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Written statement* submitted by the Eastern Sudan Women Development Organization, 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.

[22 August 2011]

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

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Women & children in Sudan: Rights and legislations

Sudanese women were well known in their active participation in all aspects of community development which includes education, health, poverty alleviation, root grass development and consolidation of peace.

We as civil society organizations believe in women role and we are looking for empowering her economically, socially and politically.

Establishment of the Sudanese women organizations started in the past century, Educated Sudanese Women Association was established on 1947.

The comprehensive peace Agreement (CPA) on 2005 leads the civil societies to set many agenda, the most important of which is the democratic change as a basic issue. This concept broadens the base participation and actual representation of women.

Sudanese women participated in the conflict resolution and peace keeping, and she made many efforts for settlement at the official and voluntary levels, and at national and local levels.

In regard of women empowerment socially, economically and politically, the Transitional Constitution gave women many rights especially the positive discrimination rights. The law of election gave women 25% of the constitution assembly and executive seats. The candidates' women were 2815 in the whole country, of which 1763 were for the national parliament and legislation councils of states.

The national policy document approved on 2008 was empowered women economically and socially.

Sudanese women participated in many programs and activities which protect their political and social rights through civil society organizations.

The transitional constitution of Sudan, chapter 2 article (32) rights of child and women, stated that (The state give equal rights to men and women in enjoying all civil, political, social, cultural and economical rights including the right of equal wage for equal work and other work privileges.

Also there is a national plan for combating violation against child and women, and many law procedures and procedures were issued to protect women. And many rights monitoring mechanisms were established to prevent violators against child especially in conflict areas.

We as civil society organization give high attention to child protection issues, so there is a pioneer role for our organization in activation of many laws which enhance child protection.

Sudan is considered as one of the first countries which signed and ratified the child rights charter, and ratified the additional protocols of the charter, and Arab child charter, African child charter and the charters of International labor organization concerning the child labor.

Also the child law of 2010 was approved, and many national plans for child protection were set. The child was given his all rights beginning from the 1992-2002 plan (growth, survival and protection of child) and the quarter century plan for childhood, and the work plan for implementation of the 3rd millennium goals. Also there are many achievements especially in the field of mother and child health care, and approval of free medical treatment for children below 5 years, and obligatory basic education in addition to vaccination of all children.

Sudan also ratified the optional protocol for child rights charter concerned with prevention of children to participate in wars.

We as a national NGO appreciated the official efforts exerted on these issues, and we look for additional laws which respect humanity and protect human rights.

The Sudanese armed forces (SAF) issued on 2002 a decision which prevents recruitment of any child below 18 years of age in wars, and set in article on the SAF law approved on 2007 to prevent recruitment of children, as well as establishment of the Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration commission. All children were demobilized by the commission.