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ልማትና ማህበራዊ አገልግሎት ኮሚሽን**
**THE ETHIOPIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH MEKANE YESUS
DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION**

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SERVING THE WHOLE PERSON

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Ref. No. _____
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Date _____

CALL FOR EARLY & AMBITIOUS ACTION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT

Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus Development and Social Service Commission strongly welcomes the Paris Climate Agreement. We regard the outcome as a great success and the first global climate agreement with legally binding force, explicitly addressing the needs of the most vulnerable people.

We appreciate the Paris Climate Agreement for

- Aiming at holding the increase of the global average temperature to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change;
- Aiming at increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emission development, in a manner that does not threaten food production;
- Aiming at making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development;
- Recognizing and addressing the challenge of climate induced loss and damage enhanced cooperation and anchoring the Warsaw International Mechanism;
- Committing developed country Parties to provide financial resources to assist developing country Parties with respect to both mitigation and adaptation and encouraging other Parties to provide such support voluntarily.

We note with great concern that Ethiopia is massively suffering from the recent El Niño effects, which have severe impacts on local communities, threatening over 10 million people by hunger and water scarcity. This climate change related human catastrophe underlines how important it is that the Paris Agreement enters into force as soon as possible. Climate Change does not allow us to lose any time!

As the Development and Social Service Commission of the largest protestant church in Ethiopia, and as a member of the global ACT Alliance, we fully support and encourage our government and all other governments to sign the Paris Agreement in New York on April 22, 2016.

With this signing ceremony, Parties are taking the first step towards joining the Paris Agreement. We encourage them to also take the next legal steps to formally join the agreement as soon as possible to facilitate an early entry into force.



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"መልካም ማድረግን ለሌሎችም ማካፈልን አትርሱ፣ እንዲህ ያለው መስዋዕት እግዚአብሔርን ደስ ያሰኝዋልና።" ዕብራውያን 13:16
"DO NOT FORGET TO DO GOOD AND TO SHARE WITH OTHERS, FOR WITH SUCH SACRIFICES GOD IS PLEASED" HEB. 13:16

Thereby Parties would acknowledge their responsibilities towards indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, women, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations.

We are committed to fully support the implementation of the Paris Agreement by

- Advancing green theology
- Mainstreaming climate change issues into our programs
- Scaling up our community-based programs on climate resilient low carbon development
- Sharing lessons learnt and good practices on innovative solutions, and providing technical assistance, including on
 - Incentive based land rehabilitation and reforestation schemes in steep hillside farms
 - Advancing efforts of participatory forest management
 - Promoting indigenous knowledge of the communities
 - Raising awareness about climate change issues.

By committing to undertake these and other climate actions we offer to support the implementation of the Paris Agreement on national and international levels, and to foster a fair, just and pro-poor approach in tackling climate change.

We are committed to seek and deepen respective dialogues with our partners, civil society, our national Government and other Parties to the Paris Agreement.

Furthermore, we call for

- Enhanced financial support, from public and private sources, to support GHG mitigation and resilience building,
- Enhanced provision of capacity building and technological support.

A global problem needs a global solution. The Paris Agreement encourages us to contribute to a global solution by acting on local level to ensure that nobody will be left behind in the climate crisis.

Addis Ababa, April 21st, 2016


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Girma Borishie Bati
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**Development and Social Services
Commission Commissioner**

