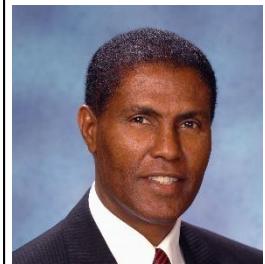




# **Initiatives of Change**

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## **Eritrean National Council for Democratic Change: Reconciliation, Dialog and Coordination**



Organized by Eritrean Education and  
Publication Trust, London, UK

**Dr. Mohammed Beshir**

August 22, 2019



# Discussion Overview

- The Eritrean Political Landscape
- Connecting the dots...  
Bringing change through political, civic and national movements
- ENCDC 2<sup>nd</sup> National Congress and RDC
- The Eritrean Sinit Study Group
- The Yakil Movement
- Conclusions

# The Eritrean Political Landscape

# Eritrean Political Landscape



## 1. Unrelenting oppression and economic hardship

- Indefinite national service
- No constitution
- No justice
- No rule of law
- No democracy
- No freedom of movement
- No freedom of press
- No freedom of religion
- No economic freedom
- No peace
- No human rights – violation of all 30 UN-UDHR

# Eritrean Political Landscape



# Eritrean Political Landscape



1. **Unrelenting oppression and economic hardship**
2. Eritrean youth exudes and refugee problems
3. War in Yemen and the geopolitics of the Red Sea
4. So-called Ethiopia-Eritrea peace agreement and the associated uncertainties
5. Eritrean human-rights issues and the UNHRC
6. Regional economic integration and free-trade agreements
7. **Political changes in the Sudan**
8. Opposition politics and movements in the diaspora

# Eritrean Political Landscape



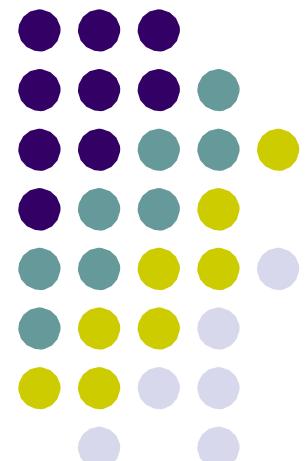
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# Opposition Politics and Movements in the Diaspora

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**Connecting the dots...  
Bringing change through  
political, civic and national  
movements**



