

## CURRICULUM VITAE

### PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: Meskerem Geset Techane (Ms.)  
Nationality: Ethiopian  
Current Occupation: Doctoral Fellow, Human Rights Center, University of Padova, Italy  
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### EDUCATION

- PhD Candidate Joint International PhD in Human Rights and Multi-Level Governance, *University of Padova, Italy*
- Diploma Advanced Course on Economic and Social Rights, *Abo Akademi, Finland*  
November 2016
- Master of Laws (LL.M) Human Rights and Democratisation in Africa, *University of Pretoria, South Africa*  
December 2012
- Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) *Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia*  
July 2002

### PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

- Admission as an Attorney of the Federal Courts of Ethiopia November 2006

### OVERVIEW OF WORK EXPERIENCE

- Doctoral Research Fellow: Human Rights Center, University of Padova, Padua, Italy, November 2015 – Present
- Independent human rights consultant: October 2014 - present
- Deputy Executive Director: Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa, June 2012 – September 2014
- Research Fellow: Amnesty International Mauritius, August - December 2011
- Consultant & Attorney at Law: Meskerem & Associates Consultancy and Law Office, January 2007 – June 2012

- Project Manager: Women’s Rights, Good Governance, Human Rights Capacity Building and Advocacy: Organization for Social Justice in Ethiopia (OSJE), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, August 2006 – December 2006.
- National Expert/Lecturer in Law at the Public Service College of Oromia (Ziway, Ethiopia): United Nations Development Programme, August 2004-April 2006
- Lecturer in Law: St. Mary’s University College, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, September 2003-August 2004
- Judge: Western Gojam Zone High Court, Amhara Regional State, Bahir Dar, Ethiopia, August 2002– September 2003

## **SELECTED EXPERINECES**

### **Human Rights Bodies:**

- Africa Region Coordinator, UN Global Study on Good Practices in Eliminating Discrimination Against Women, UN Working Group on Elimination of Discrimination in Law and Practice, June 2016- June 2017
- Collaboration with the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women in Africa (African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights), July 2012- Sept 2014
- Collaboration with the African Commission Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Migrants on the ‘Rights to a Nationality’ project (as a member of a Task Force on the Right to a Nationality in Africa) October 2013- Sept 2014
- Member of the African Commission Working Group on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, July 2012- Sept 2014
- Member of the African Commission Study Group on Freedom of Association and Assembly, August 2012- Sept 2014
- Member & co-ordinator of the Working Group tasked to develop the Draft Revised Rules of Procedure and the Draft Revised Communications Procedure of the African Child Rights Committee, 2013
- National Human Rights Institutions Focal Point for the African Court Coalition, July 2015- September 2014
- Member of the Working Group for developing a CSOs report to the CEDAW Committee, Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association, 2010
- Member of stakeholder consultative group for reviewing CSOs reports to the UN Human Rights Committee under the ICCPR, OHCHR, 2010

### **Advocacy/Litigation:**

- Initiated, participated in and coordinated human rights advocacy and litigation projects (child rights, women’s rights & gender justice, freedom of association, social and economic rights, discrimination, citizenship rights, etc.), IHRDA, 2012-2014

- Facilitated and participated in several advocacy and legal reform projects on the rights of women and children, Ethiopian Women Lawyer's Association & the African Child Policy Forum, 2007 - 2010
- Women's rights litigation and advocacy, Women's Legal Aid Center, Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association , 2008-2010
- Child rights litigation and advocacy, Children's Legal Aid Center, African Child Policy Forum, 2009 -2010

### **Management:**

- Member of the senior management team, directed the programs, deputized the Executive Director, worked closely with Executive Committees and Governing Board at the Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa, 2012-2014
- Served as a member of the Board of Directors and Chair of the Fundraising Committee of the Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association, 2008-2011
- Managed different human rights and women's rights projects with local NGOs in Ethiopia, 2006-2008
- Worked as Head of Law Department and a member of the Academic Senate at the Oromia Public Service College, Ethiopia, 2004-2006
- Worked as Vice/Acting Law Department Head at St. Mary's University College, Ethiopia, 2003-2004

