

and to support multilateral organizations and NGOs working in Eritrea."

Ethiopia was given a mandate to govern Eritrea as a Province by the UN following the Second World War. After being annexed by Ethiopia in 1961, Eritrea began its struggle for independence. In 1991, a coalition of rebel movements, including the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF), defeated the Ethiopian army of then-President Mengistu. The coalition, including those parties now forming the Transitional Government of Ethiopia (TGE), adopted a charter that recognized Eritrea's right to self-determination. The Provisional Government of Eritrea (PGE) was formed to govern the de facto state of Eritrea. One of the PGE's first steps in the transition to independence was to schedule an internationally monitored referendum in 1993 in which Eritreans would be allowed to confirm democratically their desire for statehood.

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