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Statement submitted by International Peace and Development Organization, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



Statement

Role played by the International Peace and Development Organization in the economic empowerment of women in areas of conflict in the Sudan

The International Peace and Development Organization is a voluntary organization concerned with peacebuilding and development in areas affected by emergency conditions. The Organization provides relief and support, and executes projects designed to spread the culture of peace and promote renunciation of violence. It also executes economic and social development programmes.

Legal status of the organization

The International Peace and Development Organization is a Sudanese voluntary organization headquartered in Khartoum. It has been registered with the Humanitarian Aid Commission since 1995. The organization has a general assembly that elects a board of directors for a three-year term. The board of directors appoints the executive management of the organization. The organization also has four branch offices in the states.

The organization is a member of a number of networks that are active in multiple fields, including women's affairs, development and AIDS. The organization's work is based on partnerships. It has partnered with a number of international, local and United Nations organizations, and was granted consultative status with the Economic and Social Council in 2009.

Goals

The goals of the organization are to:

- Contribute to peacebuilding;
- Promote the rights of women and children;
- Help promote social harmony and contribute to conflict resolution;
- Promote disaster prevention and meet emergency needs.

Vision

The organization seeks to ensure the dignity and well-being of families, women and children in communities affected by emergency conditions in the Sudan and to contribute effectively to enduring peace and sustainable development.

Mission

The organization assiduously strives to achieve its mission by pursuing a strategy of empowering women, because they are the pillars of peace and development in the target communities. It also seeks to improve protection for women and children and increase their survival. The organization will strive in a professional manner to ease the burden of poverty in the areas and communities that it targets.

The International Peace and Development Organization has done the following to economically empower women in areas of conflict:

- Ten projects have been executed to develop the livelihood-earning skills of some 1,000 women in the states of Darfur, Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile in partnership with a number of local organizations, United Nations organizations, such as the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Mission in the Sudan, and a number of foreign organizations active in the Sudan;
- The organization provides economic support and services to women discharged from combatant groups to facilitate their economic integration, based on their previous experience or aspirations for a new occupation.
- The organization raises the awareness of women in areas of conflict and builds their management and organizational capacities to facilitate their access to financing institutions. The Bank of the Sudan and other commercial banks provide financing to poor women in areas of conflict and other areas.
- The organization provides the guarantees required to obtain loans from commercial bank to women who would otherwise be unable to obtain such loans.

Challenges

Protracted armed conflicts present the greatest challenge because they prolong the suffering of women in the areas of armed conflict.

The Sudan has long been subject to unilateral sanctions and has accumulated external debt and interest thereon, making it difficult to overcome poverty, which, in turn, makes new conflicts possible.

The parties to the conflict in the Sudan are inclined to engage in dialogue and peaceful negotiation to resolve their differences. However, certain external parties have reported or alleged the use of internationally prohibited methods or practices. The linking of such methods and practices to one party or another in the absence of clear evidence can shake the confidence of the negotiating parties and squander opportunities to reach a comprehensive peace.

Recommendations

The parties to the conflict must be provided with the support they need to continue their dialogue and thereby bring an end to the conflict and the suffering of women in areas of conflict.

Efforts must be made to lift the unilateral sanctions imposed on the Sudan and thereby end the suffering of women in areas of conflict.
