



General Assembly

Distr.: General
2 September 2013

English only

Human Rights Council

Twenty-fourth session

Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by the Sudanese Women General Union, 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.

[22 August 2013]

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

Violence against women in Sudan

The Sudanese Women General Union is a nongovernmental organization having its own mission and vision. Women empowerment economically and socially main objectives. The union is spread all over the Sudan and conduct its activity throughout all the States. It is having bilateral agreements with the WHO, UNDP, UNIFEM, UNFPA and UNAMIS those who are operating in the Sudan and many mutual programs were conducted accordingly.

The Sudanese non-governmental organizations are committed to the role and empowerment of women socially, politically and economically aiming to ensure respect and protection of their rights in line with shared common values, and the Sudanese culture and tradition. These values have been stipulated in the Sudan's interim constitution 2005, which ensured women rights.

In this regard the percentage of female students vis-à-vis male students is the best example, their number is now 67% - 55%, compare to male students, The Sudanese women enjoy the equal right of payment as men since 1964. In parliament, women parliamentarians held 25% of the seats as their number reached 114 members out of 450. In other official positions, both at state and federal level, Women are empowered and enjoyed their rights including deputy speaker of Federal Parliament and parliament committees.

The Sudanese Civil Society organizations are playing an important role in the review of legislations, through campaigns to raise the awareness of women and girls about their rights to fight harmful traditions and habits. As a result of these campaigns legislative institutions responded and made amendments to 26 laws regarding women based on the recommendations of the National Commission to review the legislations related to women. Notably, articles preventing violence against Women and sexual harassment were provided for under article 149 on rape was also modified, by imposing severe punishment on the perpetrators. A Presidential decree has granted women 50% membership of the Promotion Committees, the same decree granted women the right either to be the head or the deputy of these Committees. In the area of economic empowerment, the efforts of the civil society facilitated women's access to finance, particularly microfinance.

We highly cherish the Commitment of the Sudan to the principles and values of the United Nations Charter, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, International Covenant of Political and Social and Cultural rights, Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women advocating non tolerance in cases of sexual violence based on gender and the adoption of the ten protocol signed by the great lake region states.

We call on the Government of the Sudan to continue ensuring its policies aiming for support, assistance of women, children and protection of the family as the heart of the Society.

We also appeal to the international community to intensify efforts for technical and financial assistance according to its obligations as stated in the decisions of the International Conference for Human Rights council, held in Geneva in its 20-21 session to strengthen the awareness and legal reform programs to combat violence against women based on gender, and support projects in line with the priorities of the target group. We here by acknowledge that Sudanese women on Blue Nile, South Kordofan were subjected to forced marriages by SPLA/N, whose who fled the war sought refuge into refugees camp in Aide camp for refugees in South Sudan state's boarder were subjected to forceful military recruitment.

We urge the international community to call on SPLMN-North to stop their military activities in the two states in the areas under their control in South Kordofan and the Blue Nile, which led to horrendous violations of women and children's rights and resulted also in deterioration of the humanitarian situation and harming the social fabric and unity of the family.

We welcome the nine agreements on cooperation signed between the Governments of Sudan and South Sudan and we call upon the two states to implement these agreements, which were agreed upon on the 27th of September. We strongly urge the armed movements which did not join the Doha Peace Process of Darfur to enforce peace and protection of women, children and families against all forms of violence.
