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Ethiopiawinnet: Council for the Defense of Citizen Rights

Guidelines for Cooperation
between *Ethiopiawinnet* and Kindred Organizations or Groups

Ethiopiawinnet: Council for the Defense of Citizen Rights (E-CDCR) is a global, non-partisan, and rights-based organization registered as a non-profit in the United States. E-CDCR's most defining mission comprises the promotion of two things: (1) a political culture of respect for the internationally-recognized rights of all Ethiopian citizens; and (2) pride in the pedigree of an inclusive Ethiopian national identity which is the enduring bond of unity and national integrity for the distinctive people of Ethiopia.

Ethiopiawinnet constantly strives to find ideas and public actions for making the respect for the universally recognized rights of Ethiopian citizens practicable and sustainable. We have divided our challenging tasks into two stages of priority.

In the first stage, which is ending, we have focused on establishing a framework of ideas to guide the global civic movement. We have offered a remarkable Citizens Charter for a Democratic Ethiopia which provides the vision for a free and prosperous Ethiopia. The Citizens Charter provides guiding principles and our collective dream of where Ethiopian society ought to go. However, the Charter does not address the complex questions of how the country can get there from here. We have, therefore, been engaged in preparing an ambitious plan for training young activists in effective non-violent modes of civic engagement. We have also been publicizing the cause of civil rights violations with special attention to political prisoners and politically motivated attacks on various Ethiopian communities, advocacy with a focus on legislative action in Europe and North America, civic education programs on the building blocks of an Ethiopian transition to a democratic order.

As *Ethiopiawinnet* embarks on the second stage with a number of initiatives to realize our long-term dream of freedom from want and from tyranny for all Ethiopians, we are ready to contribute to the emergence of united and effective coalitions and united fronts of like-minded civic organizations, and political organizations. We only expect that all are committed in their programs

and actions to progress toward a citizenship-based political and economic system in Ethiopia that is capable, inclusive, accountable, and law-abiding.

We are especially appreciative of the fact that our activities in the areas of civic education and civic activism will be more effective when Ethiopian organizations at home and in the Diaspora as well as non-Ethiopians of good-will work together rather than duplicating each other's efforts (the norm so far) or working at cross-purposes. Close cooperation must be undertaken with full respect for our mandate (as specified in detail in its Citizens Charter, Constitution, and the Bylaws) as well as those of our partners. We are, therefore, pleased to make public the general principles that will guide all joint activities between *Ethiopiawinnet* and its partners:

A. Apply to All Partners

1. We shall limit our cooperation only to activities that fall squarely within our vision and mission and our preferred method of peaceful civic engagement.
2. We expect our partners to formally endorse the non-partisan Citizens Charter for a Democratic Ethiopia.

B. Pertains to Civil Society Organizations

3. We shall join long-term coalitions with like-minded civil society organizations for the purpose of rights-oriented advocacy. We are especially keen on working closely with Ethiopia-based civil rights organizations.

C. Pertains to Political Organizations

4. We will cooperate with political organizations on specific rights-oriented projects. We especially urge them to form a united front for constructive change and engage with us in activities that will not implicate us in partisan politics.

D. Concerns Religious Organizations

5. We shall work with religious organizations on specific right-oriented projects so long as such activities significantly advance the cause for which we are established.

To download our organizational documents, please visit our website: www.ethiopiawin.net.

Approved: August 2014.