



General Assembly

Distr.: General
6 September 2010

English only

Human Rights Council

Fifteenth session

Agenda item 4

Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Written statement* submitted by the Sudan Council of Voluntary Agencies (SCOVA), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[23 August 2010]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

Statement on the 2010 elections in Sudan**

The 2010 elections which were held in Sudan represented the beginning of a real transition to democracy and a peaceful transfer of power. It was a true testimony of the comprehensive peace agreement (CPA). An agreement which was witnessed and sponsored by the international community.

The Sudan Council of Voluntary Agencies (SCOVA) and through a national platform for civil society organizations and democratic elections established by the Council included in its membership more than one hundred and thirty organization, participated in the electoral process since its launch. The council with the participation of organizations helped in raising awareness, education and training of observers and election officers and agents of the political parties in both the north and south regions in Sudan. 17365 trainees benefited from the training programs. The platform has effectively deployed 3252 observers covered the various stages of the electoral process in all states of Sudan.

The legal framework for the process of election was governed by the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and the Interim Constitution of 2005, which was issued whereby the Election Law of 2008, which included the formation of a national election commission and referenced the need for local participation and international observation over the elections for the first time in the history of Sudan.

The 2010 elections in Sudan has witnessed a broad participation of various political and social forces, as the number of participating parties was 62 before the withdrawal of some political parties. The number of independent candidates was 1668 from among 14,550 candidates at all levels of the electoral process which elevated the spirit of competition between the various parties to an extent that raised the level of political activity and produced various forms of alliances and political maneuvering.

The participation of civil society organizations in the election process has added value to the process. 1138 local organizations have participated in elections education, training and monitoring which resulted in approximately 25000 local observers.

The electoral process has earned more credibility with the presence of international observers and representatives of 26 missions from different States and international organizations, regional and international and independent missions. The number of international observers was 834.

As the electoral process was evaluated by the size of voter participation, what caught the observers attention was the remarkable percentage of voter registration which was more than 80% while the percentage of voter turnout was more than 60%. And the testimony of observers is that Sudanese people have come to participate peacefully away from violence and in a calm environment throughout the election period which reflects the advancement of the Sudanese people in practice and willingness to contribute to the peaceful rotation of power, renounce violence and achieve a democratic transition.

The participation of Sudanese women in this election was most obvious as women have contributed actively in the process of registration, nomination and election campaigns of parties and independent candidates and their presence was noticeable at the stage of voting as all of this was a sign of women commitment and determination to exercise their constitutional right.

** This statement was presented to the Fourteenth Session of the Human Rights Council held in Geneva from 31 May to 18 June 2010 and for technical reasons was not issued.

In addition women were candidates for 25% of national and state parliamentary seats according to the law. Women have also ran in a large number of geographical constituencies and party constituencies, This elections has also witnessed for the first time in the history of Sudan the nomination of a woman for the post of President of the Republic. So came the participation of women as one of the most important reasons for a-successful elections in the country

The recent elections in Sudan raised a sensation in the domestic political forces and in some international observers from the other side about the extent to which the Sudanese elections has met the international standards after an issue of relative assessment and evaluation. But, although it happened some sort of consensus from all parties that the electoral process in Sudan has been complex and expanding, making it difficult to control and tune procedures, and implement those procedures without the presence of irregularities or administrative or technical malfunction.

Accompanied the electoral process, technical and administrative errors some of them was the fall of the names of voters from the electoral register, the wrong distribution of ballots in a limited number of constituencies, change or the fall of some candidates symbols in some constituencies. As a result the National Elections Commission and to preserve the rights of voters and candidates has decided re-voting in 17 of the National constituencies of the total 270 by 6%, and the number of 16 state constituencies of 749 by 2%. The election in the state of South Kordofan has been postponed on the level of the governor and the State legislature to conduct correction in the number of registered voters and in the state of Gezira at the level of the State Legislature because of a court case in which the state is requiring a larger number of seats in the State Legislature. The deferred election in these constituencies will be held in June 2010.

The holding of the elections on its designated time confirms the commitment of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement participants and their seriousness in achieving the democratic transformation and peaceful transfer of power. With that the phase of totalitarian rule and political compromises between the stronger parties has been folded to confirm the Sudanese people right to choose their leadership. The Council calls upon the various national political forces to abide by the rules of democratic practice since the completion of democratic shift requires more time and experience to strengthen and develop for the better. The Council also urges the international community to fulfil its obligations in support of democratic change in Sudan. And the completion of the merits of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement to supervise the holding of the referendum on self-determination for southern Sudan in a fair and transparent way and to ensure the will of the people of Southern Sudan.

In the end the Council confirms its commitment to continue monitoring the democratic transformation to ensure the exercise of all members of the Sudanese people of their legal and Constitutional rights. The Council calls upon all civil society organizations of solidarity to advance the peaceful transfer of power and to entrench the values of the peace-loving Sudanese people.
