

# **Statement on Eritrea VNR by a representative of the Major Groups & other Stakeholders**

## **For the UN High Level Political Forum**

### **12 July 2022**

Thank you Mr President

We welcome the VNR report by Eritrea.

Eritrea's indefinite national service is one of the main reasons that Eritrean youth continue to flee the country this has been described as "slavery". This has impoverished the youth, their families, society and the country at large.

1. In order to reduce poverty it is important to have economic inclusion especially women in the economic, political and social sphere.

***How does the Eritrean Government plan on implementing economic inclusion in accordance with SDG 8, while maintaining an economic monopoly through the Red Sea Corporation?***

2. In the last year 27 Catholic run health centres & 17 schools in Eritrea have been closed down, this has especially affected rural communities. The Eritrean Government should be investing in the health of the nation especially during the global pandemic. Eritrea is the only country in Africa that has not made COVID vaccinations available for its citizens.

***What steps is the Eritrean Government taking to ensure that COVID 19 vaccinations are available to all Eritreans and working to improve the infrastructure of healthcare in the country, furthermore what was the rationale for closing hospitals and schools?.***

3. The conflict in Tigray is also affecting the situation inside the country as young people have been mobilised to fight in the war. This has been a loss to the agricultural

sector and adds to food insecurity. As 70% of Eritreans live in rural areas, it is important to include them and provide affordable and clean energy.

***What is the Eritrean Government doing to provide affordable and clean electricity (solar, wind and geothermal) to rural Eritreans?.***

4. There is hunger inside Eritrea but there has been no independent verification to the level of hunger across the country.

***When is the Eritrean Government going to ensure that food insecurity be dealt with as a priority and ensure that humanitarian assistance is provided with the cooperation of the international community.***

Thank you Mr President