# Connecting the dots...

## Bringing change through political, civic and national movements

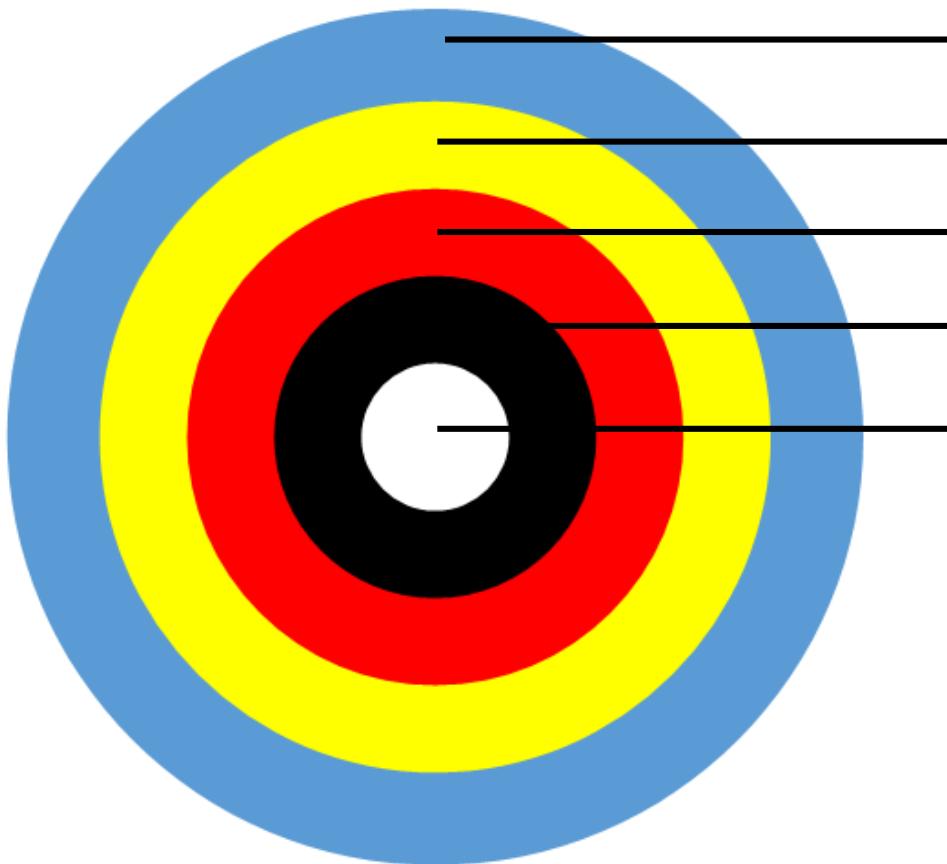


1. In this critical hours of Eritrea's political situation, it is unacceptable and inexcusable to stay in the sideline.
2. It is an obligation of every Eritrean to get involved in trying to make some positive change in the condition of Eritreans in and outside Eritrea.
3. It is important to have a clear understand on how to be effective in your involvement; should it be directly through political parties, civic organizations or public engagements?
4. What are the differences, and is it important to know how to be involved? (ex. Bayto, Sinit Studies, and Yakil movement)

# Connecting the Dots...



## The Five Distinct Roles of a Democratic System of Government

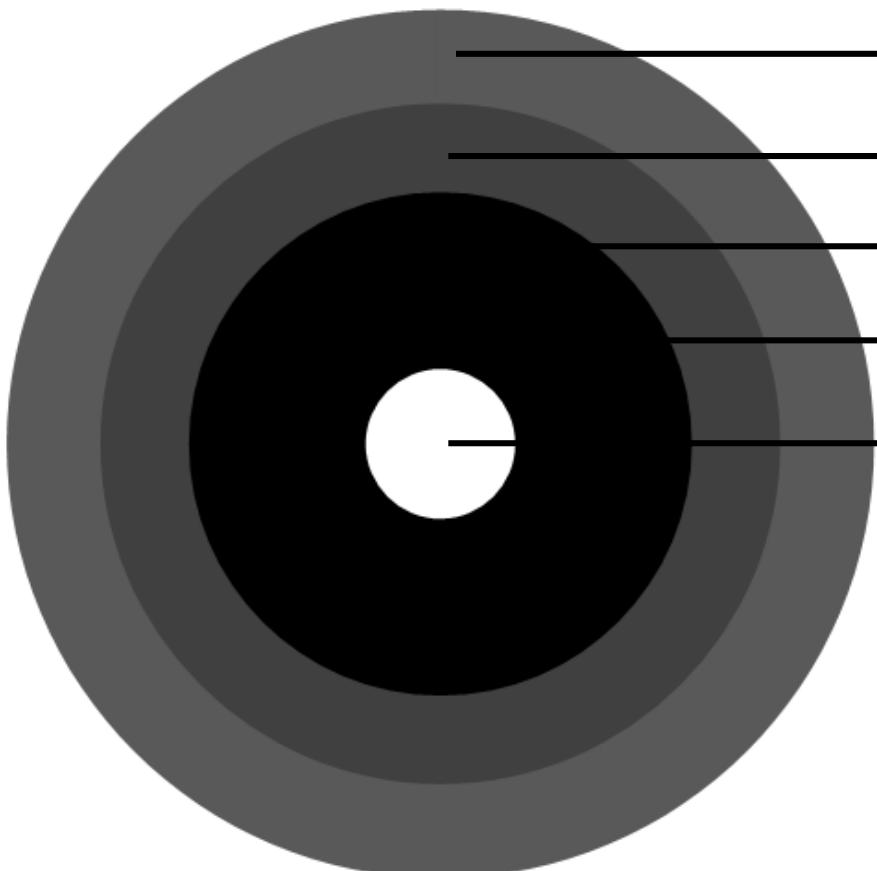


- (5) People:** Peoples' Movements, demonstrations, elections, etc.
- (4) Institutions:** Civic, religious, advocacy, trade, think-tank, etc.
- (3) Political Parties:** Two or more parties
- (2) Governing Body:**  
Ruling/elected political officials
- (1) Government:** Public servants, military, teachers, etc.

