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Statement of the Republic of the Sudan

Delivered by

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Before

The 52nd Session of the commission on the Status of Women

February 25th 2008 – New York

Please Check Against Delivery

In the name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Mr. Chairman
Distinguished delegates,

My delegation would like to congratulate you and the other members of the bureau on your election to the chairmanship of the Committee on the Status of Women in its current session. We sincerely hope that the meetings of this session will be crowned with aspired success conducive to the accomplishment of the envisaged goals. Be rest assured of our backing and support. We are confident that the proceedings of this session will bring about more achievements in furtherance of the role of women, empowering them and promoting their conditions in all fields.

By the same token, we wish to extend our thanks to the Secretary General's Advisor on Gender Issues and the Division on the Advancement of Women.

Mr. Chairman,

The Sudan proceeds from a cultural heritage and valuable principles that emphasize justice and gender equality, hold women in high esteem and assert their important role as a basic pillar in the building and renaissance of society. Since the sixties of the last century, women in my country have acquired the right to nomination and voting. Their participation in the present Parliament is at a rate of 18%. Women's empowerment strategy is designed to upgrade that ratio to 25%. Women's right to equal pay for equal work has been insured since the seventies of the past century. They enjoy equal retirement age as men. Hence, their march, gains and participation in all walks of public life have been on the rise. Gap in higher education has been in favor of women. Along the same lines, gap in secondary education has been closed. The bulk of women's gains and achievements have become evident in the last two decades. Their participation in economic life has multiplied to 30%. They have taken over high level posts in civil service and the diplomatic corps. They have obtained the rank of major general in the armed forces, police and security. We have 79 female judges. The transitional constitution safeguards social, economic and political justice among all categories and social strata as well as between men and women. This helps secure the building of a secure and stable nation.

On the basis of women's gains and guided by directives spawned at United Nations conferences in this regard, our country approved the draft of a national policy on the empowerment of women in March 2007. The policy focuses on six main areas that constitute priorities and challenges to the path of the Sudanese women embodied in issues of health, environment, education, economic empowerment, effective participation in decision taking, settling disputes and consolidating peace in addition to preserving their rights.

Mr. Chairman,

Budgets devoted to safeguarding equity and justice in public expenditure have been adopted. The state has taken numerous measures by which it has elaborated national strategies and socioeconomic policies which accord priority to curbing poverty. Small income generating projects and programs have been prepared and resources have been earmarked in support of rural and urban women's programs and projects. Salient among these measures is the facilitation of banking transactions in the framework of support for those projects through national funding institutions, the projects of women's portfolio and graduates portfolio. The Central Bank has adopted a micro funding policy and set up a special unit for that purpose.

The Sudan has also witnessed the establishment of numerous cadres, structures, businesswomen and professionals' entities. Despite the achievements made still there are hurdles standing in the way of women's access to markets, productive resources and information and communications technology (ICT).

Mr. Chairman,

Having signed the peace accords, the Sudan faces a blatant challenge in fostering the pillars of peace and stability. Our experience has demonstrated the effective role undertaken by women in the process of negotiations and the achievement of peace. Our thanks go to our development partners and the donors who paved the way for women's participation in the Oslo conference.

Mr Chairman,

Violence against women in my country is almost extinct except in single cases deterred by law and rejected by society. Some adverse effects have emerged in conflict stricken areas. Certain violations of women and children's rights by United Nations Peace Keepers were detected, especially in the South.

Mr. Chairman,

The booming trafficking in and smuggling of children constitute a stigma to humanity, regression of human values and return to the slave trade in Africa. This requires revision and restructuring of international humanitarian action.

Mr. Chairman,

The Committee on the Status of Women and other United Nations bodies have continued to monitor and follow up the situation of the Palestinian women since the adoption of the Nairobi forward-looking strategies. Yet, siege is being tightened on women and children. This necessitates transcending the stage of monitoring and follow up to that of taking positive action with a view to protecting Palestinian women and children.

Mr. Chairman,

Significant accomplishments have already been made. Yet, challenges exceeding our national capacities still remain in the field of ending poverty, fostering mother and child health as well as the Millennium Development Goals (MDG's). Therefore, more action and more cooperation with the International Community are needed.

My delegation is fully convinced that partnership for development by itself with no favorable international environment is by no means sufficient. Since human rights are indivisible, it is incredible to promote individual rights of men, women and migrants while turning a blind eye to peoples' right to development and to controlling their resources. Hence, we hope that donor countries will fulfill their obligations by offering the agreed ODA.

This is particularly the case since aid flows from donor states are still unpredictable, insufficient and uncharacterized by effectiveness. This makes it necessary to abide by international agreement on the Monterrey Consensus and the principles of the Paris Declaration in carrying out international aid.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation fully realizes the joint responsibility for the preservation of our globe and the role of women as a cardinal element in grappling with climate change. We have contributed to improving women's conditions in the marginal sector and limiting environmental pollution by reducing dependency on charcoal and biomass in their midst. We are looking forward to the production of environmentally friendly techniques as well as poor women's easy access to them.

In conclusion, we all hope that further efforts will be deployed to usher in a new era characterized by peace, security, equity and justice throughout the world.

Thank you