

A PROCLAMATION TO RE-ESTABLISH THE ETHIOPIAN RED

CROSS SOCIETY CHARTER

WHEREAS, the Ethiopian Red Cross Society (hereinafter referred to as the Society) which is part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement provides the necessary humanitarian aid to victims of armed conflicts and, in general, to all victims of man-made and natural disasters without discrimination based on race, color, nationality, sex, religion, political outlook or any other ground, and fosters understanding, cooperation, friendship and lasting peace among peoples;

WHEREAS, the Society, established in 1935, and in the same year recognized by the International Red Cross Committee and admitted to member of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent, has been expanding its services and structural organization through the support of the government and the public at large and of its members in particular;

WHEREAS, the participation, in cooperation with the concerned organizations, of the Society in the country's development activities and its contributions in the efforts of raising the standard of living of the population to a minimum level of acceptable standard, in addition to the provision of relief aid to victims of disasters, should be encouraged;

WHEREAS, it has become appropriate and necessary to engage in the prevention of the threat of draught and hunger resulting from environmental degradation and the depletion of natural resources;

WHEREAS, it is deemed necessary to establish structure and organization that ensures efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability in order to realize its vision and mission, to address its humanitarian service effectively as well as to succeed its effort to create different income generating sources to be a self-reliant organization;

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to respond to the request of the General Assembly of the Society for further revision of the Charter;

NOW, THEREFORE, in accordance with Article 55/1/of the Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, it is hereby, proclaimed as follows.

PART ONE
GENERAL

1. Short Title

This Proclamation may be cited as the “Ethiopian Red Cross Society Re-establishment Charter Proclamation No. -----2017”.

2. Definitions

In this Charter:

- 1/ “Region” means a member state of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia as stated under Article 47(1) of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Constitution and includes the cities of Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa;
- 2/ “Red Cross Youth” means a member of the Ethiopian Red Cross Society between the age of 15 and 30 years;
- 3/ "The Movement" means the consortium of the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the International Committee of Red Cross and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies;
- 4/ “Volunteer” means any person with his own free initiative without seeking any personal gain nor any external influence volunteers to participate on the humanitarian activities of the Society;
- 5/ “Geneva Conventions” means the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 as well as their additional protocols of June 8, 1977;
- 6/ “Corporate member” means any legal person which includes business organizations, government institutions, charities, public enterprise etc and pays the membership fee determined by the General Assembly;
- 7/ "Person" means any natural or juridical person;
- 8/ any expression in the masculine gender shall also apply to the feminine.

3. Ethiopian Red Cross Society

- 1/ The Ethiopian Red Cross Society (hereinafter the Society) shall, being a non-profit oriented National Society having its own legal personality, carry out its humanitarian activities throughout the territorial jurisdiction of Ethiopia.
- 2/ The Society carries out its activities based on this Charter, the Geneva Conventions, Statutes of the Movement, the Resolutions adopted by the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and the Council of Delegates and the Constitution of International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent.

4. **Emblem of the Society**

The emblem of the Society is the heraldic sign of a Red Cross on a white background accompanied by the name Ethiopian Red Cross Society or its abbreviated designation.

5. **Use of the Emblem**

- 1/ The shape and use of the emblem by the Society shall be governed by the Geneva Conventions, the 1991 Emblem Regulations adopted by the International Conference of the Movement on the Use of Emblem by National Societies and other relevant laws of the country.
- 2/ Without prejudice to sub-article (1) of this Article, any person shall not in any way use the emblem or insignia without the authorization from the Society.
- 3/ The Society shall adopt appropriate internal regulations on the use and protection of the emblem by its personnel, members and volunteers in accordance with the Geneva Conventions; their additional protocols, and the 1991 Emblem Regulations adopted by the International Conference of the Movement and relevant laws.
- 4/ In cooperation with the appropriate public authorities, the Society ensures the proper use of the emblem at the national level in accordance with sub-article (1) to (3) of this Article its legal and regulatory framework.

6. **Principles**

The fundamental principles of the Society are:

1/ **Humanity**

The Society which is born of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield, endeavors in its international and national capacity, to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. Its purpose is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for the human being. It promotes mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation and lasting peace amongst all peoples.

