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Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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Date _____
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Press Statement

The United Nations humanitarian assessment mission conducted from 30 August to 5 September 2007 in the Somali National Regional State of Ethiopia has submitted its report to the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. The Mission prepared its Report following its visit to Jijiga, Dhegehabur, Kebridhar, Gode, Shekosh, Denan, and ten smaller villages. Based on this Report discussions were held between high officials of the Government of Ethiopia and leaders of the mission.

The mission has ascertained that there is no humanitarian crisis in the Somali National Regional State. The assessment has, however, cautioned that the nutritional status will rapidly worsen within two or three months if food assistance is not provided through general distribution and proper malnutrition response activities and services are not put in place.

The Government of Ethiopia will ensure that the humanitarian needs of the people in the Region, including health services and nutrition requirements, are effectively addressed in collaboration with the relevant organs of the United Nations System and other partners. The Government has also assured the United Nations humanitarian assessment mission that prompt action will be taken to ensure adequate food supply and health services reach all those in need in collaboration with stakeholders.

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With regard to border trade and commercial activities, the Government will continue with its effort to identify additional trade corridors to the existing routes of Hart-sheikh and Dolo. The Government is committed to finding ways of ensuring that these border trade and commercial activities, including livestock trade continue in a normal manner and that as many corridors as possible are made available to significantly increase the volume of trade in the Region.

The Government reiterates its commitment to continue working with the United Nations and members of the International Community to find short-term and lasting solutions to the humanitarian needs in the Region. The Government is pleased to receive the confirmation of the UN humanitarian assessment mission that the contents of this Statement are fully in line with the recommendations in the Report.

19 September 2007
Ministry Of Foreign Affairs
Addis Ababa