# Connecting the Dots...



## Dictatorial Governmental System in Eritrea Today



**(5) People:** People, demonstrations, etc.

**(4) Institutions:** Organizations, trade, think-tank, etc.

**(3) Political Parties:** Political parties

**(2) Governing Body:** Ruling/elected party

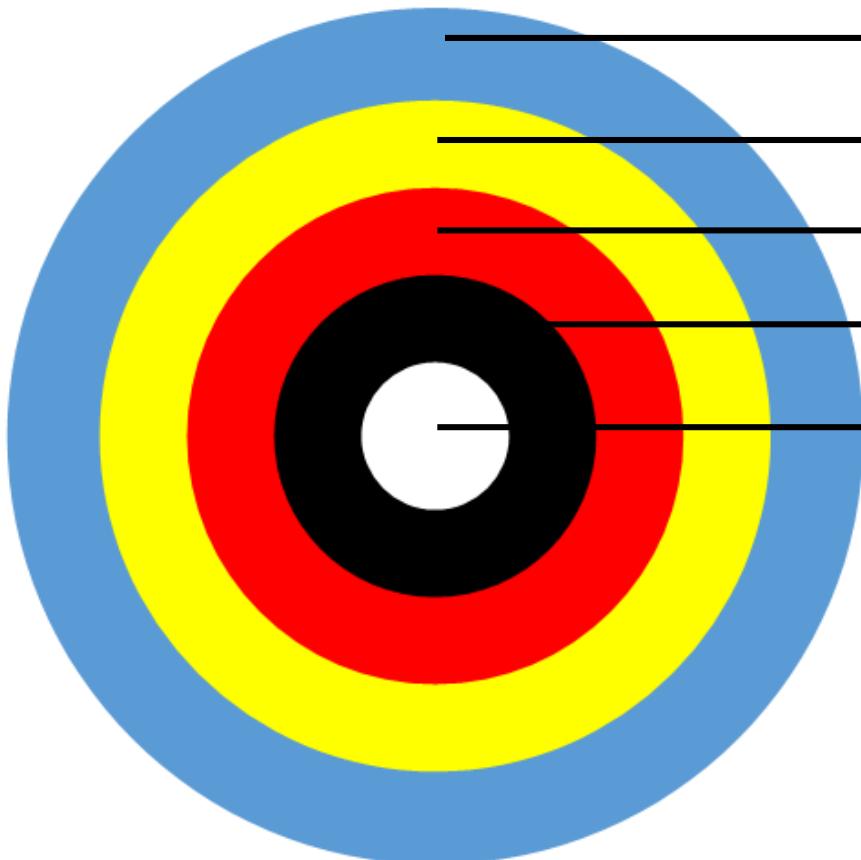
**(1) Government:** Public servants, military, teachers, etc.

EA/  
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# Connecting the Dots...



## Justice-seeking Groups' Struggle to Bringing Democratic Change in Eritrea



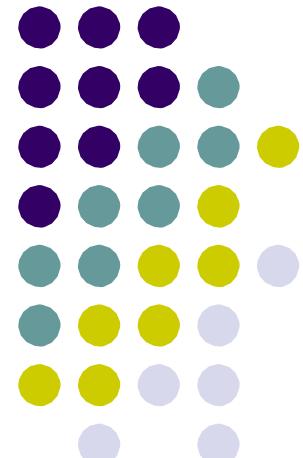
- (5) People:** **Yakil, Haji Musa, Lampedusa, etc.**  
demonstrations, elections, etc.
- (4) Institutions:** **Sinit, GI, EGS, etc.**  
trade, think-tank, media, etc.
- (3) Political Parties:** **ENCDC, EPDP, etc.**
- (2) Governing Body:**  
Ruling/elected political officials
- (1) Government:** Public servants,  
military, teachers, etc.



