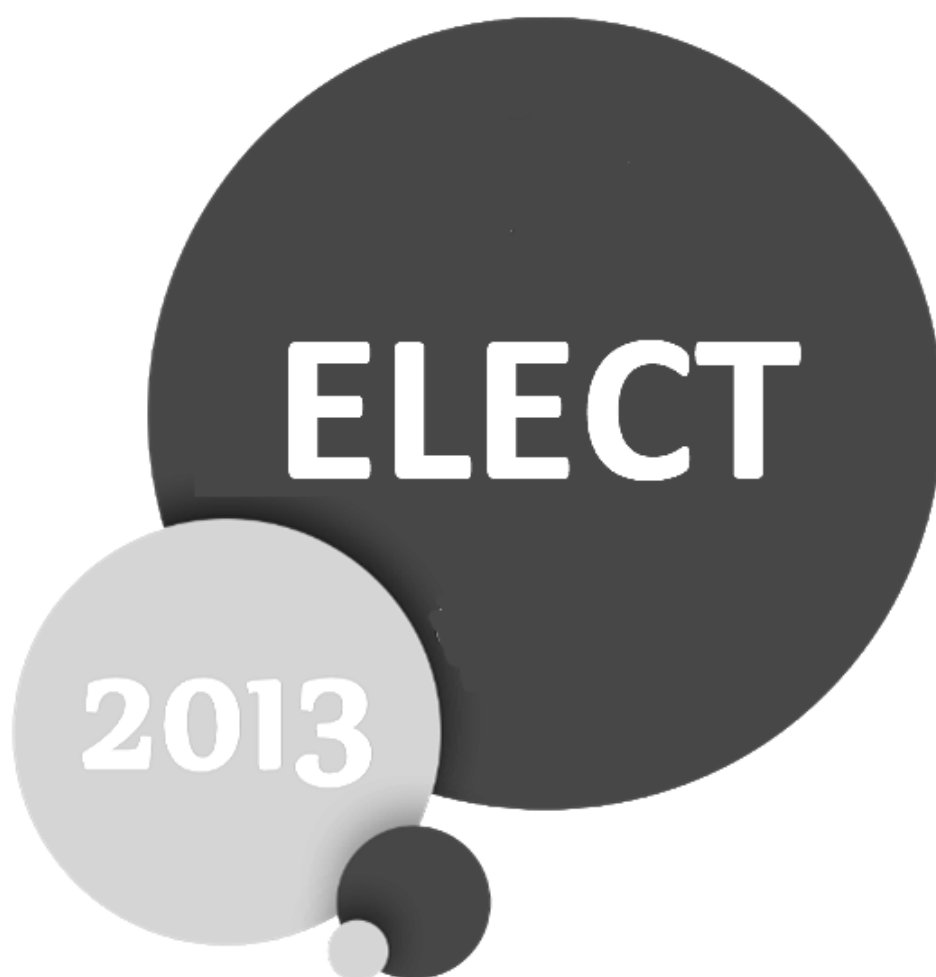


Initiative Africa



# Voters Education Teaching Manual





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## Introduction

National Electoral Board of Ethiopia (NEBE) is mandated by law to provide civic and voters' education and licensing and coordinating other institutions. To fulfill this responsibility, NEBE has been preparing civic education and training documents. This textbook is prepared by Initiative Africa based on revising the Board's manuals for 2010 (2003 E.C.) and 2019 (2012E.C.).

Voters' education has the following goals: -

1. Understand the nature of the electoral laws, and make-believe trainees that the laws will enable to conduct free, fair and credible elections.
2. Recognize the functions and responsibilities of the electoral officers and make them believe that they are capable of conducting free, fair and credible elections.
3. Announce the existence and functioning of judicial bodies and systems for resolving disputes/ disagreements during elections.
4. Encourage citizens to understand their responsibilities as voters.

This textbook contains material that can meet the above-mentioned civic and voter education goals.

## The Purpose of the Manual

The purpose of this book is to enable trainees (electorate and election officials) to develop civic knowledge, skills and attitudes, as well as knowledge about democratic elections citizen participation. The book is not only providing the trainees with knowledge and information about election and democracy, but also creating a positive attitude towards democracy and success among citizens.

## Manual Users

The users of this book are Coaches prepared to give voter education.

## Introduction of participants

Program coordinators should introduce themselves and have coaches and trainees introduce each other in turn. At this point, the following should be asked.

- ✓ Name
- ✓ Work and Education conditions
- ✓ Participation in past elections
- ✓ One result you expect from this training

# Chapter 1. Democracy and Constitutional Democracy

Trainees after this lesson:

- Understand essence of democracy
- List “Representative Democracy” in Ethiopia

## Activity 1: General discussion

**Coach:** Ask the participants the following questions and have an initial discussion.

- 1) What is "democracy"?
- 2) What comes to mind when you hear the word "democracy"?
- 3) What is "representative democracy"?
- 4) What is the evidence for the existence of "representative democracy" in Ethiopia?

**Coach:** Conclude the discussion by reflecting on the ideas in the following article.

The word 'democracy' is an English word and its direct origin is the French word 'démocratie'; It has been part of the English language since the 16th century and originated from the Greek word "demokratia". demokratia  $\delta\epsilon\mu\kappa\rho\alpha\tau\iota\alpha$  is derived from a combination of two Greek words: dem demos and kratos; They mean demos people and kratos re-rule. So in this literal and ancient meaning democracy means the self-government of the people.

Representative Democracy is revealed through the participation of all sections of the society meeting the minimum age limit; Elections are held on a regular basis, the election is free, fair and credible, freedom of speech, assembly and other human and democratic rights is respected and related institutions exist. In a political environment where these rights are met, citizens are governed by freely elected representatives.

The basic meaning of representative democracy is a system in which the people or electorates are governed by the elected representatives. This system of interpretation can lead us to conclude that as long as the people decide, any matter can be decided democratically by the people, regardless of the content of the decisions. This leads to the conclusion that, as long as the public decides, the rights of individuals can be violated. But to prevent such problems from occurring, in countries where democracy is practiced, the practice of democracy is integrated with the constitution (and the rule of law). This system is known as constitutional democracy. In a constitutional democracy, the power of a democratically elected government is limited by the constitution. In other words, the constitution also outlines the powers and responsibilities of a democratically elected government, as well as the limits of the power of the state.



## Chapter 2. Public Representation Institutions in Ethiopia

Trainees after this lesson:

- Understand the system of government and the structure of government that Ethiopia follows;
- List the main features of the Ethiopian federal system;
- Know the nature, powers and functions of public representative institutions at the federal government level and in the states.

### Activity 2.1: Group discussion

**Coach:** Divide the trainees into groups of five. Discuss the following question with their group.

- What are the main features of Ethiopia's parliamentary system?

**Coach:** Present the points to each group and have a general discussion. Finally, conclude the discussion by reflecting on the ideas in the following article.

### 2.1. Ethiopian System of Government and Structure of Government

Article 45 of the constitution clearly states that Ethiopia is a parliamentary system. The constitution clearly states that Ethiopia's government structure is federal; Regions have been established; The division of power took place between the two branches of government.

