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Statement of the Delegation of the Sudan

By:

H. E. Amb Dr. Hassan E. El Talib
Mme Chairperson
I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Government of the Sudan, which has been initially prepared to be presented by His Excellency Kamal Ismail, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs who despite huge efforts to participate in this august Session could not be available.
At the outset, let me thank the government and the people of the Islamic Republic of The Gambia for the hospitality and excellent arrangements that have been accorded to us since our arrival to this beautiful city of Banjul.

Mme Chairperson
My delegation would like to underpin the importance of the empowerment of women and to congratulate the Commission for taking this issue as the theme of this 59th Session in compliance with the occasion of the African Year of Human Rights, a matter that finds our strategic interest in the Republic of the Sudan, where the laws in force grant at least 30% of participation of women in Parliament. In other areas, such as graduate and post-graduate education, the ratio surpasses 60%. Also, the Supreme Court has women justices in its rankings, as well as all other professional disciplines, including business, army, police and other law enforcement agencies and etc;

Mme Chairperson
The year 2016 is a landmark in our continent for enshrining human and peoples’ rights as it commemorates multi important events, namely the 35th anniversary of the adoption of the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights (The African Charter)1981; the 30th Anniversary of the entry into force of the African Charter in 1986; the 29th Anniversary of the Operationalization of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights (The Commission) in 1987; the 10th Anniversary of the Operationalization of the African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights in 2006; the 10th Anniversary of the adoption of the African Youth Charter in 2006; and the 13th Anniversary of the adoption of the Protocol to the African Charter on the Rights of Women in Africa in 2003, also commonly referred to as the Maputo Protocol.
The Republic of the Sudan appreciates and attaches great importance to the work of ACHPR and its role for promotion of human rights in the continent.

Mme Chairperson
The focus by the ACHPR on women’s rights to be the major theme this year comes at the right time to enhance the national efforts of our member states in empowering women through protecting their rights and strengthening the ways and means of their implementation in order to realize The Vision of Africa 2063, known as Agenda 2063, and support the accomplishment of the SDG goals 2030.
As a matter of priority Sudan is on the process of ratifying Maputo Protocol which has been presented before the cabinet which will forward it to the National Assembly for ratification.

In addition, my delegation appreciates the model of ongoing cooperation and the mutual collaboration between this commission and our country which could be described as remarkable; yet the need calls for accelerating efforts to address the recurring challenges.

Mme Chairperson
It gives me great pleasure to shed some light on Sudan’s experience in the field of promoting and protecting women’s rights, and measures taken at federal, state and local levels for their empowerment. The government of the Sudan adopted a series of affirmative measures for empowering women economically, politically and professionally, to further encourage their participation in public life. The National Women Empowerment Policy was adopted and eventually adopted the National Rural Women Empowerment Project in 2011 as an integral part. The strategic objective of the project aims at "Reducing poverty and empowering women economically, socially and politically." The project targets the 18 federal states in the country. The financial appropriations for the project increased from SDG 232 million (Sudanese Pounds) in 2007 to SDG 2.8 billion in 2014. A total number of 706,000 participants were reached in 2013 whereas 850 among them were successfully qualified for TOT programs in microfinance principles.

During the period 2012 - 2014 an amount of SGD11 million was allocated and dispersed as Non- Interest Loans, mainly provided for rural women programs which has a target number of 13,356 women, 8,500 of them belong to rural communities.

Mme Chairperson
The ratio of women working in the agricultural sector in the Sudan amounts to 62.7% at the national level, whereas the percentage in some states amounts to 90%. Women’s participation in public service has increased steadily, where currently the ratio in the sector stands at 59%.

Politically, Sudanese women enjoy the right to equal participation in political activities since the dawn of the independence.

As education is considered a key factor in women empowerment, the Government adopted concrete measures to increase girls’ enrolment in schooling and undergraduate education. Equality index between boys and girls at the primary level is 0.94% in 2010 and 0.98% in 2014.

Mme Chairperson
The importance of peace and political stability to create conducive environment for protection and to fully enjoy human rights is not questionable and remains no more a matter of debate between wise persons. Based on this concept, my country launched a comprehensive and inclusive process of
National Dialogue that lasted for two years, with the participation of the vast majority of political parties, civil societies, non-governmental organizations, advocacy groups, as well as other non-registered political groupings, including opposition groups that hold arms against the state. The Dialogue addressed all issues of highest concerns, such as peace, stability, political independence, territorial integrity, freedom of expression, the right to free assembly, good governance, suppression of violence, corruption, national identity, the economy, as well as participation of opposition political parties in a broad-based government. All these concerns were thoroughly debated in a frank and transparent manner.

On the 10th of this month of October 2016, the comprehensive National Dialogue Charter was adopted by consensus and took the signatures of all participants. His Excellency President Omar Al Bashir has announced before the nation his unwavering commitment to implement all the recommendations provided by the Charter. Meanwhile, the implementation of the Charter of National Dialogue will be the major mandate of the broad-based government of national unity to be formed in the near future.

Mme Chairperson
Similar to what many countries in our continent, as well as other developing countries elsewhere, our country faces enormous challenges in the field of promoting and protecting human rights, including threats to national security in few and isolated pockets of conflict, meager and weak response to satisfy the requirements for technical assistance, capacity building and programs aim at raising understanding of human rights and humanitarian law awareness.

The enjoyment of human rights, in our country, especially among women and children, is gravely affected by the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures UCMs imposed by the United States since 1993; as rightly analyzed in the Report of the Special Rapporteur of the United Nations’ Human Rights Council, that was circulated on the 22nd of August 2016 and thoroughly discussed during the 33rd Session of the HRC.

The Report has clearly stated that the sanctions imposed by the United States against the Sudan since 1997 based on unfounded allegations which led to false judgments, have deprived the Sudanese people from the full enjoyment of basic human rights enshrined in the international treaties and conventions, including those where the US government is party to; especially the right to development, the right to education, the right to health and mobility.

Mme Chairperson
The African Union in its resolution (DOC. EX. CL/945XXVIII) add.5, stated that Unilateral Sanctions imposed on Sudan by the government of USA are illegal and against the spirit and letter of the Human Rights and the Humanitarian Law. The Pan-African Parliament also addressed this issue of UCMs in its 3rd Session at Sharm al
Sheikh in Egypt in March 2016. Some of honorable members qualified these sanctions as Crimes Against Humanity.

**Mme Chairperson**
My delegation calls upon our esteemed Commission to consider the negative effects befallen on our developing countries and the continent out of the scourge of these unjust and inhuman coercive measures with a view to analyzing their negative impact on exercising and enjoying human rights by our people.

My delegation requests the Commission to seize of this serious matter and to consider adding the issue of UCMs as a permanent Agenda Item of the Ordinary Sessions.

Thank You Very Much.