2/ **Impartiality**

The Society makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, sex, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. It endeavors to relieve the suffering of individuals, being guided solely by their needs, and to give priority to the most urgent cases of distress.

3/ **Neutrality**

In order to continue to enjoy the confidence of all, the Society may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.

4/ **Independence**

The Society is independent. The Society, while auxiliary in the humanitarian services of the government and subject to the laws of the country, must always maintain its autonomy so that it may be able at all times to act in accordance with its principles.

5/ **Voluntary Service**

The Society is not prompted in any manner by a desire for gain and it extends voluntary relief for human beings.

6/ **Unity**

The Society is the only Red Cross Society in Ethiopia. It must be open to all and carry on its humanitarian work throughout its territory.

7/ **Universality**

The Society endeavors to achieve its purposes in collaboration with other Societies which have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties.

7. **Purposes**

In conformity with the Geneva Conventions and the fundamental principles referred to in Article 6 of this Charter, the Society shall have the following purposes:

- 1/ to alleviate human sufferings on the health and lives of human beings caused due to manmade and natural disasters including hostilities, to restore family links and to help the victims of the disaster rehabilitate quickly;
- 2/ to prevent disaster on the lives and health of human beings caused by natural calamities and hostilities and build community resilience;
- 3/ to work towards humanity, volunteerism and the prevalence of peace for human beings.

8. **Relationship with the Government**

- 1/ The Society serves as an auxiliary to the Government in the humanitarian field in line with its purpose and fundamental principles.
- 2/ In order to achieve its purposes, the Government shall provide to the Society necessary support.
- 3/ Agreements concluded with public authorities regarding the execution of a social service shall be in writing.

9. Institutional Autonomy

- 1/ In pursuing its purposes, the Society has institutional autonomy.
- 2/ Any agreements entered between the Society and Governmental and non-governmental organizations shall not be contrary to the fundamental principles of the Society.

10. Relationship with other Entities

- 1/ The Society shall in particular fulfill the conditions laid down under Articles 3 and 4 of the Statutes of the Movement, and is bound by the obligations under Article 8 of the Constitution of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent in its relationship with components of the movement .
- 2/ In order to fulfill its purposes, the society may work with non-governmental organizations, mass organizations and relevant private sectors.

11. Duties and Capacity

The Society shall have the following duties and capacity:

- 1/ to alleviate the situation of vulnerable persons and communities affected by armed conflicts, internal disturbances and tensions, natural disasters and other emergencies;
- 2/ to provide victims with effective emergency assistance during catastrophes or disasters;
- 3/ to provide assistance to military and civilian victims of war in conformity with the Geneva Conventions and its fundamental principles and to undertake all necessary preparations to that end in time of peace;
- 4/ to rehabilitate displaced victims of man-made and natural disaster and assist their efforts to become self-reliant through participation in development activities; to create publicawareness in disaster-response, to assist the government's effort in risk reduction and food security;
- 5/ to cooperate with all concerned in the prevention of diseases, the promotion of public health services, the training of medical personnel and the improvement of standards of health in general, including the development and implementation of primary health care services;
- 6/ in cooperation with the concerned organs, to participate in and contribute towards environmental protection, community development activities such as afforestation, supply of potable water and the provision of community sanitary services;
- 7/ to support those groups of the community, especially women, children,elderly people, andpersons with disabilities who are most vulnerable to disaster;

- 8/ to disseminate international humanitarian law and to assist and support the effort of the government for the implementation of the law, which is the basis for humanitarian services, with a view to promoting the prevalence of peace, amongst all peoples and nations, of cooperation and mutual understanding;
- 9/ to act in restoring family links, in accordance with the Restoring Family Link Strategy to be adopted by the council of Delegates of the Movement;
- 10/ to endeavor to further popularize the fundamental principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement;
- 11/ to raise its membership and the role of volunteers;
- 12/ to propagate and expand the Red Cross Youth movement among the young and the rest of the community;
- 13/ to train and deploy volunteers for rescue work and social welfare, as well as other volunteers in its fields of activity;
- 14/ to strive for the promotion of understanding and peace in the world by developing and strengthening its relations with the other components of the movement and other international organizations;
- 15/ to plan, formulate and implement various projects, which are consistent with its purposes and duties, with a view to creating permanent sources of revenue to be able to finance its services;
- 16/ to own movable and immovable property, to acquire, administer and alienate property, to enter into contracts, to sue and be sued in its own name;
- 17/ to carry out other related activities necessary for the attainment of its purposes.

