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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 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.

[29 January 2019]

* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.



The General Elections in Sudan 2020, the appropriate means for the peaceful transfer of power

During this decade, Sudan has made significant progress in promoting the democratic experience through laws and mechanisms, including , the General Elections Act 2008, amended in 2014, new General Elections Act 2018 ,the Political Parties Act 2007 , the establishment of a National Electoral Commission and the National Council for Political Parties Affairs. All this has been promoted by national dialogue, which its recommendations have become a key guideline for the governance process in Sudan.

It is undoubted that regular and fair elections is one of main features of democratic regimes and that it is the sole mean for realizing systematic and peaceful transfer of power and for the citizens to practice their electoral rights as guaranteed by the Constitution, National laws and the regional and international human rights instruments. Based on this conviction, our Organization has played positive roles in promoting these steps through the project of peaceful transfer of power, non-violence and our role in community dialogue. In this regard , our organization expresses its deep concerned about the efforts of some small parties to abort the process of democratization by organizing and leading the demonstrations that resulted from the economic crisis in Sudan, and to direct these demonstrations towards sabotage and violence which is contrary to the rules and the right to demonstration and peaceful assembly, which is governed by international, regional and national laws.

In accordance with the General Elections Act 2008 amended 2014, Sudan enters its third round of general elections in 2020 having conducted the first round in 2010.

Within the context of its project on the issues of elections ,democracy and peaceful transfer of power, the (SSC MADA) considerably focuses on the compelling need for consolidating the culture of democratic elections and enhancing the negotiation and consultation efforts for building up a permanent national constitution as the most appropriate means for power transfer. The (SSC MADA) conceives the constitution as the main guarantor of the electoral process by identifying the political, electoral and legislative systems and the main components of the State such as federalism and others. Elections give a valuable mechanism to avoid the hazards of armed conflict and violence.

In this regard the (SSC MADA) recognizes the steps taken towards enhancing democracy and peace building in Sudan as demonstrated by the national dialogue initiative presented by the Government of Sudan together with a strategic plan which aims, according to the Government, to arrive at a real democracy and realize the rule of law, with the participation of all political powers. This trend was consolidated further by the new General Elections Act 2018 to allow for a wider participation and representation of small political parties .

Moreover, the independent and impartial nature of the National Elections Commission was enhanced further when it was re-formulated with the consent of the different political powers to enable it act more efficiently towards enhancing democracy, Through free, fair and transparent elections in Sudan.

In this context, the (SSC MADA) calls on the Electoral Commission to the early preparation for the electoral process 2020, which takes place at all levels, the National Assembly , the States Councils and the Presidency of the Republic, and to enable independent candidates to exercise their rights and to work on updating and publishing the electoral register and taking advantage of the technical errors associated with the experience of the 2015 elections.

Within the above elucidated context the (SSC MADA) states the following:

- **First:** Calls upon your esteemed Council to support the steps taken towards realizing peaceful means for power transfer through free and fair elections and exert pressure on the armed movements to abandon violence and resort to peaceful means and acknowledge that elections is the most appropriate means to access power.

- **Second:** Call upon the Government to prepare a suitable political environment before, during and after the electoral process and to work for completing the strategies of national dialogue it had recently initiated.
 - **Third:** Call upon the National Elections Commission to benefit from the experience of the previous elections, take every necessary precaution to avoid repetition of any previous shortcomings and guarantee a transparent, free and fair electoral process.
 - **Fourth:** Call upon all political parties to enhance the democratic experience in Sudan and engage in the current electoral process to maintain political stability.
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