

FREEDOM AND EQUALITY PARTY



PARTY PROGRAM

(ENDORSED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PARTY)

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Preface

The industrial revolution, that was started in the 18th century has immensely contributed for the betterment of the living standards of many people around the world, by spreading to many countries and accelerating its pace and widening its scope. The industrial revolution, which was ignited by advancement in science and technology, has impacted humans both positively and negatively. The revolution in one hand minimized the physical distance between countries, communities, organizations, and individuals, promoted world trade, improved world health status, increased per capita income, increase access to basic education, discourage harmful cultural practices, improve the status and overall participation of women.

On the other the industrial revolution has created many complications in world economic, social, economic and peace and stability. These includes, but not limited to, ever widening wealth and income disparity between countries and citizens, environmental degradation, distractive conflicts and wars, political instability, self-centric culture, population explosion and increased migration including IDPs, fueled nationalism, loosened family and social bonds and relations, maximized unemployment and promoted crime, ushered an era of worst financial and economic crisis. Abject poverty has become a challenge to many African, Asian, Latin American countries and also some of European and American countries. More than half of the global wealth is controlled by people that constitute less than one percent of the total world population. In many developing countries including Ethiopia more than 90% of the national wealth is owned by people that constitute less than one percent of the population.

Some of the social, economic and political challenges that Ethiopia is facing today are partly the result of the globalization process of the 21st century which is engulfing the world. And, on the other hand, some of the challenges are the result of the local dynamics and emanate from the countries social and political history, thinking and relations.

Freedom and Equality Party (FEP) strongly believes that the root causes of the challenges that our people and our country facing are essentially political and the solutions are fundamentally political as well. Lack of good governance, exclusivist political system, social injustice, discrimination, partisanship, administrative cultures, and procedures based on ethnic and religious judgement etc. remained the main features of the Ethiopian political system. Ethnic and religious nationalism has divided our people and risked our national unity. Our perspectives and understanding of our history are terribly different and the misunderstanding

over historical issues is getting worse. Unconstructive disputes over historical issues diverted our attention from fighting basic problems of majority of our people which includes poverty, unemployment, hunger, migration etc. Such disputes over historical issues divided our community and critically consumed our energy.

Lack of free and independent justice system, unemployment and poverty, weak infrastructure, social crisis, erosion of patriotism and suspicion among citizens are some of the core problems of our country. Safe drinking water, housing, education and health services, adequate transportation and communication, fast and efficient public administration still remained the dreams and aspirations of our people. Coverage of education, health and other services is low in different parts of the country and unfair distribution is on the rise. At a time when the world is in the 4th generation of industrial development, our economy is at the level of low-income agriculture dependent on rain and poor manufacturing industry.

Some parts of the country are endowed with better natural resources while others are less endowed. Those areas that have better natural resources have higher chance for economic development and could also help those regions of the nation that are less resources. However, in Ethiopia all parts of the country are suffering from vicious circle of poverty and backwardness. The central part of the country is characterized by high population density, low per capita income, low agricultural land, low productivity. On the other hand, the lowlands and heartlands of the country have low population density, large and fertile land suitable for mechanized agriculture and rivers suitable for irrigation.

Due to our failure to establish a democratic system and democratically elected government, we are not able to properly utilize our rich natural resources found in every corner of the country for the benefit of all our people. And hence unable to feed our people and become the symbol of poverty and destitute. Pastoralists and semi-pastoralists, who make up more than 60 percent of the country's land area, live in drought, famine, and conflict without proper policy support.

Although the people of our country have achieved remarkable victories through their wide spread and long political struggles, the basic social, economic and political problems of our country have not been solved today. The problems are further exacerbated by the erroneous political philosophies and policies of dictatorial regimes that hold sway over power. Particularly in the last quarter of a century, the corrupt political system in our country has

contributed to the spread of conflict and instability among the people, as well as the spread of racial and ethnic discrimination. As a result, while very few members of the regime and their allies have amassed greatest wealth and resources not seen in the history of our country, the vast majority of our people are living in abject poverty, and many of our people have chosen to emigrate. As a result, almost half of Ethiopians live below the poverty line. Citizens who stand against the regime in a democratic and peaceful manner have been arrested and killed in horrific and inhumane treatment.

Our country, which has immense opportunities and opportunities to ensure social and economic development, has not been able to achieve fundamental changes and development from generation to generation. Ethiopia is rich in natural resources, suitable for agriculture and fertile lands, irrigated rivers and streams, and beautiful landscapes. Ethiopia is home to some of the world's most endearing wildlife. It is endowed with mountains and forests as well as ancient heritages with huge potential for tourism. More than half of Ethiopia's population is young that can make a significant contribution to the overall development of the country, if they are provided with quality education and training,

While the overall situation of the country, in a bird's eye view, looks like this, many African countries and the world are undergoing rapid and comprehensive economic, social, political, and strategic changes and transformation. The process of change, driven by the advancement of information and communication technology, has dramatically changed the relationship between nations, communities, and individuals. The ever-expanding globalization has fuelled the growth of international trade and services. Under the auspices of the African Union, efforts are underway to create a free trade area in Africa and complete economic, political and cultural integration. The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is just of the continental projects in this respect.

The structure of government, the role of political parties, civic associations and the media, and the understanding and application of human and democratic rights are some of the major changes in the political landscape. Some countries in Africa have seen better political environment and participation, while in other countries the political environment has been shrinking, fundamental rights and freedoms are being eroded, and human and political rights are being undermined. The situation in our country Ethiopia is no different.

The **Freedom and Equality Party (FEP)** is a political organization established to contribute in finding palatable solutions to solve Ethiopia's complex problems. We are motivated to serve our country with a heart filled with love and compassion to our country and its people. **FEP's** engagement will be grounded on research-based programs and policies to realize Ethiopia's sustainable growth and prosperity. **FEP** strives to uphold human and democratic rights, the principles of good governance, the rule of law and establish a political culture in which political power comes only from the people. **FEP** also exerts effort to ensure citizens' right to freedom of expression and media and civil society to have role in nation building.

Freedom and Equality Party also strives to ensure lasting peace and sustainable development, and safeguard equitable distribution of wealth between different parts of the country. **FEP** works towards the eradication of corruption which is a cancer stifling the economic and social development of our country and our people. Respect the language and culture of nationalities, guarantee freedom of religion and worship, and end sexual discrimination are among the top priorities of the party. **FEP** works diligently for women to have equal access to education and other social services and to be actively involved in the nation building process.

The **Freedom and Equality Party** has designed its programs and policies taking into account the political realities and evaluating the geo-political and strategic opportunities and threats of our country and deeply scrutinizing African and global political economy and security dynamics.

In order to solve the complex and long-term political problems and challenges of our people **Freedom and Equality Party** strives to balance and harmonize two contesting policy dilemmas in the Ethiopian politics. On the one hand, it works to build a strong political and economic community that respects the unity of the state. On the other hand, **FEP** endeavors for the full recognition and respect of ethnic, linguistic, religious, cultural and other identities. To achieve these goals, the **Freedom and Equality Party** will pursue a balanced policy and strategy.

Freedom and Equality Party will struggle to ensure unity rather than disintegration, togetherness instead of isolation, mutual love rather than hate, peace rather than conflict, trust rather than doubt. **FEP** will work for sustainable economic development, lasting peace and stability, and true brotherhood among diverse sections of the society. It strives for full and real recognition of all Ethiopian culture, language, traditions, religions and customs in equal footing.

Freedom and Equality Party was established by its founding congress held on March 24, 2018, at Capital Hotel in Addis Ababa, by its founding members from all regions of the country to realize the growth and prosperity of our country by implementing the political, economic, social and foreign relations programs included in this program through peaceful political struggle and free elections.

Vision, Mission, Objectives and strategies

Vision

FEP aspires to see a prosperous and democratic country where sustainable peace and sustainable economic development are guaranteed, and citizens have equal opportunity to participate in national affairs and enjoy from the fruits of the national wealth without any discrimination based on race, language, culture, religion, political opinion, etc.

Mission

Build a democratic system where good governance and the rule of law are guaranteed, where political power is derived from the people and the people only, and where citizens take advantage of social and economic opportunities fairly.

Objectives

The following are the major objectives of **Freedom and Equality Party**

1. To reduce and eradicate poverty by building an inclusive and sustainable economy, and to establish social, economic and political justice;
2. To promote good governance, transparency and accountability in the administration and structures of the country.
3. Respect for human and democratic rights, uphold the rule of law and build an independent justice system.
4. To build a true federal system to equalize the language and culture of nations and nationalities equally, to ensure the development of all regions of our country in a fair way.
5. Protect, nurture and enrich the environment, create a comfortable work and living environment;
6. Expand science and technology, support research in natural and social sciences;
7. Encourage and expand rural industry, modernize the agricultural sector;
8. Ensure that citizens have access to basic services in a quality, comprehensive and affordable manner.

9. Utilize women and youth to be active participants in national development.
10. To protect the rights and interests of children, the elderly, people with disabilities and special needs;
11. Encourage and support economic, political and cultural ties in the Horn of Africa, and contribute to lasting peace and stability in the region.
12. Enhancing Ethiopia's role in the African and international forums. Improving Ethiopia's external image.

Political strategies

The following are major strategies of the party.