The main features of Ethiopia's parliamentary system are as follows:

- The legislature, the House of Peoples' Representatives, is directly elected by the people.
- The Chief Executive (Prime Minister) is not directly elected by the people, but the Chief Executive is a member of the House of Peoples' Representatives and is appointed by this House.
- The members of the House of Peoples' Representatives, including the Prime Minister (Council of Ministers), may be members of the House of Peoples' Representatives. Thus, there is no clear division between the legislature and the executive.
- The Prime Minister and his Cabinet can remain in power only with the approval and support of the majority party or coalition of parties in the House of Peoples' Representatives. Therefore, the House of Peoples' Representatives has political power over the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers. This is clearly stated in the Constitution; Article 50 (3) "The highest authority of the Federal Government is the House of Peoples' Representatives of the Federal Government, which is accountable to the people of the

country. "Article 72 (2) : The Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers are accountable to the House of Peoples' Representatives.

The above points about the parliamentary profile of the Ethiopian Federal Government also apply to the regions (as well as the Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa city administrations). State chiefs are members of state councils; they are accountable to the regional councils. The highest organ of state is the State Council, which is accountable to the people of the region it represents (as provided for in Article 50 (3) of the Constitution). The State Council (the head of state and the cabinet) can remain in power only with the support of the party or coalition of parties with the majority of seats in the state council.

## Activity 2.2: Group discussion

**Coach:** Divide the trainees into two groups. One group discusses the House of Peoples' Representatives and the other on the selection of members of the House of Federation and the responsibilities and functions of each House.

**Coach:** Have the groups discuss on the points discussed by their representatives with the participants. Finally, end the discussion by reflecting on the ideas in the following article.

## 2.2. Public Representatives' Institutions of the Federal Government

At the federal government level, there are two houses of the people. They are the House of Peoples Representatives and the House of Federation. However, the two city administrations responsible for the federal government (Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa) also have their own city councils, with Addis Ababa having sub-city councils and kebele councils, and Dire Dawa having kebele councils.

### House of Peoples Representatives

Every member of the House of Peoples' Representatives is elected every five years by universal suffrage, free, direct, fair and secret ballot. The total number of members of the Council shall not exceed 550. So far, 547 members of the House of Peoples Representatives have been elected. This means that the country is divided into 547 constituencies, with only one candidate running in each constituency.

The members of the House are elected in two ways:

1. In a special electoral system in which a small number of nationalities and peoples who are believed to need at least twenty different representations are represented;





2. The remaining members of the House shall be elected in a system in which the candidate with the most votes in the other constituency wins.

The members of the House of Representatives are the representatives of the entire nation. The members are submissive,

- To the Constitution
- To the people, and
- To their conscience as the constitution clearly states.

Members of the House shall not be prosecuted for their vote or opinion in the House in order to carry out their primary function of public office without fear or favor; No administrative action will be taken against them. Also, a member will not be arrested or prosecuted without the consent of the council unless he or she is caught red-handed committing a serious crime.

The constitution stipulates that a member of parliament may resign if he or she has lost the trust of the electorate before the end of the term. The legal framework for this initiation is set out in Proclamation No. 88/1989. This proclamation stipulates that voters have the right to evaluate, criticize, and investigate elected representatives.

The House of Peoples' Representatives is the main body of the federal government and has many other powers and functions in addition to enacting laws. These are listed under Article 55 of the Constitution.

Accordingly, the powers and functions of the House are enshrined in the Constitution to legislate, establish institutions, supervise the executive, approve national policies and strategies, maintain peace and security in the country, appoint judges and other senior government officials, and so on. The following are some of the major powers and functions assigned to the House of Peoples' Representatives by the Constitution.

1. In terms of legislation, Article 55 stipulates that the Federal Government shall enact detailed laws on the following matters, while retaining the power to legislate in matters within the jurisdiction of the Federal Government.
  - a. Land and natural resources, as well as the use of trans-boundary or overlapping rivers and lakes;
  - b. Concerning trade between the regions, as well as foreign trade relations;
  - c. Regarding air, rail and sea transport, postal and telecommunication services, and highways connecting two or more regions;
  - d. Regarding the exercise of political rights and elections provided for in this Constitution.
  - e. Dealing with civil rights, immigration, passport, entry and exit issues and refugee and political asylum issues;

- f. A uniform measurement scale and time formula; Regarding intellectual and artistic rights and the possession of firearms;
  - g. Labor Law, Commercial Law, Penal Code,
  - h. Civil laws approved by the House of Federation for creating an economic community that requires them to be enacted by the federal government.
  - i. Detailed legislation regarding money, the administration of the National Bank, foreign exchange, and exchange
2. The main powers and functions of the House of Peoples' Representatives, which are outside the legislature, are as follows:
- a. The Federal Government shall determine the organization of national and public defense, security and police forces
  - b. Declares a state of emergency, with the draft law submitted by the Executive, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.
  - c. Proclamation of war in accordance with the draft law submitted by the Council of Ministers;
  - d. Approves the overall economic, social, development policies and strategies of the region, financial and monetary policy;
  - e. It shall levy agricultural taxes in the revenue-earning areas of the Federal Government, and shall approve the budget of the Federal Government;
  - f. Approves international agreements entered into by law enforcement.
  - g. Approves the appointment of judges, members of the Council of Ministers, commissioners, the Auditor General and other officials whose appointments must be approved by the House.
  - h. Establish the Human Rights Commission and the Ombudsman and determine its powers and responsibilities.
  - i. In the event of human rights violations in any region and the state is unable to stop the action, it shall request a joint meeting of the House of Federation and the House of Peoples' Representatives to take appropriate action on its own initiative and without the consent of the state.
  - j. The House has the power to summon the Prime Minister and other Federal Government officials for questioning and to investigate the performance of the executive branch.
  - k. The House shall discuss any power vested in the executive branch by a third of the votes cast. The House shall have the power to consult on the matter and take any action deemed necessary.

- I. Elects the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the House and establishes the necessary standing and ad hoc committees.

The executive branch of the federal government is a political party or coalition that has the majority of seats in the House of Peoples' Representatives (i.e., 50% plus one seat). Therefore, the House of Peoples' Representatives is also the source of the executive branch of the federal government.

The House of Peoples' Representatives shall have a quorum to carry out its day-to-day activities if more than half of its members are present. Except as expressly provided for in the Constitution or in other laws, any decision of the House shall be made by a majority of the members of the House. The annual working hours (interval of one month) are from the last Monday in September to the 30th of June. The council is elected for a term of 5 years; The next election must be held one month before the end of the term of the current House. However, if circumstances arise that force the House to dissolve before the end of its term, the House may be dissolved, and new elections may be held.

### House of Federation

The House of Federation is the second House of the Federal Government. This House has no direct legislative authority other than its participation in the constitutional process. The House of Federation is the House of Representatives of the nations, nationalities and peoples of the Federal Member States. According to Article 61 of the Constitution, each nation, ethnic group, and people shall have at least one representative, plus one additional representative of one million people of the nation or ethnic group. The constitution stipulates that members of the House of Federation shall be elected by state councils. State councils either elect their own members or have their members directly elected by the people.



