

Supporting Ethiopia's National Dialogue Process

Strengthening inclusive participation, civil society monitoring and evidence-based dialogue

The Challenge

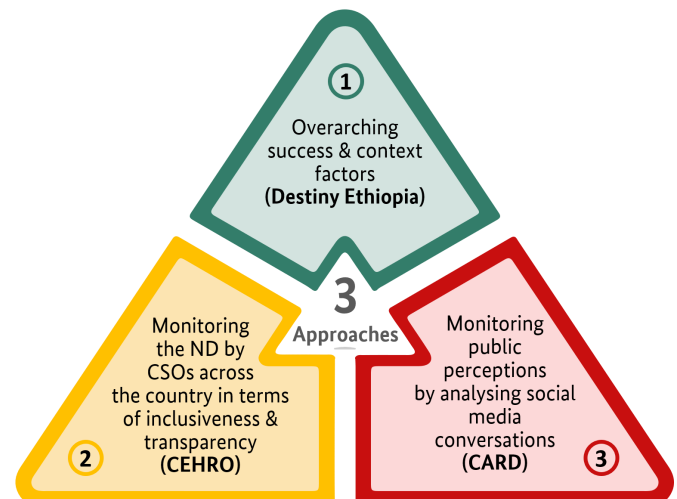
The Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission (ENDC) was established in 2021 to address Ethiopia's deep-rooted political, social and ethnic divisions and to foster consensus on fundamental national issues. Its mandate is to facilitate an inclusive and effective national dialogue by identifying key issues for discussion and engaging diverse segments of Ethiopian society.

At the same time, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) have an important role to play in ensuring that the National Dialogue is inclusive, transparent and accountable. Independent monitoring can help assess whether diverse and marginalized voices are represented, identify gaps in the process and provide evidence-based recommendations to decision-makers. This is particularly crucial in an environment where disinformation and hate speech can shape public debate, especially on social media and across different local languages.

However, Ethiopian CSOs faced constraints in terms of the technical, financial and human resources needed to monitor and analyse such a complex national process. As a result, civil society monitoring and advocacy efforts were not yet sufficiently systematic to provide the ENDC and other stakeholders with timely, evidence-based insights and feedback.

The Programme and Partners

To address these challenges, S2GG supported civil society monitoring through three complementary approaches:

