF Parliamentary Structure will be accountable to the Front Chairperson.
 - d. The Parliament structure will communicate with the EPRDF Office.
2. Duties and Responsibilities of the parliament structure
 - a. Equips the EPRDF parliament members with the ideas of revolutionary democracy;

- b. Makes EPRDF parliament members active participants of development, democracy and peace;
 - c. Activates the parliament members to strengthen the democratic multi party system;
 - d. Based on the directives given by the EPRDF Executive Committee, the Parliament plans and implements Public Relations and organizational activities in the parliament.
 - e. Reports its work progress to the EPRDF Chairperson.
3. Additional manual of duties and responsibilities of the Parliament Structure will be prepared by the Executive Committee.

Article 27 The EPRDF Women League

1. The Structure of the EPRDF Women League

- a. The Women League is structured in common by the EPRDF members and other Women who accept the EPRDF Programme and wish to work together in order to realize the revolutionary democratic objectives.
- b. The Women League is strongly attached and structured as one body with EPRDF.
- c. It is structured in a similar way and alongside with all levels of the EPRDF structures.
- d. The Women League will have an equal number of its Council and Executive Committee members in the national EPRDF member organizations.
- e. Women League membership starts from 18 years old and above; and those less than 18 will be organized in the Youth League.
- f. The structuring, duties and responsibilities of the Women League will be detailed in the Guidelines of the League to be adopted by its own Congress.

2. The Rights of the EPRDF Women's League

- a. It will have its own manual, structure and mode of operation which are not in conflict with the EPRDF principles.
- b. It will be represented in the EPRDF Congress, the council and in the Executive Committee; and the details will be decided by the manual to be adopted council by the EPRDF.
- c. The Women League as an association, comments, criticizes and gets responses on issues of the EPRDF modes of operation and activities.

3. Obligations of the Women's League

- a. Should work for the implementation of the EPRDF strategies of development, democracy and peace.
- b. Should serve as an agent of struggle to free Ethiopian women from all kinds of oppressions.
- c. Should respect and implement EPRDF decisions.

Article 28 The EPRDF Youth League

1. The structure of EPRDF Youth League

- a. It is an association of youth aged 15-29 who have accepted and organized to struggle for the implementation of the EPRDF revolutionary democratic objectives.
- b. It is an association of both members and non-members of EPRDF who struggle for their common rights and benefits.
- c. It is structured, strongly tied to and works closely with EPRDF.

- d. It is structured in a similar way and alongside with all levels of the EPRDF structures.
 - e. It will have its Council and Executive Committee members represented in equal numbers from each EPRDF member organization.
 - f. Details of its structuring, duties and responsibilities and modes of operation are approved by Congress of the League.
2. The rights of the EPRDF Youth League.
- a. It will have its own manual, mode of operation and freedom in line with the EPRDF principles.
 - b. It will be represented in the EPRDF Congress, in the Council and in the Executive Committee; details will be adopted by the EPRDF Council.
 - c. As an associations it has the right to comment, criticize and get response on EPRDF's mode of operation and activities.
3. Obligations of the Youth League
- a. Should work for the implementation of EPRDF strategies of development, democracy and peace.
 - b. Should struggle to make the youth efficient to succeed generation, and to equip them with the revolutionary democratic ideas and activities.
 - c. Should to respect and implement EPRDF decisions.

Article 29 EPRDF Lower Bodies

1. Structure and Mode of Operation of EPRDF Lower Bodies.

- a. In addition to the detailed structures and bodies stated in articles 17-24, extra EPRDF Bodies may be structured accordingly.
 - b. Bodies that implement major activities of the Front and permanent in their characteristics will be structured by the council of the Front; their dissolution and improvement of their duties may also be decided by the EPRDF Council.
 - c. Provisional Bodies that implement temporal activities may be structured by the Executive Committee decisions. And after completion of their mission they will be dissolved.
 - d. Lower Bodies of the Controls Commission that are under EPRDF administrative bodies will be established by the Commission itself. Dissolving, improvement of their duties and obligations shall be done only by the Commission.
 - e. The establishment of Lower EPRDF Bodies will be done upon organizational participation.
2. Duties and Responsibilities of the Lower Bodies
- a. The Lower Bodies will be to accounted to their founders. If they are Central Bodies, they shall be accountable to the Office of the Front or accordingly to the Executive Committee.
 - b. Lower Bodies have the obligation to implement their duties and responsibilities; shall report to the respected body; shall report their activity implementation to the higher bodies; shall implement higher body rules and regulations; shall request and get assistance.
 - c. The Lower Bodies shall have communal and individual duties Committees and responsibilities; they shall pursue a democratic system of work; they shall implement criticism, self criticism and evaluation system of work.

- d. Members have the right to report their activities to the national member organizations they are represented from. Yet they get operational activity guidelines from their founders only.
- e. Details of the Lower Bodies shall be adopted by the Front Office or accordingly by the Executive Committee.
- f. The Controls and Auditing Commission will also set directives to its Lower Bodies.

CHAPTER FOUR

CONCLUSIVE ARTICLES

Article 30 Sources of financial income of the Front

The financial sources of income of the Front will be member contributions; aids obtained from supportive Ethiopians according to the country party laws; and other sources.

Article 31 The Authority to Establish Rules and Regulations

In reference to the authority given to different bodies according to this Statute, the EPRDF Council may adopt different guidelines for the implementation of this Statute.

Article 32 Improvement, change and revocation of this Statute.

This Statute shall be improved, changed and revoked only by the EPRDF Congress.

Article 33 The Legislative Organ

This Statute was improved by the 6th Congress of EPRDF.

Article 34 Revoked Law

As of the date of enforcement of this Statute, the Statute adopted and approved by the 5th EPRDF Congress shall be revoked and replaced by this Statute.

Article 35 Effective Date of this Statute

This Statute shall come into full effect as of September 2006.