1. **Engagement not confrontation: Freedom and Equality Party** pursues a political struggle based on mutual understanding and far from conflict, conspiracy and interference. **FEP** has an open-door policy to work with any legally registered Ethiopian political force or organization with utmost responsibility and respect for political diversity. **FEP** works in cooperation with any political organizations on issues that benefit our country and our people irrespective of their ideological orientation or political program
2. **Moderation and rationality:** The basic profile of the **Freedom and Equality Party** is Moderation and rationality. **Freedom and Equality Party's** political ideology, policy and programs, as well as political positions, are based on the principle of moderation and rationality. **FEP** believes that polarization, political extremism, irrational partisanship is the main reason for the political and socio-economic chaos that our country has reached today. Far from this kind of distorted political position, **FEP** follows the "Golden Mean" in thought and practice. Moderation, balance and rationality are the guiding principles of **FEP's** political positions, messages, policies and programs.
3. **Inclusivity:** Considering the ethnic, linguistic, religious and cultural diversity of our people, we follow a balanced and inclusive approach in our policies, programs and political positions, etc. We strive to make our party include all the people of our country in a fair manner by avoiding actions that may harm the rights and feelings of individuals or groups.
4. **Natural change-Evolution not Revolution: FEP** understands that the political, social and economic problems in our country have been accumulating and piling up for at least the past several decades and will not be solved overnight. Therefore, in order to realize the

socio-economic and political changes that we aspire, we will pursue evolutionary and gradual process which strictly considers the political consciousness of the society and other socio-economic factors. **FEP** believes in evolutionary process than revolution.

5. **Win-win strategy: Freedom and Equality Party** understands that real success is the success that we score as a nation and not as an organization. Therefore, in our political activities, we prioritize the victory and success of our country and people rather than organizational triumph and success. In the same way, the effectiveness and success of our party will not be based on the failure of other political parties, but on growing together and a true sense of partnership.
6. **Serving the people:** The biggest and ultimate goal of a political movement and political power is to serve the country and its people. Party and government officials, administrators and bureaucrats who are assigned to administer the affairs of the people are paid from taxes collected from the poor people's "hand to mouth" income. Therefore, our party members holding offices at any level of government have an obligation to work as public servants.
7. **Honesty and integrity:** Ethiopians value good manners and morality. Our people give utmost respect to honesty, sincerity and honesty in social and administrative matters. Therefore, both the rank-and-file members and leaders of our party serve our country and people with sincerity, honesty and love.
8. **Partnership and collaboration: Freedom and Equality Party** strongly believes in partnership and collaboration. Hence it is keen to work in collaboration with political parties in Ethiopia. The aim of **FEP**'s partnership strategy is to create political synergy needed to build a strong multi party and democratic system, realize healthy political competition, to build the capacity of political parties and to better achieve the party's vision and objectives. Building coalitions and partnerships with political parties and other stakeholders will be based on the party's constitution and other relevant laws of the country.

1 Political Program

1.1 Political Ideology

It is believed that since the end of the Cold War, liberalism has become increasingly accepted in many countries of the world. Liberal thinking is a system that mainly focuses on the economic and political freedom of citizens, limiting the size and intervention of the government and giving citizens the opportunity to work individually and collectively to their full potential. This thinking is believed to help stop corrupt government practices, bureaucratic abuse, unnecessary government intervention, eliminate corruption, increase productivity, and better protect the human and democratic rights of citizens. The fact that liberal thinking is a broad concept, flexibly applied based on the level of economic, social, cultural and technological development of countries increased its acceptance in wide spectrum of countries. Its adjustability according to the actual situation of the countries.

Accordingly, the **Freedom and Equality Party** follows a liberal mindset to successfully realize its vision and achieve its goals. However, the liberal thinking followed by the **Freedom and Equality Party** is called "moderate liberalism", which is in line with the overall development of our country, and takes into account the actual political, social and economic realities of our country. It is believed that the "moderate liberal" ideology creates a favorable political environment for protecting national values by harmonizing liberal ideas with our country's history, culture, psychology and social customs.

"Moderate liberal" thinking recognizes social values and morals and is expected to create a favorable environment for advanced economic and social development by respecting the human and democratic rights of citizens. In addition to its primarily moderate liberal ideology, **FEP** may implement policies based on other ideologies, including social democrats, when necessary.

The ideological framework that **Freedom and Equality Party** pursued is believed to give the party wider broad policy options and free itself from the clutches of confinement in single ideology. **FEP** believes that a pragmatic ideological framework offers the party pursue alternative policy options, that are compatible with liberal thinking, in its endeavor to insure the country's overall development and prosperity. This approach is against the political and ideological history and culture prevalent in our country, which is a blind and dogmatic adherence to a single ideology.

1.2 Basic Rights

1. **Freedom and Equality Party** believes that all people are equal before the law. Based on this basic belief, citizens enjoy equal legal guarantees and protection without any discrimination. The basic rights that citizens have simply because they are human beings are respected and the human and democratic rights of citizens are guaranteed.
2. The right of Ethiopians to move, live, work and generate wealth in the area they want will be fully respected, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, language, environment, political views, etc.
3. Laws and procedures that make all Ethiopians feel that they have equal ownership of their country will be implemented. Their human and democratic rights are respected and they are not directly or indirectly discriminated against.
4. Citizens' right to organize themselves, to express their opinions, to write, and to protest will be respected.
5. Citizens will have legal protection for their physical and psychological well-being. Their life and property shall be protected except by a court decision due to participation in a serious criminal act prescribed by law. Citizens will be protected from inhumane and degrading treatment and punishment so that they will never be detained without being charged and convicted.
6. There will be no system that forces citizens to do any work or fulfill their obligations by force.
7. International human and democratic rights accepted by Ethiopia will be respected.

1.3 State Structure

Ethiopia is home to many nations/ethnicities, people with different languages, cultures, traditions and customs, religions and social values. In addition, it is a country with social and economic diversity which emanated from different biodiversity, landscapes, climates and lifestyles. A government structure to be developed in Ethiopia should take into account the natural differences and diversity of our country and people; It should be able to deal with differences in unity and should help create unity based on consent, respect and tolerance.

Freedom and Equality Party believes that the best government structure to achieve this goal is a federal system. A true federal government structure creates a convenient administrative system for all the people of our country to live in harmony and respect. The Ethiopian federal system will consider multiple factors which includes administrative convenience, public demands, language and culture, landscape and other common values.

1.4 Form of the Government

The system of government followed by our party will be presidential. The president (head of state) is directly elected by the people and serves for five years. A president can run for two terms.

1.5 Constitution

A constitution is a legal and political document that contains the basic laws and principles that determine the rights and obligations of citizens as well as the structure and operation of the government. A constitution is a memorandum of understanding among citizens that contains basic principles of political, social, economic and foreign relations and guarantees the peace and prosperity of a country as well as the democratic unity, freedom, equality and justice of its citizens.

For the constitution to be the law of the country and the state, it should be accepted by most member of the society, clear and unambiguous. From this perspective, looking at the Ethiopian constitution, we realize that the constitution should be amended. **FEP** believes that the amendment of the Ethiopian constitution should take the following facts and principles in to consideration.

1. The constitution should be amended in a way that respects the sovereignty and territorial integrity of our country, protects our national interests and allows our country to get rid of poverty and economic stagnation in the shortest possible time.
2. Articles of the constitution that undermine the peace and security of our citizens, promote secession and division, should be amended in a way that strengthens national unity, solidarity and brotherhood.
3. One of the basic features of a constitution is its capacity to serve for a relatively longer period. In this respect, the inclusion of articles in the constitution that necessitates regular change, with the level of development of the country, will negatively affect the power of the constitution to cop up with fast changing socio-economic and political progress. This will make the constitution obsolete. Hence, in order to avoid this challenge and make the constitution a living document it is necessary to remove constitutional provisions that necessitates frequent change and/or amendment.
4. Since constitution is a shared communal document of citizens of a country, it should reflect the interest of much of the society and political thinking. However, the constitutions that

have been in force in our country until today incorporate the political ideology and political program of the governments of the time. In the long constitutional history of Ethiopia, constitutions and party program were two sides of the same coin and hence, constitutions little reflect the will and interest of the citizens. The existing constitution is a manifestation of this problem. Therefore, the existing constitution should be amended in a manner that considers the both the wider political spectrum of citizens and also the ideology and program of the political forces in the country.

5. Articles in the constitution that are ambiguous and open the space for heated political conflicts such as the issue of language, flag, formation and boundaries of regional states etc. should be amended in a clear and reconciliatory manner.

1.6 Parts of the Government

The federal regional governments will have three branches of government namely, the legislators, the executive organ and the judiciary. Each of the three branches of the government will have clear responsibilities and powers determined by the constitution. The three branches of government work independently and in coordination. There will be a system that prevents overlap of powers and interference one organ over the others.

1.6.1 Working language of the Federal government

Amharic and *Afaan Oromo* will be the working languages of the federal government. Regional governments may use one or more of the languages widely spoken in the region as the working language of the regional government.

1.7 Defence, Police, and National Security

1.7.1 National defence Forces

1. Build a defense force that is loyal to the people and the government elected by the people, stands guard to the country's constitution, and protects our country from any kind of internal or external aggression.
2. The main mission of the National Defense Force will be to protect the country and the people, to protect the borders and sovereignty of the country.
3. We will build national defense system equipped with modern weapons and commensurate national economy of our country.
4. The composition of members and leadership of the Defense Forces will be made to include all sections of the people of Ethiopia. The Ethiopian national defense force will be built in a way that enables to have a strong public trust, support and acceptance of all sections of the society.

