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Excellency,

The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) wishes to thank the Ethiopian Government for its communication dated 23 July 2007 in response to its letter of 9 March 2007. It also welcomes the openness to dialogue demonstrated during your meeting with the Committee on 13 August 2007, as well as the additional written and oral information provided on the basis of which the Committee considered further the situation in the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia during its seventy-first session.

The Committee welcomes the commitment of the State party to submit its overdue report on the implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination before the end of February 2008 and, in this regard, draws the attention of the State party to its reporting guidelines for the CERD-specific document, as adopted at its 71st session (to be sent shortly by the Secretariat). It also reminds the State party that the report should address all points raised in its concluding observations (CERD/C/ETH/CO/15) adopted on 9 March 2007.

The Committee further welcomes the cooperation between the State party and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, with a view to prepare and submit its overdue reports to all treaty bodies, in particular to CERD. In this regard, the collaboration of the Ethiopian Government with the Human Rights Commission and the Office of the Ombudsman is also a positive factor.

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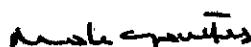
The Committee took note of the information provided on the situation in the State party and of the position of the Ethiopian Government with regard to the implementation of the Convention on its territory. It remains concerned, however, about the serious tensions existing between different ethnic groups and allegations of violations of the human rights of members of these groups. In order to further clarify those concerns and to continue the dialogue with the Ethiopian Government while awaiting the submission of the overdue periodic report, the Committee wishes to receive no later than **31 December 2007** additional detailed information on the preventive measures adopted by the State party against racially motivated violence, on the concrete actions taken to combat racial prejudice and intolerance between ethnic groups as well as on the measures to ensure the right to security for members of all ethnic groups, as recommended in paragraphs 16 and 19 of its concluding observations. This information is also requested with a view to enabling the Committee to better understand how the decentralized federal system in the State party implements the Convention and prevents and addresses ethnic conflicts.

In accordance with article 9 (1) of the Convention and article 65 of its rules of procedure, upon receipt and consideration of such information, the Committee will decide at its 72<sup>nd</sup> session, to be held from 18 February to 7 March 2008, on any further action to be taken under one its early warning and urgent action procedure.

In the meantime, the Committee encourages the State party to pursue technical cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights as well as its dialogue with the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council, especially with the Independent Expert on minority issues.

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

Yours sincerely,



Régis de Gouttes  
Chairman of the Committee for the  
Elimination of Racial Discrimination