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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 Hawa Society for Women, 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.

[15 February 2010]

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

Politically, Sudanese women became involved in nationalist politics from the mid 1940 onwards. Women secured the right to vote in 1953.

Sudanese women are playing a positive role in guiding the authorities and they have had the right to political participation and practice from 1964, as well as assuming political positions.

The Sudan Transitional Constitution Law gives Sudanese women the right to participate politically. This is proven by the fact that the same laws give 25% of parliamentary representation to women (through their respective party). Sudanese women are also permitted to compete with men in all geographical areas of Sudan, further showing that their political participation is a right given to them by law.

Our NGOs, established as NGOs for female empowerment, believe that democracy, peace processing and transparency are the components needed for an ideal solution for Sudan. Sudanese women should all be a part of this process. Therefore, we are sending an appeal to the commission of election to give a chance for women NGOs, along with other civil societies and international organizations which are involved in the election process, to be a part of the process of monitoring the election. We believe that women should be given more chances to be part of the decision making processes, such as those related to the peace process. Women's NGOs are therefore pushing the Government of Sudan on raising the percentage of women holding political positions. This is also sought with the different political parties present in Sudan, i.e. to allow more chances for women to participate.

In order to achieve the above objectives, we appeal to the Human Rights Commission and the international community at large to assist women's NGOs by improving their skills and capacity building of women as civil society or political parties.
