

# INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONSHIPS IN ETHIOPIA

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# Distinct features of Ethiopian Federation

- designed to address the age old demand by **nations and nationalities**
- all **sovereign power** resides in the nations, nationalities and peoples of Ethiopia
- commitment to ensure both **individual & group rights**
- mandates the nations and nationalities the right to **self rule and self determination** up to secession;

# Distinct features of Ethiopian Federation cont'd

- powers and composition of the second chamber-  
the **House of Federation** (HoF)
- **residual** powers are left to the states
- right to ownership of rural and urban **land**, as well as of all natural resources, is exclusively vested in the State and in the peoples

# Upper chamber (House of Federations)

- composed of representatives of nations, nationalities and peoples (NNPs)
- Each NNP is represented in the HoF by at least one member, plus by one additional representative for each one million of its population
- According to the constitution HOF has
  - ✓ powers to interpret the constitution
  - ✓ decide on issues related to right of NNPs to self determination, including the right to secession

# House of Federation cont'd

- strive to find solutions to disputes/ misunderstandings that may arise between states,
- determine the division of revenues derived from joint federal and state tax sources and the subsidies that the federal government may provide to the states
- Key IGR institution

# Constitutional and Legal Basis for IGRs

- less formalized, but series of interactions between the federal and state governments
- Constitutional articles starting from the preamble, state border disputes, structure and division of Powers, concurrent power of taxation, powers and functions of the HoF etc indicate the need for IGR
- various policies issued by the government (Peace, Democracy and Development policy, Capacity Building Policy etc)
- at the executive level: the Ministry of Federal Affairs established by a proclamation to serve as a focal point in IGRs

# Process and principles

- IGR processes such as dispute settlement, subsidy and federal government intervention in the states are clearly stated in the constitution/legal act
- Some other process are adapted by each forum
- Principles of IGR are mainly derived from the constitution, although their practice is not uniform in every forum

# Practices

- many institutions conduct IGRs in Ethiopia:  
example interactions among legislative, executive and judiciary of the federal and state governments
- horizontal interaction among neighboring states
- IGRs forums deal on among others:
  - ✓ Implement'n of national standards, policies & laws
  - ✓ Design, implement & evaluate joint programs/plans
  - ✓ Effective utilization of resources
  - ✓ Capacity building
  - ✓ Sharing good practices and experiences

# Major gaps in IGR, Ethiopia

- Lack of Awareness on the concept of IGRs
- No formal intergovernmental interaction between the Prime Minister and the heads of the regional states outside of the party machinery
- Lack institutional mechanism that addresses issues that cross cut the different sectors
- Lack of system of accountability

# What is to be done?

- need for designing policy framework/framework proclamation that governs the IGRs between the federal and state governments
- Government is committed for (part of GTP II)
- the process is in its final stage
- International experiences like this conference are very much useful to enrich our policy formulation

**THANK YOU!!**