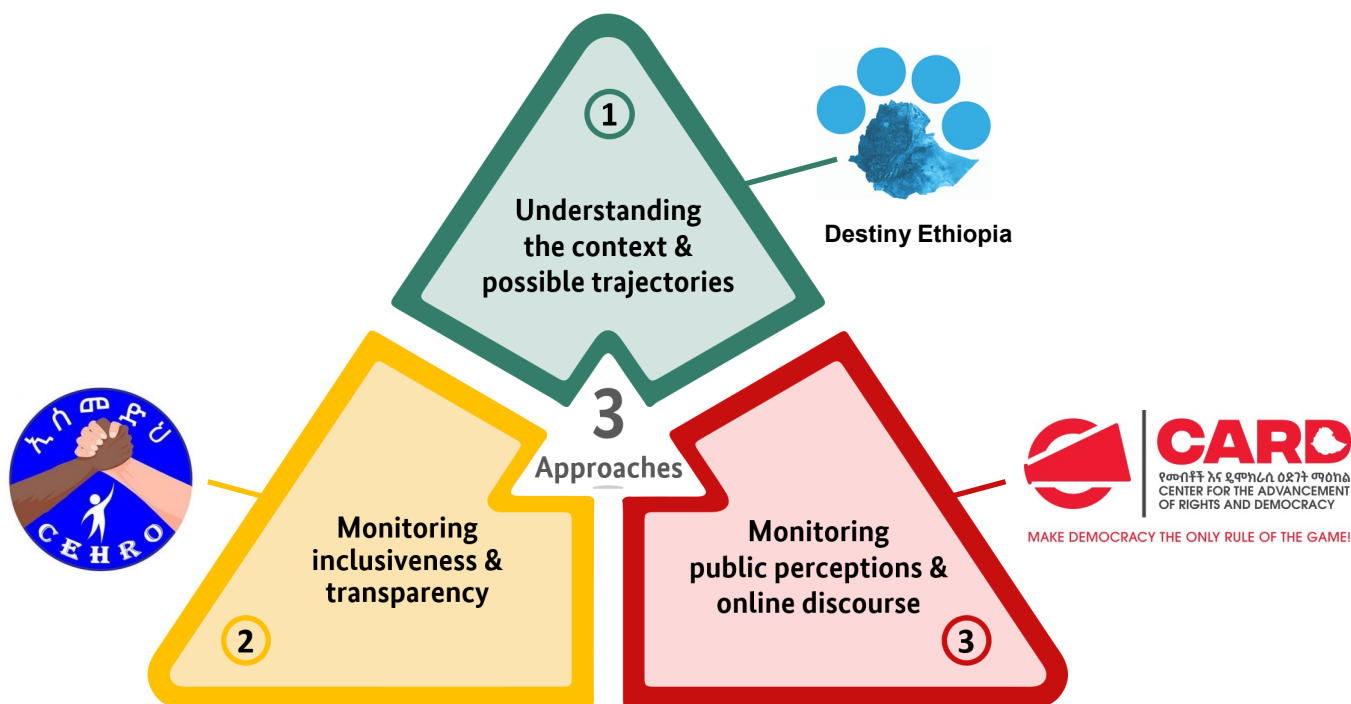


About the Support to Good Governance in Ethiopia (S2GG) Programme

The S2GG programme is implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) on behalf of the German Government. The programme aims to gear the Ethiopian governance system towards the transformation into a democratic and inclusive state based on the rule of law.



Snapshot from the high-level advocacy workshop launching the 1st monitoring report on the Ethiopian National Dialogue process in July 2025.



1 Understanding the context & possible trajectories

The Destiny Ethiopia Initiative brought together diverse stakeholders to explore possible future scenarios for the National Dialogue, ranging from the most desirable to the least desirable outcome. The analysis identified key factors that could influence the process and provided strategic recommendations to help the ENDC navigate risks and maximize the prospects for a successful dialogue.

2 Monitoring inclusiveness & transparency

The Consortium of Ethiopian Human Rights Organizations (CEHRO) established Community of Practice Hubs across the country to enable grassroots CSOs to monitor the National Dialogue at federal and regional levels. These hubs focused particularly on monitoring the inclusiveness and transparency of the dialogue. CEHRO consolidated monitoring findings and other primary data into analytical reports and recommendations, which were shared and discussed with the ENDC and other key stakeholders. In addition, CEHRO observed and systematically documented the Dialogue's National Plenary through a team of 10 trained observers, using

standardized checklists to assess key aspects of the proceedings. The observation aimed to promote transparency and accountability by independently assessing whether the plenary was conducted in line with the established rules of procedure, principles and agreed standards of the National Dialogue.

3 Monitoring public perceptions & online discourse

The Center for the Advancement of Rights and Democracy (CARD) monitored and tracked online conversations around the National Dialogue as part of its bi-weekly social media monitoring, documentation and reporting. These reports were complemented by five thematic deep-dive analyses that examined specific issues in greater detail, including the National Plenary, thus providing an in-depth assessment of online discourse and public perceptions surrounding this key stage of the process.

Together, these interventions generated independent evidence from multiple perspectives: from broader scenario analysis to community-level monitoring of the dialogue to the analysis of public perceptions and online discourse.



የኢትዮጵያ ሀገራዊ
ምክንያር ኮሚሽን | **ETHIOPIAN NATIONAL
DIALOGUE COMMISSION**



The Results

S2GG-supported civil society initiatives generated a substantial body of independent evidence:

-  **32** Social media monitoring reports
-  **5** Deep-dive analyses of National Dialogue online discourses
-  **4** National Dialogue scenario reports
-  **8** Independent CSO analyses of the National Dialogue, including thematic & process-monitoring reports
-  **9** Regional Community of Practice Hubs
-  **180** CSOs engaged through the hubs
-  **180** CSO representatives trained in National Dialogue monitoring
-  **17** CSO staff and volunteers trained in National Plenary
-  **3** High-level advocacy events conducted to promote monitoring findings & recommendations



A selection of the reports produced by CSO partners.

