

Statement by Ethiopia at the 3rd State Consultation on IHL and Peace

Excellencies, colleagues, and friends, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia is proud to co-chair the IHL and Peace workstream under the Global IHL Initiative.

We are proud to be part of this discussion on humanitarian disarmament because we truly believe that limiting the tools of war is a practical way to protect our people and rebuild our societies.

Disarmament is not just a security issue for the security forces; it is a legal and humanitarian obligation. When we control the flow of weapons, we reduce the chance of humanitarian laws being broken during conflict.

Ethiopia is taking action at home as well. Our Firearm administration and control proclamation number 1177/2020 helps us manage the small arms and light weapons within our borders. This law bans the private trade of weapons and limits ownership by creating a strict system for licensing and registration and helps us track every firearm to stop illegal trade and keep guns out of the wrong hands.

We also use the prevention and suppression of the financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction proclamation number 1132/2019 which stops money from reaching programs that build the most dangerous weapons. It sets up rules for our financial systems to flag and block suspicious transactions. These rules keep our communities safe and help us meet our international promises.

We are also making progress in clearing landmines. Our goal is to be mine-free by 2030. In 2024, with our international partners, Ethiopia achieved a significant milestone by releasing over 600 million square meters of land in the Somali region, acres that are now safe for farming and housing. It shows that disarmament leads to real recovery.

Disarmament efforts are also at the center of Ethiopia's on-going DDR programme. Ethiopia's DDR (Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration) program is a large-scale national effort, managed by the National Rehabilitation Commission (NRC), to transition thousands of former combatants from conflict zones, especially Tigray, back to civilian life, focusing on disarmament, vocational training, psychosocial support, and economic reintegration to build lasting peace, supported by international partners like the [UN](#). The programme continues to

benefit from constant government support and has so far achieved the disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration of tens of thousands of former combatants.

It is in this belief, demonstrated in tangible national action towards humanitarian disarmament that Ethiopia is proud to contribute to and co-chair this workstream.

We now look toward to the regional workshop here in Addis Ababa on March 4th and 5th. This gathering is a chance for all African states to lead the way. We want to align our work with the goal of ending conflict across the continent and beyond. Your expertise will help us build a common voice for the 2026 global recommendations.

I call on each of you from the African continent to participate and share your national experiences during our time together in March. Your insights will shape the future of international law and the safety of our people. Let's work together to make our continent safer for everyone. I look forward to seeing you in Addis Ababa very soon.

Thank you.