# ERITREAN NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR DEMOCRATIC CHANGE

الجنس الوطني- ፳፻፲፭- ENCDC

## ENCDC 2<sup>nd</sup> Nation Congress and RDC



# ENCDC 2nd National Congress



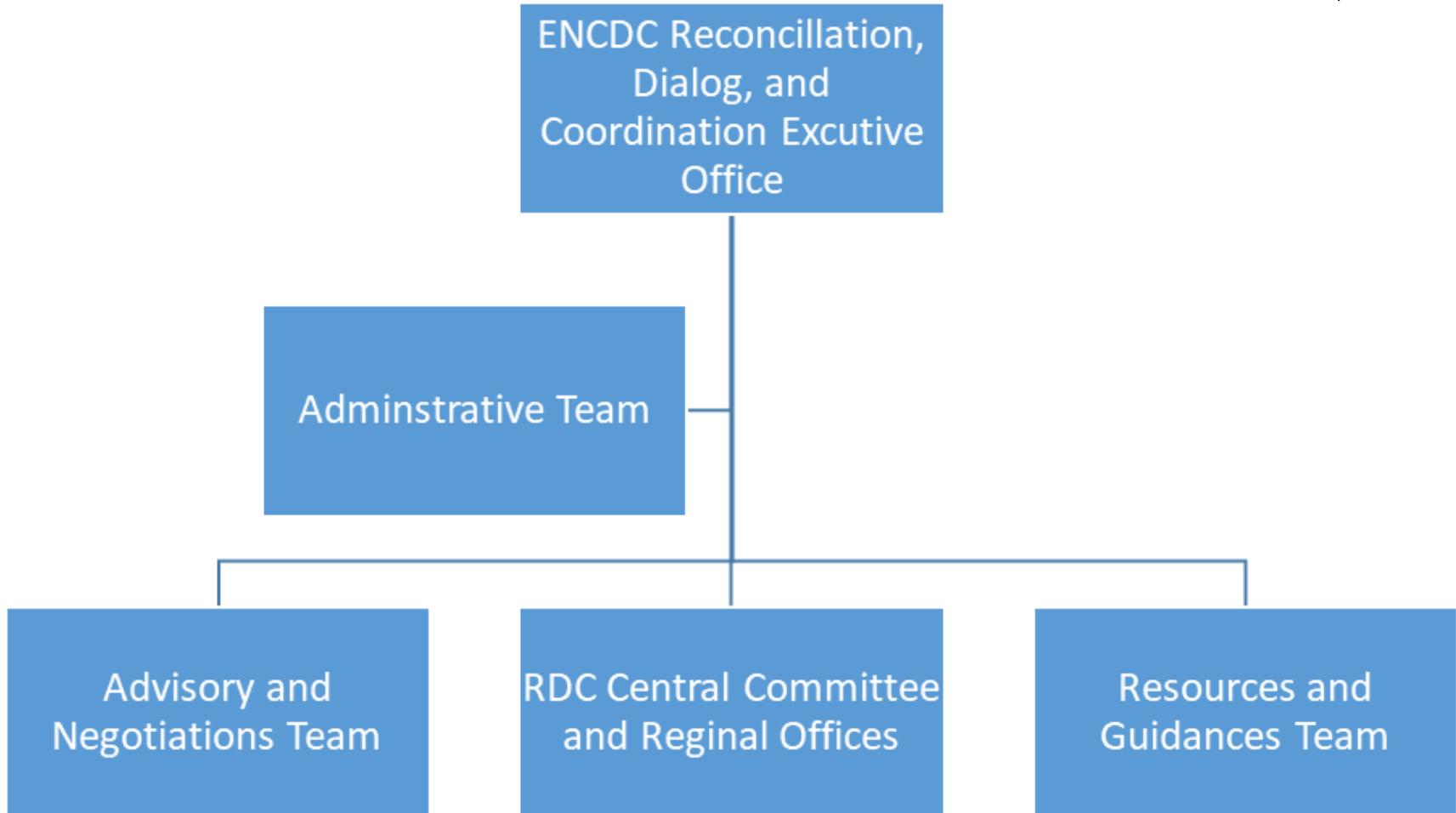
1. It was held on April 17-21, 2019, in Stockholm, Sweden, 7+ years after the 1<sup>st</sup> National Congress that was held in Awasa, Ethiopia in November 2011.
2. There were various reasons, some self-made conflicts within Bayto (ENCDC), and some due to external issues, that didn't allow Bayto to make significant progress in bringing any significant political change in the Eritrean diaspora politics.
3. The 2<sup>nd</sup> National Congress, even though it was smaller in scope, has resulted in a new spirit of cooperation, new governance documents, and new leadership.
4. Some of the key accomplishments of the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Congress:
  - a) Done entirely with funding from Eritreans
  - b) Created a streamlined process by reducing the number of central and executive committee members
  - c) Adapted a concise political charter and bylaws (constitution) and provided a methodology to address a transitional charter during the transitional period.
  - d) Advanced the practical aspects of national harmony and unity by establishing a separate executive office of "Reconciliation, Dialog, and Coordination"
  - e) Established an executive office that includes the mobilization of Eritrean grassroot movements

