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**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.

[23 August 2011]

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

The role of national organizations in promoting the situation of human rights in Sudan

The civil society organizations CSOs played great and distinguished roles in the field of human rights in Sudan. They contributed effectively in filling the poles of knowledge and delivering the information to the Sudanese citizen and enlightening the people with the importance of the positive role played by the civil society via the basic organizations there of, in order to promote the situations of human rights in Sudan as well as providing the advice to the official specialized bodies concerned with the situations of human rights in Sudan. These organizations adopted a scientific and specific method for fact –finding and collecting data as well as talking to the stakeholders.

The Sudanese organizations participated in the most national issues that benefits the situations of human rights, so the participation in general elections conducted in April, 2010 was an important action in the history of Sudanese people which considered as the first elections observed internationally and locally for the past 25 years. These elections represented a chance for democratic transformation and establishment of principles of transferring power peacefully and rejecting political violence.

There was an important role played by civil society organizations CSOs in enlightenment about South Sudan Referendum and self-determination for Southern people, the referendum of Abey area and popular consultation in South Kordufan and Blue Nile.

The Sudanese women organizations had a leading role in convincing the competent institutions of the state to bring women their rights in the National Assembly and in the legislative councils at the states level which reached 25% as well as the vast participation in the executive bodies and judiciary. Despite all these developments gained, we call upon the organizations concerning women, to intensify the programmes and activities, particularly in the remote areas because women in most of the Sudanese rural areas are suffering from shortage of some basic rights such as the right of primary health care and safe motherhood as well as the inaccessibility to health service. These organizations strive to expand women participation and contribution in the society greatly after their success in roles that confined to men only in the past and also motivate women to participate in decision- making by increasing the representation of women in the Parliament and increase their participation in civil society organizations CSOs and build their capacities.

In respect of the youth, the role of organizations is addressing the graduates' issues and to find programmes and projects to assimilate a great number of them to contribute to enhancing development in the country and train and qualify them according to their abilities and specializations.

Drawing attention to child and health is considered as one of the most important priorities of these organizations business. Also, raise of awareness, health education and disseminating of the culture (prevention is better than cure), as preserving health are among the most important factor of development and production. The SCOs are working in collaboration with the state's institutions.

In Darfur, national organizations provided big assistances, particularly to Darfur people in the camps, such as food, clothes and shelters as well as free health care in cooperation and coordination with some UN organizations in Sudan which played important roles in enhancing peace and providing humanitarian services in different states of Sudan.

Sudanese Red Crescent Society SRCS is one of these organizations working in all states of Sudan, working well and providing humanitarian assistances to the affected people in South

Kordufan State as well as relief and shelters to needy people, as the SRCS provided 600 volunteers to bridge the gaps in cadres to control the humanitarian situations.

The Sudanese civil society organizations made great efforts and called for addressing the situations in South Kordufan state under the slogan (a safe and stable state), more than 22 of national organizations signed the appeal after the violence took place in south Kordufan state which resulted in fleeing a big number of the state's citizens seeking for safety and shelter. The national organizations responded directly and immediately to the appeal by providing assistances to the affected people calling upon the citizens to return homes, and they called for the official institutions to trial each person involved in the former events and terrorized the citizens in the state, and via the appeal, the organizations called upon the authorities to bring those who committed violence against the state's citizens, for a fair trial.

Sudan is one of African countries suffering more from wars and conflicts for long decades, so the national organizations had to work in this field through activating the dialogue and negotiations between the warring parties and rejecting violence and work with the government to tackle the conflicts peacefully because the military operations result in many human and material damages which affect the development and the different resources of the country, negatively.

Non-Governmental Organizations NGOs work to bring the material support from the donors and the international organizations to finance the settle disputes operations and form independent committees to follow up disarmament, combat land mines, rehabilitate the war- affected areas, consolidate the peace between the disputing parties and observe achieving of peace items. This happened in Naivasha Agreement (CPA) between the Sudan government GoS and Sudan People's Liberation Movement SPLM, as local and international organizations were involved.

The organizations are addressing the problems lead to conflicts such as marginalization and inequality in wealth sharing between the states and benefiting from petroleum revenues in a fair way.

There is obvious relation between democracy and civil society, as non of them existing in the absence of the other. The civil society couldn't realize development and find a space for movement without recognizing the political and intellectual multiplicity by the government and allow the political, social and cultural organizations to work freely.

For this, the Sudanese organizations work in cooperation with the competent institutions in order to find arena to achieve the humanitarian objectives.

The organizations have rights to call upon the government in respect of the different issues of the country, particularly those regarding security, peace, settle disputes, human rights, good governance and securing the public freedoms.

Sudan is considered as one of the countries binding with the UN basic principles, this has become clear through cooperation of the competent bodies with the tools of human rights such as the special reporters and the independent experts as well as the representatives of UN secretary General. The Sudanese national organizations had adopted many issues and called upon the competent parties to achieve there of, immediately, particularly in respect of achieving equality, the dominance of law rules in Darfur as well as supporting reconciliation initiatives between Darfur tribes.

As civil society organizations, we play great roles affect the competent parties, thus we call upon the Sudanese government to form the Human Rights Commission and we call upon the international community to fulfill its pledges towards the Sudanese people and their national organizations.