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ORAL STATEMENT
ITEM 2: General Debate

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Mr. President,

We thank the High Commissioner for his diagnosis of conditions driving alarming and dangerous global trends and his recommendations to counteract them.

The lack of meaningful action by the international community has emboldened Ethiopian authorities to further obstruct independent efforts to document and monitor conflict related human rights violations, at a time of an alarming military buildup and upcoming elections. We urge the High Commissioner to report in detail on information gathered on the ground by monitors supported by his office. States must act urgently to prevent further deterioration, including by restoring the Human Rights Council's monitoring and reporting.

We urge Tanzanian authorities to further clarify the number of those killed and hand over their remains to their relatives for a decent burial and the necessary rites. In this context, we urge the High Commissioner and this Council to monitor and report on steps taken by Tanzanian authorities to address attacks on protestors and on progress made by the national Commission of Inquiry.

We urge Tunisian authorities to cease their repression of dissent, which has included severely curtailing freedom of expression, association, and peaceful assembly through mass trials, harsh prison sentences, and the routine use of counterterrorism and cybercrime laws to punish peaceful political activity and criticism. Journalists, lawyers, activists, and human rights defenders have been prosecuted or detained for their speech or professional work, fostering widespread fear and self-censorship. Judicial independence has further deteriorated amid executive interference in judicial appointments and disciplinary measures, while trials of dissidents have been marked by serious due process violations and lack of transparency. In parallel, civil society organizations have been targeted through arbitrary detention and prosecutions of staff and HRDs, criminal investigations, asset freezes, funding restrictions, and arbitrary suspensions, some of them risking imminent dissolution deepening the erosion of the rule of law and civic space.

We urge Ugandan authorities to drop charges against people arrested solely for exercising their human rights, release those still detained, and lift the suspension against 10 NGOs announced ahead of the elections.