The findings were shared with a wide range of governmental and non-governmental stakeholders, including the ENDC and its Advisory Committee, the House of Peoples' Representatives, the Ethiopian Civil Society Organizations Council, the Ministry of Peace, the Ethiopian Political Parties Joint Council, the Ethiopian Institute of Ombudsman, the National Electoral Board of Ethiopia, political parties, development partners, media and other CSOs.



Group photo of participants of the Community of Practice Hub of CSOs on National Dialogue workshop in August 2024.



Dr. Marco Haase
Head of Programme
E marco.haase@giz.de

Anke Rehfeld
Component Manager
E anke.rehfeld@giz.de

Support to Good Governance
in Ethiopia (S2GG) Programme

*Left:
A view of the 4,000 participants representing a broad cross-section of Ethiopian society and the global diaspora during the closing event of the National Dialogue Conference on 22 August 2026.*

The Impacts

The Programme contributed to stronger state-society engagement by strengthening the capacity of CSOs to independently monitor the National Dialogue and by creating opportunities to bring evidence and recommendations into dialogue with key institutions.

The Community of Practice Hubs and related training strengthened the capacity of CSOs to observe and monitor the National Dialogue. Building on this experience, CEHRO continued its engagement in the national plenary process by training and deploying observers. High-level advocacy workshops provided platforms for constructive interaction between civil society and other stakeholders, highlighting the importance of inclusiveness, transparency and accountability in the dialogue process.

The dissemination of reports, advocacy events and direct exchanges between CSO partners and the ENDC and its Advisory Committee generated positive feedback and contributed to the uptake of recommendations aimed at improving the dialogue process. One specific example was the establishment of a Panel of Experts to advise the ENDC on technical and process-related issues. The panel was established following a recommendation made during an initial review process supported by Destiny Ethiopia.

The ENDC has since organized public consultations in line with the thematic findings of the monitoring reports, including dedicated platforms for persons with disabilities, women and youth, reflecting recommendations contained in the reports. The ENDC also held an agenda consultation and validation workshop with CSOs,

providing stakeholders with an opportunity to contribute their views on the agenda items for the National Plenary, the final and main event of the National Dialogue process.

Monitoring of online discourse also contributed to institutional responsiveness. Findings from CARD's social media monitoring informed discussions around religious inclusivity, communication practices and transparency, thereby strengthening advocacy efforts and contributing to a better understanding of public concerns and perceptions.

S2GG-supported activities have contributed to a more informed and evidence-based National Dialogue process by strengthening the capacity of civil society to monitor developments, identify gaps, amplify marginalized voices and engage constructively with decision-makers. The programme helped establish stronger channels between independent civil society evidence and institutional decision-making. In particular, CSO monitoring and advocacy contributed to greater attention to the participation of marginalized groups and to issues of inclusiveness and transparency.

Ultimately, the success of the National Dialogue depends not only on the outcomes it produces, but also on how inclusive and legitimate the process has been, how widely its recommendations are accepted, and how effectively those recommendations are taken forward and implemented. S2GG has helped strengthen the capacities, evidence base and engagement mechanisms that can continue supporting more inclusive, accountable and responsive public processes in the future.

Published by: Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Bonn and Eschborn, Germany

Support to Good Governance in Ethiopia (S2GG)
MH Building, 11th Floor, Kasanchis,
Kirkos Sub-City, Woreda 08,
P.O. Box 100 009,
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
www.giz.de

As at: August 2026

Photo credits: © CEHRO/2025, © ENDC/2026

Text: Anke Rehfeld, Israel Tibebe

Layout & graphics: Erna Mentenot Hintz

GIZ is responsible for this publication.

On behalf of German Federal Ministry for Economic
Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

In cooperation with Consortium of Ethiopian Human Rights Organizations
(CEHRO), Center for the Advancement of Rights and
Democracy (CARD) and Destiny Ethiopia