

CIVIC MANIFESTO

A Democratic Constitutional Order for Ethiopia

Freedom • Pluralism • Accountability • Peace

We envision an Ethiopia in which political power comes from the people, is limited by law, and changes hands only through peaceful, free, fair, and credible elections.

Congress of Ethiopian Civic Associations (CECA)

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August 2026

Our Commitment

Our movement is civic, inclusive, pluralist, and nonviolent. It belongs to all Ethiopians—across ethnic, religious, linguistic, regional, gender, generational, and political differences—who believe that no person or community can be free unless the rights of all are protected.

We seek a democratic constitutional order founded on:

- The unity of the Ethiopian people and the sovereignty of the pedigreed Ethiopian State.
- Equal citizenship and the full protection of individual and collective rights.
- Independent courts, accountable institutions, a free press, and an impartial civil service.
- Meaningful self-government alongside effective institutions for democratic cooperation.
- Civilian control of the security services and an end to political violence, arbitrary detention, and impunity.
- Peaceful competition among political parties and the legitimate transfer of power.
- Honest national dialogue about Ethiopia's constitutional future, without coercion or predetermined outcomes.
- Justice, reconciliation, and credible accountability for grave abuses.
- Public institutions that serve citizens fairly and an economy that expands dignity and opportunity.

The Path We Choose

We reject dictatorship, institutionalized corruption, exclusion, collective blame, ethnic hatred, weaponized lies, and the use of violence to settle political disputes. We will pursue change through civic education, peaceful organization, public dialogue, lawful advocacy, and solidarity with communities facing injustice.

Our Immediate and Enduring Task

Our immediate task is to build trust across divisions, defend civic space, agree on democratic rules, and create conditions for an inclusive national constitutional process. Our enduring goal is an Ethiopia in which diversity is protected, our national unity is celebrated, merit trumps loyalty, disagreement is legitimate, government is accountable, and every person can live with freedom, security, and dignity.

Our Mode of Engagement

We believe that citizens must enjoy all internationally recognized human and civil rights. They also have the responsibility to defend these rights. Constructive civic engagement in public affairs requires knowledge, courage, and understanding. As a rights-based association of Ethiopian CSOs, CECA contributes to this endeavor through public education and advocacy. Please visit our website to access our Roadmap and Manifesto for a transition to a democratic constitutional order.

We invite all who share these principles to help build that future—peacefully, patiently, and together.
