



**Statement by Monsignor John D. Putzer, Chargé d'affaires, a.i.,  
Permanent Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations and Other  
International Organizations in Geneva  
during the 33<sup>rd</sup> Special Session of the Human Rights Council  
“On the Grave Human Rights Situation in Ethiopia”  
*Geneva, 17 December 2021***

Madam Vice-President,

The Holy See has been following with great attention and deep concern the developments of the grave situation of conflict and violence that have been occurring in Ethiopia. In this most difficult time, the Holy See wishes to assure once again its spiritual closeness, prayer and solidarity with the people of Ethiopia, especially the displaced and the refugees.

The Holy See is particularly concerned with the grave humanitarian implications of the continuing conflict and urges all stakeholders, each in their specific capacity, to ensure access by the civilian population to basic and essential services wherever they are needed.

The Holy See, in hoping for a peaceful and swift resolution to the ongoing tensions, remains confident that dialogue, in a spirit of fraternity, may bring about the much-desired peace. Indeed, in the words of Pope Francis “The way of peace [...] reconciles conflicts and regenerates the beauty of fraternity. [...] There is no other way to achieve reconciliation. Let us nurture hope by [...] openness to sincere discussion that would give priority to people’s needs”.<sup>1</sup>

Thank you, Madam Vice-President.

---

<sup>1</sup> Pope Francis, Apostolic Journey of His Holiness Francis in Cyprus and Greece – Welcome Ceremony, Courtesy Visit to the President of the Republic and Meeting with the Authorities, Civil Society and the Diplomatic Corps, 02.12.2021.