

STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICA GROUP BY FELIX EBOA EBONGUE, SECOND COUNSELOR, PERMANENT MISSION OF CAMEROON TO THE UNITED NATIONS, ON AGENDA ITEM 138 - REVISED ESTIMATES: HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL, AT THE FIRST PART OF THE RESUMED SESSION OF THE SEVENTY-SIX SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY (NEW YORK, March 16, 2022)

Mr. Chair,

- 1- I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Africa Group on agenda item 138 - revised estimates: human rights council “*international commission of human rights experts on Ethiopia*” established by Human Rights Council Resolution S-33/1.
- 2- The Africa Group firmly reaffirms its attachment to multilateralism and its constructive and unreserved commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights.
- 3- The Group reiterates its conviction to the principles of independence, objectivity and non-selectivity, and the elimination of double standards and politicization, enshrined under the General Assembly Resolution 60/251 establishing the Human Rights Council.
- 4- With regard to the agenda item at hand, the Group believes the mechanism under consideration undermines the encouraging relationship between the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights and the Government of Ethiopia. During the adoption of Human Rights Council Resolution at the 33rd Special Session of the Council, the Africa Group

clearly warned that the mechanism would be counterproductive and would likely exacerbate tensions.

- 5- The Africa Group welcomes the efforts of the Government of Ethiopia, including allowing access for the joint investigation conducted by the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission and the OHCHR. The Group also commends the establishment of an Inter-Ministerial Task force to oversee the implementation of the recommendations from the Joint investigation report and will continue to closely follow this implementation

Mr. Chair

- 6- The Africa Group also reiterates, the decision of the Assembly of the Heads of States and Governments of the African Union during the 35th session which reiterated its respect for the sovereignty, national unity and territorial integrity of Ethiopia and further reiterated the need to apply regional solutions.
- 7- In conclusion, the Africa Group believes all necessary measures have been already taken to monitor the human rights situation in Ethiopia and see no use in frustrating these efforts.

I thank you