

Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen, my name is Sharmarke DHAXIIR a representative of the Ogaden Youth and Students Union.

The Ogaden Youth whom I'm representing have suffered many atrocities at the hands of Ethiopian forces and government policies. First militia enrollment under the control of the Ethiopian army, lack of education and job opportunities, torturing in unlawful prison, [...] of all rape and [...], public killing has become a common phenomenon in the Ogaden region. As widely known Ethiopia has been suppressing freedom of speech and expression and the Ogaden youth are the major sufferers in those oppressions. In this generation where social media has become a necessity, minority youths in the Ogaden and Ethiopia at large risk jail time for using applications such as Skype.

Therefore us as the Ogaden Youth and Students Organisation, we are urging and humbly requesting the international community, the UN, human rights and humanitarian agencies including this forum to take interest in the dire situation of the Ogaden and take responsibility and put pressure on the Ethiopia to open up the Ogaden region so that the civilians caught in the fire between the government and the rebel forces can be helped, and the right to live in dignity be respected. Help with the funding of youth groups who are taking the risk of facing the government and championing the rights of the minority youth promote the importance of humanitarian and international aid agencies, and penetrating the Ethiopian aid economic blockage and create a platform where Ogaden Somali minorities can express their demands and fight for their rights. Promote tolerance and dialogue between the Ethiopian government and the local Ogaden community is inevitable hence urging the international community to advocate for those talks and dialogues, at this point we believe that the people of Ogaden who are minority in Ethiopia will live a dignified life with their rights respected as accordance to the Ethiopian constitution that they have written.

Thank you very much, Ladies and gentlemen and thank you for your attention.