5. The members of the National Defense Force are not members of any political party, and their responsibility will be to constitution and a government elected by the people.
6. When necessary, Ethiopia's defense force can be deployed to enforce peace and stability of neighboring countries, Africa and the world, within the framework of international agreements and laws.
7. The members and leadership of the National Defense Forces will be offered a special compensation package for their invaluable sacrifices and their great service to the country and the people.
8. Members of the National Defense Forces and various institutions participate in and provide support for the government's rescue operations during emergencies.

1.7.2 Police and Security forces

1. We will build a police force that is professional, adorned with ethical values, respects and upholds the law, is free from any kind of bias and loyal to the constitution will be built at the federal and state levels.
2. In order to maintain the neutrality of the police force members of the police force shall not be members of political parties.
3. The institutions of the police force at every level will be made to represent all sections of the society. Similarly, the main mission of the police forces will be to build a law enforcing institution that properly fulfills the responsibilities given by the constitution.
4. The main purpose of the national security institution is to protect the rule of law and the peace of the people by identifying threats and forces that may disrupt the peace.
5. The National Security Institute will be organized by members and leaders who are not members of any political party, and will not reflect the dominance of any political party.

2 Economic Program

Economic facts

Our country, Ethiopia, is one of the poorest countries in Africa and the world, and nearly half of our people live below the poverty line. According to United Nations statistical data, Ethiopia ranks 7th in Africa and 71st in the world in terms of gross domestic product (GDP). On the other hand, Ethiopia is a country with vast and untapped natural resources that allow it to rapidly grow its economy, which is at a low level. Subsoil resources, minerals, favorable climate for agriculture, numerous rivers and groundwater, young and productive workforce are just a few. The agricultural sector has been the pillar of our country's economy until today, and it has the largest share in creating employment opportunities and earning foreign currency.

In Ethiopia, the service sector is growing rapidly and its share in the total GDP has exceeded that of the agricultural sector. The role of the service sector in creating jobs for citizens and attracting foreign investors has been constantly increasing. On the other hand, the industrial sector of our country is at a low level and is mostly focused on processing raw materials and agricultural products, textiles and agro industry products. In order to increase the contribution of the sector to the Ethiopian economy, it is very much imperative to link with the agricultural and service sector, as well as to speed up the transfer of technology so that our economy can be transformed into a modern and industrial-led economy.

2.1 Overall Economic Goals and principles

FFP's main economic goal is to build a sustainable, green and resilient economy that is competitive in Africa and the world by using the opportunities and comparative advantages that Ethiopia is endowed with. The following are specific economic objectives,

1. Enabling citizens to have sufficient per capita income so that they can live a stable and happy life with their basic needs met.
2. Reducing and eliminating extreme poverty;
3. Enabling a fair distribution of income among citizens and equitable development among regions.
4. Avoiding economic fluctuations that may have a long-term negative impact on our country's economy, controlling unemployment and inflation and creating favourable conditions for a stable macro-economy.
5. Realizing structural economic transformation,

6. Building a green economy by coordinating economic development with environmental protection and care.

Strategies

Freedom and Equality Party uses the following strategies to realize the economic goals mentioned above.

1. By making investment easy and efficient, local and foreign investors can use their investment in an efficient way.
2. Substitute laws and old work procedures that are hampering economic development and replace them with simple and easy-to-implement laws. Fighting corruption and rent-seeking behaviours is also part of the economic development strategies.
3. Establish an efficient, fair and transparent tax system,
4. Providing incentives to citizens and organizations to engage in productive and investment activities that are vital for the economic development of the country.
5. Introduce an efficient bureaucratic system aided by state-of-the-art technology and get rid of the old fashioned, messy and incompetent governmental system.
6. Integrate national education and training policies and programs compatible with the economic development programs of our country.
7. Reduce dependence on foreign loans and aid and generate sufficient resources needed for the development of the country.
8. Improving the standard of living of citizens by making the economic development rate at least higher than population growth rate, which is important to keep the standard of living of citizens from falling.
9. Prevention of financial and economic crisis by strengthening the credit system management of the financial sector.
10. Make economic performance data and information, which is crucial input for economic planning, easily available and accessible.

11. Creating strong economic and trade integration with neighbouring countries and other African countries.
12. Increase production and productivity by integrating agriculture, industry and service sectors.
13. Ensure property rights,
14. Develop the culture of thrift and generate enough wealth needed for national economic development

The role of government in the Economy

FEP essentially apply a market-oriented economic and trade policy in order to realize its economic objectives. In order to speed up economic development and ensure equitable distribution, the government will have a role in the economy. However, the role of government intervention to the economy will be kept to the minimum. Government intervention in the economy will be based on the following principles,

1. **Mega projects:** The government builds huge/mega national projects alone or in partnership with the private sector that require high construction investment and have low profit rates, which are not viable or attractive for private investors. Roads and railways, dams, power generation and distribution networks, transport and communication networks are examples.
2. **Public monopoly:** the government can work as a monopoly (Public Monopoly) or jointly with the private sector in providing services that requires higher economies of scale for efficient production and distribution.

2.2 Agriculture and Rural Development

The contribution of the agricultural sector to our country's economy is very high. Agriculture contributes more than 35 percent of Ethiopia's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and more than 70 percent of employment opportunities. Agricultural products are the largest export of our country and serve as the main source of foreign exchange. However, compared to its economic and social contribution, the agricultural sector is given very little attention.

More than half of the Ethiopian population live in rural areas which has low socio-economic infrastructure and services. Considering the economic importance of the agricultural sector and the rural part of our country, **Freedom and Equality Party** has given maximum policy

attention and has set the following policy directions in relation to the agricultural sector and rural development.

Agriculture

1. Transform the Ethiopian agricultural from the tradition and backward system to a modern and mechanised agriculture.
2. Reduce dependence on rain-feed agriculture and encourage irrigation farming.
3. Integrate agriculture with industry and service sector. Develop a backward and forward linkage between the agriculture, manufacturing and service sector. Develop the agricultural sector to provide sufficient raw materials and absorb the industrial products.
4. Introduce a gradual transformation of the current agricultural-lead economy into industry-leady economy.
5. Ensure food security; enable the agricultural sector to produce enough food for domestic consumption and export to international market.
6. In various parts of our country, fertile lands that have not been used for farming and other agricultural activities until now will be put to use.
7. Maximize the production and productivity of agricultural products that constitute the larger portion of foreign currency including, but not limited to, coffee, flowers, grains, and leather.
8. Rise the economic gains of the agricultural sector using modern production equipment and agricultural technology.
9. Increase farmers' adaptation of agricultural technology by building a modern input supply and marketing system.
10. Reduce post-harvest product losses and implement procedures to increase agricultural production.
11. Maximize the foreign currency earnings of the agricultural sector by adding value to the agricultural products and raw materials. This is done by improving quality of products and ensure fair price to Ethiopia's agricultural products at international markets.
12. Introduce early warning systems and improved agricultural resources to mitigate man-made and natural disasters that reduce agricultural production.
13. Create enabling environment to Ethiopian farmers supply their agricultural products both for domestic and foreign markets through promotion and provision of support to Agro-Industrial activities.
14. Establish a modern Agricultural Information Management System (AIMS) that allows accurate collection of wide-ranging and specific information of the agricultural sector. The

system will be used to clearly understand the status of the agricultural sector and develop evidence-based policy.

15. Introduce a loan system that permit farmers easily get agricultural loans and other agricultural inputs.
16. Cut down and gradually stop import of basic agricultural food items by producing those items locally.
17. Create awareness to diversify citizens dietary culture of which is highly dependent on a very narrow menu of grains and pulses, for example *Teff*. Promote the consumption of variety of grains and crops that are easily and abundantly produced in Ethiopia.
18. Substitute inorganic fertilizers by organic fertilizer and minimize the damage to the environment and humans by develop an integrated agricultural, research and marketing system.
19. Maximize the quantity and quality of animal stock and production of animal by-products through the introduction of modern animal health system. Similarly, schemes will be designed that help farmers rise the benefits and income they get from animals.
20. Support and promote large Scale Commercial farms via different incentive mechanisms.
21. Enable and coordinate the agricultural sector to contribute to the macroeconomy through job creation and poverty reduction.

Rural development

Majority of the Ethiopian population live in rural areas. Compared to the urban area, the rural part of our country is very poor in terms of infrastructure development and service provision, which paved the way for massive migration from rural to urban areas. As a result of the rural-urban migration, severe socio-economic problems have arisen in urban areas. To solve the problem permanently,

1. Research-based and integrated rural development policies and programs will be implemented.
2. Introduction and expansion of rural industrialization programs that consider climatic, geographic and ecological factors of the rural areas in different parts of the country.
3. Provide basic social and economic services such as education, health, electricity, clean drinking water, telecom service in rural areas.
4. Enable farmers to utilize irrigation by constructing small, medium and high dams.
5. Establish rural agricultural training centres to stimulate and enhance the productivity of the rural economy.

6. Improve the living standard of the rural community by building small and cost-effective houses in rural areas.
7. Create job opportunities for the rural community by executing pro-poor projects by government and non-government organizations.
8. Construct road and other rural infrastructure projects and programs that increase productivity; rural roads will be built to connect rural kebeles to each other and to cities.