# ENCDC-RDC Initiatives



1. Strive to create the atmosphere for dialogue with all parties outside the Council, in order to reach a joint work between them and the National Council.
2. To carry out continuous initiatives to achieve coordination and unity within the opposition forces by unifying their political vision.
3. To form a special committee to assist the Office of Reconciliation, Dialogue and Coordination in the Executive Office in the performance of its functions in the context of dialogue and coordination with the various Eritrean parties.
4. Encourages organizations with one or close political programs to take practical and relevant steps.
5. Seeking to establish a bridge of communication with the opposition political movement inside the homeland.

# ENCDC-RDC Executive Office



# ENCDC-RDC Progress



1. Created the organization and a workplan
2. Participated in the Minnesota Conference agreeing for a general reconciliation framework leading to creating a unified Eritrean opposition front; participants include:

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| <b>ENCDC</b>  | Eritrean National Council for Democratic Change                |
| <b>ENF</b>    | Eritrean National Front  |
| <b>EPDP</b>   | Eritrean People Democratic Party                               |
| <b>WHL</b>    | Walta Haytat Lewti   |
| <b>GIEEGM</b> | Global Initiative of Eritreans to Empower Grassroots Movements |
| <b>ESSG</b>   | Eritrean Sinit Study Group                                     |

3. Have initiated various discussions with other political parties, civic and Yakil movement groups
4. Have participated in various other discussions representing the ENCDC

# Minnesota Reconciliation “Agreement”



1. Coordinate our efforts to defeat the dictatorial regime and bring about democratic change in Eritrea;
2. Take positive actions to support each other in areas of common national interest;
3. Coordinate our diplomatic activities;
4. Work in coordination or coalition among each other towards creating a unified Eritrean opposition movement;
5. Condemn all forms of agreements that the dictatorial regime of Eritrea enters with any foreign government or entity;
6. Call on the Eritrean defense and security forces to stand with their people and be an instrument in charting the democratic change of Eritrea;
7. Work earnestly in the development and application of a common transitional charter;
8. Create an implementation forum; and
9. Invite others to affirm this resolution and participate in the implementation forum.



