

Assessment of Self-Determination and Peasants' Land Rights in the Context of Ethiopian Federal System: Post-2018 Ethiopian Administration in Focus

Habtamu Semahagne (Ethiopia)

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SUMMARY

The right to self-determination is one of the core rights under international, regional and national legal instruments. The right is keenly related to the protection of the cultural, religious, linguistic, economic and right to participation of individuals and groups. Given that land is a vital resource, secured land rights play crucial role in realizing the right to self-determination. Oriented with ethnic-based federal system, Ethiopia gives recognition to ethnic diversity and aims to accommodate diversity through the right to self-determination. The right to self-determination and the place to control and regulate on land is an important part of the process. Due to fragile accommodation of federalism, self-determination and land rights, the full realization of the right to self-determination is at stake. Regional laws and constitutions are designed in a way to exclude 'late comers' from land rights by vesting the lands to belong to 'original settlers'. All these undermine local level participation and land rights of citizens; violate the constitutional policy of land ownership and egalitarian access to land; and led to ill exercise of self-determination among states. The paper is based on positivist legal methodology where an in-depth consideration is given to relevant laws and policies with necessary benchmarks carried out. Analysis is made to relevant laws and the literature to the bearing of the paper's scope. The author's prior academic, research and teaching background have been befitting. The paper calls for adequate legal, policy, constitutional and institutional responses to create balance between federalism, land rights and self-determination in the context of peasants' land rights.

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