The powers and functions of the House listed in Article 62 of the Constitution are as follows.

- Organizing a Constitutional Inquiry Council;
- Decide in accordance with the Constitution on matters concerning the right of nations, nationalities and peoples to self-determination and secession.
- To uphold and develop the constitutional equality of the people and the unity based on the consent of the people.
- To find a solution to disputes between the states;

- Determine the formula for the distribution of jointly allocated revenues between the states and the federal government, as well as the federal government subsidy to the states.
- Identify civil matters that need to be legislated by the House of Peoples' Representatives.
- Order the federal government to intervene if any state violates the constitution and endangers the constitutional order.
- Establish the necessary standing and ad hoc committees of the school.

The quorum of the House of Federation shall be a two-thirds majority of the members present, but decisions shall be made by a majority of the members present. The Speaker of the House presides over the meetings of the House. The House shall submit the budget to the House of Peoples' Representatives for decision. The House shall have at least two regular meetings a year; the term of office of the House is five years. It is not possible to be a joint member of the House of Federation and the House of Representatives.



## Chapter 3. Structure and Functions of the National Electoral Board of Ethiopia (NEBE)

Trainees after this lesson:

- Describe the structure of the NEBE;
- List the powers and functions of the National Electoral Board;
- Explain the structure of the constituency and the polling station;
- List the responsibilities and duties of election officials.

### Activity 3: Group discussion

**Coach:** Divide the participants into four groups. Ask the group the following questions.

#### Group One:

1. How are the members of the NEBE elected?
2. What are the criteria for the election of members of the NEBE?
3. What are the responsibilities and functions of the NEBE?

#### Group Two:

1. How are the members of the Regional Branch of the Electoral Board elected?
2. What are the responsibilities and functions of the regional branch offices of the Electoral Board?

#### Group Three:

1. How are constituencies organized?
2. What are the responsibilities and functions of the constituency?

#### Group Four:

1. What are the powers and functions given to election officials by the Electoral Law?

**Coach:** Present a summary of the points discussed by each group by their representatives. Finally, conclude the discussion by reflecting on the ideas in the following article.

### 3.1. Structure of the National Electoral Board of Ethiopia (NEBE)

NEBE` was established in accordance with Article 102 of the 1987 Ethiopian Constitution. In accordance with the provisions of the constitution, "a free and fair National Electoral Board shall be established to conduct free and fair elections in the federal and state constituencies; its members shall be appointed by the House of Peoples' Representatives on the recommendation of the Prime Minister." According to the Constitution, the General Powers and Duties of the Board, as well as the conduct and appointment of its members shall be determined by law.

Finally, the amended Proclamation No. 532/1999 remained in effect until 2011 it is replaced with the National Electoral Board Establishment Proclamation no. 1133/2011 and the Registration and Electoral Code of Conduct of Political Parties in Ethiopia 1162/2011.

Proclamation no. 1133/2011 is about the appointment of the members of the Board, the institutional structure of the Board and their powers and functions while Proclamation no. 1162/2011 concerns a comprehensive law that provides details on the registration and conduct of political parties.. The major shift in Proclamation no. 1133/2011 from the previous ones is that Board members were 9 and not full-time employees; Under the new law, the number of board members was reduced from 9 to 5 and they become the full-time employees. The chairperson and deputy chairperson shall be appointed from among the 5 members.



Regarding the nomination of the members of the board, the proclamation stipulates that an independent committee composed of members from various institutions will be nominated by the Prime Minister; the Proclamation stipulates that the Prime Minister will present list of candidates to the House of Peoples' Representatives for approval after thorough discussion with rival political parties

A person who is going to be appointed as board member is required not to be a member of any political party and is free from political affiliation and has a high degree of professionalism, ethics and humanity in the fields of election, especially in the fields of law, political science, public administration, statistics, information technology and other related fields. The law stipulates that the board of directors must take into account the national and gender background of the country.

The law stipulates that the board will have an office. The office is headed by a chief executive and one deputy head appointed by the board. The Board will have a branch office that coordinates elections in all regions. Regional Branch Officers shall be appointed by the Board of Trustees on the recommendation of the Chairperson of the Board. The law stipulates that the Board may establish zonal and constituency co-coordinators on a regular



basis on the basis of the size of the regions, the size of the population and the number of voters.

### 3.2. Regional Office of the Board

The Regional Branch Offices of the Board will be established in all regions and the two city administrations. The Regional Branch of the Board shall be provided by the Board and the Chairperson of the Board and, as appropriate, by the Head of the Secretariat of the Board. Accordingly, it performs the following functions and responsibilities

1. Directs, coordinates and supervises the elections held at the regional level;
2. Proposes to the Secretariat of the Board about the organization of the coordinating offices to be established under it.
3. Monitor and ensure that the required documents and materials are delivered to the relevant Coordinating Offices and constituencies and polling stations on time;
4. Provide and coordinate civic and voter education in collaboration with the concerned bodies in accordance with the directives issued by the Board.
5. Monitors the registration of voters, the presentation of candidates and the voting system as permitted by law.
6. It shall examine the complaints and objections raised in the matters referred to in sub-article 5 of this Article at the state level and decide in accordance with the directives issued by the Board.
7. Submits a report to the Office of the Board regarding the election process and results of the region.
8. Regularly collects and studies relevant information in a manner conducive to the conduct of elections and submits regular reports to the Office of the Board.
9. Report periodically to the Office of the Board on its activities;
10. Establish a joint forum of political parties at the state and polling station level in accordance with the directives issued by the Board, and coordinate a joint forum of political parties to be established in the region;
11. The Regional Branch Complaints Hearing Committee shall be established in accordance with the directives issued by the Board.

The law provides that the Board may establish zonal, constituency, and polling station permanent or provisional coordination offices as a under the Regional Branch Office in accordance with the functions and responsibilities of the Board and the Regional Branch Offices.

### 3.3. Constituencies

According to the Ethiopian Electoral Law, constituencies are organized on a permanent basis based on Woreda, while the boundaries of the regions are protected. The constituencies may be adjusted periodically based on the results of the census. According to the constitution, the number of constituencies in the country should not exceed 550. According to Article 103 (5) of the Constitution, the results of the ten-year census shall be determined by the House of Federation in accordance with the draft submitted by the Electoral Board. Regarding the constituency elections to be held at all levels, the constituencies shall be determined in accordance with the law of the region based on the number of members elected to the constituencies and the number of voters.

#### Constituency:

- Distribute election materials to polling stations, register candidates, and issue IDs in accordance with the schedule set by the Board;
- Ensures that documents and election materials from polling stations are properly filled, received, and handled with care.
- Monitors polling stations
- Resolves complaints and grievances in accordance with the law;
- Summarizes the results from the polling station, identifies the winners, publishes the results to the public, fills out the required forms and sends them to the Board.
- Candidates will be issued a nomination ID card in accordance with the Board's guidelines.
- Transfers list of candidates to polling stations
- Elects the members of the Constituency Appeals Committee in accordance with this Law and the directives issued by the Board.
- Can organize a joint forum of political parties competing in the constituency.