2.3 Pastoralist development

More than half of the land mass of Ethiopia is estimated to be inhabited by pastoral communities. Throughout history the Ethiopian pastoralists, who mostly live in the coastal and lowland parts of our country, are left to live in the harshest social, economic and administrative conditions without getting enough attention from the government. At least for the past half a century, the country's regimes have denied policy attention to the pastoralist communities and to the development of the pastoral areas, leaving the communities trapped in the cycle of poverty. The successive political systems in Ethiopia have given more attention to the resources of the pastoralist communities including their animals, the vast and fertile agricultural land and other underground resources and completely forgotten to take care of the people. This policy approach towards the pastoralist community seriously damaged the socio-economic conditions of the pastoral community, viz a viz citizens in the other parts of the country.

Although the pastoralist community needs special government support and policy options to save it from the harsh conditions, it was denied the list attention by the county's political elite, which are mainly dominated by highlanders. In order to protect and safeguard the pastoralists communities from the overlapping problems they are facing, enable them to adequately participate in the overall development of the country and fairly benefit from its development, **FEP** will utilize the following policy directions.

1. Development programs and projects that will gradually transform the pastoralist communities from a mobile to a sedentary life style will be implemented.
2. To realize the transition of the pastoralists to a sedentary life, small villages will be built. The villages will have complete socio-economic services;
3. Integrated pastoral development programs that can make pastoral communities more productive will be implemented. Provision of water will be given higher priority in the pastoralist development programs.

4. Intensive and comprehensive capacity building programs will be implemented to enable the pastoralist communities properly manage their social, economic and political affairs
5. Legal frameworks will be prepared to ensure that the pastoralist system is adequately recognized by the laws of the country. **FEP** will exert effort to ensure that proper attention and governmental support is given to the pastoralists, commensurate to the policy attention and support given to farmers and other modes of production.
6. Since the life of the pastoral community is closely related to the life and welfare of their animals, **FEP** will exert effort to develop quality animal care and health services specifically designed the pastoral community. The aim is to maximize the pastoral community in particular and the nation at large, to benefit from the huge live stock.
7. Taking into account the landscape, ecology and climate of the pastoralist areas, studies and research will be conducted to help design and implement development projects and programs. In this regard attention will be paid to acquire and use successful international experiences in the field.
8. Programs will be designed and implemented to strengthen the cultural and economic ties of the pastoralist communities, who mostly live in the lowlands and hinterland, with citizens in other parts of the country.
9. The mobility of the pastoralist communities is a source of conflict with other pastoralist communities and also other communities in their neighbourhood, which put the life of the pastoralist community at risk. Hence programs will be designed to minimize and avoid such risks in a sustainable way.
10. System to provide special budgetary support to the pastoralist areas will be implemented to ensure equitable benefit of the pastoralist community and to accelerate the overall development and prosperity of the community.

2.4 Land Tenure

The issue of land possession and ownership has been a key and fundamental question in Ethiopian politics for a long time. Nevertheless, till today, the land issue never resolved in a way that considers the needs of the people and accelerates the country's economic, social, and political development. The issue of land tenure and ownership is an intricate and multifaceted policy agenda that deals with economic, cultural, political, demographic, environment and other related issues.

Considering the sensitivity and delicacy of the land issue, **Freedom and Equality Party** firmly believes that the designing of the Ethiopian land policy and related programs should take into

account theoretical as well as practical international experiences. Taking into consideration the important role of land for the overall prosperity and development of our country, and taking into account the very controversial nature of land tenure system in the Ethiopian political history, **FEP** will follow the following programs regarding land:

1. Land, whether in rural or urban areas, belongs to the Ethiopian people and the government is responsible for managing land.
2. A certificate of ownership of land used for agricultural purposes in rural areas will be given to farmers. Accordingly, the rights and benefits of farmers on the land under their ownership will be fully respected.
3. Farmers will have the right to lease land under their private possession;
4. Considering the overall development level of the country, **FEP** can consider an alternative land policy where land could be fully transacted. However, such a policy shift on land would be considered, taking into account the overall national economic, political, and social development.
5. Regarding urban lands, residents will be provided with a legal certificate of ownership for the land they use to build houses. Legal guarantees will be given to ensure that the rights and benefits they have on the land under their possession are respected.
6. In pastoral areas land, used for grazing animals, can remain in communal ownership.
7. Regional or federal government shall pay appropriate compensation in cash or in kind to citizens, in rural or urban areas, who will be asked to move from their land for development works.
8. The government leases land to local and foreign investors who want to engage in extensive and modern farming and animal husbandry.
9. Continuous and participatory research will be conducted on the Ethiopian land tenure system, in order to make our land policy compatible with the country's economic, social, and political development,

2.5 Infrastructure

Infrastructure is the backbone of a country's overall development. The existence of extensive infrastructure network massively contributes to the national economy by facilitating production and productivity, increasing domestic and foreign trade, facilitating easy movement of economic and social services easily, stabilizing commodity prices, expanding investment, etc.

Infrastructure includes, among others, land and railroads, power generation and distribution facilities, dams, transportation, telecommunications, natural gas, water and sewage services. In

order to improve the infrastructure base and increase the sector's contribution to the national development, **FEP** will introduce the following programs,

1. To deliver fast and efficient transport services to the public sufficient road, rail and air transport infrastructures will be built extensively.
2. Modern and alternative infrastructure will be developed commensurate to the rapidly growing and changing demographics of the country. State of the art transport services will be built, specifically to urban areas to solve the serious transport problem in the cities.
3. Special support and incentives will be given to the private sector to encourage participation in infrastructure development.
4. Special attention will be paid to make fair distribution of infrastructures at the national level. Policy and budgetary support will be given to develop infrastructure in the hinterlands which have very poor infrastructure.
5. In order to provide sufficient and reliable energy at reasonable prices, the supply of natural gas will be increased.
6. In order to strengthen economic and social integration with neighbouring and other African countries, cross-country transport, energy, telecom etc. networks will be built in collaboration with neighbouring countries and other international stakeholders.
7. In coordination with neighbouring countries, system will be developed to get fast and reliable port services at an affordable price. **FEP** will make efforts to ensure Ethiopia to have its own port by negotiating with other countries.
8. Fast and quality internet, and other telecom, services will be made available in all parts of the country at affordable prices.
9. Appropriate policies will be implemented to modernize the logistics system and make it globally competitive.
10. Alternative energy sources (off grid) will be used to increase energy supply and enhance access to energy. Renewable energy will be given attention.
11. In order to ensure sufficient energy supply, proportionate with the country's economic development, oil exploration and development work will be done. Intensive oil exploration will be carried out specially in the regions identified as potential areas.
12. Proper maintenance and overhaul service will be provided to all infrastructure facilities, to ensure high-quality services from the infrastructure, which are built with huge investment cost. To this end modern and efficient infrastructure management system will be put in place.

2.6 Trade and Investment

It is known that the importance of domestic and foreign trade for the development of a country is very high. An efficient, simple and integrated trade and investment system plays a significant role in the development of our country's economy and the improvement of citizens' lives. In order to realize economic growth by integrating agriculture and manufacturing industry, it is essential to modernize domestic and foreign trade. Ensuring rapid and sustainable development, stable macroeconomic and fiscal policy, adequate capital flow, efficient utilization of resources etc requires efficient business and investment environment. In order to promote trade and investment, simply work process and enhance the contribution of trade and investment to the overall economic development, the following policy tools will be taken,

1. Trade and investment laws will be linked to and harmonized with other development laws, regulations and guidelines.
2. The Ethiopian commercial law will be updated in accordance with the international trade system and rules of procedure, in a way that ensures global competitiveness and maximize Ethiopia's economic advantage.
3. Systems will be developed to enable foreign investors start and operate investment smoothly and efficiently.
4. In a bid to increase Ethiopia's trade in goods and services with neighbouring countries and other African countries, radical policy reforms will be introduced.
5. Through diversification and incorporating more industrial products to our exports, which currently includes mostly agricultural products, attempt will made to mitigate the impact of international commodity price fluctuation on our economy.
6. Introduce effective foreign trade policy to realize better trade balance, mitigate the shortage of foreign currency and maintain stable exchange rate. Reducing import and increasing exports, via import substitution and export promotion, is one of the strategies to realize these foreign trade objectives.
7. Install appropriate and modern trade and investment policies that will ensure a balanced foreign trade system.
8. to enable Ethiopia's products be competitive on international markets, appropriate trade, investment, tax and capital flow schemes will be established.
9. Make Ethiopia be member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), by complying with the necessary legal and technical standards and prerequisites in the shortest possible time.

10. Facilitate for local as well as foreign investors to adequately participate in the design of trade and investment laws, regulations, and guidelines.
11. Enact favourable trade and investment systems to attract more foreign direct investment (FDI);
12. Necessary legal and policy instruments will be installed to facilitate effective technology and knowhow transfer through strengthening partnership between domestic and foreign investors.

2.7 Tourism

Tourism is an economic sector whose share in gross domestic product of many countries is growing and expanding from time to time. In addition to generating significant foreign exchange for a country tourism contributes greatly to the overall development of a country in terms of creating job opportunities, reducing poverty and accelerating sustainable development. Ethiopia is a country with lots of natural, historical and cultural heritages. However, due to various obstacles, the country was unable to avail from the sector. Considering the huge and untapped potential and economic gains of tourism and bring in mind the obstacles facing the sector, **FEP** will pay close attention to the tourism sector and work to implement the following programs.

