

SUDANESE WOMEN DECLARATION ON DARFUR

We, the Sudanese women

Gathered for the 1st African Women Consultation on Darfur (24-25th January 2008, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia), under the aegis of the 11th African Women Pre-Summit Consultation, with the support of the “Gender is My Agenda” Campaign Network, coordinated by Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS), resolve to stand together and pursue a Common Platform and Agenda on Darfur peace process;

Coming from all the regions and various sectors of the Sudan, including the government, civil society organisations, and the parties to the conflict in Darfur, and **determined** to bring our contribution to the process of resolving the Darfur conflict, and the search for lasting peace and sustainable development;

Noting with appreciation the commitment of African leaders to promote gender equality as demonstrated by, amongst other things, the adoption of the Principle on gender parity, the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality, and the Protocol to the Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the rights of women in Africa, as well as their commitments to international instruments, including the UN Security Council Resolution 1325;

Appreciating the efforts of AMIS in Darfur and the decision of the UN and the AU to deploy the Hybrid Force in Darfur;

Recognising the various ongoing humanitarian efforts to alleviate the suffering of the populations of Darfur;

Recognising with appreciation the stimulating role played by the women leaders’ mission to Chad, led by Mary Robinson, and by the International Women Leaders Global Security Initiative;

Deeply concerned of the continuing conflict in Darfur and violence persistently perpetrated against civilian populations, particularly women and children;

Further concerned that the full deployment of the United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), which would improve security in Darfur, has been delayed;

Worried that the Darfur Peace Process is not moving speedily towards the resolution of the conflict, and deploring the absence of women in the process:

Commit ourselves to engage fully and effectively with the Darfur peace process;

Decided to establish a Sudanese Women Forum on Darfur to:

- a) Coordinate our action in the Darfur Peace Process,
- b) Facilitate the regular dialogue between women constituencies in Darfur, between Darfuri women and the other Sudanese sisters, as well as between Sudanese women and the African Women Peace Networks,
- c) Report regularly to the AU and other relevant institutions on all issues of concerns for women in Darfur,

Urge the AU and the International community to fully support this Sudanese women initiative;

Call upon all actors involved in the Darfur Peace Process to ensure appropriate representation of women, and to facilitate their capacity building for effective participation;

Call on the warring groups to stop the conflict immediately and adhere to the peace process;

Call for a speedy and full deployment of UNAMID;

Urge troops contributing countries to include women in their contingents to Darfur, in accordance with the said Resolution 1325;

Urge the Government of Sudan to fulfil its obligation of protecting the people of Darfur and put an end to impunity and crimes against humanity perpetrated in that region.

Call on humanitarian actors in Darfur to engender relief efforts, and confirm our readiness to cooperate with them to archive this objective;

Call for coordination and integration of humanitarian assistance with recovery and development programmes and activities, in accordance with the African Union Framework for post conflict Reconstruction and Development;

Urge relevant actors operating in Darfur to provide adequate space for healing, post trauma rehabilitation as well as confidence and trust building for Darfur victims as part of recovery process;

Call on all partners to assist women to achieve economic empowerment as a basis for peace building and sustainable development.

Express our gratitude to the organisers of the First African Women Consultation on Darfur and to the partners who supported this initiative in particular the African Union, the United Nations Commission for Africa, Department for International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom, as well as FAS for coordinating and providing expert support;

Reaffirm our strong commitment to stand in solidarity with Darfur women and to support the peace process in collaboration with our African sisters.

Done in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 25th January 2008.

Revised (1)