

**Permanent Mission
of
The Republic of the
SUDAN
To U.N. Office,
Geneva**

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



البعثة الدائمة
لجمهورية السودان
جنيف

*Statement by
The Delegation of the Sudan
on the Report of the Special Rapporteur
on the Human Rights Situation
in the Sudan*

7th Session of the Human Rights Council

Geneva 17-03-2008

Check against delivery

Unofficial Translation

Mr. President,

The delegation of The Sudan would like to express to the Special Rapporteur its gratitude for her statement and her report to the HRC. We do renew the Government of The Sudan's readiness and commitment to preserve the spirit of partnership and constructive dialogue.

Mr. President,

Our first observation relates to the summary of the report, which refers to facts and findings that are not at all related to, and have never been mentioned in the report itself.

The summary mentioned that women in the Sudan are imprisoned for not paying the dowry or for criminal acts committed not by her but by any member of her family. This is a source of both surprise and denunciation. It is against our Constitution, law and traditions. The traditional customs, not only in Sudan but in all Africa, in no way require women to pay the dowry. We do wonder how this fabrication was instituted against The Sudan in human rights to be added to other similar ones? What is more surprising is the claim that the woman in The Sudan is a second class citizen. The stark facts in addition to the Constitution and the law in the country do not support that bizarre claim. Women enjoy according to the Constitution equal legal, financial and political competence as men. In fact, women in the Sudan now occupy various posts; as advisors to the President, cabinet ministers, Supreme Court and Constitutional Court judges, medical doctors, ambassadors, army and police officers. In general, gender balance is fully maintained in all different levels of civil service. The women enjoy a distinguished status in education. They represent

60% of the total number of students enrolled in the Sudanese universities. Women's rights to vote and election is preserved.

In the new Election Act, women are allotted 25% of the total parliament seats in observance of the principle of positive discrimination.

Mr. President,

The report contains vague and hazy phrases on acts of torture. It failed to mention names or concrete information on instances of torture and when and where they were committed. On its part, the government of The Sudan, having been confident of its record, and out of its principal legal and moral repudiation of torture, readily allowed the Special Rapporteur to visit any prison she chooses to visit and to meet there whom ever she wants to meet without any restriction whatsoever.

Mr. President,

As regards to the reference made to Darfur in the report, we would like to state that the government of The Sudan is cognizant of the fact that the conflict brings about a situation not conducive to the promotion and protection of human rights. Based on this conviction, the Government of The Sudan spared no effort to arrive at a peaceful settlement to Darfur crisis. At the same time, the government took a series of measures to mitigate the impact of the conflict on the humanitarian situation. In this connection, the Fast Track Agreement that secured the speedy flow of the humanitarian assistance has been renewed; all facilitations to secure delivery of humanitarian assistance to the needy have been provided. With regard to the deployment of the UN/AU hybrid forces, the government signed the Status of Mission Agreement (SOFA) as a legal framework in which the duties and the obligations of each party were elaborated. To assist the hybrid forces to carry out its duties, the Government allotted lands and

permitted the importation of all equipment custom-free. Evidently, the Government of The Sudan has fulfilled its obligations in this regard. The report, as it stands, ignored the logistical shortcomings that have impeded the smooth functioning of the hybrid forces due to the fact that the donor countries have not honored their commitments.

Mr. President,

We can say that the security situation has improved generally in Darfur and particularly in North and South Darfur. For the situation in West Darfur, which the report emphasized on, the Justice and Equality rebel movement captured Abu Suruj and Silaia villages in December 2007. Eventually they blocked the transportation routes in these areas and started to levy taxes and proceeded therefrom to El-Ginaina, the capital city of West Darfur. The Sudanese armed forces, in discharge of their duties, had to move to retake these areas. In doing so, they took all the precautions to secure civilians safety. The fact that the rebels used the civilians as human shields caused civilian losses, which the government verily sought to avoid and which it regrets.

Mr. President,

The democratic transformation in the Sudan is currently taking deeper and wider strides. The incumbent government is comprised of ten political parties. The preparations for the general elections next year are presently under way with added energy. In fulfillment of this objective, which is entrenched in the Constitution, the 15th of April 2008 has been fixed to organize the national population census in all over the country. Also, final touches have been made for the promulgation of the Election Act and Human Rights Commission Act.

Mr. President,

We would like to express our satisfaction over the acknowledgment contained in the report that progress has been made in the protection and promotion of human rights in the Sudan and in the provision of humanitarian assistance.

The government of the Sudan believes in constructive dialogue and partnership and, above that, in the enjoyment of all human rights by each and every Sudanese national. In this connection, we are resolved to continue our dialogue and partnership with this august Council for the achievement of our ultimate objective in promotion and protection of human rights.