### 3.4. Polling stations

Polling stations shall be established at a place determined by the Board, taking into account various factors, including persons with disabilities, and their addresses must be made public 15 days prior to the commencement of voter registration. 1162/2011. However, mobile polling stations may be established in areas where pastoralists live. If the Board changes polling stations, it must notify the voter.





Polling stations serve as voter registration, voting and counting stations. In the election law, places that cannot serve as polling stations have been identified. Accordingly, military camps, police stations, churches and mosques, hospitals, pubs, political or religious buildings, and residences may not be used as places for registration and voting.

### **Polling Station**

- Registers voters,
- Maintains careful handling of election materials sent from the constituency;
- Hold elections,
- Handles legal complaints;
- Informs the public by counting the votes cast and publishing the election results on a bulletin board.
- Ensures that ballot papers and materials are properly filled and stored and sent to the constituency;

The law stipulates that each polling station shall not accommodate more than 1,500 voters and that no more than one polling station may be established in the vicinity of one polling station. You can set up a special polling station.

## **3.5. Roles and responsibilities of election officials**

The role of election officials is crucial to making elections free, fair and peaceful. In countries where a culture of democracy is lacking and there is a lack of trust among political forces, the key to peace is the conduct of free and fair elections. Election officials, therefore, must be completely neutral and competent.

As we noted earlier in this chapter, the National Electoral Board is empowered by law to ensure that independent, capable, and credible election officials are recruited, hired, and trained by the Board's offices. The Electoral Code stipulates that the Board shall protect these employees from any influence.

Electoral officials are staffed by the Board to conduct permanent or temporary elections at constituencies and polling stations. Accordingly, each polling station will have a committee consisting of 5 independent, credible and professional election officials. The head of the polling station chairs the committee. Similarly, each constituency shall have an Executive Committee consisting of three persons who meet the above criteria.

The following are some of the major powers and functions conferred on election officials by the Electoral Law:

- Inform the Board of Elections if you believe that there have been electoral irregularities, frauds, or breaches of peace and security that may have distorted the outcome of the election.
- Participate in grievance hearing committees established at the constituency and polling station levels.
- Ensuring that the voting process begins in accordance with the procedures prescribed by law in collaboration with political parties and private candidates, public observers and disciplinary coordinators; In particular, the head of the polling station shall indicate to the parties that the ballot box is empty and that the ballot box should be sealed and placed in front of the observers.
- The head of the polling station shall have the power to take action in this case, including ordering the person to leave the polling station if anyone is disturbing the peace of the polling station due to drunkenness or other reasons or if he should not enter the polling station. He must do the same.
- The head of the polling station may inspect the suspect in the presence of all political parties and private candidates, as well as public observers, and if necessary, take appropriate legal action;
- Make sure that the voters who came to vote on the election day are the right voters.
- Properly and legally accommodate election observers and candidate representatives.
- If the ballot paper is damaged during the voting process; Mark and identify the damage and place it in a box provided for this purpose.
- If the voting process is interrupted for any reason and the situation is rectified, the election officials should take this situation to the meeting and immediately proceed with the voting process. However, if the matter that is interfering with the election process is beyond the control of the electorate and the election cannot continue, it shall be adjourned and the whole situation should be reported to the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer immediately.
- Facilitate conditions for the grievance hearing committee to respond to complaints raised during the voting process.
- They must fulfill their legal obligation to be very careful and protective of ballot papers.
- Ensure that any election document is passed from one person to another in accordance with the provisions of the Electoral Law with the legal delivery system.

- If, due to compelling reasons, the counting of ballots is not possible at the polling station level, the polling station office shall be present at the polling station in the presence of the candidates' representatives and public observers.

#### Polling station head before counting vote begins:

- The ballot box is unopened and sealed before voting begins, and the ballot box shall be opened after the candidates' representatives and public observers have confirmed that the ballot box is unbroken and undamaged; Once minute is recorded, , the ballot box will be opened; All ballot papers will be removed and the box will be checked empty.
- In the presence of candidate representatives and public observers, the number of voters who cast their ballots and the number of damaged and unused ballot papers should be recorded.
- As soon as the counting is completed, the representatives of the candidates and the public observers shall confirm the correctness of the voting and the counting process; the polling station officials must ensure that the required form is properly completed and signed and the documents are sealed and sent to the constituencies.
- Ensure that polling station results are published on the polling station's notice board within one hour of the completion of the counting; the Constituency Office shall also announce the results in the presence of the candidates or their representatives in the presence of the candidates or their representatives and shall give the results to the candidates or their representatives as well as to the office of the Board and its branches at all levels.

If the above-mentioned roles of election officials are properly implemented, these bodies will play an irreplaceable role in making the general election fair, free, impartial, credible and peaceful. Therefore, the Electoral Board should ensure that qualified and impartial election officials are recruited. In addition, election officials need to be adequately trained to understand the details of their work and their responsibilities.

## Chapter 4. Electoral Laws and Electoral Processes in Ethiopia

Trainees after this lesson:

- Specify Ethiopian election time;
- List the types of elections to be held in Ethiopia;
- Explain the role of elections in building democracy in Ethiopia;

### Activity 4.1: General Discussion

**Coach:** Invite participants to discuss the following questions.

1. What are the types of elections in Ethiopia?

## 2. What is the role of elections in building democracy in Ethiopia?

**Coach:** Conclude the discussion by reflecting on the ideas in the following article.

### 4.1. Ethiopian Electoral System and Types of Elections

There are 5 types of elections in Ethiopia. They are:- 1) General Election, 2) Local Elections, 3) By-elections, 4) Re-Elections, and 5) Referendums

**General Election:** An election held every five years for members of the House of Representatives and State Councils. General elections are held throughout the country at the same time. However, the Board may, at its discretion, refer the matter to the House of Peoples' Representatives at various times.

**Local Elections:** Elections of zonal, woreda, city, municipal, sub-city or kebele councils at all levels, as required by law. In local elections, the number of delegates to be elected in a constituency depends on the type of election and the number of members elected to each constituency. It is stipulated that the Federal Legislature may enact legislation regarding local elections, and that state laws must meet the requirements of the Constitution and Proclamation No. 1162/2011.

**By-elections** are held when councils at all levels request the board to fill the vacancies for various reasons, or when a request for removal from office is accepted. However, if a council has six months left in its term, a by-election will not be held.

**Re-election:** One of the reasons for this is when the Board determines that the election results have been tampered with due to irregularities, fraud or breaches of peace. Another reason is that it is difficult to determine the winner because the candidates received the same number of votes. However, a re-election will be held by voters who have been registered in the constituency or in the affected polling stations without the need for new voter registration. In addition, when a re-election is held, new registrations will be held only between previously registered candidates without the need for registration. There will be no re-election campaign.

**Referendum:** is a system in which votes are taken to measure or determine the will of the people, as determined by the appropriate body in accordance with the Constitution. In accordance with the instructions of the body that decided to hold the referendum, the Board of Elections shall organize the polling stations in such a manner as to determine the issue of the referendum.

