

The Republic of Sudan
Ministry of Security and Social Development

**Inter-Regional Expert Group Meeting “Placing Equality at the Center of Agenda
2030”**

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Distinguish Participants, dear colleagues,

It gives me great pleasure to be with you in Santiago at this global meeting to discuss a very important issue to *The Republic of Sudan and that is:* socio-economic inequalities. It is also very pertinent that we are discussing this issue today in the context of *Agenda 2030 to which The Republic of Sudan* has been a faithful adherent and in the service of which it has issued several policy directives.



Inequality and social Justice are central to The Republic of Sudan where particularly inequality has faced major challenges such as:

- ▶ ***Rural and urban*** developmental, economic and social disparities as well as regionally and between states;
- ▶ ***Post-conflict transition*** and ensuing disparities, requirements of peace-building and national dialogue based on the establishment of a new social contract.
- ▶ ***Social disparities***, including the dimensions of Gender; Intergenerational Gaps; Disability; Migration and Displacement; Health; Education; and Labor.

- ▶ ***This is compounded by institutional challenges***, mainly in the capacity of governmental institutions to enforce the commitments enshrined in the new constitution and founding documents on social justice and inequality. This is in addition to the inadequate capacity of civil society, social dialogue and societal partnerships in accomplishing tasks in this context.

I shall point out that at the levels of policy, law and legislation, The Sudan has committed itself to justice and inequality through the following texts:

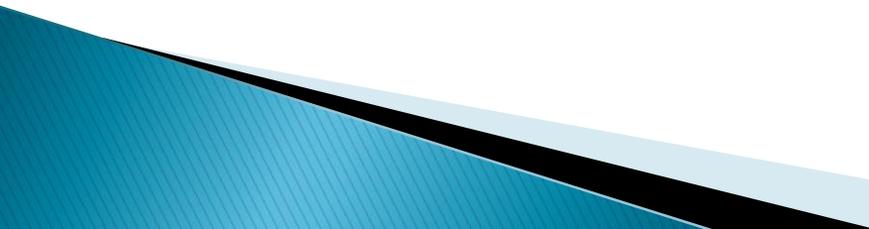
The 2005 Transitional Constitution which included several clauses on social justice including the following clause: “The State shall develop strategies and policies to ensure social justice among the people of the Sudan by providing livelihood, employment opportunities, encouraging solidarity, self-help, cooperation and charitable work. No qualified person shall be denied entry into any profession or work due to disability and all persons with special needs and the elderly have the right to participate in social, professional, creative or recreational activities”



- ▶ On the economy, clause 10 states: *“The broader objectives of economic development shall be the eradication of poverty, the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, the equitable distribution of wealth, the reduction of income inequality and the achievement of a decent standard of living for all citizens.”*

Additionally, the Constitution contains the Bill of Rights that recognizes that all Sudanese are equal before the law. This is along with The Integrated Social Policy document has established Social Justice and Equity as major principles through commitment to a social protection system in accordance with the transitional constitution of 2005 and fundamental rights.

As you can see, the legal and legislative framework for justice and equality in The Sudan is set with major attention and resources devoted to these issues.



I will move to some of the most indicators of development and social justice in The Sudan.

The under-five child mortality rate was 68.4/1000 in 2010 compared to 128/1000 in 1990s and the maternal mortality ratio was 216/100,000 in 2010 compared to 509/100,000 in 1990s.

On education, The Sudan witnessed an increase in the enrollment rates in basic education **from 46.8%** for both sexes in **2000** to **55.7%** for **boys** and **51.7%** for **girls** in **2006**. However, the proportion of students of both sexes who completed basic education reached **19.4%**, which means higher dropout rates before completion of the foundation stage due to cultural, economic and social factors.

Economic liberalization policies have led to imbalances in the distribution of national wealth and income, which have had the greatest impact on the social fabric. The expenditure on services in national budgets decreased from **21%** of total expenditure in **1989/91** to **10% in 1991/1992**.

In 1993, the rural sector included **79.45%** of the total poor in a clear increase in proportion to the urban poor. The poverty gap index increased from **23%** in **1978** to **45%** in **1986**, to **59.35%** in **1993**.

In the period **2012-2014**, pro-poor expenditures increased from **4.2%** of the national income in **2012** to **5%** in **2014** from the general budget. **The non-budget** disbursements such as **Zakat** and specialized resources accordingly increased from **4.6%** In **2012** to **5.4%** in **2014**.

