



## Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
17 November 2015

Original: English

---

### Commission on the Status of Women

#### Sixtieth session

14-24 March 2016

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

### **Statement submitted by Sudanese Women Parliamentarians Caucus, 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

### **The Role of Sudanese Women Parliamentarian's Caucus in the Legislative Reform and Protection of Women and Children in Sudan**

Sudanese Women parliamentarian's Caucus is a non-governmental organization, non-profit National organization, established in Sudan in the year 2007. Sudanese Caucus is enjoying a consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations since [2014].

Sudanese Women Parliamentarian's Caucus endeavours to play a positive role in the development of the Sudanese peoples at the legislative, social, political and economic levels through boosting the parliamentarian role in the field of monitoring, evaluation and legislative reform.

We would like to emphasize that Sudan had sought seriously to contain armed conflict through the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, which ensured the granting of the people of Southern Sudan the right to self-determination. Sudan also signed several agreements, including but not limited to the Doha peace agreement for Darfur, an initiative that should be welcomed and rewarded by the peace-loving forces.

Sudan signed the International Covenants on Economic and Social Rights, Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on refugees and children's rights. Sudan also adopted laws and policies aimed at empowering women and combating trafficking in human beings.

Sudanese Women Parliamentarian's Caucus draw special attention to the empowerment of Sudanese women, promote their rights, and adopt appropriate precautionary measures to protect women from various forms of potential violence by adopting legislative and preventive measures aimed at protecting women and maintenance of human dignity.

Sudanese Women Parliamentarian's Caucus initiated through parliament to hold new amendments to laws, the most important of these amendments is the amendment of the Criminal Code with respect to the provisions of Article 149 concerning rape crime where rape was separated from the article on adultery and sodomy.

It is well understood that the crime of rape falls more on women and children as their being the most vulnerable groups in society, which facilitates the process of assault and committing crimes in their right, and so punishment on child rape was tightened until it reached the degree of death in order to deter aggressors and to stop the horrific crimes that occur in the right of children. As far as the crime of adultery and sodomy was concerned, and due to their synonymous nature, it has been decided to separate them from the crime of rape.

As part of the legislative reform process it has been initiated by the Sudanese Women Parliamentarian's Caucus to submit a proposal to add a new article in the Criminal Code under the name of sexual harassment where a specific definition has been adopted and a deterrent penalty has been enshrined in the penal code.

In the context of children and women's protection, Sudanese Women Parliamentarian's Caucus launched a major awareness campaign to combat the phenomenon of female genital mutilation in Sudan, pointing out the health, psychological and social effects and consequences of female circumcision in many states of the Sudan, led by the states of White Nile, Kassala and Gedaref.

With regard to combating the root cause of the wars and armed conflicts Sudanese Women Parliamentarian's Caucus has paid particular attention to execute workshops and programs aimed at disseminating the culture of peace and the reduction of armed conflict and mend the social fabric, taking into consideration that wars lead to loss of couples and the dispersion of families with a direct bearing on women and children who are the most vulnerable to violence in the warring communities.

As part of the role they play in the follow-up to the human rights situation in Sudan in general and women and children in particular Sudanese Women Parliamentarian's Caucus will continue to play a positive role in the dissemination of human rights principles in general and the promotion of the situation of women and children, in particular.

The Sudanese Women Parliamentarian's Caucus will remain eager to combat any form of potential violence or violations that occur in the right of women and children and will endeavour, in coordination with the official institutions in the country on human rights and civil society organizations working in the same field, to ensure that women and girl child are fully enjoying their rights enshrined in religions and human rights treaties, inter alia, protecting them from potential violence and achieving the utmost degree of human dignity and well-being for women and children in Sudan.

---