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**Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the
twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly: priority
theme: rethinking and strengthening social development in the
contemporary world**

Statement submitted by Sudanese Women Parliamentarians Caucus, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



Statement

The Sudanese Women Parliamentarians' Caucus (SWPC) commends the efforts of the United Nations and its specialized agencies in providing social welfare measures to all sectors of society. SWPC, as a civil society organization, has a legislative and monitoring role, thus enhancing the welfare and development of communities.

SWPC aims at rehabilitating women parliamentarians, developing their skills and raising their participation in community mobilization, to support community-based development policies.

SWPC's Five-Year Plan 2011-2015 was intended to achieve the Millennium development Goal. Its indicators monitored the progress of bridging gaps in primary education, reducing the maternal mortality ratio and family planning policies. Due to SWPC's initiative, 13 laws were reviewed to identify legal gaps, activate operational laws and support the adoption of the gender-sensitive resource allocation in the 2014 budget. On the topic of reconciliation, SWPC held a workshop on peaceful coexistence and conflict resolution, hearings on the psychological effects of women in conflict areas, and we participated in the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur. On social issues, we held workshops on AIDS and its impact on the family, awareness about Female Genital Mutilation's harmful effects and follow-up on the development of a strategy on children. As a result of SWPC's efforts, the budget for education, health and family protection was increased, and 2% of the jobs in the State were allocated to persons with disabilities.

SWPC's members have constituency-based initiatives: supported sports; provided 3000 seats and computers for schools; established women development centres all over the country, trained midwives, distributed 5000 mosquito nets in Kassala State, and contributed to the construction of wards in the Southern Kordofan Hospital. SWPC members have also conducted a training course on the comprehensive security strategy held in the Blue Nile State, a workshop on artificial limbs, participated in internal and external workshops and conferences, supported women of irregular employment, and proposed the formation of a network for African women parliamentarians during the diversity seminar in Africa 2011.

The biggest obstacle facing Sudan are the unilateral economic sanctions imposed on it, which resulted in the reluctance of companies and foreign institutions to work in Sudan. This led to the collapse of the railway sector and national air carrier, and weakened social development programs; a lack of funding from international banks and financial institutions; prevention of civil society organizations from training and qualification grants from international organizations; conflicts; and externally supported insurgency.

Future visions

SWPC will work on enhancing youth budgets and involvement in decision-making; supporting laws and initiatives integrating the elderly into society, based on the Madrid International Aging Plan of 2002; and strengthening political will to support of persons with disabilities and their integration and social development.

Finally, we appeal to the international community and other organizations to support Sudan and work to lift the unilateral economic embargo and help cancel its foreign debt; offer technical and material aid for training and capacity building programs through national organizations; fund SWPC plan projects and programs 2015, thus building the capacity of women parliamentarians and caring for persons with disabilities, the elderly, youth and family within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals.