PART TWO **MEMBERSHIP**

12. Eligibility for Membership

Any person who is willing to accept and translate into deeds the fundamental principles of the Society may become a member of the Society without discrimination related to race, color, nationality, sex, religion, political opinions or any other status.

13. Types of Membership

The types of membership shall include the following:

- 1/ regular membership;
- 2/ life membership;
- 3/ honorary membership;

- 4/ corporate membership;
- 5/ Red Cross Youth membership.

14. Conditions for Membership

- 1/ The following conditions shall qualify for regular membership:
 - a) the payment of annual membership fee as fixed by the National General Assembly, or
 - b) without compromising its purposes, donation in kind to the Society equivalent to the membership fee; or
 - c) the provision of free service as required by the society.
- 2/ The status of life membership may be obtained by any individual or family upon a one-time full payment of the sum fixed by the National General Assembly or by donating property or providing free service to the Society the value of which is equivalent to the payment, without compromising its purposes.
- 3/ The status of honorary membership may be obtained upon rendering exceptional humanitarian service in line with the fundamental principles of the Society and in connection with the Society's purpose and activities and shall be granted by the National General Assembly.
- 4/ The status of corporate membership may be obtained up on payment of the annual membership fee as fixed by the National General Assembly.
- 5/ The status of Red Cross Youth membership may be obtained by joining youth clubs established by the Society and up on payment of the annual membership fees fixed by the National General Assembly

15. Rights of Members

- 1/ A regular member, a life member as well as a Red Cross Youth member who has attained 18 years of age may:
 - a) attend and vote at meetings of the society held at the level of Kebele, Woreda, Zone/Special Woreda, Region or National General Assembly and at any other meetings of the Society; and
 - b) be eligible for election in the governance of the society at all levels.
- 2/ A person representing a corporate member may attend and vote at the General Assemblies of the Society but shall not be eligible for election.
- 3/ An honorary member may attend and forward opinions at General Assemblies of the Society but neither shall be able to vote nor be eligible for election.

16. Revocation and Recovery of Membership

- 1/ Membership may be revoked on the following grounds:
 - a) in case of regular members, failure to pay the annual membership fee for two consecutive years;
 - b) Discontinuation of services for two consecutive years, where membership was based on providing services to the Society;
 - c) Infringement of the fundamental principles of the Society or engage in activities or showing a moral character seriously detrimental to the work of the Society.
- 2/ Membership that was revoked pursuant to sub Article (1) (a) or (b) of this Article may be recovered by paying the current membership fee or by resuming the discontinued services or by making donations equivalent to the fee.
- 3/ The authority to revoke membership rests with the Woreda, Zonal/Special Woreda, Regional or National Governing Board as may be appropriate. The procedure for appealing against a decision to revoke a membership will be determined in the internal regulations of the Society.
- 4/ The decision to revoke membership right shall be communicated to the member in writing by stating the reason and it shall be communicated to the next General Assembly of the concerned branch.

PART THREE

ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE OF THE SOCIETY

17. Patron of the Society

- 1/ The patron of the society shall be the President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.
- 2/ The President shall extend all necessary assistance to the Society in the attainment of its purposes, in securing wider public acceptance and in promoting its activities.

18. Organization of the Society.

- 1/ In line with Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia's government structure and keeping its principle of unity, the Society is organized at national and regional levels.

- 2/ The regional branches of the Society shall be organized, whenever necessary, at Zonal/Special Woreda, Woreda and Kebele administration levels in line with the regional government administrative arrangement.
- 3/ In order to fulfill the purposes of the Society, the organization of the Society at national level shall perform national and international duties and responsibilities
- 4/ While accountable to the national headquarters, regional branches shall carryout activities towards the fulfillment of the purposes of the Society based on the policies adopted and decisions passed at the national level.
- 5/ While accountable to their respective regional branches, Zonal/Special Woreda, Woreda and Kebele branches shall carryout activities towards the fulfillment of the purposes of the Society based on the policies adopted at the national level and decisions passed at different levels.

