



**IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE- October 26, 2018**

**ELECTION OF SAHLE-WORK ZEWDE**

The National Gender and Equality Commission welcomes the election of Sahle-Work Zewde as President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. We hereby extend our sincere congratulations and goodwill to the new President as she assumes office.

The election of Sahle-Work Zewde-the first female President of Ethiopia presents a seminal phase in the political leadership of not just Ethiopia as a country but as a benchmark for the entire continent. Her unanimous vote by both Houses have gone further to demonstrate that Africa is increasingly becoming conscious of the invaluable contribution to governance and leadership by women.

Ms. Zewde's election serves as a solid affirmation to women in the region that they are capable of ascending to the highest office of political leadership. Here in Kenya, the events in Ethiopia should serve to amplify the quest for gender parity in political representation particularly in the National Assembly and Senate as well as other elective offices.

We wish President Sahle-Work Zewde success as she settles on her new role.

**SIGNED**

**Dr. Joyce M. Mutinda (PhD)**

**Chairperson**