



Femmes Africa Solidarité

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Thank you Mr. President,

We wish to congratulate the President on his election and extend a warm and sincere welcome to the High Commissioner. We support the High Commissioner in her advocacy for a human rights system that is effective and devoid of racial and gender discrimination. We concur with the High Commissioner, that not all injustices can be phased out but that we are obligated to alleviate them and prevent further occurrences as well as holding the perpetrators accountable.

We value the findings of the Special Rapporteur on the situation on human rights in the Sudan, Ms. Sima SAMAR, which explicitly demonstrates the need for collaboration and partnership among the various stakeholders and we support the recommendations, particularly calling for the ratification of the remaining international instruments for the protection of Human Rights, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

Following a recent mission to Sudan in particular to Darfur and speaking out of experience, Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS) calls on all stakeholders dealing with conflict resolution and peace building to consider women's human security needs, by facilitating and supporting their full participation in peace negotiations. In order to maintain their peace agenda into the process, we encourage the Government to ratify the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, and to implement United Nations SCR 1325 and United Nations SCR 1820 at all levels.

The efforts to consolidate and sustain peace in Darfur are better placed in a bottom-up approach which should include a gender perspective. We thank the Women of Sudan for their willingness to contribute to the process. We appeal to the International Community to support the various on going consultation processes, the upcoming '**Sudanese Women's Forum on Darfur**' which resulted from the 1st Africa Women's Consultation on Darfur held in Addis Ababa, January, 2008. The women are demanding for peace, security justice and reparation specifically for victims of sexual violence.

As we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), assessing the achievements and challenges, the plight of the Sudanese women should not be forgotten.

Thank you Mr. President.

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