1. Protect and take proper care of the natural, historical, and cultural tourist attractions of Ethiopia;
2. In addition to the existing natural, historical, and cultural tourist destinations, programs will design to promote other types of tourism including conference tourism, educational tourism, medical tourism.
3. Expand the provision of hotels and entertainment facilities, multi-purpose halls, medical service facilities, transportation and communication networks and other infrastructures and increase their international competitiveness.
4. Create comfortable environment for tourists by ensure peace and stability throughout the country and safeguard the security of local and foreign tourists.
5. Change the negative image and reputation of Ethiopia in the international community (drought, famine, conflict, etc.) and build the positive image. To this end well-crafted advertising and public relations, with international standards, will be carried out to promote the unique and wonderful tourist destinations of the country.
6. Provide various incentives and support to increase the participation of the private sector in the tourism sector.

7. To enhance the efficiency of the tourism sector, strong systems and work procedures which includes skilled manpower and technology will be established.
8. Help citizens to get actively involved in the development of the tourism sector and become major stakeholders, by enacting laws and procedures to allow citizens, living in the area close to tourist destinations, benefit from the sector.

2.8 Manufacturing

The role of the Ethiopian manufacturing industry in terms of job creation and foreign currency generation is low, which made the sector's contribution to the overall economy very much limited. The manufacturing sector uses backward technology and hence its productivity is disturbingly very low. Ethiopia's industrial products that can compete internationally are very small. **FEP** will introduce the following programs to boost the capacity of the manufacturing industries and increase its contribution to the economy,

1. In order to develop the manufacturing sector from its current low level, **FEP** will create a conducive policy environment to attract more private investors in to the manufacturing sector.
2. Small and medium industries will be expanded in a fair manner in all parts of the country.
3. Socio-economic infrastructures that help the growth of manufacturing industries will expand and government institutions at all levels will support the development of the sector.
4. Reliable power supply, transportation and communication networks etc will be integrated with industrial development.
5. In order to overcome the ever-increasing unemployment problem in our country, manufacturing industries will be made to create job opportunities for young people who graduate from various institutions.
6. Manufacturing industries will be integrated to and linked with the agricultural sector, both backward and forward. Policies and procedures will be developed to increase domestic products in quality and quantity to reduce import bills and increase foreign earnings via higher exports.
7. In a bid to maximize industrial products **FEP** will promote the manufacture of light machineries locally and simplify the importation of heavy machineries, that could not be produced locally.
8. Higher learning institutions and technical and vocational schools will be restructured in a way to produce necessary manpower and facilitate know-how transfer that supports the industry sector.

9. Boost the productivity of manufacturing firms by removing bureaucratic bottlenecks and providing support.
10. Promote the production of traditional/indigenous handicrafts and maximize their contribution to local economy, through provision of special policy support
11. Ensure sustainable and environment-friendly manufacturing growth by establishing modern industrial management and control system that can help to identify the socio-economic and environmental impact of manufacturing industries.
12. To boost up the manufacturing sector, evidence-based tax policy will be introduced.
13. Industrial villages will be established in different regions of the country taking into account the natural resource endowment and demand of the specific regions.

2.9 Macro economy

2.9.1 Monetary and Fiscal Policy

Monetary policy is a policy instrument used to administer the macroeconomy of a state and control the money supply and volume of money circulating in the economy. The main goal of a monetary policy is to ensure optimal growth of GDP, control inflation, create employment opportunities and maximize foreign exchange reserve. In order to stabilize the highly volatile macroeconomy of Ethiopia, monetary policy based on financial and economic data is needed. With this framework, **FEP** will introduce the following monetary policy tools,

1. Research shows that reckless money supply is the main culprit for inflation in Ethiopia. Accordingly, by strictly controlling money supply, and hence preserving the purchasing value of the Birr, scientific and evidence-based measures will be taken to control inflation.
2. **FEP** will introduce primarily a free-floating/market driven exchange rate regime, with little government intervention, to ensure stable exchange rate and balance of payment.
3. In order to ensure price and exchange rate stability, attempt will be made to ensure sufficient and smooth capital follow commensurate with GDP growth.
4. Generate sufficient resource/capital needed for economic growth by enhancing and promoting domestic saving.
5. Introduce various monetary policy tools to counter economic recession and/or depression,
6. Ensure healthy monetary policy by, among other measure, building the capacity of the national bank of Ethiopia

2.9.2 Government budget and debt

Together with monetary policy, fiscal policy is the other policy tool used to influence the macroeconomy of a country. Fiscal policy uses government budget (income and expenditure) and tax to affect economic growth. Balanced government revenue and expenditure play vital role to ensure economic stability. One of the factors that creates higher inflation is government expenditure over and above its income. Politically motivated and short-sighted government projects, with no or little economic value, launched using borrowed resources both from domestic banks and international financial institutions creates big disturbance on the economy.

Successive Ethiopian governments are infamous for using capital raised through credit on projects with no economic value, without prior socio-economic feasibility study. Such projects hit the macroeconomy with shocks. Unbalanced government budget and debt are found to be the major causes of economic instability in Ethiopia. In order to resolve economic challenges related with government budget and debt and create stable macroeconomy, the following measure will be taken.

1. Mandatory legal provision will be set to force the government balance its expenditure with income.
2. In order to limit the capacity of the government to make expenditures above and beyond its income limit will be set on the annual deficit/GDP ratio.
3. Similarly, to limit the capacity of the government to acquire reckless debts form domestic and international sources, limit will set on the debit/GDP ratio.
4. Strict fiscal policy tools will be installed to mitigate debts and mounting interest payments that would hamper the smooth performance of the macroeconomy.
5. In a bid to maximize government tax and non-tax incomes, continuous and scientific tax reform programs will be carried based on data, information, knowledge and wisdom (DIKW)
6. Integrate monetary and fiscal policy instruments to control the two economic evils, namely inflation and unemployment and build shock resilient and stable macroeconomy.

2.9.3 Financial Institutions

Considering the indispensable role and contribution of finance and financial institutions to ensure sustainable development in Ethiopia, modern, efficient and globally competent financial system will be instituted. Efficient and up-to-date financial system has significant contribution for promoting trade and investment, creating employment opportunities, stable economic

development, poverty reduction and sustainable development. Studies have proved that the quantity and quality of the Ethiopian financial institutions are very low, with very little contribution for economic development. Considering the complex and multifaceted challenges of the Ethiopian financial institutions and with the objective of boosting the role of the financial sector for development, the following policy tools will be introduced;

1. Appropriate rules and regulations that can help to direct financial institutions channel the bulk of their credits on economic activities that can contribute towards sustainable development, balanced regional government and employment creation,
2. Incentives will be provided to financial institutions to encourage the them engage in projects and programs that ameliorate the socio-economic conditions of citizens and reduce investing on socially harmful projects.
3. Promote interest free and inclusive banking and financial system.
4. Establish modern banking and financial training institutions to produce skilled manpower that can effectively lead the Ethiopian financial institutions.
5. Appropriate legal frameworks will be instituted to enable microfinance and microinsurance institutions successfully engage in poverty alleviation projects and programs.
6. Provide support to promote rural financial institutions
7. By promoting mobile, internet banking and other innovative and modern financial services, effort will be made financial institutions more effective and efficient.
8. Necessary legal provisions will be designed to ensure the equitable distribution of financial institutions throughout the country. Policy and program support will be made to create maximize the accessibility of financial institutions to all.

3 Social Program

3.1 Education

Skilled manpower is the most crucial factor for the development and prosperity of nations. Skilled manpower, by effectively and efficiently utilizing scarce resources, helps to ensure rapid and sustainable development, stable political system based on justice and democratic values and principles. The need for skilled manpower is more pressing for countries like Ethiopia that have manifold and complex socio-economic and political challenges. Education and training are the key policy instruments to pull developing countries like Ethiopia from the abject poverty that they are in. The performance of all economic activities in the agriculture, industry and service sectors are highly dependent on skilled manpower.

Political activities and issues like good governance, free and fair election, peaceful and stable political transition, political tolerance requires, among others, skilled and civilized citizens. Building a generation that respect human rights, stand for the freedom, equality and security of humans, struggle for peace and justice, trained both physically and psychologically, endowed with love for the nation and its citizens etc depends on skilled and well-trained human resource.

Producing well trained and highly skilled manpower is a result of education and training policy which has both theoretical and practical relevance, considers the history of the Ethiopian education system, takes into account the socio-economic development level, respects the cultural values and diversity of the Ethiopian people, and compete with the international good practice educational standards.

The Ethiopian education system should be reviewed in such a way that it can produce young people who are skilled in knowledge, able to think deeply and create, have modern and scientific leadership skills, are full of good morals and sense of humanity, have love for the country and its people, and contribute to the development of themselves, their families and their country. Investment in human resource development is more productive than investment on any other activity. Education can also make an incomparable contribution to the development of the individual, the community and the nation at large.

The Ethiopian education and training sector is besieged by complex problems and challenges related with access, quality, relevance and fairness of the education system. To solve these and

other problems related to education and training and manpower development, the following programs will be implemented.