Pro-poor disbursements are distributed as follows: The rate of disbursement on **education** was **28%** while the rate of disbursement on **health** was **22%**. The State also adopted the **a Five-Year Program for Economic Reform 2015-2019**, which aims to achieve and consolidate the factors of sustainability of economic stability and thus achieve high, sustainable and comprehensive economic growth rates aimed at more employment opportunities to transform the economy and expand and diversify its production base.

The program faced many challenges, most important of which were the **US unilateral economic sanctions**, the worsening **debt** problem, the **insufficient of financial resources necessary** to implement the program and the **continuation of conflicts and civil wars**.

On employment, in **2011** it reached **18.5%** and was concentrated in urban areas and among women and youth in particular. *Unemployment* among *women* reached **32.1%** compared to **13.3%** for *men*.

The unemployment rate among women in urban areas was **43.9%** compared with **25.6%** in rural areas. This is due to the work of most rural women in the agricultural sector, which **does not** require **scientific qualifications or academic** never the less rural women have shown in recent years capabilities of obtaining income and that they have gain considerable experiences , as in urban areas. In the rural areas where the dependence on the agricultural sector is concentrated, the unemployment rate is **16%** compared to **22.9%** in urban areas standards.

On poverty and inequality, poverty is one of the major challenges facing the Sudan. *According to* the latest family survey carried out in **2009** in Sudan, the poverty rate among the population reached about **46.5%**, with clear differences between rural and urban areas and between the various states. For example, the percentage was **26%** in the state of *Khartoum* and rises to approximately **69%** in the state of *North Darfur*. The rural poor account for **57.6%** compared to **26.5%** in urban areas, reflecting the widening gap in rural and urban living standards.

There are also differences between the levels of poverty among males and females, where the poverty rate among *males* is about **13.3%** compared to **32.1%** among *women*.

At the policy level, the government has set up a strategy to address poverty, including the interim poverty reduction strategy (**2011-2017**) and the overall poverty reduction strategy (2018 - ...), focusing on more pro-poor public expenditures **in last three years and for the purpose of reducing the impact of government policies lifting subsidies**, the government (MoSSD) has **launched and executed major programs** (The Shamil Program which include of support of poor families by providing them with financial, health and education support). **Early this year the government has lifted up the center for poverty reduction to an independent commission for social safety net)**

There are serious challenges that obstruct the course of social justice and the implementation of such international commitments as the SDGs. The most important of these **challenges** are the existence and size of *budgets* allocated to achieve these goals, the *volume* of *coordination* between the institutions of federal government, the *social responsibility* of sectors in the Sudan, and the *means* of involving *local communities* in development.



There is also an urgent need to know the scope of population movements who are constantly moving due to conflicts. *Without* ensuring *stability* for the population, it will not be possible to achieve development, *especially* as external support depends on achieving **peace and capacity-building** that is paralyzed by poverty. *Data shows* that **60-70%** of household **income** goes to **food**, which **indicates** the **inadequacy** of national investment in **food security**.



To make a tangible change we must allow the implementation of the provisions of the Constitution and other national documents, including in particular the recommendations of the recent National Dialogues taking into account the following proposals:

- ▶ *Redraw the principles* governing the State's socio-economic policies on a more equitable and balanced geographical basis and following sectoral and qualitative guidelines to eliminate economic and social disparities.
- ▶ *Integrate economic and social rights* into the Bill of Rights and make them subject judicial review.

- ▶ *Enact preferential* policies for vulnerable groups and entities with a view to creating a balance and eliminating the cumulative effects of disparities and adopting a quota system.
- ▶ *Enforcement of* the principles of the division of power and wealth according to the principles set forth in the 2005 transitional Constitution (**Problems of Application**)
- ▶ *Recognize the growing role of businesses* in economic development and their linkage to state policies and the codification of social responsibility of businesses and companies with their economic, social and environmental dimensions, and regulate them with legislation, policies and incentives.

The ESCWA project on inequality has helped us in making strides toward the implementation of some of the recommendations stated above by building the capacity of a cadre of professionals from various ministries, national and regional entities, including civil society and universities in understanding, measuring and combating inequalities. Through a series of workshops, *ESCWA* has assisted Sudanese officials in acquiring new and important concepts which enhances methods of planning and developing equality-sensitive public policies, in line with our constitutional prerogatives on social justice.



The Sudan is prepared to adopt new ways of measuring and tackling inequalities and is looking forward to working with international, Arab and African partners to continue this important work.

Thank you for listening