



S U D A N

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT

By

**The Permanent Representative
Of the Republic of the Sudan
To the United Nations**

H.E.Dr. Abdalmahmood A. Mohamad

**On the Security Council Open Debate
"Women, Peace and Security"**

New York, Tuesday, October 23, 2007

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Mr. President

Allow me at the outset to join the previous speakers in congratulating you for a very active Security Council Presidency under your able stewardship, including today's' debate on Women, Peace and security that coincides with the seventh Anniversary of the adoption of the Security Council Resolution (1325).

Mr. President

The above mentioned resolution laid the basis for cross-cutting, in-depth reflections on gender issues in areas of conflicts, post-conflicts and peace-building. That resolution sets out a comprehensive plan of action on the status of women in the context of the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and in accordance with the obligations set out in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and the provisions of the Outcome Document of the Twenty-Third Special Session of the General Assembly, on Women, Development and Peace in order to “Ensure and support the full participation of women at all levels of decision-making and implementation in development activities and peace processes, including conflict prevention and resolution” (*GA resolution S-23/3, Annex, para. 86 (b)*). In this connection, women and armed conflicts should not overshadow the broader issue of women, peace and social development, including the right to development.

We note in that respect the Security Council's request to the Secretary-General to submit a system-wide action plan to implement resolution 1325 (2000). That plan includes major areas of action in the field of women, peace and security and providing a framework for relevant inter-agency activities, aimed at addressing this issue through strategies to promote the gender perspective, confidence-building, and the development of local and regional women's organizations to complement the role of the United Nations at the regional and local levels.

Mr. President

The promotion of gender perspective in areas of conflicts requires that reconstruction and rehabilitation programmes incorporate the promotion of women's practical participation in those areas by providing technical assistance, particularly training programmes for women in the fields of health and education.

In that respect, we rely on the relevant United Nations agencies and bodies including the United Nations Fund for Women (UNIFEM), The UN Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and UNICEF to coordinate their inter-agency programmes for women and girls.

We would like to underscore the need to abide by the principle of national ownership of these programs and activities, which must respond to national priorities and focus on capacity-building of local institutions in charge of implementing such programs.

Mr. President

At the national level, women empowerment has been one of the Sudan's top priorities. The Comprehensive Peace Agreement and the Darfur Peace Agreement both included provisions safeguarding the role and active participation of women in peace-building and the implementation of the relevant provisions of the two agreements. Our traditions and values accord women a particularly prominent position. And since our national independence more than five decades ago the Sudanese women have demonstrated pioneering roles and contributions in all aspects of the Sudanese political, economic, social and cultural life.

The above achievements have been crowned this very year by the adoption of our first **National Strategy for the Empowerment of Women (NSEW)**, which is fully aligned with the Beijing Plan of Action's main pillars. I would like also to assure this august body that, as our country is preparing for the decisive Darfur Peace Talks in Libya in less than a week from now, the participation of women in the peace process would undoubtedly give dynamism and direction needed for the success of the talks.

Mr. President.

We are hopeful that today's council debate would have a positive impact on the status and role of women in today's world. We would like to propose that all proposals and pertinent suggestions presented throughout today's debate be used to enrich current strategies employed by the various UN stockholders and bodies.

We would like also to caution against unpleasant trends in this Organization aimed at politicizing the issues of women to settle political scores. In this case the victims would only be the women whom we are trying to assist.

Thank you Mr. President,