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Human rights bodies and mechanisms

Written statement* submitted by the African-American Society for Humanitarian Aid and Development, a non-governmental organization on the roster

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

[24 August 2011]

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

The establishment of a national commission for human rights in Sudan**

There is no doubt that the issue of establishment of a National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) is one of the greater aspirations of all activists in the field of human rights as well as all classes of the people in Sudan. The significance of the (NCHR) establishment stem from the fact that the (NCHR) will be the national mechanism entrusted with the care, promotion and protection of human rights in the Sudan, inter – alia, it will help to achieve human dignity which is the main target of the people of Sudan.

Sudanese NGOs and networks coalition for human right had shown clearly that they are highly interested in the formation of National Commission for Human Rights, praising the efforts made by various civil and political parties, National Assembly and civil society organizations in drafting the Law of National Commission for Human Rights, 2009. The newly passed law of the (NCHR) includes almost about 80% of what CSOs have suggested in former memorandums to the National Commission for the Constitutional Review (NCCR) and the Parliament, yet the remaining 20% of CSOs proposal should be taken into consideration while practicing the law of the (NCHR) in Sudan.

In paying tribute to the approval of the (NCHR) Law in May 31, 2009, (ASHAD), (SFPHR), as well as Sudanese NGOs and networks coalition for human rights would like to strongly present the following proposals:

- Appeal to Mr. President, First Vice-President and Vice-President of the Republic of Sudan to speed up the formation of National Commission for Human Rights - which we feel is long overdue - in response to the requirements of constitutional and institutional construction, and the completion of the duty of democratic transformation and the promotion of human rights situation in the country.
- Expand the circle of consultation at the national level, during the preparatory process for the composition of the (NCHR) Office, with genuine and fair inclusion of civil society organizations, networks working in the field of human rights, as well as the ruling political parties and the opposition so as to ensure that the formation of (NCHR) Office will be independent, effective and compatible with aspirations of all concerned parties in the country.
- Take into account that (NCHR) is highly consistent with Paris principles and all other international standards and criteria adopted for good establishment of national committees for human rights.
- Compliance with internationally agreed standards, as well as commitments to the principles of partnership, transparency in the ongoing consultation in the preparatory periods in selection of (NCHR) members, an important prerequisite issue which will definitely facilitate NHRC's success in enforcing its mandate, as well as ensuring that its members are eligible to address their mandate in efficiency, courage and professionalism.
- Emphasis on the selection criteria enshrined in the law establishing the (NCHR) , in particular good representation of civil society and women in the formation of

** The Sudanese Forum for Peace and Human Rights, Civil Society Partners for Peace and Developments (Shumos), NGOs without consultative status, also share the views expressed in this statement.

(NCHR), as well as, create an agreed upon mechanism for a fair and objective selection of candidates for NHRC's membership.

- Work to achieve a (NCHR) that can receive acceptance, respect and recognition at the national, regional and international levels through acceptable appointment procedures.
- Appeal to the Human Rights Council (HRC), UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) especially Human Rights Office to extend further support and technical assistance to concerned authority in Sudan as well as the CSOs in the preparatory process of the formation of the Sudanese (NCHR), in that essence capacity building and training of National NGOs, Networks and Coalitions to help serve human rights challenges and maintain human dignity remains of utmost importance.

The civil society organizations working in the field of human rights that came up with the proposals described above, declare that they are going to develop a technical memorandum in consultation with various partners, together with steady contacts with all stake holders centred on the issue of the National Human Rights Commission establishment. Sudanese NGOs and networks coalition for human rights would like to take this opportunity to declare that it is intending to launch a national awareness campaign about (NHRC) role and responsibilities toward the issue of human rights.

The civil society organizations working in the field of human rights along would like to emphasise on civil society's commitment to fulfil their mandate in coordination with the (NHRC) in a collaborative spirit to promote and upgrade the human rights situation in Sudan.

- Civil society organizations. Coordination secretariat (csocs).
 - Human rights and legal aid network (hrlan).
 - Sudanese forum for peace and human rights.
 - Darfur organizations forum - partners for human rights.
 - National network organizations in Nuba Mountains (Nuba net).
 - Civil society organizations-network for combating poverty.
 - Network of peace building.
 - Sudanese environment conservation society (secs).
 - Civil society partners for peace and developments (shumos).
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