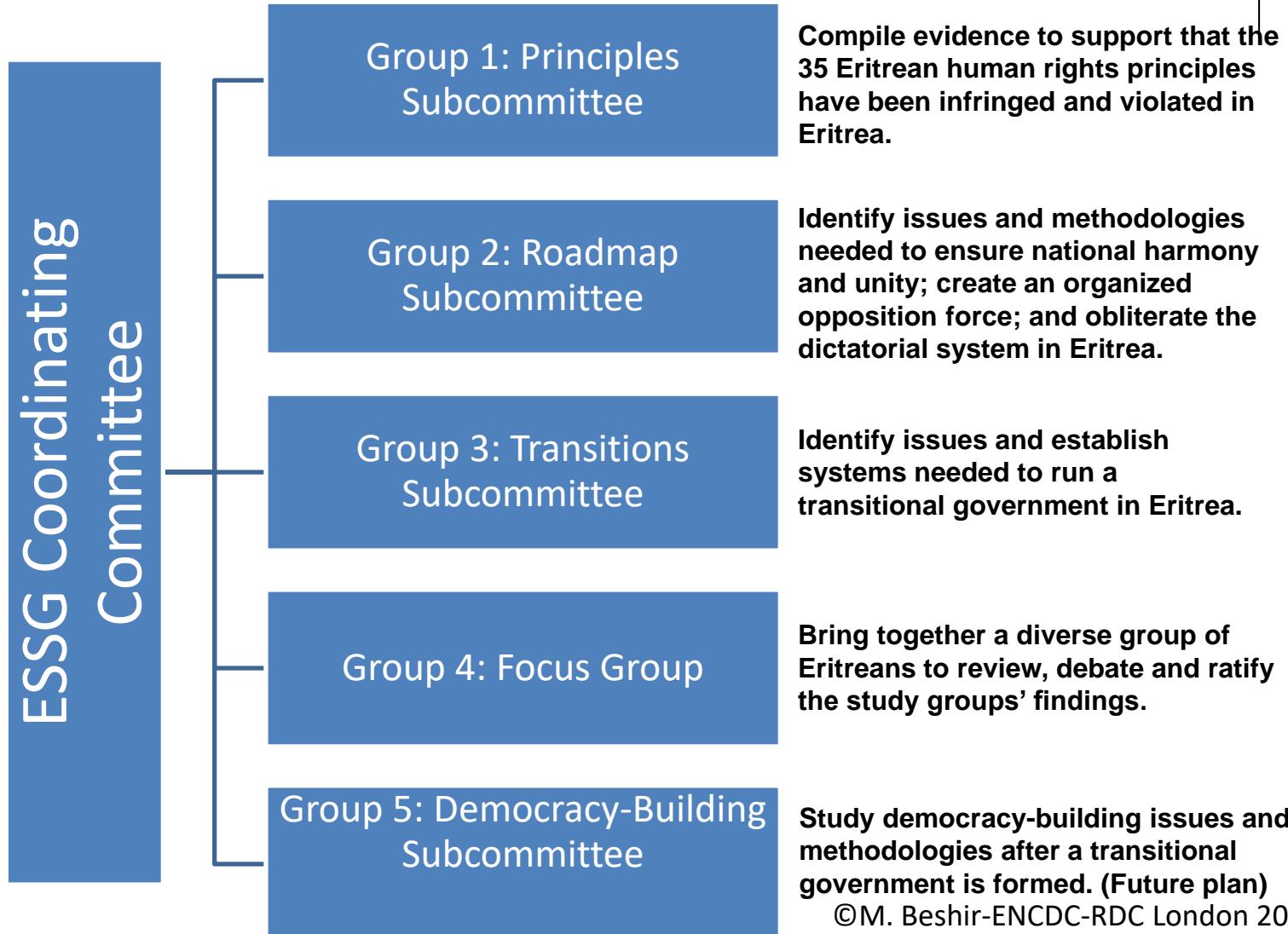
# ESSG Studies

# ESSG Background and Future Prospects

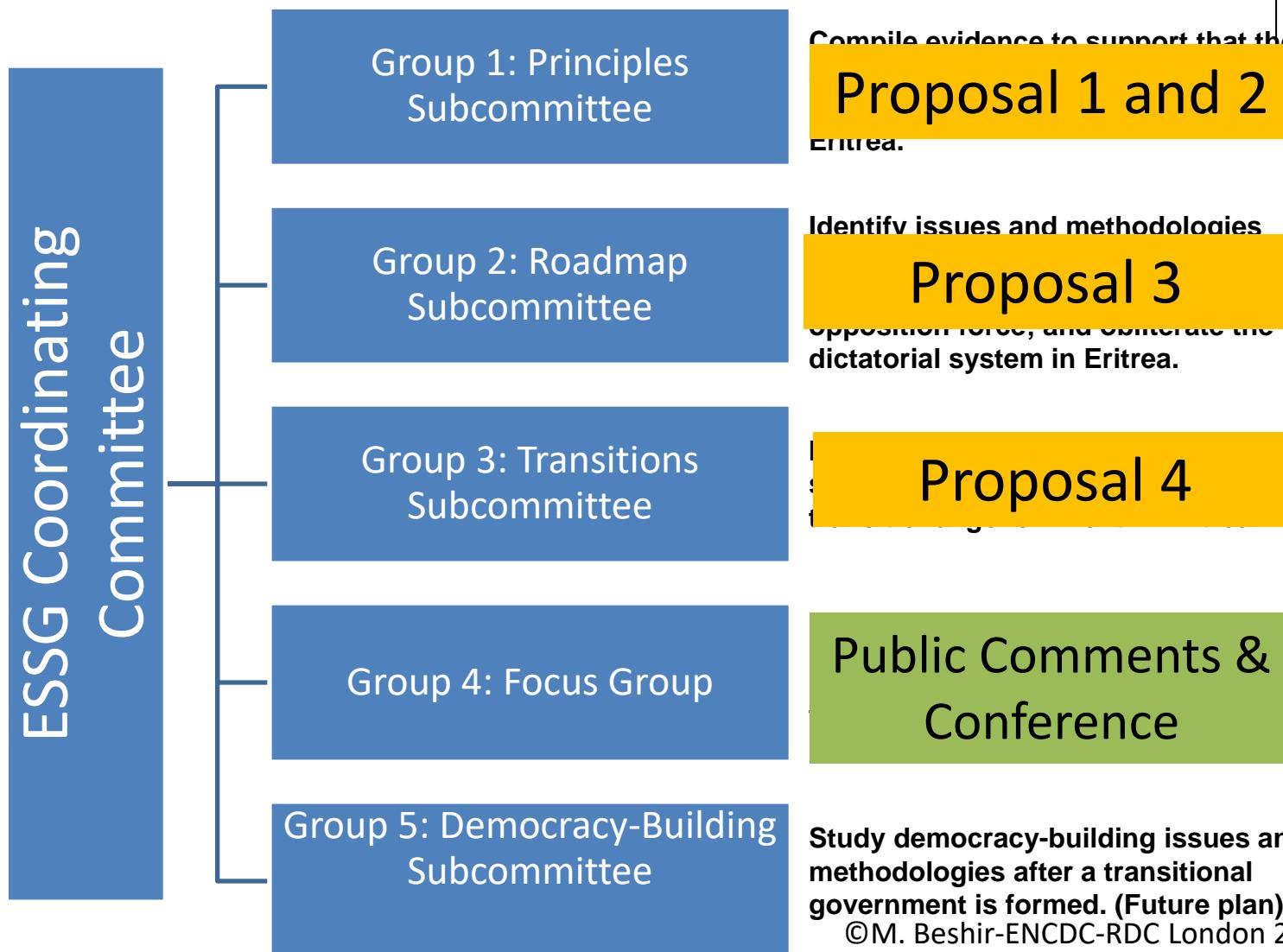


1. The Eritrean Sinit Study Group (ESSG) was established in April 2018, by the group known as Eritrean Sinit Festival Denver (ESFD).
2. The ESSG goal was to facilitate a process in creating a united-front and forward-looking strategy to advance the struggle of the justice-loving Eritreans in bringing a democratic change in Eritrea.
3. In forming ESSG, a core objective of ESFD is to have a true reflection of the diversity of the Eritrea people in the representations of the study group.
4. The ESSG originally consisted of eight Eritrean scholars and professionals that reside in North America, later expanding to three teams, consisting of 30 Eritreans globally.

# ESSG Organizational Structure and Functions



# ESSG Organizational Structure and Work Products



Study democracy-building issues and methodologies after a transitional government is formed. (Future plan)



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RESIST

# ERITREA !

# Conclusions

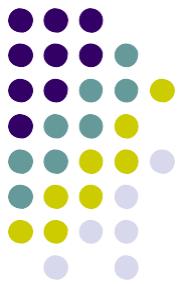
# What is next for Eritrea ...



**NEXT!**

# The future is in our hands...





# The End