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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by the Society Studies Centre (MADA ssc), 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.

[30 May 2016]

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

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Comments on the report of Special Rapporteur on the violence against women in Sudan

Women status in Sudan has been advancing firmly for decades, due to her crucial role in process of construction, peace and development, in 1954 woman in Sudan exercised her political rights as a candidate or a voter, the 2008 election act enabled her to participate in power, the law has located %30 per cent seats in both the cabinet and Parliament, also she has a right contest for presidential election.

In April 2010 and 2015 elections woman has candidate among the presidential candidates, in addition to all this the 2005 constitution grants women economic, social and cultural rights alongside the right of joining or establishing political parties which included a number of women leaders who occupied ranks of ministers, Parliament members and represent in many executive bodies in many institutes.

Women in Sudan managed to enrol all these rights to be part of government's strategic policies, the national strategy of empowering women which approved in 2007, and the national strategy of combating violence against women, the government has founded special mechanism authorized to protect women and children from violence. Now women are participating actively in all national dialogue committees to contribute to sustainable peace and development in Sudan.

The Society Studies Center (SSC) expresses its deep concern to the negative signals and items of the reports of the special rapporteur of violence against women following her recent visit to Sudan, namely the paragraph 22 which concerns rape in Tabit village and paragraph 33 which says the violence is based on the ethnic and racial motivations, therefore we would like to draw the attention of the Human Rights Council to find out facts that built on evidence and proves, the report has negative impacts on women situation and on social fabric as well as on the human rights as general.

Since its establishment SSC didn't record any cases related to discrimination against women, such reports hinder efforts of realizing peace, empowering women and supporting democracy.

SSC is one of the active organizations working in this field, it has found out that what is happened in Tabit is just allegation, because SSC has sent a team to find out facts, the result is no rape, it is a game of competitions between politicians to realize individual interests, our investigations coincide with the report of the National Commission of Human rights which proved no rape cases and the citizens heard the news of rape from Radio Dabanga which broad cast from outside the country.

As regard to Female Gentile Mutilation (FGM) as a challenge faces women in most of developing countries, SSC has conducted analysis study to the law and acts that regulate FGM in Sudan in collaboration with UNCIEF, the study concentrated on states of South Kordofan, South Darfur, Al Gadarif and Red sea, the study is resulted to FGM there is reduction in the exercised in some areas despite the huge efforts exerted at both legal and awareness. Since 2008 SSC organized a campaign to combat the phenomena FGM through awareness raising .

Finally, as you know that many factors contributed to poverty in Sudan like the negative impacts of US unilateral sanctions and debts alongside the rejection of armed movements to sign or join Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD) and to the roadmap that provided by the African Union High Level Panel (AUHLP).

All these factors cast shadows on the women rights in Sudan and impeded her not enjoy basic rights, for these reasons SSC demands for following:

First; we appeal human rights council, committee on status of women (CSW) and the international community to support women in Sudan.

Second: we urge rapporteurs to give special consideration to the culture, values and privacy of the local communities.

Third: SSC called on supporting efforts of organizations working in the field of women and to raise awareness besides providing, financial and technical support to women rights in Sudan.