

## **Statement on Ethiopia, VNR 2022**

### **Delivered by a representative of the Major Group for Children & Youth**

Thank you, moderator,

We are grateful for the opportunity to speak on the VNR for Ethiopia.

We would like to remind the government of Ethiopia of the importance of engagement of all stakeholders.

The Ethiopian government has signed several international human rights treaties which guarantee the protection of fundamental rights including online and offline freedom of expression and access to information. However, we note with concern the steady decline of human rights in Ethiopia. We, therefore, urge the government to prioritize peaceful resolution of disputes and ensure that all law enforcement activities are based on full protection and respect for human rights in line with international standards. We also call upon the government of Ethiopia to stop the arbitrary prosecution of those exercising their right to freedom of expression.

We note that there is a reference to a broad-based consultation but we would like to receive some additional information on this process.

1. What modalities did your government adopt to ensure meaningful participation of rightsholder groups, particularly those most affected by development challenges, in the elaboration of the VNR? What citizen-led engagement strategies have occurred to contribute to the national review process?
2. What are the specific initiatives taken to focus on the populations that are often discriminated against such as women, young persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, LGBTI people, minority ethnic groups, persons discriminated on work and descent, migrants and refugees, as well as people in fragile and conflict-affected areas, among others, including intersectionalities of these?
3. What are the specific actions you are undertaking to reduce identified inequality gaps and what is your plan towards 2030 to eradicate all forms of inequality?