

**Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association**

REFERENCE:  
OL ETH 2/2018

17 August 2018

Excellency,

I have the honour to address you in my capacity as Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 32/32.

It has been brought to my attention that in June 2018, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's office and the Minister of Federal Affairs convened working groups to review and re-draft Ethiopia's Charities and Societies Proclamation (CSP), Anti-Terror Proclamation (ATP), and Mass Media and Freedom of Information Proclamation.

In the past, my predecessors, as well as other mandate holders, have stressed their concerns regarding the above-mentioned legislation and their detrimental impact on civic space in Ethiopia, notably through the following communications sent to the Ethiopian authorities: JAL ETH 4/2008 sent on 17 July 2008, JAL ETH 2/2009, sent on 21 January 2009, JUA ETH 4/2011 sent on 5 October 2011, JAL ETH 6/2011, sent on 9 December 2011, JUA ETH 7/2011, sent on 19 December 2011, JAL ETH 6/2012, sent on 23 November 2012, JUA ETH 6/2014, sent on 11 July 2014, JUA ETH 2/2015, sent on 26 February 2015, JUA ETH 1/2015, sent on 27 February 2015, JUA ETH 5/2015, sent on 28 December 2015, JUA ETH 2/2016, sent on 2 September 2016, JAL ETH 3/2016, sent on 30 September 2016, JUA ETH 5/2016, sent on 7 October 2016, JOL ETH 6/2016, sent on 14 December 2016. We thank the Government of Your Excellence for its substantial answers to communications JAL ETH 2/2009, JUA ETH 4/2011 and JUA ETH 6/2014 but regret not having received answers to the other communications.

While awaiting answers to some of the above mentioned communications, I wish to acknowledge the convening of the working groups to review and re-draft the current laws, as well as similar positive developments that have recently been initiated by Your Excellency's Government to strengthen the rule of law and democratization in Ethiopia. In this regard, I would like to offer my technical assistance to the ongoing review of legislation falling within my mandate, should your Government find it useful.

I would appreciate receiving a response within 60 days. Your Excellency's Government's response will be made available in a report to be presented to the Human Rights Council for its consideration.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Clement Nyaletsossi Voule  
Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association