 **COUNTRY: ETHIOPIA**

**AGENDA: PROMOTING THE ROLE OF WOMEN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON PANDEMIC**

**COMMITTEE: UNCSW**

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**The country lies completely within the tropical latitudes and is relatively compact, with similar north-south and east-west dimensions. The capital is Addis Ababa (“New Flower”), located almost at the centre of the country. Ethiopia is the largest and most populated country in the Horn of Africa.**

**The COVID-19 pandemic challenges the recent gains made by women in Ethiopia. As pointed out by Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN Women, “There’s no gender-neutral pandemic, and this one is no different.” COVID-19 has affected everyone, but not equally. The impact of the pandemic cuts across all areas of women’s health and well-being. The pandemic constrains women’s access to health services and undermines their livelihoods**

**While COVID-19 has highlighted and exacerbated structural inequalities disproportionately affecting females, new approaches are turning the pandemic into an opportunity to boost their involvement in politics and public life.**

**The Federal Democratic Government of Ethiopia has declared its unequivocal commitment to the development of women with the announcement of the National Policy on Women in 1993 (referred to as the Women's Policy), and the promulgation of the new Constitution in 1994.**

**Women are at the forefront of the battle against the pandemic as they make up almost 70% of the health care workforce, exposing them to greater risk of infection, while they are under-represented in leadership and decision making processes in the health care sector. Moreover, due to persistent gender inequalities across many dimensions, women’s jobs, businesses, incomes and wider living standards may be more exposed than men’s to the anticipated widespread economic fallout from the crisis. Among seniors, globally, there are more elderly women living alone on low incomes – putting them at higher risk of economic insecurity.**

**The Ethiopian Government's commitment and dedication to promote women's equal participation in the economic, political and social developments of the country during pandemic has been manifested in various forms. A number of measures taken by the government have created enabling environment to empower women to become active participants of the development process during pandemic and benefit from it.**

**The government is taking various measures to improvise protection to avoid infections for the women’s working in medical fields. As the pandemic created economic imbalances in genders, the nation is now slowly starting to recover from it**

**Therefore, jobs and other economic activities for women and youth are beginning to get better after this global pandemic. The nation and the society are working together to achieve this goal.**