## **SELECTED LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS**

### **Academic lectures/presentations:**

- Presentation, '*Economic Rights of Women and Gender Equality in Africa*' International Conference on Law and Development Research, University of Antwerp, (forthcoming) September 2017
- Guest Lecture, '*Gender Equality and the SDGs*' Geneva Academy, July 2017
- Guest Lecture, '*Gender Equality, Women, and Economic and Social Rights in the African System*' Geneva Academy, July 2017
- Guest Lecture, '*Monitoring Economic and Social Rights, and the SDGs: Role of NHRIs*' Geneva Academy, July 2017
- Presentation 'Good Practices on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women in Africa' side event convened at the Human Rights Council 35<sup>th</sup> Session, Geneva, June 2017
- Guest Lecture, '*CEDAW and Beyond: A comparative look at the CEDAW and the African Women's Rights Protocol*' University of Padova, April 2017
- Guest Lecture, '*Women's Rights under the African Human Rights System*' University of Mauritius, March 2017

- Presentation, *'An Agenda 2030 for NHRIs: Interweaving Economic and Social Rights Accountability and SDGs implementation'*, International Conference on the Anniversary of the Two Covenants, University of Padova, December 2016
- Public Lecture, *'National Human Rights Institutions: The New Monitors of Economic and Social Rights?'* University of Lund, November 2016
- Guest Lecture, *'CEDAW and Beyond: A closer look at the African Women's Rights Protocol'* University of Toronto, August 2016 & University of Oslo, October 2016
- Presentation, *'Gender Discrimination and Women's Political Participation in Africa'*, International Conference on International Cultural Diplomacy, Institute for Cultural Diplomacy, Berlin, May 2013

### **Training lectures/facilitation:**

- *'The Rights of Migrants under International Law and the African Human Rights System'* Multi-stakeholders training seminar hosted by IOM, Djibouti, August 2015
- *'Utilizing the international and African human rights mechanisms'*, Training seminar for East African Lawyers, hosted by UNOHCHR, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, May 2013,
- *'Litigating women's rights before African human rights bodies'* Litigation seminar for Francophone African Lawyers, convened by Equality Now & IHRDA, Abidjan, Ivory Coast, November 2013
- *'Litigating women's rights before African human rights bodies'*, Litigation seminar for Anglophone African lawyers, convened by Equality Now & IHRDA, Nairobi, Kenya, August 2013
- *'Litigating Economic and Social Rights, and Child Rights before African Human Rights Bodies'*, Litigation seminar, hosted Eye of the Child & IHRDA, Lilongwe, Malawi, September 2012
- *'Women's Rights, Gender, and Gender Based Discrimination and Violence'*, Advanced training series for women activists, organised by the Norwegian People's Aid, August & October 2010, Addis Ababa Ethiopia
- *'Women's Rights and Gender Based Violence'*, Intensive training course for justice professionals, hosted by International Rescue Committee (IRC), February 2010, Assosa Ethiopia
- *'Human Rights and Policing Standards'*, training course on 'Police and Human Rights', hosted by UNOHCHR in Bahir Dar & Gambela, Ethiopia, September 2009 & August 2010; hosted by the African Initiative for Democracy and World Order (AIDWO), Addis Ababa & Dire Dawa, Ethiopia, July-August 2006,
- *'Sexual and Gender Based Violence'*, Advanced training course for justice professionals and officers of refugee protection organizations, hosted by the UNHCR in Ethiopia (Assosa, Gambela, Jijiga & Shire) July 2008 – September 2009

- *'Child Rights: Violence Against Children and Justice for Children'*, Intensive training course for judges, prosecutors and police officers, hosted by African Child Policy Forum in Ethiopia (Adama, Addis Ababa & Jimma) September – November 2007
- *'Join Hands to stop Domestic Violence'*, national training of trainers courses and justice sector practitioners training courses convened by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association (EWLA), Adama, Bahir Dar, & Hawassa, Ethiopia, October- November 2007
- *'Litigating domestic violence cases and the handling of victim clients'*, advanced training course for practicing lawyers, convened by EWLA, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, September 2007
- *'Human Rights, Women's Rights, Democracy and Good Governance'* executive training organised by Kembata Women's Association for members of the judiciary, the police, public prosecutors, Women's Affairs officials and other executive officials of the Southern Regional State of Ethiopia, March 2007 - July 2007, Durame & Hawassa, Ethiopia
- *'Women's Rights, and Sexual and Gender Based Violence'* executive training for members of the judiciary, the police, public prosecutor and other executive officials in different cities of Ethiopia organised by UNICEF and EWLA, February 2007, Addis Ababa, Debre Birhan, & Desse, Ethiopia
- *'Harmful Traditional Practices, Violence against Children, and Gender Based Violence'*, trainings of trainers course for community leaders and Women's Affairs & Social Affairs officials convened by the African Network for the Protection and Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, (ANPPCAN) February 2007, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

