

Twentieth Annual International Law and Religion  
Symposium

“Religion and Human Rights”

Utah, USA, October 2013

Ethiopia Presentation

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# Federal Democratic Republic Ethiopia

## At a glance

- Located at the Horn of Africa
- Population: 90 million (Second most populated nation on the African Continent)
- Area: ..... 1.14 million km<sup>2</sup>
- Capital City .... Addis Ababa, seat of the Federal Government, AU, UNECA
- Geographical Location.....within 15° North of the Equator,

# Federal Democratic Republic Ethiopia

## At a glance

- Engaged in five years cycle Growth and Transformation plan( 2010/11-2014/15)
- Recorded an average double growth of 11% in the last 10 years(among the fast growing 10 countries worldwide)
- Golden Investment opportunity for massive commercial agriculture and Industrial and infrastructure projects

# Vision of FDRE

- “To see Ethiopia become a country where democratic rule, good governance and social justice reigns, upon the involvement and free will of its peoples; and once extricating itself from poverty becomes a middle income country by 2025”

# GTP Pillar strategies(2010/11-2014/15)

- Ethiopia's strategy for sustaining the rapid and broad-based growth path hinges on the following pillars:
  - Sustaining faster and equitable economic growth
  - Maintaining agriculture as a major source of economic growth
  - Creating favorable conditions for the industry to play key role in the economy
  - Enhancing expansion and quality of infrastructure development
  - Enhancing expansion and quality of social development
  - Building capacity and deepen good governance
  - Promote women and youth empowerment and equitable benefit



# Religion in Ethiopia(2007 census)

Religion	Percentage of the population	Population
<b>Christianity</b>	<b>62.8%</b>	<b>46,420,822</b>
Orthodox	43.5%	32,154,550
Protestant	18.6%	13,748,842
Catholic	0.7%	517,430
<b>Muslim</b>	<b>33.9%</b>	<b>25,058,373</b>
<b>Traditional</b>	<b>2.6%</b>	<b>1,921,881</b>
<b>Others</b>	<b>0.6%</b>	<b>517430</b>



# History of tolerance and coexistence in Ethiopia

- Religions of Indigenous, Judaism, Christian, and Muslim have long history of coexistence in Ethiopia
- No history of war during their introduction or expansion
- Christian(4<sup>th</sup> century) and Muslim(7<sup>th</sup> century) followers have been together for the last 1400 years
- However both Christian kings and Muslim Sultanates used religion for their own ends ( Power maintenance, territory expansion and trade span expansion)

# Diversity accommodation by Governments before 1991

- Emperor declared and implemented state religion(November 1955 constitution)
- Denied the recognition and protection of all diversities including Religion
- Slogan of One Nation, One Language, and One Religion
- Military regime was against all religions with the belief that religions are anti development and anti revolution(September 1987 constitution)
- Both governments were anti-democratic by any parameter and religion was not an exception

# Diversity Accommodation by FDRE

## After August 1995

- **FDRE Constitution**(Governing Principles)
  - Sovereignty of the people guaranteed
  - Constitution is a Supreme law of the country
  - Human and Democratic Rights ensured
  - State and Religion Separation declared
  - Conduct and Accountability of the government ensured
- Completed two decades since its implementation

# FDRE Constitution and the last two decades performance (1995-2013)

- Article 11: State and Religion is separated. One can not interfere with the other. Ensures secular government!
- Article 25: Religions equality declared before the law without discrimination. Government has no discriminatory rules and regulations!
- Article 27: Religion and belief freedom is guaranteed and protected.
- All three provisions package comprehensive religion related human and democratic right
- Article 90/2: Government and public Education is free from any political, cultural and Religious influences
- The only requirement for any religious practice in Ethiopia is to observe the constitution

# Draft Legislation to register Religious Institutions

- Registration and renewal process shall not undermine the strict observance of constitutional provisions- religion freedom, religion equality and State and Religion separation
- Process of developing registration legal framework must be consultative including all stakeholders with particular attention of religious organizations
- Role of Interreligious council was crucial
- Content includes but not limited to various Requirements to registration, adoption of bylaws, Duties and responsibilities, activities that may result in losing of legal personality and prohibited issues

# Advantages of Registration

- Advantage for Religious Institutions
  - Legal Personality to acquire and hold property
  - Legal personality to contract services
  - To sue and to be sued
- Advantage for Government
  - Legal engagement facilitated
  - Unlawful practices (based on the constitution) can be tracked for the benefit of nations security and safety and religion itself
- Advantages for the followers
  - Accountability and transparency
  - Collective and Institutional leadership

# Challenges

- Religious Institutions registration may not be taken positively by some organizations for different reason (Simply new experience, Suspicion of Interference by few and Hidden agenda by few other groups etc.)
- Renewal period and Interim follow up mechanism( periodical reports, supervision, review of alignment with agreed principles)
- Accommodating Organizational Structure differences
- Dilemma of Critical minimum number required for registration

*Thank you so much!*