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Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Written statement* submitted by the Sudanese Women Parliamentarians Caucus, 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.

[18 August 2017]

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

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The Role of Sudanese Women Parliamentarian's Caucus (SWPC) in legal reform and the consolidation of human rights in Sudan

1) Sudanese Women parliamentarian's Caucus (SWPC) Profile:

- Sudanese Women parliamentarian's Caucus (SWPC) is a non-governmental organization is a non- profit National organization established in Sudan in the year 2007. (SWPC) is enjoying a consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations since [2014].
- (SWPC) comprising parliamentarian women's in Sudan National Assembly, endeavors to play a positive role in the development of the Sudanese peoples at the legislative, social, political and economic levels through boosting the parliamentarian role in the field of monitoring, evaluation and legislative reform.

2) Sudan parliament in the Wake of National Dialogue Conference:

- In the wake of three years of national dialogue between all segments of the Sudanese people and their parties, comprehensive outputs have been reached that will contribute to the consolidation of national unity, the cessation of war and the establishment of peace, the spread of democracy and the establishment of good governance, which will ultimately contribute to the comprehensive sustainable development And promote the Sudanese nation's towards welfare and progress.

3) Legal Reform Initiatives:

Sudan signed the International Covenants on Economic and Social Rights, Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on refugees and children's rights, Sudan also adopted laws and policies aimed at empowering women and combating trafficking in human beings.

As part of the ongoing legal reform in the country, the SWPC has submitted several initiatives aimed at promoting the human rights situation. The laws, which were amended by SWPC in collaboration with Sudan's National Assembly, included many important laws and legislations such as the Children's Law, the Personal Status Law, and the Labor Law. The legal reform initiatives initiated or co-sponsored by the SWPC are as follows:

- Reform of economic legislation helps to eliminate poverty, increase the well-being of the family and the whole community and contributes to the reduction of negative phenomena such as domestic violence, child marriage and other negative manifestations related to poverty.
- Amendments to the Criminal Code of 1991 in the Sudan, initiated by SWPC, have contributed to the amendment of Article 149 concerning rape, adoption of new article concerning sexual harassment, as well as the addition of Article 141, which aims to criminalize FGM.
- The Constitution was amended in Article (115) related to the family and the Constitution of the Sudan 2005 amendment of 2016.
- The 1996 Personal Status Law is amended in favor of the family.
- Child law was passed for the year 2010 which guarantees the advancement of children in the Sudan and affirms the protection of the rights of children and reflects the commitment to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- The Health Law has been amended. Free maternity services have been adopted, as well as, free management of children under five, in order to protect the health of the mother and reduce maternal and child mortality rates.

4) Activities of SWPC in the field of awareness, and advocacy:

- SWPC initiated awareness-raising workshops for members of Parliament in various fields related to women and girls, especially in the areas of reproductive health and family planning in coordination with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Sudan office.
- SWPC also initiated the fight against gender-based violence and awareness of the dangers of female genital mutilation, the phenomenon of female genital mutilation, with emphasis on legislation that criminalizes FGM/FGC.
- SWPC convenes a conference to protect human rights and the rule of law in the state of Khartoum on 20/7/2017. The conference came out with many recommendations aimed at strengthening the human rights situation and the strengthening of human dignity.

- SWPC has established several forums in the five states of Darfur, entitled Protection of Human Rights and the Rule of Law, the forums summarized below:
East Darfur State Forum in (Da'in) town on 20/6/2017.
South Darfur State Forum in (Nyala) on 9/7/2017.
North Darfur State Forum in (Melit) on 9/7/2017.
Central Darfur State Forum in (Zalingei) on 9/7/2017.
West Darfur State Forum in (El Geneina) on 12/7/2017.
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