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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by the Society Studies Centre (MADA ssc), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[23 August 2010]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

Towards a final ending for Sudan's CPA

The Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) was signed between the Government of Sudan led by the National Congress Party (NCP) and the SPLM was a historical achievement for Sudanese, and an example of peaceful mechanisms for settling disputes in the continent.

The CPA which was signed in 2005, enters its final year with some critical provision yet to be implemented. This includes the referendum for South Sudan, The referendum for Abeyei area, and the Popular Consultation for Blue Nile and South Kordofan States.

The right for self-determination gave the people of South Sudan the right to freely choose between staying united with one Sudan or secede and create their own independent state. This process will be exercised in a referendum to be held on 9th Jan. 2011. The legal basis for the referendum was created by passing of the Referendum Act at the end of 2009. The National elections which was held in April 2010, constitutes and mile stop towards referendum, as the CPA stipulated that the referendum should be organized by an elected government. So now the NCP and the SPLM both have a responsibility to hold a peaceful, transparent and credible Referendum, and they should both prepare themselves to accept its outcome in respect of the will of the people of South Sudan.

The Society Studies Centre (SSC) is concern that the delay in the start of the work of the Referendum Commission which was appointed two months ago. The tussle over the appointment of the General Secretary of the Commission should come to an end. We also call on the two parties to accelerate the pace of negotiation on the post-referendum issues and reach agreement before end of the year for the pre-referendum issues such as the border demarcation, citizenship and others.

Another important referendum will take place in Abeyei area as part of the implementation of the CPA. In that referendum the people of the area should decide whether to be part of Southern Sudan or stay with the North. There are many issue which be timed bombs related to Abeyei. This includes the nomination of the members of the commission for Abeyei Referendum, the right of grazing for the Miseireia tribe, and the practical acceptance of the Hague ruling on the borders of the area, and who has the right to vote, among others. We call on the NCP and the SPLM to settle these matters as soon as possible to avoid renewal of conflict and save the lives of civilians. The Miseiria right for gazing in particular has to be guaranteed whether Abeyei remains with the North or join the South, as it is a very strong reason for conflict, since they have been banned from crossing to Southern Sudan for the second year.

Popular Consultation is another provision of the CPA. It is a democratic mechanism for gathering the opinions of the people of Blue Nile and South Kordofan about what the CPA has brought for them and whether they are satisfied with that or not. The Commissions which are responsible to carry out the PC are yet to be formed. In Blue Nile, despite the fact that the elections were held and the parliament was formed, still the commission was not formed from within the State Assembly. The main reason cited by the government of the state is the lack of funds. In South Kordofan, the election for the Governor and the state Assembly will only be held in Nov. or Dec. 2010. The NCP and the SPLM and the other political power and NGOs should all work to educate the people of the two states on Popular Consultation to avoid misinterpretations. Some efforts have already started on this regard, but more needs to be done.

Sudan passes through very critical times in the coming few months, as CPA comes to an end. The two parties to the agreement should still work to make unity attractive to the people of Southern Sudan as mandated in the agreement. Many countries in the world are

coming together as in the example of the EU, and Africa strives for unity since they change the name of their name to African Union. Sudan should not be an exception to this trend. A united Sudan on new bases will be better and safer for the people of Sudan than a divided Sudan.
