
Ethiopian National Priorities Consultative Process (ENPCP)

What is ENPCP?

ENPCP is short for the Ethiopian National Priorities Consultative Process. It is a freely associated non-partisan group, composed of civic organizations and individuals.

It is a civic group that is striving to empower Ethiopians: individuals and civic groups, by bringing them under an umbrella organization, to maximize their capabilities, resources and influence the political process of our country. It enables our people to assert their will as citizens, on critical national issues, currently monopolized by the ruling regime, and to a lesser extent by the fractious and weak opposition groups.

What are the core values of ENPCP?

Though ENPCP is not a political opposition party competing for state power, its core values are centered on a commitment to the concept of Ethiopiawinet whose core values are:

- National sovereignty and territorial integrity
- The inviolability of the unity of the Ethiopian people
- Respect for internationally recognized individual, civil and political rights

- Respect for private property

ENPCP has also endorsed the *Citizens Charter for a Democratic Ethiopia* – a common cause for freedom, prosperity and social renaissance, adopted on May 20, 2011. The Charter envisions a citizen-centered post-socialist, post-ethnic and cosmopolitan Ethiopia.

The core principles of this Charter include establishing and fostering

- representative and accountable governance
- cultural pluralism and national unity
- economic freedom and equity
- collaboration and complementing other organizations for effective civic movement.

Is the ENPCP unique, If so, how?

Yes, it is a unique effort. This is the first ever effort that is working to bring Ethiopian civic groups together and build a civic umbrella, to work in chorus, to advance their common agenda. No such effort took place before. It is also the first time in the history of modern politics of our country that civic groups gathered, independent of political parties, to play a significant and historic role, to define, influence and shape the political process in our country, with no interest for state power.

It Inspires Collaboration It encourages member civic groups to keep their autonomy, their identity, mission and purpose, while also collaborating on key national issues.

It is truly non-partisan It may not be issue neutral but it is party (political) neutral.

It is an Inclusive The organization attracts all sector of society, including political party members, to participate as individuals.

It is Strategic: It is an Ethiopian House of civic organizations and individuals that focuses on key national issues.

ENPCP Views the Current Political Process in Ethiopia:

Current Ethiopian politics is dominated by the ruling party and reactively engaged by the opposition. The ruling regime has abandoned its lip service to universally accepted principles of democracy and daringly adopted a repressive thinking known as “Revolutionary Democracy”. The opposition had shown a promising start by forming the UEDF in July, 2003. However, it has been fragmenting, particularly since the 2005 elections. The ENPCP hopes all Ethiopian civic and political forces will come together, in due course, and build a formidable umbrella organization that

would help to demonstrate the realization of an effective alliance of Ethiopians, civic and political forces, to institute democratic governance in Ethiopia. Although ENPCP doesn't aspire for political office, it would remain a formidable popular movement in post TPLF/EPRDF Ethiopia.

There is at present serious issue of confidence on the opposition. We believe, besides political parties, the Ethiopian public needs an alternative form of organization that will help it wage a sustained struggle to secure its rights and freedom. We are convinced that this could be achieved if the public takes direct charge of its destiny by building a strong civic house.

What are its strategies? And how does ENPCP hope to realize it strategies:

ENPCP strives to create enabling conditions for the stakeholder public to participate directly in the political process. ENPCP will reach out to as many Ethiopian civic groups across the world to include them in the discussion, to be prepared for the challenges of material, financial and intellectual requirements, to plan and launch a campaign to call for national conference. ENPCP will create strategic interim bodies that lay down the foundation to pioneer or sponsor professional studies. ENPCP will convene a national conference of Ethiopian civic forces in the near future to create an independent umbrella civic

organization that would represent the diverse civic groups across the world.

What kind of individuals and groups has it attracted so far?

ENPCP has 11 civic groups and many individuals as its members. Two other civic groups are in the process of joining it. Interestingly, its members hail from various backgrounds. It is blessed having people from a broad experience spectrum base that includes diplomacy, business, government and academics.

What are the criteria for membership?

Anyone that accepts ENPCP core principles and willing to commit herself/himself for its causes can become a member. ENPCP accepts both individual and group memberships.

For more information and for media inquiry, please contact: Lemlem Tsegaw Public/Media Relations Officer, ENPCP at ltsegaw@gmail.com and at www.enpcp.org p.o.box 171, East Lansing, Michigan, 48823



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