Delegation: **Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia**

Committee: **Special conference on SDGs**

School: **ISIS Malignani, Udine, Italy**

Ethiopia has recently made remarkable progress in many areas, but it is still far from reaching full economic growth potential. Such goal is very hard to achieve, considering years of underdevelopment and domestic issues, including water and food shortages and internal ethnically based conflicts, that hinder economic development as well as the school system which, despite challenges, has made great progress.

The number of primary schools has increased and youth literacy has grown. However, there are still problems. Great disparities in education persist between rural and urban areas, since the majority of schools are located in cities. Therefore, Ethiopia has provided an alternative basic education system, offering the opportunity to study on flexible class schedules; yet, only about half of the children manage to complete compulsory education whereas too many still work to help their families. Students who enter tertiary education usually encounter great difficulties in dealing with English, which is not their mother tongue, and often become unemployed due to a mismatch between acquired and requested skills. Education today is one of Ethiopia's main concerns. Ethiopia's government aims at providing better facilities and infrastructures for education and invest in staff training in order to overcome the scarcity of qualified teachers.

 Access to clean water and sanitation currently represent a tough challenge to Ethiopia due to the impact water scarcity has on the country. Natural variability in rainfall patterns causes water shortages. During periods of drought, there is not enough water for people to bathe, increasing the risk of disease. The situation is aggravated by the insufficiency of infrastructures related to the distribution of water, especially in rural areas, where people collect it from shallow sources, which are unsafe and often contain viruses and bacteria. Water brings illnesses, such as cholera or diarrhea, which are the leading causes of child death. In addition, water scarcity damages Ethiopia's agriculture, leading to food shortages. The Ethiopian government aims at investing in water systems in order to increase access to safe water supply and basic sanitation.

The Ethiopian economy is slowly but steadily developing. The improvement has been largely driven by an increase in industrial activity. There is however a considerable gap between cities and rural areas, where many live in conditions of extreme poverty. The majority of the population works in agriculture which is practiced with primitive methods. Moreover, there are deficiencies in the system such as: underdeveloped regulatory institutions, poorly functioning labour markets and low access to finance and trade opportunities for business. Despite difficulties, the Ethiopian government believes that significant changes can be made. Ethiopia has been encouraging foreign investment in its manufacturing industry with great success. The country is now awash with large-scale infrastructure projects, that will not only offer new job opportunities, but also benefit the country. Having great growth potential, the garment and textile industries have been identified as priority sectors. The government of Ethiopia recognizes that decent work is vital to the achievement of sustainable economic growth and, therefore, aims to provide decent jobs that will significantly change the workers' lives as well as the county's future, hoping to achieve middle income status over the next decade.

In conclusion, despite progress, Ethiopia is facing severe issues regarding the three questions stated above and, having benefitted from external help, believes that international relationships are extremely important in these situations. The delegation of Ethiopia is open to dialog and cooperation

in order to find effective solutions that will be of great help not only to Ethiopia but to the many other member states facing the same challenges.