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**Written statement* submitted by the Maarij Foundation for
Peace and Development (MFPD), 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 right to education in Sudan

Maarij Foundation for Peace and Development gives high attention to education since its foundation. The foundation has established many education institutions, and is committed to the objectives of the international Education form 2000 which stated that “Learning is for All”. These objectives include equal chances for the 2 sexes in education and access to basic education by 2015, and empowerment of women by 2015. Access to education is one of the human rights.

Maarij foundation for peace and Development look for achieving the objectives of education for all, to every citizen and community. And it seeks to provide good basic education for all by 2015, and confirmed that education is a fundamental right of human rights. Education is a participatory responsibility as stated in the international declaration about “Education for All”, so the foundation looking for making partnership with government sector to achieve basic education for all (children & adults).

Maarij foundation for Peace and Development wants to achieve the objectives of education to all by:

- Improving and widening education and good care in the early childhood stages, especially for vulnerable children.
- Access to education, obligatory, free and of high quality, for all children by 2015, focusing on girls and children of ethnic minority.
- Insurance of meeting the needs of education to children and adults through appropriate learning programs and acquiring skills necessary for life.
- Achieving 50% improvement at illiteracy by 2016, especially for women, and to achieve equal chances in the basic education and adult education.
- Removing disparities in basic and secondary education by 2014, focusing on girls to have high quality basic education.
- Improving the quality of education for students to achieve noticeable results especially in reading, writing, mathematics and basic skills for life.

Sudanese civil society organizations give education high attention, so they organized education forum about teenager’s education on July 2011, and expert workshop under the slogan of “The right of education and training for sustainable development” which discussed the challenges of teenager’s education, psychological and social effects for teenagers outside the school and the future prospects of teenager’s education. The workshop indicted that million of children age 9-15 years have no chance for formal education according to economical and other reasons like displacement and instability.

The workshop raised some suggestions which many contribute in reducing the number of illiterate teenagers by entering them in the education process. In this aspect we can mentioned to the experience of Maarij foundation for Peace and Development in dissemination of education through its project (open education) which provides technical, cultural and intellectual education services for students in remote and nomads areas. This project success in bringing some students to formal education, and some of those students graduated from universities.

Some indications of education issue in Sudan:

- The admission development rate of girls was increased during the recent years 1.8 million compared to 2.1 million boys which represents (57.4, 65.7) respectively.

This means that girl's education is in progress in basic education. Also we mentioned some traditional practices play negative role in girl's education.

- The gender gap is about 8.3%, so we must bridge this gap (reference: Executive program for national population policy).
 - In regard to secondary education, the official data of the ministry of general education mentioned that the students in target age group 25.9% and admission rate 25.9% for girls and 25.9% for boys. This means that the gap has been bridged
 - The numbers of girls exceeding that of boys especially at high education level.
 - Admission to school in nomad's areas increased from 20% to 70% on 2011 and to 100% for all on 2015 by establishing 720 mobile schools.
 - The evaluation of girl education indicates that there are noticeable achievements, but still there are important fields need additional supports to achieve the objectives of educational plans.
 - The activities of the program include increasing the percentage of girls to 71% which means building of 250 schools and 1400 classrooms and to provide 700 school dresses.
 - Increase of nomad children needs building of 250 mobile schools and recruitment of 3600 teachers.
 - In spite of increasing numbers of girls at all levels of education, there is still gap in education 12.6%.
 - Reduction of basic and technical illiteracy.
 - Prevention of escaping from school.
 - Bridging education gap especially in rural areas.
 - The skill and technical levels of education process factors are low.
 - Increasing the level of learning for main languages through providing highly qualified teachers.
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