1. An education system that can enhance the capacity of students to avail the opportunities of modern technology and resolve challenges will be put in place. The education system will be redesigned to enhance the problem-solving capacity of students.
2. The Ethiopian education system will be redesigned in such a way which is as to increase our continental and international competitiveness.
3. Pre-formal, primary, general secondary, technical and vocational curriculum and teaching methods will be improved.
4. In line with the Ethiopian socio-economic development trajectory, the quality and relevance of the Ethiopian higher education system will be reviewed.
5. In a bid to promote and show reverence to teachers at all levels, special attention will be given to teachers, which are the main factors of the education system. To this end special support and incentives will be provided to teachers at all levels.
6. Starting from pre-formal education moral, ethical and civic education subjects will be part of the curriculum and will be thought to students in an integrated way.
7. Science, Technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) will be rendered special attention in the curriculum. The national curriculum will be designed in which the four subjects are taught in an integrated, considering global experience in this regard.
8. Citizens will have a minimum of ten years general education. Government will be responsible to provide this service.
9. Special attention and support will be given to students with special needs.
10. Schools will be equipped with internet and audio-visual teaching facilities, to enable them provide technology-assisted teaching capabilities and modern teaching methodology.
11. Incentives will be provided to the private sector to attract them to the education sector. Their will standardized monitoring and evaluation system that would be applicable to both private and government schools. System will be introduced to stop mal practices that discriminate and unnecessarily over burden private schools.
12. The education system will be made free from political activities so that teachers and students will solely focus on their education. In collaboration with the community and relevant government institutions, schools at all levels will be encouraged to manage their financial and administrative affairs,

13. Special budgetary and policy support will be provided to pastoralists and agro-pastoralist areas that have very low access to and poor-quality education. The special support to these areas is part of the effort to ensure equity and fair distribution of services throughout the country.
14. Maximum effort will be exerted to make the Ethiopian education system better than the sub-Saharan education standards. Accordingly, access, quality and relevance of the Ethiopian education system, at the pre-formal, primary, general secondary, technical and vocational education, and higher education will be upgraded to meet international standards.
15. Secondary schools are bridges between primary and higher education, which are very limited in supply. Accordingly, more resources will be invested to build, equip, and staff secondary schools throughout the country.
16. Considering the lifestyle of the society in different regions of the country, need based skills training that can increase the productivity of adults and directly related to the lives of adults will be provided.

"Education-driven National Development Strategy-ENDS"

Freedom and Equality Party pays the highest attention to education and human resource development. **FEP** will consider Education and training as a key sector that serves as the foundation of the overall national development, and not as a single and isolated sector. Considering the indispensable potential that education has for the development of Ethiopia, taking in to account the role of education to human civilization throughout history and after a methodical examination of the secret behind the development of many nations, **FEP** developed the policy framework known as **"Education-Driven National Development Strategy"** or simply **ENDS**.

Based on this strong belief and commitment, education and training and other human resource development programs will be the cornerstone of **FEP**'s national development philosophy and policies for many years to come. **ENDS** will serve as the main policy framework of the party in its endeavour to lift Ethiopia from its dire poverty and make it one of the middle-income countries in the shortest possible period of time and gradually to one of the rich countries. Based on this firm belief on the indispensable role of education and human resource, all government development policies and strategies will pay the highest possible attention to

human resource development and consider the education sector the cornerstone for Ethiopia's overall development and prosperity.

3.2 Health

One of the widespread social crises in our country is health problem. Ethiopia's health institutions are very backward in quantity, quality, and organization. Compared to the fast-growing population of the country, the number of public and private health facilities are very much limited which resulted in citizens not able to get adequate medical services. Added to the short supply of medical services, the distribution of health facilities is inequitable and limited to only a few large cities and regional capitals.

Shortage of health professionals, medical equipment and medicines have made the problems of the health sector more difficult and complicated. Considering these facts, **FEP** implements the following health programs to eliminate the multifaceted problems in our country's health sector and to ensure that citizens get quality health services at affordable prices.

1. The national health policy will be formulated based on a universal and comprehensive concept of health.
2. To build a healthier society, the health sector will be coordinated with other sectors that directly and indirectly contribute to the development of the health sector. These sectors include, but not limited to education, water, agriculture, poverty alleviation, finance and economy, trade and industry, road and transport, mass communication etc.
3. A preventive health care policy will be designed and put in place. The system will enable the health sector to provide appropriate and timely treatment and allow patients to quickly recover and return to their normal life in the shortest possible time.
4. Infectious diseases are a major sources of health crisis and cause of death in most parts of the country. Hence to prevent and control infectious diseases and epidemics a health strategy that allows active community participation and ensure ownership will be designed and implemented.
5. Non-communicable diseases are rampant in our country; high blood pressure, heart disease, diabetes, cancer, and other diseases are putting a lot of pressure on the health sector. For example, studies show that more than 50% of people who die in Addis Ababa are from non-communicable diseases. Taking the severity of non-communicable diseases into account, alternative strategies for the prevention and treatment of non-communicable diseases will be designed and implemented.

6. The government will provide support and encouragement to make a healthy lifestyle a community habit.
7. A community that is not mentally healthy cannot be healthy, nor can it lead a successful life. In this regard, although mental health complications are widely seen in all parts of Ethiopia, the health services provided in the field are highly inaccessible and poor in quality. Hence, mental health services will be provided to the public by integrating the service with other health services.
8. Although the maternal and child mortality rates in our country have been improving over time, Ethiopia is still one of the countries with the highest infant and maternal mortality rates. Therefore, a strategy will be developed to fully protect the health and safety of children, the youth and mothers.
9. Malnutrition is one of the main causes for various communicable and non-communicable diseases. Malnutrition accounts for half of the causes of death for children under 5 years of age in Ethiopia. Therefore, in order to improve the food and nutrition system in Ethiopia, a strategy, that integrates and links the health sector with other sectors, will be designed and implemented.
10. Harmful drugs are increasing become one of the major health risks in Ethiopia. Hence, attempt will be made to protect the health and safety of the society by introducing effective health policy to halt the consumption of harmful drugs alcoholic beverages, tobacco, and drugs.
11. The competence and ethics of health professionals play key role in providing quality health care services. Therefore, a national health curriculum based on research and considering the prevalence of diseases in the country will be formulated. In addition, regular on-job-trainings will be provided to build the capacity health professionals in a continuous manner.
12. The poor living conditions of health professionals will have a negative impact on the services they provide to the community. Therefore, various incentive packages will be designed and implemented to support the health professional.
13. The existence of vibrant health professional associations will play a crucial role in building the capacity of health professionals. It also contributes to provide better health services to the community. Accordingly, necessary support will be provided for health professionals to have strong health/medical association that would play active role in the Ethiopian health sector.
14. Government will provide support to make basic health services accessible to all sections of society.

15. Access to basic health services should be the right of every citizen. Therefore, to ensure that citizens get quality health services at an affordable price, a health insurance scheme, that considers the ability of average citizens, will be introduced. Government budget subsidy for the health sector will also be increased.
16. In order to mitigate the chronic shortage of medical and health inputs resources, support and incentives will be provided to promote the production of medicines and other health resources locally. In addition, better management systems will be put in place to modernize the management and distribution of health facilities and medical services
17. E-health and other technologies that help improve health services will be used to improve information management system and communication of health institutions, streamline, and modernize health services.
18. Study and research on health sector has a significant contribution for citizens to get better health and medical services. Therefore, system will be developed to promote research and development on health in collaboration with higher education institutions and research centers. Research outputs will be used as inputs in designing health policies.
19. Forums will be created and procedures developed to create a policy environment where government, civil society, and the private sector work together and collaborate to create a healthier society.

3.3 City and housing development

Beautiful, modern, comfortable and clean cities and environments are very important to the overall quality of life of citizens. In order for citizens to be able to carry out their social and economic activities successfully and to create a society with physical and mental health, it is necessary to build modern and liveable cities as well as construct adequate and affordable housing. The design and construction of cities and houses are a manifestation of a society's civilization and culture. Therefore, **Freedom and Equality Party** will pay maximum attention for building and managing cities convenient for living, working, education and recreation. Similarly, **FEP** will be paying very special attention to environmental protection.

3.3.1 City development

Ethiopia's urbanization rate does not exceed 20%, which is very low even compared to many sub-Saharan African countries. On the other hand, some cities, including Addis Ababa, are growing at a high rate. According to research, in 2018, there were 971 cities in Ethiopia, of which 17 cities have a population of more than 100,000 (one hundred thousand) and 803 cities

have a population of more than 2000 (two thousand). This shows that there is uneven growth of cities which leads to uneven provision of urban infrastructure and services.

Therefore, it is necessary to design an urban development program commensurate with rate of population growth and provide adequate and quality social and economic services to residents. Migration from rural areas to urban areas is one of the main factors that distort the growth of cities and prevent proportional growth. To tackle this challenge, an integrated urban and rural development policies and programs will be implemented to reduce migration from rural to urban areas.

3.3.2 Housing development

Chronic shortage of housing is one of the key social problems in Ethiopia, and due to the rapid population growth in the country, the problem is getting worse. There is wide gap between the demand for and supply of houses specially in urban areas, which has exacerbated the housing crisis in urban areas. Due to the disturbing housing problem in all areas of the country, the number of people and families living in slums, poverty and homelessness is very high. It is also a bitter fact that large number of people live on the streets in different towns and cities.

The following reasons are considered the major causes of the housing problem in Ethiopia.