19. Structure of the Society

The national and regional organization of the Society has the following internal structure:

- 1/ The national level has the following structure:
 - a) General Assembly,
 - b) Governing Board and
 - c) National Head Quarters
- 2/ The Regional, Zonal/Special Woreda and Woreda levels as deemed necessary have the following structure:
 - a) General Assembly,
 - b) Governing Board and
 - c) Branch Office
- 3/ The Society may have Red Cross Committees at Kebele level as may be necessary
- 4/ Regional branches shall provide the National headquarters with regular reports on the implementation of the Society's policies and decisions adopted at national level.

20. Members of the National General Assembly

The National General Assembly shall have the following members:

- 1/ nine members of the Governing Board,
- 2/ five members selected from General Assemblies of each Regional Branches;

- 3/ in addition to the members elected under sub article 2 of this article, members who are elected from branches at Regional, Zonal/Special Woreda, Woreda level electing one with every additional 100,000 members of them. However, the number of elected members in this case from regional level should not exceed twenty five (25). The details shall be determined by regulation to be adopted by the National General Assembly.
- 4/ Minister or higher official of each of the following government offices:
 - a) Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
 - b) Ministry of National Defense,
 - c) Ministry of Health,
 - d) Ministry of Finance and Economic Cooperation,
 - e) Ministry of Education,
 - f) Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
 - g) National Disaster Risk Management Commission,
 - h) National Intelligence and Security Service,
- 5/ A representative of the Ethiopian Labor Unions' Confederation,
- 6/ A representative of the Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce and Sectoral Associations,
- 7/ Three youth members who are elected by the National Red Cross Youth Executive Committee,
- 8/ A representative of the Society's workers union,
- 9/ Not more than thirty (30) Red Cross members to be chosen by the National Governing Board,
- 10/ The term of service for General Assembly members elected under sub Articles 2, 3, 7 and 9 of this Article is four years. No member of the General Assembly shall serve more than two consecutive terms in the General Assembly, but this would not bar a member to be elected after lapse of one term

21. Powers and Duties of the National General Assembly

The National General Assembly as the supreme organ of the society shall have the following powers and duties:

- 1/ to elect, members of the Governing Board of the Society;
- 2/ to enact or adopt the policy of the Society;
- 3/ to give the necessary general policy guidelines to the Governing Board and supervise its activities;
- 4/ to approve the short, medium and long-term work programmes and gross budget of the society submitted to it by the Governing Board;
- 5/ to examine and approve the reports of the Governing Board and the auditors;

- 6/ to examine and approve decisions of the Governing Board on major and urgent relief expenditures not appropriated in the budget;
- 7/ to decide upon the recommendations of the Governing Board as to the types of membership, the amount of membership fees and contributions to be made by regional offices to the Head Quarter, Zonal/Special Woreda to Regions and Woreda to Zonal branch of the Society;
- 8/ to decide upon the granting of honorary membership and the awarding of the Society's most distinguished medals and decorations to persons recommended by the Governing Board on account of their outstanding humanitarian services rendered to the public in line with the fundamental principles of the Society;
- 9/ to appoint an external auditor of the society for a term of two years;
- 10/ to revise this Charter as may be necessary and submit to the Government for approval;
- 11/ to approve regulations on the procedure of the General Assembly meetings and the election of governing board members;
- 12/ to approve regulations to define the organization, powers and duties of headquarters, branch organs and offices of the Society;
- 13/ pass final decisions concerning the Society;
- 14/ such other powers and duties which may be necessary to fulfill the purposes of the Society.

