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**Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women
and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled
“Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for
the twenty-first century”**

Statement submitted by Working Women Association, 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

Working Women Association is a voluntary, non-governmental organization established in Khartoum, Sudan in 1991. Its membership includes women working in the state, in the public and private sectors, as well as the unorganized sector. Working Women Association looks after working women in order to serve women's issues in general and working women in particular.

Being aware that the main focus of the 59th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women will be on the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, including current challenges that affect its implementation and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women, Working Women Association undertakes a review of progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in collaboration with official Sudanese authority and civil society organizations working in the field of women's empowerment. The Working Women Association also addresses opportunities for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women in the post-2015 development agenda with special emphasis on the work places.

The Working Women Association has been influential in shaping the current Sudanese National policy framework on women's empowerment and gender equality: the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The Working Women Association continues to play an important role in holding national leaders accountable for the commitments they made in the Platform for Action.

The Working Women Association aims to promote the professional, intellectual and cultural competence for its membership, Working Women Association also plays a role in social integrated projects which adopt social solidarity. The Working Women Association works through multiple activities and programs to enhance the quality of economic and social status of working women through the adoption of an economic vision and initiatives designed to increase production and establish the concept of saving and rationalization of consumption.

The issue of training and capacity building of working women in the workplace is considered as a top priority for the Working Women Association in its endeavours towards improving the women's sector, and to highlight their distinguished role in the labour market.

Working Women Association calls for the achievement of social change in the circles of the Sudanese community through combat of harmful traditional habits to the health of mothers and daughters as well as the dissemination of good spiritual values, virtuous practices and patterns of behaviour between memberships in other areas.

The effort exerted by the Working Women Association aimed to achieve comprehensive and sustainable development, in this context the Working Women Association, since its establishment, works to address the major challenges faced by women working in the various work sites in Sudan in accordance with a strategic plan and clear vision adopted as part of its action plan.

Working Women Association works to implement the programs and activities across many axes of work i.e. economic axis, culture and training axis, media and public relations axis, social axis, legislation and human rights axis.

Working Women Association endeavours to promote human rights in general and the rights of women in particular among working women. Working Women Association work genuinely through its branches in other locations to secure the necessary protection for women in the workplace, while ensuring they are not exposed to any form of harassment due to gender. The Working Women Association is guided by directives enshrined in the International conventions and treaties within the framework of the International Bill of human Rights and the International Labour Organization as well as good values in the divine laws and norms which have been inherited by the people of Sudan.

Working Women Association works in particular in the field of advocacy for the review of labour laws prevailing in Sudan in line with the conditions of working women. Working Women Association seeks to contribute to solving the problems faced by working women in the workplace by inviting various relevant agencies and partners to create working conditions to ensure a decent environment for Sudanese women in the labour market, in various positions and at various levels. Working Women Association contributed effectively, in coordination with other partners and national stakeholders, to enable working women in Sudan to achieve unprecedented rights such as:

- Birth Vacation.
- Maternity Vacation.
- Divorce Vacation.
- Marriage Vacation.
- Not to work late at night.
- Not to do laborious work.
- Equal increments.

Working Women Association pays special attention to the promotion and advancement of the role of women in conflict resolution and peace building. Working Women Association provides protection and ensures rights of women in the potential areas of tension and conflicts in Sudan. Working Women Association endeavours to render programs of resettlement for Internally Displaced Persons families, considering that women are among the most affected groups of society from the instability and, in this area, Working Women Association contributed to the resettlement programmes of 1,000 families in southern Kordufan and Darfur States affected by the war.

Since the issues of women in rural areas is a major challenge for women in the Sudan, Working Women Association is sparing no effort to take care of rural working women through securing the tools of production and dissemination of models of small scale industries and securing means of micro-finance to serve the development of rural women in different parts of Sudan.

Since the acquisition of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations membership in the year 2010, Working Women Association has strengthened links to achieve communication with the United Nations specialized agencies and the counterpart organizations at the regional and international level through international partnerships and exchange of experiences. We have built good models in order to serve the goals and objectives set forth in the literature of the

United Nations and the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations that calls for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. In this context, Working Women Association is willing to express its readiness to collaborate with the regional and International organizations, brotherly countries and United Nations agencies working in the field of women's development in order to serve the noble objectives of the development of Sudanese women and empowering them in various fields.