- Improper land administration and the resulting low supply of land for housing;
- Lack of sufficient finance for housing;
- Illegal land acquisition by irresponsible land traders and government officials;
- Land speculation which allows large amount of urban land remain idle and unproductive in the hands of greedy land speculators.
- Widespread corruption and lawlessness related to land management;
- Lack of affordable housing standards and clear housing development policy.

To address these and other multifaceted housing problems in Ethiopia, the following programs will be implemented.

1. Access to housing will be considered as a basic human right, and, hence, policies and programs will be designed to this end.
2. Government allocates huge resources for housing development.
3. Provide incentives to encourages private investors to participate in housing construction;
4. Government will facilitate long term and affordable loans for citizens who want to build/buy a house.

5. Residential areas will be provided with adequate and convenient social and economic services.
6. Appropriate policies and programs will be designed and put in place to promote low cost and technologically viable houses,
7. In partnership with stakeholders of the housing industry, forums will be prepared to promote research and get international experiences on effective and efficient housing development programs.

3.4 The youth

More than half of Ethiopia's population are young. The youth are the basis and assurance for the country's overall development and determine the fate and future of our country. The unity, peace and prosperity of our country is determined by the attention the nation gives to its youth today, the work we do to develop the youth and the wealth we invest on the young generation. Young people have the potential to critically think and work, strong passion and zeal, courage, and risk-taking behaviour. A wise youth policy could unleash the huge potential of the Ethiopian youth for development.

In the Ethiopian political history, the youth have paid huge price and done a great service to the country by fighting dictatorial and corrupt regimes. The role of the Ethiopian youth in socio-economic development, both in the rural and urban areas, agricultural, industrial and service sectors is immense. On the other hand, a large number of the youth in Ethiopia are unemployed and hence exposed to multiple social and economic problems. In order to deal with the multifaceted and intertwined socio-economic predicaments of the youth, and create a conducive environment and fertile ground for the youth to play an active role in the development and prosperity of our country, **Freedom and Equality Party** will introduce the following policy directions.

1. Various policies and programs will be designed and implemented to create job opportunities for the youth.
2. Enabling environment will be created for the youth to have real and meaningful participation and impact in the sustainable development, building peace and democratic political system in Ethiopia.
3. In a bid to build physically and psychologically fit generation of youth and protect them from harmful habits, government will allot sufficient resources to construct sports and recreational facilities.

4. Administrative and political support will be provided to the youth to help them get organized and collectively struggle for the realization of their social, economic and political rights.
5. Government will allocate sufficient resources to help the youth have access to quality education and skills training, and develop their research and creative potential. The federal and regional governments will provide library and other services to help the youth acquire reading culture.
6. The youth of today are teachers, scientists, doctors, policemen, soldiers, entrepreneurs and investors, researchers, politicians and public administrators, artists etc of tomorrow. Therefore, considering the strong bond and linkage between youth development and national development, high policy attention will be given and sufficient resources will be invested on the youth.
7. In order to mitigate the risk and vulnerability of the youth to diseases and raise their awareness, youth health care and support programs will be developed. Similarly, adequate counselling services will be provided to the youth to increase their gender and reproductive awareness.
8. Different platforms will be organized to support the youth in different regions and with diverse cultural background, to get to know and better understand each other, share their experiences and breed multiculturalism.
9. Young people will be given support to inculcate love for the country and its people, and equip them to protect themselves and the nation from harmful foreign cultures.

3.5 Women and children

In Ethiopia and other countries as well, women and children are deprived of their social, economic, and political rights due to various harmful practices and ideas. The right of women and children are part and parcel of the general human rights and, as such, considered as two sides of the same coin. In a country where the rights of women and children are not respected, the understanding and implementation of human rights cannot be complete. Even the so-called developed countries, with advanced science and technology, and are said to have better human rights records have a poor performance in protecting the rights of women and children. In countries like Ethiopia women are vulnerable to different forms of social and economic oppressions including, but not limited to, sexual violence and harassment. Similarly young children are vulnerable to the worst forms of child labor and abuse.

Women play the biggest role in building generations equipped with knowledge and good manners. As such women should be given very special attention and care as mothers, sisters and children, and should be given appropriate legal protection to guard them from customs, harmful practices that is against their human, social and economic rights.

In the same way children, which are the country's future and hope, need special policy attention. The country needs to invest more on children to make them physically, intellectually, morally, and psychologically. Only such children can play a positive role in the society and shoulder the responsibility to build a strong nation in the future.

Freedom and Equality Party plays special attention to ensure that the social, economic and political interests of women and children, who are more than half of our country's population, are respected and protected. **FEP** will put in place legal and administrative procedures to protect women and children from any kind of discrimination, sexual violence, and child labor.

FEP will work tirelessly to develop and implement integrated policy and operational systems to reduce and eliminate the multifaceted pressures and challenges that have been rooted in laws, policies, customs, traditions and ideas on women and children for centuries. **FEP** believes that change in societal attitude and thinking with respect to women and children is the most important element in order to protect the rights and interests of women and children. With this in mind, **FEP** and with the goal of creating a better environment for women and children in Ethiopia, **FEP** will put in place the following policy directions viz a viz women and children.

Issues that concern both women and children

1. National as well as continental and international laws and conventions on women and children will be implemented in a way that fully guaranties the rights of women and children
2. Laws, regulations, and directives issued by both the central and regional government bodies will be revised to respect and uphold the rights and interests of women and children.
3. **FEP** will exert effort to change harmful habits, practices and attitudes towards women and children and promote attitudinal change with respect to women and children.
4. Policies and Programs will be implemented to ensure equitable social and economic benefits for women and children.
5. Legal and administrative frameworks will be put in place to stop sexual violence and harassment against women and children, which are illegal and immoral.

Policies specifically related to women

1. Appropriate policies and procedures will be implemented to promote women's participation in education and reduce women's drop out. Special incentives will be provided to this end.
2. Legal framework and procedures will be designed to help women have access to equal employment opportunities in government, private, non-governmental and international organizations. Similarly, necessary legal frameworks will be prepared to ensure women's right to produce, manage, use and transfer property.
3. Women are provided with adequate maternity leave with full pay, as well as additional leave without pay;
4. Support will be provided to government, the private sector, and charitable organizations to promote **single-sex-schools** to help girls at different levels of education attend their education diligently and protect them from potential sexual harassment.
5. Sexual interactions, customs and traditions that defile the human dignity of women and defy generally accepted gender discipline of the Ethiopian culture will be strictly scrutinized.
6. Sufficient attention will be given to gender in the Ethiopia school curricula from pre-school to higher education. Educational materials and contents that may cause sexual discrimination will be reviewed or eliminated.
7. Special support will be provided to women to help them organize various women's associations, research institutes, etc. which can serve as an instrument for the protection of women's rights and interests.
8. Women's day, Mother's Day and Sister's Day will be officially celebrated nationally. Appropriate laws and procedures will be put in place to fight stereotype by citizens and stakeholders against women.
9. Special attention will be given to rural women to introduce policies and programs that aim to ease the heavy load, mitigate social and economic pressure of the rural woman, and ensure her rights as a human being are respected.
10. Conducive policy environment will be created for women to use their natural skills and inclinations in promoting peace, tolerance, sisterhood/brotherhood. In this regard women will be promoted to participate in conflict resolution and reconciliation activities and favorable conditions will be created for them to play a key role in peace building.

Policies specifically related to children

1. To help children grow in an environment that ensures their psychological and physical safety and live happy, coordinated child support and care programs will be put in place.

2. The future of our children is dependent, more than anything else, on the education and knowledge we provide them today. Hence system will be put in place to enable children, living in urban or rural areas, to have access to quality educational.
3. Child health program will be given maximum attention to help children live a health life. Affective and efficient programs and strategies will be implemented to help children receive adequate and timely vaccinations against various diseases.
4. The Ethiopian state will give the highest level of attention to avoid the vulnerability of children to any kind of disaster, man-made or natural. In the unfortunate incidence of calamity very special care and support will be provided to children.
5. To help a healthy physical and psychological development of children, quality and sufficient play grounds and recreational areas will be developed in every residential quarter, throughout the country.
6. Strict legal system will be developed to mitigate vulnerability of children to child labor. Similarly firm legal system will be put in place to control illicit entities engaged in such illegal activities.
7. To promote and facilitate strong relation and interaction among children from different regions and cultural backgrounds, system will be developed for the establishment of children coalitions and child parliament. Such platforms are expected to help children be acquainted with basic national issues and better understand each other
8. Special support and care will be provided to children with special need. Appropriate educational programs will be prepared for children with intellectual disability (ID).
9. Legal framework and efficient procedures will be put in place to ensure children get birth certificate and other vital services. Effort will also be exerted to create awareness in this regard.
10. A procedure will be developed for preschool children to receive early preschool education services in their neighborhood.

3.6 Religion

Religion plays an indispensable role in building ethically and morally upright society. Religions play an irreplaceable role in creating a physically and mentally strong society. Various studies on community development and well-being indicate that balanced material and spiritual development, based on correct knowledge, play a significant role in building a healthy society. Considering the high value that Ethiopians attach to religion and religious values, as

well as bearing in mind the scientifically proven facts that religion contributes for the development of health society, **FEP** follows the following policy directions regarding religion.

