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HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
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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 African-American Society for Humanitarian
Aid & Development (ASHAD), 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.

[30 November 2007]

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

1. The African-American Society for Humanitarian Aid and Development (Ashad) has the pleasure to be part of the council events in order to help further the promotion of the rights of the people of Sudan in particular and the rights of the others the worlds over. For this, ASHAD is pleased to thank the Council Chair and the other honourables for the opportunity and extend due thanks for the International Community for its support to the people of the Sudan.
2. As a Civil Society Organisation, ASHAD takes this opportunity to assure that council that the participation of the CSOs of Sudan in monitoring HRs situation in the Sudan is an indispensable contribution for the improvement of the HRs records in the country. For this, ASHAD calls upon all the concerned parties, the Government of Sudan, the rebel groups warring with it, institutions and individuals whose actions may compromise or otherwise adversely affect the rights of people – individuals or groups - to do everything possible to refrain from so doing. The international community is especially requested to help these concerned parties respect HRs in Sudan and make peace a reality.
3. ASHAD and other CSOs in the Sudan are dismayed and made to feel very uncomfortable about the prolonging and protraction of the conflict in Darfur. ASHAD's legitimate dismay is based on the fact that the longer the conflict drags on, the more devastation it wrights on the people of Darfur and thus increases the magnitude of HR violations. It is the view of ASHAD and many other CSOs in Sudan that without a serious none biased intervention from the international community in helping the warring parts in Sudan to stop the conflict, further plights are inescapable. We therefore, call on the international community to positively engage in the people process, giving all the help and advice necessary so that this conflict is brought to an end.
4. The African-American Society for Humanitarian and Development has no doubt that has got a serious role to play in bridging the gap between foes parties to the parties to current conflict. Major of these roles is the commitment from international community, especially donor countries and institutions, to avail financial and technical assistance to parties ready to reach peace settlements. Unfortunately, some pledges-makers wriggle away and honour none of those pledges, the reason why most peace settlements fail to secure the technical and financial backing necessary and thus collapse, plunging poor communities in yet more blooding conflicts. ASHAD reminds the international community to honour its pledges for the sake of peace sustainability.
5. Though there is a substantial presence of CSOs in Sudan, with varying capacities to mitigate, respond and manage aftermath of disasters and conflict SCOS receive negligible, if at all, assistance from the international community to achieve this vital role. Most of the funding assistance from international donors goes to the international organisations operation in Sudan and thus depriving the local community from playing its role. This is neither local capacity building nor an effective way to intervene. ASHAD makes it a point of important call on the International Community to invest into the CSOs of Sudan in order to exercise its full role.
6. Though ASHAD believes that full resolution to the conflict in Darfur is not in place as yet and may take some time before that it is reached, it is worthwhile for the international community to assess the situation and see where to invest in areas ready for this. It should be noted that there are pockets where some crucial recovery and rehabilitation work can be done in order to help reduce the level of suffering cause

indirectly to those place by the conflict. It is not therefore, necessary to hold most of the region's people ransom to the belief that "peace is first and other support after".

7. It has unfortunately recently been realised that children victims to conflicts in Sudan and some neighbouring countries are subjected to inhumane abuses under humanitarian claims. While ASHAD recognizes that humanitarian assistance is a right to disaster victims, ASHAD strongly denounces illicit activities mount to child trafficking, child rights abuse and violations. We call upon the international community to put all the pressure possible on humanitarian actors to ensure the safety and upholding of the rights of children and families.
