

አንቀጽ ፳፩ - ARTICLE 21

የኢትዮጵያ ሥነ ዜግነት ትምህርት ማእከል (ኢሥትማ)

CENTER FOR CIVIC EDUCATION IN ETHIOPIA (CCEC)

ፖ. ሳ . ቁ / P.O.Box 32611 - አዲስ አበባ - ADDIS ABEBA - ETHIOPIA

BACKGROUND

The Center was established following the conducting of a founding workshop that lasted for three days between Thursday 16 March and Saturday 18 March 1995. The workshop which took place in Addis Abeba attracted over 60 participants representing educational institutions, law firms, trade unions, professional associations etc

Individuals that are knowledgeable on the various topics of concern facilitated efforts towards the smooth carrying out of the undertaking by serving as resource persons. Well researched papers on civic education, the need for initiating various schemes pertaining to civic education in Ethiopia, integration of programme components in school curricula, identification of feasible and appropriate approaches and strategies for implementing schemes and fora for disseminating awareness to the general public...etc were presented.

At the closing session of the Workshop that took place on Saturday 18 March, it has been decided to establish a body that coordinates activities that could lead to the formation of the organization dealing with civic education in Ethiopia. Participants unanimously agreed that the organisation be named **ARTICLE 21 - CENTER FOR CIVIC EDUCATION IN ETHIOPIA**. To this end a five member adhoc committee was elected to embark on preliminary preparations for laying the ground that could help in the launching of the project within the shortest possible time.

The Adhoc committee, on the basis of the mandate obtained from the General meeting and in line with the terms of reference laid down by same, has conducted series of meetings to deal with the task assigned to it.

A two-day meeting (13 and 14 May, 1995) was convened for hearing the proposals of the Adhoc Committee and taking the necessary decisions. A total of 28 participants within Addis Abeba and the nearby towns discussed on agenda items tabled by the committee. A mandate to decide on pertinent matters of an urgent nature was solicited and obtained from representatives of other members who could not attend the meeting.

Following lengthy discussions, the meeting endorsed the objectives of the Center as specified in the previous proposal (cf. Appendix I for summary of objectives.) A Board of Directors composed of seven members charged with the responsibility of drafting general guidelines and preparing the Memorandum of Association (MOA) was elected at the meeting. Now that all the necessary groundwork is in the process of being undertaken, the Center is now moving towards seeking official

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(ዓለም አቀፍ የሰብአዊ ምብት መግለጫ)

registration (in accordance with article 404 of the Civil Code) following the ratification of the draft MOA by the General Assembly due to be convened in July 1995.

Notwithstanding constraints in terms of funding required for institution building, the Board of Directors has decided to renew its request for financial assistance. The GRAPECA main office in Paris is requested to facilitate such endeavours and act as liaison on behalf of the Center in all matters concerning foreign relations.

PLAN OF ACTION (June 1995- JULY 1996)

A.1. June 1995/July 1995 - Seeking official registration

Making official request to the Ministry of Internal Affairs empowered to provide permit that enable the organisation to operate formally. The MOA is a pre-requisite to obtain legal recognition.

A.2. July 1995-October 1995 - Instituting the Headquarters

Securing premises, personnel, logistics/equipment etc. During this period, the Center plans to launch its public awareness campaign which will start with the publication of two brochures familiarizing the general public with notions of Human rights, democratisation and specially the meaning of "ARTICLE 21" of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Depending on the availability of funds we plan to publish two brochures: One (about 80 pages) which will be an article by article explanation of the Universal Declaration and the other entitled "Article 21: Free and Fair elections and popular participation." (about 40 pages)

OTHER PLANNED ACTIVITIES

B.1. December 1995: A two day seminar on the outcome of the Paris and Addis Abeba Conferences on Peace and Reconciliation in Ethiopia. Specific date and venue will be announced later.

B.2. February 1996: A one-day seminar on "Appraisal of the May 1995 National and regional elections and prospects for the peace process in Ethiopia." Specific date and venue to be announced later.

B.3. Public awareness campaign to familiarize the public with the findings and recommendations of the two seminars which we hope will be facilitated by the relaunching of the interrupted "RADIO SELAM" project.

SUMMARY OF OBJECTIVES

The objectives of "ARTICLE 21" revolve around the following in the main:

a) Bring together community leaders, academics and educators, political and religious groups, NGOs, Youth and Women's associations, minority representatives and researchers to deliberate and affect exchange of views on civic culture, democratic governance in order to enhance the peace

process in the spirit of the Paris and Addis Abeba conferences on peace and reconciliation in Ethiopia

b) Organize workshops, seminars and symposia in which those listed above could participate and enhance their awareness on civic culture and practice,

c) Work towards the inclusion of Civic Education in the curricula of institutions of learning,

d) Solicit for support of pertinent government institutions and functionaries (courts, administrators, the police, schools...) to support endeavours aiming at the entrenchment of civic virtues and the rule of law as the dominant aspect of social life,

e) Promote a sustained public awareness campaign of civic education through publications and specially the use of radio facilities and other appropriate means of communication,

f) Encourage dialogue as a means of resolving conflicts in society by organising and sponsoring panels and public lectures and by facilitating expression of different views and debates on issues concerning the peace and democratisation process in the country.