22. Meetings of the National General Assembly

- 1/ The National General Assembly shall hold a regular meeting every two years within six months after the end of the second fiscal year of the society.
- 2/ Extraordinary meetings may be held at any time when deemed necessary.
- 3/ Extraordinary meetings may be convened:
 - a) upon the decision of the Governing Board; or
 - b) at the request of one-third of the members of the General assembly;
 - c) when half or more than that of the regional Governing Boards, by their decisions, request for extraordinary meeting;
- 4/ All notices on holding a regular meeting of the General Assembly, together with reports of the Governing Board and of auditors as well as a copy of the agenda, shall be sent to members of the Assembly one month prior to the meeting.
- 5/ All notices on holding an extraordinary meeting of the General Assembly and a copy of the agenda shall be sent to members of the Assembly fifteen days prior to the meeting.

23. Procedures for the Meetings of the National General Assembly

- 1/ Meetings of the General Assembly shall be presided over by the President of the Society.
- 2/ Unless stated otherwise in this Charter:
 - a) the presence of half of the members shall constitute a quorum;
 - b) decisions shall be made by a majority vote of the members present and vote at a meeting;
 - c) in case of tie, the Chairperson shall have the casting vote.
- 3/ Where there is no quorum as determined under sub Article (2) (a) of this Article, the Assembly shall be convened for second time within fifteen days. Decisions shall be made by a majority vote of such members as are present at the second meeting.
- 4/ Each member of the General Assembly shall have a single vote.
- 5/ Minutes of the deliberations and decisions of the Assembly shall be taken by rapporteurs elected by the Assembly and shall be signed by the President and the rapporteurs.

24. Members of the National Governing Board

- 1/ The Governing Board of the Society shall have nine members elected by the General Assembly; and one of the members shall be representatives of the youth.
- 2/ Election of the Governing Board members as far as possible should take in to consideration gender, experience and professional diversity.
- 3/ The Governing Board members are elected from members of the General Assembly who are called and attended. However, the Assembly can elect to board member those who were called to and were unable to attend due to a reason beyond their capacity but expressed their commitment to accept any responsibilities by the General Assembly decision.
- 4/ The Secretary General of the Society shall be a non-voting member and secretary of the Governing Board.
- 5/ Due care should be taken in ensuring the absence of any conflict of interest between the candidates profession or background and his freedom to execute his tasks in the Society.
- 6/ In executing their task in the Society, members of the Governing Board shall act solely in the interest of the Society. In case members of the Governing Board holds high government offices or a position in the political party, he shall either resign as a board member or give the assurance that his position in the government or political party may not affect his r freedom to execute the task of the Society.

- 7/ Notwithstanding sub-article (6) of this Article, the Governing Board may not have more than three members who hold high offices in political parties or in government structure.

25. Terms of Office

- 1/ Members of the Governing Board shall serve for a term of four years; provided, however, that a member at any level may be re-elected at the expiry of his term of office.
- 2/ No member could serve for more than two successive terms of office on the same level; but this would not bar a member to be elected after lapse of one term.

26. Powers and Duties of the National Governing Board

The Governing Board has the following powers and duties:

- 1/ to elect, from among its members the President, the Vice President and the Treasurer of the Society and get approval of the General Assembly;
- 2/ to elect the chairpersons of the advisory committees instituted by the governing board;
- 3/ to follow up the proper implementation of the duties of the Society specified in Article 11 of this Charter;
- 4/ to follow up and supervise the proper discharge of activities of the headquarters of the Society;
- 5/ to select and assign the Secretary General of the Society and dismiss him when he fails to properly discharge his responsibilities;
- 6/ to approve the selection of persons to be assigned at the headquarters to posts directly accountable to the Secretary General;
- 7/ to submit every two years to the General Assembly, financial reports audited by the appointed auditor;
- 8/ to submit every two years to the General Assembly, for approval, the activity reports of the Society together with the work program and gross budget of the Society for the following two years;
- 9/ to approve the Society's detail annual activity plan and the necessary budget;
- 10/ to decide, between sessions of the General Assembly, on matters falling under the jurisdiction of the General Assembly and submit same for approval at the next meeting;
- 11/ to establish, upon the recommendation of the Finance and Property Advisory Committee, reserve and other funds of the society, and decide on their utilization;