## 4.2. Election and Democracy

Representational democracy is practiced when the electorate chooses from among the political parties that have the best policy and the winning party (parties) takes over the legislature and the executive for the election period.

This public representation must be renewed on a regular basis in accordance with the law. This means that parliamentary elections at all levels in Ethiopia are held every five years, and public representation is renewed every five years. This shows that elections play an irreplaceable role in the implementation of democracy.

The essence of democracy is a system in which the people are self-governing through their representatives. Representatives of the people are elected through such elections. That is why it is impossible to imagine democracy without elections.

Every Ethiopian citizen has the following rights:

- a. Participate in the administration of public affairs through their directly and freely elected representatives;
- b. Legally elected at the age of 18;
- c. To elect and to be elected at any level of government.

The election must be universal, based on equality, and guaranteed by the secret ballot of the voter.

## 4.3. Election information for voters

Information for voters differs from core election education/training. Information for voters will help a person with sufficient knowledge of the election to make an informed choice without having to go through the necessary preparations for a short-term election or elections. Accordingly, the following important voter information is included.

1. Information on when and where voter registration can begin.
2. What documents must be taken to the polling station to register as a voter?
3. How and to whom if s/he has a problem with the registration process or sees something that seems illegal?
4. When is the election day? How many hours will the polling station be open that day?
5. Soldiers living in camps/students at higher education institutions, where to enroll and vote
6. Conditions for registration of voters with disabilities or in need of support and possible support;
7. How to get support for voters with disabilities or in need of support on election day?

## Activity 4.4: Participatory Mock Election

**Coach:** Have a Mock Election (videotape) presented by young people (videotape) showing the process from election registration to nomination. After the drama, ask participants to review and list what they have learned from the drama in the eyes of voters, voters, election officials, and other stakeholders. Finally, conclude the discussion by reflecting on the ideas in the following article.

### 4.4. Voter registration

Pre-voter registration is a prerequisite for participating in any election. The requirements and documents required to register a person as a voter are set out in the election law and, as necessary, detailed rules and regulations issued by the Electoral Board. However, these requirements should not be unfairly discriminated against, but only to the extent necessary.

By Proclamation no. 1162/2011 According to any election,

- A person shall be an Ethiopian Citizen;
- S/He must be 18 years of age or older on the date of registration
- A person who has lived in the constituency where he or she is registered at least six months may vote.



However, the law stipulates that a person who is incapable of deciding due to mental illness, a person who is serving a sentence of imprisonment, and a person whose right to vote is restricted by law may not be able to register as a voter.

Voter registration is done on a voter registration schedule set by the National Electoral Board based on the type of election, and registration is limited to polling stations established in the kebele where the voters live. However, voter registration centers can be set up in pastoral areas if necessary. A person can only register to vote at a polling station once. Each polling station will have its own voter register.

#### Two things to keep in mind regarding voter registration:

1. Voter registration can only be done within the time frame set by the Board.
2. As mentioned earlier, the registration will only take place at a polling station established in the kebele where the voters live, unless it is specifically designated for pastoral areas.

A voter can only vote for the party or candidate he or she wants to run for office when he or she first registers as a voter. He cannot be a voter on election date unless he is registered as a voter. Therefore, it is necessary to hand over the right to vote by monitoring and registering when the Board announces the registration of voters through various media outlets.

**When one comes to a polling station to register to vote, s/he must make sure you have the following documents:**

ID or passport stating that you are a resident of the polling station; if you do not have one, you may have other identification documents (driver's license, residence certificate, UN refugee card, etc.).

However, even if the above documents are not available, the person to be registered may be registered by the minutes if the registrars identify him or her as a resident of the area or if he or she is known to the public observers at the polling station.

People who are unable to register for various reasons can register in person with their helpers.

Voter Registration: At the end of the day's registration, the number and date of registration of the last registrant on the day will be filled out on the form and signed by the registrars and public observers. This will be done daily until the day the voter registration is completed.

On the day of voter registration, the registrar and the public observer will close the register at the extra space next to the last registrar. Once a voter register has been closed in this way, a new voter cannot be registered unless it is specifically decided by the Board of Elections.

Upon completion of the election process, the voter register will be made available to the public for 10 consecutive days at the polling station premises. Any objection to registration can be made by any person or political party to the polling station grievance committee.

Similarly, in the event of any circumstances that prevent a person from registering to vote, s/he has the right to appeal to the polling station's appeals committee. A person who claims not to be a voter or a person who does not have the right to vote has the right to file a complaint with a polling station appeals committee and get a decision.

A voter who is registered as a voter shall not be removed from the voter register for any other reason, unless s/he has been found to be incapable of deciding due to mental illness or to have been fraudulently registered or died.

## 4.5. Candidate registration

Registration of candidates shall take place in each constituency in accordance with the registration schedule issued by the National Electoral Board of Ethiopia at least 90 days prior to election date. No general registration will take place at the polling station.

## 4.6. About the election campaign

A candidate shall have the right to convene a rally or rally in support of herself/himself or her/his supporters, in accordance with his/her legal obligations, only by writing in writing without requesting permission from the administration or the municipality from the date of registration and receipt of the ID until four days before the election date. S/He also has the right to obtain information from the Board that s/he considers to be useful for the election. The election campaign must be conducted in a peaceful and democratic manner, respecting the constitution and other relevant laws, the right of voters, and the right of other candidates to contest.

Candidates 'and their supporters' campaigns must be completed four days prior to the start of voting.

Pro-candidate political parties and sections of the public have the right to use these media outlets without discrimination, as provided by the election law regarding the use of state-controlled media, such as radio, television, and newspapers, in election campaigns. Candidates also have the right to free access to state media. The use of state media shall be carried out in accordance with the schedule issued by the head of state, who shall inform the political parties in consultation with the Board.

In addition, the election law stipulates that government officials at all levels must facilitate the unbiased use of radio stations, meeting halls, newspapers, and other candidates and their supporters in order to ensure the success of the election campaign.

## 4.7. About voting

Voting begins at all polling stations on the date set by the Board. However, in the event of a binding situation, the Electoral Code stipulates that the Board may decide that the polling stations concerned shall commence their work on a different date.

Voting began in the presence of political party and private candidates, public observers, election officials, and the coordinator of the polling station. It starts after you fill out the form for this task. Elections must be carefully secured before polling day.





Voting ends at 6 in the morning noon to 6pm, unless otherwise decided by the Board. The Board shall notify the public at least two days in advance of the special voting time if it has set a specific voting time. The polling station closes at the end of the voting period. However, voters waiting to cast their ballots at the polling station must cast their ballots. However, the Board may extend the voting period if it believes that the election

will be free and fair.

No one may enter the polling station except for election officials, members of the public's grievance committee, candidates, and authorized election observers, after polling stations have been opened or closed.

**Regarding the voting requirement, the Electoral Law stipulates the following:**

1. Every voter shall be free to vote in person.
2. Each voter will vote only once.
3. Any voter shall cast his ballot only at the polling station where he is registered to vote.
  - A. When he has a voter ID card,
  - B. When his name appears on the voter register, and
  - C. Only when it is confirmed that he did not vote.

