

**Statement Delivered by Hanna Betachew Birhanu: on behalf of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia: 76 session of the Sixth Committee: Agenda Item 88: Strengthening and promoting the international treaty framework; 15 October 2021, New York**

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**Thank You Madame Chair,**

Treaties remain critical legal and diplomatic instruments that ensure predictability and forge rule of law at the international level. The increasing interdependence and inter-connectedness among nations is best served with transparency in all aspects of treaty making. Needless to state, no aspect of treaty making process can be left to the municipal laws of our individual countries.

Furthermore, Ethiopia has a growing concern on secret treaties especially in the security sector. Unfettered pursuit of national interest through secret pacts is an old albeit emerging challenge.

**Madam Chair,**

In this regard, Ethiopia commends the delegations that prepared the draft proposals elaborating article 102 of the UN Charter. We keenly followed the discussions in the informal sessions we have had over the proposals. We also commend the extensive work of the UN to register, deposit and open accesses to treaties.

As to the elaboration of Article 102 of the UN Charter, we have the following few points to make

**First,** Article 102 of the UN Charter should be given a direct meaning instead of a context driven interpretation that does not express the prevailing intention during its making. While a set of rules over this clear provision of the charter is needed we should be careful not to lose flexibility by an over-prescriptive approach that may be counter-productive for our objective of having more treaties registered.

**Second,** translation of treaties requires a critical legal consideration that balances the legal status of versions of treaties and accessibility to the wider body of user. While we wholeheartedly support multilingualism in the UN, we do not see its application to bilateral or multilateral treaties to a similar level. Authentic texts of treaties are determined by the parties to the treaties and availability of other versions produced by the UN shall not create a legal question or serve as a reference point for interpretation of the agreements, especially for bilateral, sub regional and regional agreements. In this regard, Ethiopia does not accept any prescription or any indication to that effect, which requires states to sign agreements in a particular language. In the same line, provision of copies in either language of the UN needs to remain a courtesy requirement instead of a mandatory application.

**Third,** regional and sub-regional organizations overseeing an increasing level of inter-state integration exercise a depository function. Ethiopia, does not read Article 102 of the UN Charter in a manner that excludes the role of

regional and sub-regional organizations. We should encourage treaty transparency every opportunity we get, at the UN, regional or sub-regional levels.

This being said, Madame Chair, Ethiopia supports the efforts being made to simplify processes to register treaties and to create open access. My delegation also supports the Secretary General's suggestion of adapting the Treaty Series to a digital format publication.

**Thank You.**