



**Oral Statement at the 33^d special session of the Human Rights Council
on the grave human rights situation in Ethiopia**

17 December 2021

Delivered by Thomas Schirmacher

I am Bishop Thomas Schirmacher, Secretary General of the World Evangelical Alliance, representing Protestant churches with over 600 million members around the world.

The World Evangelical Alliance is deeply concerned about the conflict in Ethiopia. We recognize there are grievances on both sides. However, the way to resolve a conflict is not through taking up arms.

We call upon all parties to the conflict for an immediate ceasefire. We plead with all sides to engage in a negotiating process to bring lasting peace in this.

We stand ready to support a peace and reconciliation process, particularly engaging our regional branch, the Association of Evangelicals in Africa, and our Peace and Reconciliation Network.

We welcome the current mediation efforts involving the African Union, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and the Intergovernmental Authority for Development.

Furthermore, we appeal to all parties to ensure immediate and unimpeded delivery of the humanitarian aid supplies to the civilians and internally displaced persons, including across the conflict lines.