



**Sudanese Women's Common Agenda for
The Transitional & Post- Transitional Periods in Sudan
February 2010**

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Preamble:

Sudanese Women Empowerment for Peace (SuWEP) is a women's peace movement working for the betterment of all Sudanese women to strengthen and empower them politically socially and economically.

Since its inception in 1997, SuWEP was and is still supported by the Royal Netherlands Government and other organizations which support gender equality. SuWEP operates in both northern and southern Sudan on the basis of a common vision and mission of :

"A democratic Sudan which enjoys sustainable peace and development based on the principles of gender equality and justice."

SuWEP participated in several national, regional and international peace negotiations, seminars and conferences and was nominated for the Noble peace Prize in 2005.

SuWEP is a women's peace movement that promotes gender equity and women's empowerment to take their rightful position within mainstream Sudanese society with no affiliation to any political party. Guided by this principle and under the umbrella of SuWEP several women's organisations and individuals met over two days, February 18 & 19, 2010 in Khartoum and together developed a set of

recommendations to be presented to all candidates in the upcoming elections in April 2010, irrespective of their political party affiliation to adopt. It is hoped that through this effort Sudanese women can together promote women's rights and towards their effective participation in the political, social and economical development of Sudan.

Currently, Sudanese women have limited access to political leadership, decision making, employment and promotion to senior positions in the civil system, the police and the military, due to cultural norms that hinder women effective participation in leadership and decision making. Women all over Sudan should support candidates whose campaign agendas call for increased women participation in decision making, parliamentary caucuses, media, education and security without discrimination

With regards to civil rights and the rule of law, it is important to support candidates who call for revision of current laws and regulation that make women vulnerable and fails to protect them from violations and abuse.

SuWEP as a women movement affirms its support to the ***“Women's Common Agenda”*** and urges all Sudanese women and the international community to support this recommendations to strengthen democracy in Sudan through women's greater participation at all levels of governance in order to achieve a sustainable development in Sudan.

Short – Term Recommendations

1. Campaign period:

Regardless of political affiliation or gender,

- a) Demand security for both women & men
- b) Demand equal media coverage
- c) Demand equal freedom of rallies
- d) Demand equal financial support

2. Election period:

Regardless of political affiliation or gender,

- a) Ensure effective women's participation in election observation

- b) Demand equal access to all media platforms.
- c) Demand safe non-violent election campaign specially the personal security of candidates
- d) Demand for equal access to financial resources for women candidates from political parties.
- e) Establish women endowment to support women candidates
- f) Support women aspirants during there election campaign
- g) Demand for equal opportunities for both women & men irrespective of their political affiliation
- h) Ensure the women aspirants/politicians include the common women agenda in there elections programs
- i) Demand equal security and freedom on expression, movement and association for both women aspirants, voters and all women involved in other related electoral process
- j) Demand for inclusion and implementation of women agenda in the national agenda and election campaign
- k) Demand Equal representation in post election government at all levels of governance not less than 30% representatives
- l) Increase women awareness to ensure effective free participation during referendum & popular consultation
- m) Ensure and strengthen effective linkages between women parliamentarian forum & women civil society organizations

Long-Term Recommendations

1. Peace:

- a) Commitment to all Sudan peace agreements e.g. CPA, DPA ...etc
- b) Demand cease fire in Darfur and disarmament of all armed groups in the states
- c) Demand for Genuine inclusive peace negotiations that addresses needs of all people of Darfur

- d) Ensure effective women participation in the peace process to comply with Security Council Resolution 1325, 1820, 1888, 1889, Banjul Declaration and the African Women Protocol Respectively.
- e) Enhance women negotiation and mediation skills
- f) More deployment of women with organized forces
- g) Involving women in DDR processes
- h) Ensure the representation of women in monitoring mechanisms of all peace agreement and all peace keeping missions
- i) Ensure more focus and space for women in the media

2. Sustainable development:

- a) Demand Commitment and allocation of necessary budgets to achieve the Millennium Development goals and ensure 25% from the national budget be allocated to gender issues
- b) Demand women accessibility to financial facilities such as microfinance, loans, technology, agricultural equipments, ownership of resources, employment ...etc
- c) Supporting programs that maximize free health services such as emergency cases, reproductive health, safely motherhood terminal illnesses ...etc
- d) Demand for provision of free health insurance system for children, expectant women and people with special needs, and an affordable health insurance coverage for the community
- e) Lobby for development of an educational curriculum that abide with all the international standards
- f) Lobby for establishment of institutions that provide grants and educational loans for women
- g) Lobby for establishment of polytechnic and vocational institutions for women and men

3. Legislations and national laws:

- a) Demand for commitment to gender sensitive legal framework with emphasis of FGM, rape laws and other forms of sexual violence.
- b) Demand for reviewing and changing the legislations and laws in compliance with the peace agreements, the Interim Constitution and the Constitution of south Sudan government (according to the international and regional conventions)
- c) Demand for equal citizenship rights and responsibilities of both men and women
- d) Demand for reformation of all laws and regulations that oppress women including the Criminal Act of 1991, Personal Status law, law of public order of 1996; to abide with the international standards
- e) Demand for enactment of deterrent laws in order to combat all forms of violence against women particularly the areas affected by wars and ending the impunity
- f) Demand for strengthening and establishing institutional mechanisms that enable women to report any act of violence against them in safety and confidentiality
- g) Lobby for ratification of regional and international conventions that recognize women rights such as CEDAW and The African Protocol for Women's Rights

4. Capacity building:

- a) Demand for establishment of women support centers in the areas of refugees and internally displaced persons and camps for returnees through the utilization of peace building and reconstruction efforts and under the supervision of the government
- b) Strengthening the capacity of women and women's organizations in providing support services and the engagement in the policies of construction and full participation in reconstruction efforts
- c) Lobby for capacity building for women candidates in training areas; e.g. confidence building, election law and electoral procedures, public speaking, communication skills and public relations, proposal writing, fund raising skills, campaigning and message development skills and networking skills, awareness on local native administration