**Voting Process**

1. After each voter submits her/his voter registration card to the polling station, the election officials will identify her/him with the evidence provided by the voter.
2. Once the identity of the voter has been identified and it has been determined that s/he has not been elected before, he will be signed in the signature column in the voter register.
3. After the voter has signed the register, his thumb, any other thumb if he does not have a thumb, is painted with a non-stick paint, and he is given a ballot paper and enters the secret ballot box. If he does not have fingers, he will be elected after the election officials confirm that s/he has not been elected.
4. The voter enters the secret ballot box, places an "x" in the rectangle where the candidate's ballot is located, signs it, or folds the ballot paper, and places it in the open ballot box or box in front of observers.

5. Non-literate voters cast their fingers in the rectangle and place their fingerprints in a rectangular space opposite the candidate's choice.
6. If the voter has misused or damaged the ballot paper, s/he may vote for the replacement.
7. The head of the polling station shall place the damaged ballot paper on the back of the ballot box with a special mark or defective in the box provided for this purpose.

Every voter who needs help to mark the ballot box and put the ballot paper in the ballot box or ballot box has the right to decide for herself or himself. However, the person selected by the applicant must be at the age of 18 and older, but s/he must not be a candidate or representative for a candidate.



If voting begins on election date, it cannot be interrupted or stopped. However, if the voting process is interrupted for a short period of time for various reasons and the election officials believe that the situation has been remedied, the voting process can be resumed immediately. On the other hand, if the interruption of the voting process cannot be rectified beyond the capacity, the situation

shall be adjourned and the voting process shall be minuted and reported to the Constituency Office. In this case, the interrupted voting process will be held at another time as determined by the Board.

A voter who is in the process of casting a ballot paper may object to the fact that the person in the process of casting his or her ballot is disenfranchised or unregistered at the polling station before the ballot is cast. (However, until the complaint is heard, the polling station grievance committee may decide a voter under consideration may provisionally cast her/his vote). Similarly, if a voter is denied a ballot, s/he may file an objection.

A candidate or a voter may object to the conduct of the polling station by the election official, the candidate's representative or any other person other than the above-mentioned objections. The polling station grievance committee will review the above complaint and, after due process, notify the complainant of the decision.

### About the ballot paper

1. The Board shall prepare ballot papers that are not suitable for fraud as long as the voter can clearly understand each type of election.
2. The Board may prepare a photograph of the candidates, the candidate's logo, the full name of the candidates and the ballot paper bearing the name of their political party.

3. The Board shall send a ballot paper with the number of voters registered at each polling station and a limited number of ballot papers.
4. The Board and election officials at all levels are required to exercise great care and protection for ballot papers.
5. When any election document is transferred from one person to another, it must be done in a legal manner.

#### 4.8. Vote count and result expression

The counting should take place as soon as the voting process is complete. In this regard, the Electoral Law stipulates that any polling station shall be conducted the counting at the polling station, unless upon a request of officers of the polling station is approved by the office of the constituency or by the polling station by the polling station. If the counting is to be conducted by the constituency office due to compelling reasons, the counting shall be conducted in the presence of the candidates' representatives and public observers at the polling station.

Candidates and public observers confirm that the ballot box was not opened before the counting began and that the ballot box was unbroken and undamaged. The box will be checked for empty. The head of the polling station shall register the number of voters who cast their ballots on the day and the number of spoiled and unused ballot papers by the presence of candidates and public observers.

The ballot papers are then counted separately for each candidate. If the election is held for different councils, the ballot papers for the House of Representatives shall be counted first, after which one House shall be counted and the other shall be counted. The counting process cannot be interrupted or stopped unless decided by the Board. However, if there is not enough light to start the count, the candidates' representatives will be signed by the members of the Public Grievance Committee and the head of the polling station. If the interrupted counting process is too late the next day, it should begin at seven in the morning (7am).

#### Voting ballot papers

1. If the identity of the voter is stated by name,
2. If more than one candidate is marked,
3. If no marking,
4. If it is difficult to identify the voter,

5. If a ballot paper is not a valid ballot paper or is not distributed at the polling station, it will be invalid.

For one reason or another mentioned above, invalid paperwork should be marked with a “Rejected” sign on the back and sealed separately.

Upon completion of the count, the candidates' representatives and public observers are informed about the voting process and the counting process. Polling station results must be published on the polling station's notice board within one hour of the completion of the count.

The Constituency Office shall also announce the summed up results in the presence of the candidates or their representatives, and confirmation of the result should be provided to the candidates or their representatives and shall be made available to the Board's office and branch offices at all levels.

**Regarding the expression of the general counting results, the Electoral Law (Article 76) provides the following:**

1. The results of the polling station will be published on the polling station notice board within one hour of the completion of the counting.
2. The offices of constituencies of upon receiving the results of the elections of members of House of Peoples' Representatives and State Councils from the polling station, the summed up results of the election shall be announced to the public in the presence of the candidates or their representatives.
3. If it is difficult to determine the winner due to the fact that the candidates received an equal number of votes, only the candidates who received the same number of votes will be re-elected at the discretion of the Board.
4. Contract of the results declared by the constituency election officials in accordance with sub-article 2 above:
  - a. Provide results to the candidates or their representatives;
  - b. Fill in the results notification form and send a copy to the Board's office and branch offices at all levels.
5. The Board may temporarily announce the results of the election of members of the House of Peoples' Representatives and State Councils from each constituency until the completion of the general election results from each constituency.



6. The procedure referred to in sub-article (2) above shall also apply to local election results as applicable.

### **Public statement**

After the election process is complete and the necessary information has been gathered, the Board will issue an official statement containing the following points in accordance with the timeline.

1. Number of registered voters,
2. The number of voters who cast their ballots,
3. The percentage of registered voters who voted and did not vote;
4. List of elected candidates along with their constituencies,
5. The names of the winning political parties and the number of seats won for each House.
6. Used, unused, and invalid ballot papers shall state that each candidate has received and compiled the results and other details received at each polling station from each constituency.

## Chapter 5 Citizens' Rights and Responsibilities in Democratic Elections

Trainees after this lesson:

- Enumerate the voting rights of Ethiopians;
- Describe the participation of different sections of the society in the upcoming elections in Ethiopia;

### Activity 5: General discussion

**Coach:** Give participants the following individual ideas in writing, or read them and invite them to a general discussion.

- a. "only those who are comfortable, that you elect! Who else remembers us?!" said the elderly petty merchant Ms. Worke when asked, "Did you take a card?"
- b. "I have to elect even if I am pregnant" the eight-month pregnant Alemitu in replying to her husband who said to her "What the election has to do with you?"
- c. "The polling station should be convenient for everyone." - referring to the bridge under construction that is located in front of the stairs at the entry of the polling station, replying to the question "Why you trouble yourself while you are wheel-chaired?"
- d. "Participation can be ensured by observing the election." - When an observer is asked, "How do you participate in this election?"

Finally, conclude the discussion by reflecting on the ideas in the following article.

