

governments; family planning is encouraged, and an active campaign to promote women's rights exists through government policy and NGOs.

Child employment under age 14 is prohibited, though exceptions, e.g. animal herders and street vendors, abound. A disturbing new phenomenon associated with rural-urban migration, unemployment and the relaxation of social control since the fall of the Dergue is increased and more visible prostitution. Swedish 'Save the Children' estimates that 50,000 girls are involved in prostitution in the capital, and the number is growing.

A National Electoral Commission has been established. Constituent assembly elections held in June to ratify a draft constitution were deemed to be largely 'free and fair', even though most opposition groups, citing government harassment and inadequate preparation time, did not participate. National legislative elections are expected in May/June 1995.

### CANADIAN POSITION

Over the past year, Canada has continued to make representations at the highest levels of the TGE and opposition groups to encourage the peaceful negotiation of differences and participation in good faith in the nascent democratic process. As chair of the "Donor Group" in Addis Ababa, Canada's ambassador has consistently emphasized to the National Elections Board of Ethiopia its responsibility to create conditions for free and fair elections. The Canadian Embassy joined others in observing the Constituent Assembly elections of June 5, 1994.

Canada has also made representations to the TGE on behalf of opposition figures detained without trial; students arrested for demonstrating; the private press; and various detained individuals.

In support of developing the rule of law, Canada has provided financial assistance to the work of the Special Prosecutor's Office and the Public Defender's Office. Along with other donors, Canada provided assistance to the National Elections Board (through the UNDP) for the conduct of Constituent Assembly elections. Through CIDA's Democratic Development and Good Governance Fund, additional assistance will be provided over the coming year to help Ethiopians establish a successful constitutional democracy and civil society.