1. All religions are equal, there will not be government laws, practices, and traditions that, directly or indirectly, differentiate one religion from another or segregate the adherents of one religion from that of another religion.
2. Government and religion will be different. Government does not interfere in the internal affairs of religious institutions, and similarly religious institutions do not interfere in the internal affairs of state institutions. Notwithstanding this provision, government and religious institutions can work in cooperation and coordination for the realization of common agendas.
3. Citizens enjoy full freedom to follow and spread whatever religious faith they want, there is no compulsion in religion.
4. The followers of the same religion have the freedom to build their religious institutions in their neighborhood. Government may provide land for building places of worship and religious situations.
5. The rights of religious minorities in a certain locality, in the midst of religious majority of another will be respected to promote their faith, build their religious institutions and places of worship, educate members of their religion, etc.
6. Conducive environment will be created to promote the culture of tolerance among adherents of different religions, foster the culture of mutual respect among members of different religions and strengthen the relationship between different faiths.
7. There will be no bureaucratic, legal, media or political activities that will make followers of a particular religion feel ashamed or afraid because of their religious background. Their will neither be ill-treat or persecution of citizens on the ground of religious background.
8. We believe that the fundamental messages of all religions are peace, love, humanity, and brotherhood. Based on this belief, there will be no attitude or practice that directly or indirectly link any religion to terrorism and consider as a threat to security.
9. A system will be put in place to enable religious scholars and religious institutions to play their part for the peace and stability of the country as well as for the ensure sustainable development in the country.

3.7 Sports

1. Appropriate policy attention and support will be given to make sports play important role in the community in creating physically and psychologically trained citizens.

2. Projects will be designed and implemented to make citizens have a passion for sports.
3. Curriculum will be revised to make schools the breeding ground of sportsmen. Likewise, support will be given to schools and will be equipped with necessary sports materials and will be conducive environment for sportive activities.
4. In a bid to develop and promote Ethiopian traditional sports regional and national sport tournaments will be organized. Similarly, effort will be exerted to make Ethiopia traditional sports are recognized in the African and international sport arena. Relevant regional and federal government authorities will be charged to get these programs executed.
5. policy framework will be put in place to integrate sport with community health and with health sector.
6. Sports venues will be expanded and given proper attention in urban planning. The private sector and non-governmental organizations will be supported and encouraged to participate in the establishment of sports venues.
7. Workable strategy will be designed to make sport tournaments contribute to peace, solidarity, social interaction, building bridges of love and unity among communities
8. Programs will be implemented to promote and ensure that the culture of sport is spread in all regions of the country. And, accordingly, support will be provided to areas with low performance in sports.
9. Special support will be given to sport activities which Ethiopia has better record and international recognition.
10. Sports federations will be given the freedom and organization to operate independently.

3.8 Environmental Protection

The importance of environmental protection for sustainable development is gaining international recognition and support and has now become an important policy agenda. The spread of desertification, environmental pollution, soil erosion, depletion of forests, reduction of the water level of rivers and lakes, etc., has posed serious threat to human well-being by reducing agricultural production and productivity. Polluted smoke and chemicals released into the atmosphere by the industrialized countries account the largest share for the global environmental degradation. Likewise poor public awareness and weak policy framework regarding environmental protection has significantly contributed to the expansion of the problem in the developing world.

In Ethiopia, environmental pollution and depletion of forests has become a national threat. Lack of government attention and low public awareness, combined with the dire poverty, has

aggravated the problem. **FEP** understands the vital importance of environmental protection and its contribution for economic development and national security. Hence, **FEP** pays great attention to environmental protection and related agendas. In order to build a green economy in Ethiopia that provides adequate policy support for natural resources and climate protection, **FEP** implements the following environmental protection and conservation programs.

1. An environmental protection policy based on wider public participation will be formulated. A strong institution framework to ensure the successful implementation of the policy will be established both the federal and regional governments.
2. Government will be responsible and accountable to help citizens live in a pollution-free and healthy environment. Large scale awareness creation programs will be implemented in cooperation with various stakeholders to raise public awareness on environmental, I.
3. The country's economic policy and economic growth will be designed in such a way as to prevent environmental pollution. Strict environment management system will be installed to monitor manufacturing industries not pollute the atmosphere.
4. Support will be provided for the creation of large scale and green areas.
5. To curb deforestation an integrated system will be developed to promote the use of alternative energy sources.
6. Support will be given to promote recycling technology.
7. Strict legal framework will be enforced to ensure that construction projects are environmental and social friendly.

4 International relations

4.1 Principles of foreign relations

The main goal of **FEP**'s foreign policy and strategy is to compliment domestic effort to achieve the economic, political, and social development plans of the country. **FEP** will implement foreign policy and programs to better protect our national interests by considering the geo-political and geo-strategic realities of our country and by considering the ever-changing events of diplomacy and foreign relations in the Horn of Africa, other African countries, the Middle East, Europe, and the Americas.

Considering the long-term relations of Ethiopia with neighboring countries, concerted efforts will be made to build strong economic, political and cultural relations with our neighbors based on the principle of mutual respect, non-interference and peaceful coexistence. Along with our strong commitment as a country to mitigate and eradicate the abject poverty and backwardness far-flung in the Horn of Africa region, **FEP** will also pursue a policy to work together on cross-border problems, threats, and challenges. This collaborative foreign policy instruments emanate from our strong commitment and belief in the importance of working with neighboring countries for common good. **FEP**'s foreign policy includes the following instruments.

1. The **raison d'être** of our foreign policy is to protect the needs and interests of our country and its citizens. Hence any of our foreign policy tools and actions will informed by this fundamental fact.
2. We believe that a successful foreign policy must first serve the peace and security of our country, which is determined by the peace and security dynamics of the region, which is no less significant than domestic affairs. Therefore, ensuring peace and security in the neighborhood will be as important as peace and security in Ethiopia.
3. Just as we do not allow other countries to interfere in our internal affairs, we will not interfere in the internal affairs of other countries. Noninterference is one of the basic principles of our foreign relation policy.
4. Non state actors will be part and parcel of our foreign policy infrastructure. Hence, relevant stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations and civic associations, media institutions, representatives of the business community, policy research institutes, community representatives, members of the diaspora will be involved in the formulation and execution of our foreign affairs policy.

5. In order to run a successful foreign policy, rigorous research and analysis will be done on issues related to international relations that bears in mind regional, continental, and global changes. Sufficient manpower and resources will be allocated for this task.
6. As Ethiopia is the seat of the African Union and other international and continental institutions, efforts will be made to build strong partnership and collaboration with these institutions for the realization of mutual interest and objectives.
7. The ability and motivation of our diplomats plays a major role in making our country's foreign policy successful. Therefore, the recruitment and placement of diplomats, delegations and diplomatic staff will be based on merit, capacity, and motivation.
8. Policies and procedures will be developed
9. To enable the Ethiopian diaspora actively participate in national affairs and facilitate the significant contribution they can make to Ethiopia's overall development, **FEP** will enforce appropriate legal framework to this end.

4.2 Relations with neighbouring countries

We have long-term and close social, economic, political, and diplomatic relations with our neighboring countries. Although contradictions and conflicts have occurred with some of the neighboring countries at various times and for different reasons, we believe that it is possible to establish good relations with our neighbors and further enrich the existing bilateral and multilateral relations. In order to achieve our national short and long-term interests and needs, our relationship with neighboring countries is of paramount importance, and hence we will give special attention to it. Our relations with neighboring countries will be based on the principle of mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries.

We are committed to work with our neighbors with a sense of responsibility to make bilateral and multilateral agreements and cooperation platforms on various pertinent issues in order to jointly use good opportunities and prevent threats. Compared to countries in the Horn of Africa, Ethiopia is the largest country in terms of economy, size, and population. By making use of our potentials and natural endowments and working hand in hand with our neighbors we will design programs and do our best to improve the living standards of our people and the people of neighboring countries. Policy frameworks to work with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the East African Community and other similar sub-continental institutions will be formulated and implemented.

4.3 Relations with African Union (AU) and member countries

1. We will strongly support and promote the establishment of the African continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) by using Ethiopia's influence on the African Union. Similarly proactive policies and strategies will be put in place to ensure that Ethiopia benefit from the continental free trade arrangement.
2. In order to ensure our fair share from the Nile River and accelerate Ethiopia's development using the waters of the Nile, we will introduce a hydro-politics in collaboration with our partners in the Nile basin.
3. In cooperation with the IGAD and other sub-continental organizations, we will work to ensure peace and security in our region.
4. By providing strong support for the realization of the economic, political and cultural integration of Africa, under the auspicious of the African Union, we will put more effort to see Ethiopia get its fair share from the continental integration scheme.
5. The contribution of a sea gate to the sustainable development of a country is significant. Keeping this fact in mind, efforts will be made to build strategic partnerships with all neighboring countries to ensure alternative port services without interruption.

4.4 Relations with other countries and international organizations

Based on the current situation in the world and the geo-political situation of our country, very special attention will be attached to our relations with powerful countries that have significant economic, diplomatic, military, technological and political influence on the global arena. We will pursue a balanced approach in our relation with superpowers with different ideological orientation. Safeguarding and promoting our national interests will be the bases for our relation with these countries.

Hence, our diplomatic relations with the US, European Union, China, the Middle East and the Far East countries will be shaped and implemented in a way that takes into account our historical relationship with the individual country and also considering our economic, political and cultural cooperation. Similarly, our relationship with the United Nations and other international organizations will be founded on the principle of mutual respect and safeguarding national sovereignty. Relations with these institutions will also be designed in such a way that facilitates to our country to contribute to the global peace and development.