### 5.1. Citizens' rights in democratic elections

This right is enshrined in Article 38 (1) (a) of the Ethiopian Constitution, which stipulates that every Ethiopian has the right to "participate directly in the administration of public affairs through his or her elected representatives." In other words, this is the right of the people to govern themselves through their elected representatives. Therefore, citizens should realize that elections are a matter of survival in one way or another, and not only do they have to go to the polls, but they also have to fulfill their responsibilities in various ways, as we will see below.

#### What are the rights of citizens in a democratic election process?

Article 38 of the Ethiopian constitution details the additional rights of citizens to democratic elections. Accordingly, the first and foremost right is that no Ethiopian citizen shall be discriminated against on the basis of race, ethnicity, nationality, sex, language, religion,

political or other opinion or any other position regarding the exercise of the right to vote and to be elected. This right guarantees the right of every Ethiopian to vote and to be elected without discrimination on the grounds of discrimination listed in any part of the country.

The right to vote and to be elected is enshrined in the Ethiopian constitution, which stipulates that a voter has the right to vote secretly for the party or candidate of his or her choice. This right obliges the Ethiopian Electoral Board (and the government) to comply with the local and technical conditions for secret ballots.

## 5.2. Beyond the election of citizens in a democratic election

In addition to voting and being elected in a democratic election process, there are many responsibilities in which citizens participate. Participating in election observation and election administration are the most important of these.

### 5.2.1. Citizens' participation in elections

Ethiopian election law divides observers into two. These are:

- 1) Domestic Election Observers, and
- 2) Foreign election observers

**Domestic Election Observers:** are civil society associations established and operated in the country, which can observe the election process with the approval of the Board in accordance with the procedures established by law. These associations and their individual observers sign that they are not affiliated with any political party or candidate and that they sign a code of conduct for independent observers.

**Foreign Election Observers:** are representatives of foreign governments, international organizations, regional and sub-regional organizations, and representatives of governmental and non-governmental organizations operating at home and abroad at their own discretion or at the invitation of the Ethiopian government.

**Both Election Observation Sectors:** Participating observers must be neutral and impartial, as mentioned earlier. They also need adequate training and readiness to carry out their duties. Therefore, the Electoral Board, which is legally responsible for election observers, must ensure that election observers are adequately trained and psychologically prepared.

In addition to the two observers, political parties and private candidates who have fielded candidates during the election have the legal right to deploy their own deposit and indirect agents in the constituencies where they run and in the polling stations where they operate. In this way, citizens, in addition to being elected representatives of political parties and



private candidates, can make a significant contribution by ensuring that the elections are conducted in a manner that meets the requirements of democratic elections.

Citizens participate in democratic elections at various levels as election officials. Citizens at the polling station or constituency level will participate in this highly responsible activity. The electoral law stipulates that these citizens may be recruited from government or non-governmental organizations. The Electoral Law and the Board of Elections provide for the appointment of election officials to be impartial and non-partisan. Therefore, citizens engaged in this responsibility must be adequately trained and informed in order to carry out this task successfully.

### 5.3. Women's participation in democratic elections

The Ethiopian constitution stipulates that women have the same rights as men in any of the rights guaranteed by the constitution. In addition, women have long been viewed as inferior to men in the political, social, and economic spheres because of their history and culture. To address this gap, the constitution clearly states that women have the right to special attention and additional support to participate in political, social, and economic spheres, as well as equal participation and participation in public and private institutions.



Therefore, government laws, policies, and strategies must be designed in such a way that they apply the above constitutional principles. Government legal frameworks need to be designed to increase women's democratic participation. For example, when political parties nominate candidates for government positions, there should be legal pressure and encouragement from the government to ensure that women are properly represented. In this regard, it is a good thing that the government has set up a system to receive election expenses subsidies from the government based on the number of women candidates. There is the legal pressure and encouragement of political parties to have gender representation when electing their leaders at all levels as is included in Proclamation No. 1162/2011.

### 5.4. Involvement of persons with disabilities, IDPs, and minorities in democratic elections

These sections of the society need special attention to ensure their proper democratic participation and representation from other sections of society. Therefore, a plan should be developed and implemented so that the situation of these sections of the society is properly studied so that the electorate can receive education, register and vote.



The International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities stipulates that persons with disabilities should be included in the selection process through their elected representatives in the political arena.

In this regard, the government should make People with Disabilities' (PwDs) voting systems, materials and venues suitable for PwDs. Article 29 of the Convention stipulates that persons with disabilities should be encouraged to participate in political and public affairs on an equal footing without discrimination.

In the Election Proclamation no. 1162/2011, it is possible that the above-mentioned provisions of the Convention will be implemented during the election period. It has set up an incentive system to provide additional financial support to political parties that are members, candidates, and leaders.

The Ethiopian constitution provides for the representation of minorities and peoples in the House of Peoples' Representatives. This allowed them to be represented in the federal legislature.

## Chapter 6. Institutions for Dispute Resolution and Dispute Resolution

Trainees after this lesson:

- Explain the process for resolving grievances raised by competing parties and candidates for various reasons, from voter registration to declaration of results;
- Explain the role of citizens in resolving grievances raised by competing parties and candidates for various reasons;

### Activity 6: Group discussion

**Coach:** Organize trainees into groups of five. Then ask the following questions and ask them to suggest solutions.

- ✓ How to resolve complaints from competing parties and candidates for various reasons, starting with voter registration, candidate registration, voting process, counting process, results and election results?
- ✓ What should be the role of citizens in resolving complaints?

**Coach:** Present a summary of the points discussed by each group by their representatives. Finally, conclude the discussion by reflecting on the ideas in the following article.

Complaints from competing parties and candidates may arise for a variety of reasons, starting with voter registration. For example, there may be grievances and disagreements between parties and supporters as a result of campaigning. There are times when some supporters destroy the signs and posters of candidates of other parties. On the other hand, the legal rights of competing political parties

Complaints generally may arise from voter registration, to candidate registration, to the voting process, to the counting process, to the results, and to the election results. These complaints are inevitable. Therefore, a system and institution are needed to resolve the grievances.

The Ethiopian Electoral Law stipulates a grievance procedure and institutions for resolving grievances. They are presented below.

## 6.1. Complaints and disagreements during the election

Proclamation No. 1162/2011 of the Electoral Law provides for a forum for administrative decisions on appeals and decisions made by these administrative forums for appeals to ordinary courts on appeal by those who are dissatisfied with the decisions.

The administrative grievance redressal forums range from the polling station to the Electoral Board, and at the level of the courts, from the district court to the Federal Supreme Court, there is a system in place to deal with stakeholders.

The Electoral Law stipulates that in addition to the above-mentioned electoral grievance redressal forums, the National Electoral Board will establish a joint forum of political parties at all levels to resolve grievances through dialogue and agreement.

