

**22 March 2017**

## **“Women’s Inferno in Ethiopia”**

Concluding declaration

Considering that Ethiopia benefits from increasing amounts of foreign aid which end up fueling the Ethiopian State’s oppression and intimidation of the most vulnerable among its population, including the training of soldiers to commit sexual violence against women - Ethiopia being the fourth largest recipient of European Union aid in the world, and the European Union representing approximately 40 percent of Ethiopia’s global exports;

In the light of resolutions 1325 and 1820 that were passed by the United Nations Security Council, declaring that the use of rape and sexual violence in conflicts could constitute a war crime, a crime against humanity or a constitutive element of genocide, and alarmed by the fact that these crimes committed on Ethiopian soil remain unpunished;

We, participants of today’s conference:

Continue to call on the international community to play its role in safeguarding human rights by putting an end to the financial flows fueling the Ethiopian State. On this topic, the European Parliament, the European Commission and the European External Action Service should be bolder to live up to the values of the European Union;

Reaffirm that the unbearable sexual crimes committed on the Ethiopia soil, which remain unpunished, can no longer be overlooked by the European Parliament, the European Commission, the European External Action Service and the other key players at the international level;

Encourage the international community to urge Ethiopia to abide by the rules enshrined in the conventions it has ratified, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;

Expresses its hope that today’s event will be the starting point to a fruitful work toward more respect for women’s and human rights in Ethiopia, and a fiercer fight against sexual violence to the benefit of Ethiopia’s women;

Trust that the European Parliament, the European Commission and the European External Action Service will start speaking up against the atrocities taking place in the country in the upcoming future.