- 12/ to ensure the proper observance and implementation of the fundamental principles of the society at all levels;
- 13/ to take the appropriate action and report the same to the General Assembly, whenever an action which endangers the unity and existence of the Society is committed or if the Governing Board believes that the Society's principles and purposes have been violated at any stage of the Society's structure;
- 14/ to submit recommendations to the General Assembly, monitor, and take necessary actions on the types of membership, amount of membership fees and contributions to be made by regional branches to National Head Quarters, Zonal/Special Woreda to Regional branch and Woreda Branch to Zonal branch of the society;
- 15/ to decide on the requirement and utilization of foreign assistance;
- 16/ to authorize, when necessary and in consultation with the concerned government organs; International Red Cross and Red Crescent institutions and sister societies to undertake joint activities with the Society in Ethiopia.
- 17/ to prepare and submit criteria for selection of honorary membership; nominate and submit for the approval of the General Assembly persons to be granted honorary membership;
- 18/ to elect, in case where up to three persons among its members cannot complete their term in office, substitutes to serve until the next regular meeting of the General Assembly;
- 19/ to establish, as may be necessary, ad hoc or standing advisory committees and define their functions;
- 20/ to grant awards to members of the society, volunteers and employees who made great contribution towards the activities of the Society;
- 21/ to decide on the time, place and agenda of the meetings of the General Assembly;
- 22/ to establish external relations on behalf of the society;
- 23/ to perform such other duties as may be assigned to it by the General Assembly;
- 24/ such other powers and duties which may be necessary to fulfill the purposes of the Society.

PART FOUR

POWERS AND DUTIES OF OFFICIALS OF THE SOCIETY

27. General

Officials of the Society shall exercise their duties in accordance with the provisions of this Charter and the internal regulations and directives of the Society. In executing their tasks, all officials of the Society shall act solely in the interest of the Society.

28. Powers and Duties of the President

The President of the Society who is the highest official of the Society has the following powers and duties:

- 1/ to follow up whether the society has fulfilled its purposes and duties listed under article 7 and 11 of this charter and report to the governing board;
- 2/ to convoke meetings of the General Assembly and the Governing Board;
- 3/ to present a review of the state of the Society to the General Assembly;
- 4/ to coordinate the work of the respective bodies of the Society;
- 5/ to follow up the implementation of the decisions of the General Assembly and the Governing Board;
- 6/ to decide, between sessions of the Governing Board, on urgent matters submitted from the headquarters, and submit such decisions for approval at the next meeting of the Board;
- 7/ to make relations with third party representing the Governing Board;
- 8/ to carry out any other functions entrusted by the General Assembly and the National Governing Board;

29. Powers and Duties of the Vice President of the Society

The Vice President of the Society has the following powers and duties:

- 1/ to discharge the duties of the President in his absence;
- 2/ to perform duties specifically assigned to him by the President and the Governing Board.

30. Powers and Duties of the Treasurer

The Treasurer of the Society has the following powers and duties:

- 1/ to chair the Finance and Property Advisory Committee of the Society;
- 2/ to supervise and controls the property and financial activities of the Society, and reports the implementation to the Governing Board every six months

31. Powers and Duties of the Secretary General

The Secretary General shall be the chief executive officer of the Society, and being accountable to the Governing Board, shall have the following powers and duties:

- 1/ to direct, administer and supervise the national headquarters of the Society;

