

Ethiopia

Ethiopia is a Member State of the African Union (AU) and of the United Nations (UN), and has human rights obligations at both the regional and universal levels.

Regional: African System



Ethiopia has ratified the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (African Charter), and its human rights policies and practices are monitored by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), which reviews the State's reports concerning its human rights situation and decides complaints of alleged violations. Ethiopia has not accepted the jurisdiction of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights.

Individuals and groups have submitted complaints of human rights violations committed by Ethiopia to the [African human rights system](#). For example, the ACHPR found Ethiopia to have violated the African Charter when it detained former government officials for abuses of the prior regime, and kept them in detention for more than 15 years without concluding the prosecutions against them. See ACommHPR, *Haregewoin Gebre-Sellaise & IHRDA (on behalf of former Dengue Officials) v. Ethiopia*, Communication No. 301/05, 52nd Ordinary Session, 12 October 2013.

Ethiopia has fallen behind in its [periodic reports](#) to the ACHPR on human rights conditions in the country. The ACHPR has conducted one mission to Ethiopia on prisons and the conditions of detention, in [2004](#).

Ethiopia has ratified the following **regional human rights treaties**:

- African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights
- African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
- AU Convention Governing Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa

United Nations System

As a UN Member State, Ethiopia is subject to the oversight of various [UN human rights bodies](#), including the [Human Rights Council](#) and its [Universal Periodic Review](#) and thematic [special procedures](#). As a party to specific universal human rights treaties, Ethiopia's policies and practices are monitored by [UN treaty bodies](#). It has not accepted the complaints procedure of any treaty body.

Ethiopia has ratified the following **UN human rights treaties**:

- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)

Ethiopia has submitted a reservation that modifies its obligations under [CEDAW](#).

Ethiopia has ratified the optional protocols to the CRC addressing children in armed conflict and the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography. Ethiopia has a duty to submit **State reports** to the UN treaty body associated with each treaty Ethiopia has ratified. These reports must be submitted on a periodic basis and describe the steps Ethiopia has taken to implement the treaty provisions.

Ethiopia has not ratified [optional protocols](#) nor made appropriate declarations that would allow individuals to submit **complaints** against the State alleging violations of UN human rights treaties. Certain UN treaties include **inquiry procedures**, which allow the UN treaty body to consider allegations of grave or systematic human rights violations. Ethiopia has accepted the inquiry procedures of the CAT.

Ethiopia has not extended a **standing invitation** to UN special procedures, which means that special rapporteurs and working groups must seek specific invitations from Ethiopia to conduct a visit within the State. For example, the Independent Expert on minority issues conducted a mission to Ethiopia from November to December of 2006 and published [report](#) on the visit in February 2007.

For more information on Ethiopia's engagement with [UN human rights bodies](#), visit <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/countries/AfricaRegion/Pages/ETIndex.aspx>

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