The Electoral Code sets out the principles that the above-mentioned institutions and potential candidates should apply. Accordingly:

1. The decision-making body to which disputes or grievances are submitted must accept and make an informed decision in accordance with the election timeline in order for the election process to be free, fair and peaceful.
2. Any complaint or decision on any complaint must be in writing.
3. The hearing shall provide evidence of the receipt of the complaint and the date and time of the complaint.
4. Procedures to be resolved in a timely manner by the Board shall be provided by the Electoral Offices at all levels.
5. Establish a panel of experts from the relevant professional bodies to assist the Board in making an informed decision on issues related to the electoral process and to make recommendations.
6. The Board or election officials at all levels may call on any concerned person or government agency to present the information required to resolve the grievances and to present the case in person.
7. The Board shall refer the matter to the relevant body for legal action when it finds out that any offense that is obstructing the election process has been committed or is being committed or when it receives an informed complaint.
8. Any person who fails to file a grievance within the time set forth in this Proclamation shall be barred from the right to appeal.
9. Election hearings in each state and federal courts shall be held as required one month prior to the commencement of voter registration.

10. The Board, in consultation with the relevant Federal or State Judicial Administration Council, shall conduct electoral hearings and have adequate judges as described above.
11. The Board, in collaboration with the Federal and State Supreme Courts, shall provide adequate training to the judges assigned to the above-mentioned electoral tribunals.

## 6.2. Dispute Resolution and Complaints Resolution System and Institutions

Ethiopian Electoral Law stipulates how and by whom complaints and grievances arising from the voter registration process to the declaration or decision of the election results will be resolved. The Electoral Code provides for a forum for administrative decisions on appeals and decisions made by these administrative forums for appeals to the ordinary courts by appeals to those dissatisfied with the decisions.

The administrative grievance redressal forums range from the polling station to the Electoral Board, and at the level of the courts, there is a system in place to accommodate stakeholders from the district court to the Federal Supreme Court. The Electoral Law stipulates that in addition to the above-mentioned electoral grievance redressal forums, the National Electoral Board will establish a joint forum of political parties at all levels to resolve grievances through dialogue and agreement.

### 6.2.1. Disputes arising during the voter registration process

The Electoral Code provides for the resolution of disputes over voter registration.

1. No person shall be barred from registering as a voter and shall have the right to appeal to the polling station.
2. A person or political party who alleges that a person who has no right or should not be registered as a voter has been wrongly registered has the right to file a complaint with the polling station appeals committee.
3. According to above mentioned 1 & 2; the period of filing a complaint shall be from the date of registration of the voter until the date on which the voter register is made public.
4. The polling station grievance committee shall examine the appeal and issue a written decision within 5 days.
5. In the above verse no. 1 and 2 If the polling station grievance committee does not make a decision within 5 days, the complainant has the right to appeal to the Constituency Appeals Committee within 5 days.
6. A complaint to the Constituency Complaints Committee against the decision of the polling station grievance committee shall be filed within 5 days of the decision.

7. The Constituency Complaints Hearing Committee shall examine the appeal and give its decision in writing within 5 days.
8. If the constituency grievance committee does not make a decision within 5 days or if the complainant does not agree with the decision, he has the right to appeal to the competent federal or state court within 5 days. The appellate court will also make a decision by reviewing the evidence required to determine the appeal.
9. The polling station office shall carry out its duties in accordance with the decision of the Constituency Appeals Committee.

#### **6.2.2. Disputes arising during the registration process**

1. Any person or political party shall have the right to lodge a complaint with the Election Complaints Committee in the event of a suspension.
2. A registered candidate or political party shall have the right to appeal to the Constituency Complaints Committee and make a decision.
3. In the above verse no. Appeals 1 and 2 will be filed from the date of registration of candidates to the date of registration of candidates.
4. The Constituency Complaints Hearing Committee shall issue a written decision within 5 days of the appeal.
5. In the above verse no. 4 A candidate or private candidate who is dissatisfied with the decision of the Regional Electoral Complaints Committee may lodge a complaint with the Complaints Hearing Committee within 7 days.
6. The complaint of the Regional Branch Office shall be headed by the Head of the Office and shall have two additional members appointed in accordance with the directives issued by the Board.
7. The Regional Branch Complaints Hearing Committee has the right to appeal to the Regional Supreme Court if it does not make a decision within 7 days or if the complainant does not agree with the decision.
8. The Regional Branch Complaints Hearing Committee has the right to appeal to the Regional Supreme Court if it does not make a decision within 7 days or if the complainant does not agree with the decision.
9. The Constituency shall carry out its duties in accordance with the decision of the Complaints Hearing Committee of the Regional Branch Office.

### 6.2.3. Disputes arising during the voting process



Article 154 of Proclamation No. 1162/2011 provides for the resolution of disputes arising during the voting process.

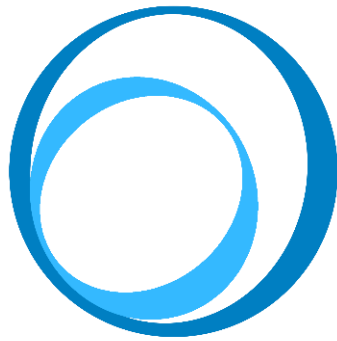
1. When a registered voter is prevented from voting, he shall have the right to appeal immediately to the polling station appeals committee.
2. Polling Station Complaints Hearing Committee
  - a. The case may be decided by a voter; Or
  - b. He may send the matter to the constituency office for a decision by making a temporary vote.
- I. According to the above mentioned No. 2 (B) if the voter does not submit to the Constituency Secretariat before the completion of the summing up of results, a decision stating that the voter has the right to vote from the Constituent Assembly's grievance committee or from a competent federal or state court may be rejected.
- II. Dissatisfied with the decision of the Constituency Complaints Committee. 2 (B) may hold a temporary vote as provided.
- III. A person who opposes the voting of a voter has the right to appeal and make decisions at any level in accordance with the provisions above

### 6.2.4. Disputes over the counting process and results

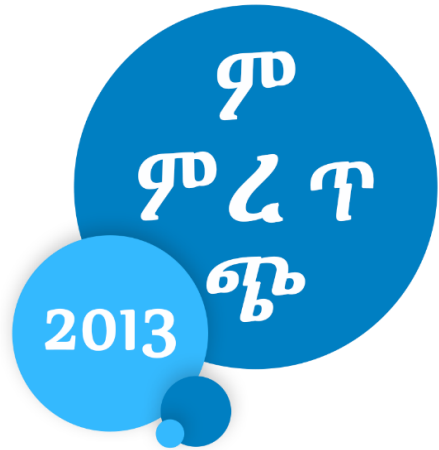
Resolving disputes over the counting process and its outcome; Proclamation no. 1162/2011 stipulates the following.

1. Any political party or individual candidate or agent who has a grievance during the counting process and the result may file a complaint immediately to the polling station.

2. The Constituency Complaints Hearing Committee above. 1 examines the appeal and will make a written decision within two days.
3. In the above no. 2 The appellant who is dissatisfied with the decision may file a complaint with the Board within five days of the decision. The Board will review the complaint and make a decision within 10 days.
4. In the above no. 3 The appellant who is dissatisfied with the decision of the Board may appeal to the Federal Supreme Court within 10 days of the decision.
5. The Federal Supreme Court also ruled in favor of the above mention No.4 as the decision on the basis of the appeal shall be made within one month.
6. In the event of a complaint or appeal against the results of the counting of ballots in accordance with the above ordinary numbers, the Board or the Federal Supreme Court may order that the results of the constituency in question be not disclosed.



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