- 2/ to ensure that employees at regional level are administered based on the relevant rules of the Society and to take corrective measures whenever there is an irregularity;
- 3/ to monitor, supervise and submit periodic report to the Governing Board that the activities of the Society at regional branches level are undertaken according to the rules of the Society;
- 4/ to mobilize the financial accounts of the Society based on the general direction given by the Governing Board;
- 5/ to decide on financial and procurement matters necessary for the activities of the Society according to the finance and procurement manuals of the society;
- 6/ to ensure that the various activities of the Society are executed properly and in accordance with this Charter, the internal regulations and directives of the Society;
- 7/ based on the general direction of the Governing Board, to establish, with a view to facilitating the realization of the purposes of the Society, relations with other components of the Movement as well as other appropriate national and international organizations. The Secretary General produces periodic report to the Board on the outcome of such relations;
- 8/ to establish ad hoc or standing committees as may be necessary, to expedite the effective discharge of his/her responsibilities;
- 9/ to prepare and submit to the Governing Board plans and work programs as well as budgets of the Society, and implement same upon approval;
- 10/ to execute decisions of the General Assembly and the Governing Board;
- 11/ to submit, annually and where necessary periodically, financial reports of the Society to the Governing Board;
- 12/ to prepare, in consultation with the president, the agenda of the meeting of the Governing Board and distribute same to each member together with relevant documents;
- 13/ to select on competitive base and submit to the Governing Board for approval persons to be assigned, at the headquarter of the Society, to posts directly accountable to him;
- 14/ to perform the hiring of Regional Branch Office Managers and firing of the same by Regional Board through the support of head office. He also approves the recommendation of Regional Board on the selection and termination of Regional Branch Office Heads.
- 15/ to attend, as may be necessary, in person or through a representative the meetings of the advisory committees of the Society.
- 16/ to administer the fixed asset and finance of the Society at national headquarters and ascertain the proper administration of the same at branches. If it deemed necessary, he initiates an appropriate action to be taken.

- 17/ to employ, administer and dismiss the personnel of the Head Quarters of the Society;
- 18/ to observe and ensure the observance of the fundamental principles by employees of the Society;
- 19/ to submit to the Governing Board for approval internal regulations and directives necessary for effective implementation of this Charter, and implement same upon approval;
- 20/ to represent, in accordance with general directives of the Governing Board, the Society in its dealings with third parties;
- 21/ on behalf of the Society, to enter in to contract, to sue and be sued or make delegations to others;
- 22/ to perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Governing Board or the President.

PART FIVE

INCOME AND FINANCIAL REPORTS OF THE SOCIETY

32. Source of Income

The income of the Society shall stem from sources that do not contradict, or compel the Society to act in violation of the fundamental principles and main purpose and duties of the Society. The sources of income include:

- 1/ Membership fees;
- 2/ Money and property acquired through inheritance, donations and assistance;
- 3/ Proceeds from income-generating programs;
- 4/ General or program subsidy from the Government;
- 5/ Income from ambulance and other services;
- 6/ From business activities which do not compromise the purposes and principles of the Society;
- 7/ From other sources

33. Exemption from Tax and Duty

- 1/ The Society shall be exempted from all taxes and duties on all imported goods for the purpose of executing its purposes stated in this Charter.
- 2/ Without prejudice to rights and benefits bestowed to the National Society in other laws, the Society shall be exempted from income taxes on incomes derived

from membership fee, money or property acquired through inheritance, donations, subsidy from government and incomes from ambulance services.

34. Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the Society shall commence on the 1st day of Hamle and shall end on the 30th day of Sene of the following year.

35. Books of Accounts

- 1/ The Society shall administer and expend its income in transparent and accountable manner.
- 2/ The Society shall keep complete and accurate books of accounts.

36. Annual Financial Reports

- 1/ Audited financial report of the Society by external auditor shall be submitted to the Governing Board within a period of six month following the end of each fiscal year.
- 2/ The audited financial reports by external auditor shall be submitted every two years to the General Assembly.

PART SIX

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

37. Revision of the Charter

- 1/ This Charter may be revised upon approval by the Government of the recommendations of the National General Assembly by a two-thirds majority vote passed in a meeting in which at least two-third of the members are present.
- 2/ The Society shall inform the International Committee of the red Cross/International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Joint Statute Commission of any proposed amendments and take in to account the comments of the Joint Statute Commission.

38. Transitory Provisions

Officials of the Society shall continue to serve until new elections and assignments are made in accordance with this Charter.

39. Power to issue Internal Regulations

Without prejudice to other provisions of this Charter, the Governing Board may issue internal regulations and directives necessary for the proper implementation of this Charter.

40. Repealed laws

The Revised Ethiopian Red Cross Society Charter Proclamation No. 153/1999 is hereby repealed and replaced by this Charter.

41. Effective Date

This Charter shall enter into force on the date of its publication in the FederalNegaritGazetta.

Done at Addis Ababa, -----day of -----2017.

MULATU TESHOME (Dr.)
PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC ETHIOPIA