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ETHIOPIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL (EHRCO)

Urgent Statement Regarding the devastating disaster that occurred in Gamo Zone and Surrounding Areas of the South Ethiopia Region

March 23, 2026

The Ethiopian Human Rights Council (EHRCO) expresses its deepest condolences to the communities affected by the devastating disaster that occurred on March 10, 2026, in the Gamo Zone of the South Ethiopia Regional State and surrounding areas. A heavy rainfall that triggered landslides and floods in Chebaba, Bonke, and Belaka kebeles, as well as in several kebeles within the Madais and Abaya districts, resulting in the loss of more than 100 lives, widespread destruction of property, and the displacement of a large number of residents.

While the ongoing relief efforts by government and non-governmental organizations are commendable, EHRCO has confirmed that many displaced community members continue to live in precarious conditions. The persistent rainfall, combined with the scale of displacement, has further worsened living conditions and exposed affected populations to serious health risks.

Every person has the fundamental right to life, to live in dignity, and to access adequate shelter and humanitarian assistance. In this regard, EHRCO calls for:

1. The strengthening and sustained provision of humanitarian aid to affected communities;
2. The implementation of long-term, preventive safety measures in landslide-prone areas; and the establishment of conditions that ensure communities can live safely and with dignity, free from recurring threats.

EHRCO reiterates its profound sorrow over this tragic loss to all those affected.

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia