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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 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.

[14 February 2013]

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

Women – development and economic empowerment

Sustainable development is one of the biggest problems that the world is facing nowadays and in particular the third world countries; Sudan is one of the countries facing many challenges during the process of comprehensive development. One of the most important sectors that we pay special attention its development is women, and we as civil society organization are working always in order to achieve development, especially sustainable development. Sudan has showed a clear interest in the activities of the empowerment of women and raises their efficiency and effectiveness as a genuine partner in the development issues. We as civil society organization constantly seek to get on board all relevant actors and widen the base of participation in order to push the development process in the country.

The right to development has been recognized by General Assembly of the United Nations, was mentioned in the international charter and pointed out that this right is for every human and for all peoples to participate and contribute in the achievement of economic and social, cultural and political development. The enjoyment of this development is a right for all, and the right to development is one of the fundamental human rights.

And in accordance with Article (2) of the Declaration on the Right to Development; human is the centre of development and should be the active participant, actor in the right to development and the primary beneficiary. As an organization working in the field of development we emphasize the importance of development and especially the development of women and applaud the efforts that encourage stability, especially in rural and remote areas in which women suffer from illiteracy and lack of employment opportunities. This is why we focus on encouraging and stimulating the back migration. In this area the funding policies of the Bank of Sudan reserved 70% of the funding for rural funding, 12% of banks capital to Microfinance and minimum of 30% for women

Due to the important role played by Sudanese women the comprehensive national strategy gave women the priority in the field of development and meeting their needs. The strategy has included the women power as a crucial human resource in achieving development and improving their function in society

The national laws, legislation and national strategies have contributed in the enabling of the role of women in society, where the Sudanese women earned many in various fields. On the political level the Sudanese women played a prominent role in the Sudanese elections where they took part in all their phases as candidates, voters and observers. The elections law gave women a positive discrimination by giving her a separate list for women with 112 seats. The women's participation in the parliament was 25%, she also held many positions. The Sudanese woman was nominated for the positions like a federal minister, a parliament member as well as the position of the president of the country. Women also held many high executive positions like the counsellor of the president, ministers on the federal and state levels as well as the judiciary where she held the position of a judge in the high court. The number of the women judges is 80 judges which is an unprecedented number.

The Sudanese women also participated in the dialogue running, conflict resolution, and peacekeeping. She made a lot of efforts for stability at the official and voluntary levels in both the central and state levels.

The transitional constitution of Sudan for the year 2005, Part II Article (32) of women and children rights: the State is to ensure that both men and women have equal rights to the enjoyment of all civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights, including the right to equal payment in work and other equal career benefits .

We as a civil society organization seek to achieve and implement laws and ensure their effectiveness by supporting the process of development, honours humanity and protects human rights.

Due to the violence that women were subjected to by the armed movements and gangs which lead to instability, lack of security. All these factors have contributed in the migration of women from the rural areas to the cities. Due to the lack of education and experience, women work in the marginal businesses. This lead to the deterioration of the economic status and that lead to the displacement of the children and losing their education as they became a homeless. All these factors have affected psychologically on these children due to the armed movements. This is a continuous tragedy against the human rights.

We as an organization that is working in the field of women development encourage the efforts that are taken due to the need of women for training and capacity building. We ask the international community to help the civil society organization in the fields of training, capacity building for the continuation in the development of the country.