## SELECTED WRITINGS

### Publications:

- Gender discrimination and changing trends in Africa: An assessment of laws, policies and practices affecting women's economic equality' (Padova University Press, forthcoming)
- The Impact of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa in Mauritius' in V Ayeni (ed.) *The Impact of the African Charter and the Maputo Protocol in selected African Countries* (PULP, 2016)
- 'The Impact of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Ethiopia' in V Ayeni (ed.) *The Impact of the African Charter and the Maputo Protocol in selected African Countries*, (PULP, 2016)
- The Impact of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa in Mauritius (PULP, 2012)

### Research papers:

- *'Good Practices towards elimination of discrimination against women in Africa'* February 2017, Women's Human Rights Education Institute, University of Toronto
- *'A Gender Analysis of the Community Policing Service in Amhara and Benishangul Gumuz Regions in Ethiopia'* June 2012, Canadian International Development Agency-CIDA

- *'A Situational Analysis of Gender Based Violence within the Refugee Context'* (co-researcher), September 2007, International Rescue Committee
- *'An Evaluation Study of the Juvenile Justice Project of the Federal Supreme Court of Ethiopia'*, July 2007, Save the Children Norway
- *'An Assessment study of the Traditional Dispute Settlement Mechanisms and their Impacts on Women's Rights in Kamashi Zone, Benishangul Gumuz Regional State of Ethiopia'* (co-researcher), December 2006, Organization for Social Justice in Ethiopia\

### **Current Research Projects:**

- Commentary on the African Women's Rights Protocol
- National Human Rights Institutions and Economic and Social Rights Accountability

### **Training Materials:**

- Justice professionals training manual on *'Gender based violence and the legal response under the Ethiopian Law'* (2010, International Rescue Committee)
- *'Justice For Children'* in-service training module, pre-service training module, trainer's manuals (2009 & 2010, UNICEF)
- Justice professionals training manual on *'Evidence, Investigation and Prosecution of cases of Violence against Women'* (2009, UNHCR)
- A training manual on *'Sexual and Gender Based Violence'* (2008, UNHCR )
- Visual & audio training materials for *Sexual and Gender Based Training* (2008, UNHCR)
- Justice professionals training manual on *'Child Rights: Violence against Children and Criminal Justice for Children'* (2007, The African Child Policy Forum)
- A paralegals training manual on *'The Rights of Women'* (January 2007, OSJE)
- A training module on *'The Function, Jurisdiction and Procedures of Social Courts'* (November 2006, OSJE)
- Community Activists training manual on *'Gender Based Violence and Women's Rights'* (October 2006, OSJE)

### **Course Text Books:**

- *Gender and the Law*, 2010, St. Mary's University College, Ethiopia
- *Criminal /Penal Law*, 2006, St. Mary's University College, Ethiopia
- *Law of Extra Contractual Liability*, 2005, Public Service College, Ethiopia

### **SELECTED SHORT COURSES ATTENDED**

- Human Rights Research Methods, University of Copenhagen, November 2016
- Advanced Course on Women's Human Rights, University of Toronto, August 2016

- Human Rights Litigation, Central European University, July 2012
- Project Management, Center for Human Rights, University of Pretoria, May 2011

### **VISITING SCHOLAR PROGRAMS**

- Western Sydney University, Australia, December 2017 (forthcoming)
- Geneva Academy, Switzerland, June – July 2017
- Abo Akademi, Finland, December 2016
- University of Oslo, Norway, Sept – October 2016
- University of Toronto, Canada, July – August 2016

### **AWARDS**

- Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association Prize for remarkable contribution, 2015
- Action Professional Association for the People award for outstanding *pro bono* legal service 2010

### **LANGUAGE SKILLS**

- Amharic (Ethiopian Language) – native
- English – proficient
- French – basic communication

### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP OR AFFILIATION**

- Association for Women’s Rights in Development (AWID).
- Center for Human Rights, University of Pretoria
- Ethiopian Bar Association
- Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association (EWLA)
- Law and Development Research Group, University of Antwerp
- Pan African Lawyers Union (PALU)
- Women's Human Rights Education Institute, University of Toronto