



ORAL STATEMENT

Thematic Debate of the General Assembly: Ensuring Stable and Peaceful Societies April 24, 2014 New York, NY

Statement by Nagwa Gadaheldam, Global Partnership for Local Action, on behalf of the Post 2015 Women's Coalition, for Panel 3: *Building Global partnership for ensuring stable and peaceful societies*

Mr. President, Ms. Chairperson, Distinguished Fellow Panelists, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning.

I am speaking today on behalf of the Post 2015 Women's Coalition and in particular on behalf of stakeholders in Sudan, my home country, Africa, Arab States and the entire world.

The international community must create an enabling environment for sustainable peace and development by strengthening people-centered global partnerships to achieve sustainable development.

Today everyone talks about how many partnerships exist, with little substantial impacts on humanity and development. Yet what is needed is to change business as usual and promote people-centered development¹. The next development agenda should focus on a sharing common vision, with space for different solutions for different contexts, taking into consideration the responsibility and accountability of each actor in the partnerships.

An enabling environment must transform modes of exploitation to regeneration, recognizing that People and Nations comprehend that their fates are highly linked and we share one planet with limited resources, while we are all global citizens, where villagers should learn to respect each other in a world without borders.

We also recognize that investing in private sector institutions is not a remedy for economic stability and peaceful societies. Instead, the current business model focuses on prosperity for some, and in these times of economic uncertainty, strong social protections and services have been increasingly destroyed through privatization, militarization, and non-regulation. Furthermore, despite the popular rhetoric of "social corporate responsibility," the guiding principle of business is profit and too often this means trading human rights.

At this critical stage, we believe that we collectively should reexamine the national, regional and global approach of partnerships, even among the communities and cross border. Regional societies have many things in common, not only language, ethnicity, but also threats and opportunities. Cross border tensions can lead to conflicts and unstable societies, and at the same time, weakness of service management across borders can lead to corruption and abuses of authorities, which particularly affects vulnerable people across board.

To build peaceful and stable societies for sustainable development, we need different level of capacities, which should be based on: profound understanding of the history of national and regional conflicts; promoting inclusive and equitable conflict resolution; reducing military spending; awareness of the economic interests behind

¹ Based on the Maastricht Principles and Rio principles of universality, equity, sustainability, solidarity, human rights, the right to development, and common but differentiated responsibilities.

interventions; knowledge of the different paths for mediation of conflicts of interest, including strengthening the role of women-led civil society in peace negotiations and post conflict governance; understanding of how to achieve exclusion of all interested parties to promote, particularly minorities, in an equitable framework; and preparedness to prevent violent/armed/military interventions understood as attempts to influence, sidetrack or derail reconciliation based on mitigation of conflicts of interest, with expectation that it would result in common action of all stakeholders involved and justice, reconciliation, development and peace.

Partnerships for building peaceful and stable societies for Sustainable Development must be based on an integrated approach that addresses root causes of conflict consistently across multiple implementing institutions, and facilitates inclusion of diverse stakeholders especially women in planning, implementation and development. A wide range of partners should be involved, including: national governments; local political authorities; opposition to these political authorities; civil society including women-led civil society; authorities for environmentally sound development, impact assessment and mitigation of conflicts between economic and ecological interests, including to address climate change triggered conflicts; trade unions; commercial and private sector; banking sector and private investors; and national and international agencies and institutions. For equality, development and peace, it is critical that both state and non-state actors are held accountable to international obligations to respect, protect, and fulfil the human rights of all people including women.

Global Partnerships must be defined inclusively in ways that ensure human rights and respect to the dignity of human being. In addition, it should not be limited to private-public partnerships as usual. Such partnerships should include national governments; local authorities for building bridges between governments and communities in terms of executing plans and setting priorities; multilaterals institutions; international financial institutions; International Unions of governments and regional Institutions; private sector and business communities; foundations, other philanthropists as investors in social impact; scientific Institutions including international acknowledged universities and independent research institutes. But particular attention should be given to strengthening partnerships with civil society including women-led civil society.

People and citizens are central to peace and security. Putting people at the center of development is critical to acting genuinely in the interest of supra national peace and security for all. Gender equitable social developmental and environmental sustainability is critical from national, to regional and to global levels.

The international community must recognize that societies are highly interlinked, then independent mediation for stabilizing national economies is highly needed to reduce poverty caused migration; establishment of development programs targeting stabilization of borders and cross border relations and participation; promoting dialogue among people and different players, such as policy actors, business sector, multilateral institutions, sub regional and regional institutions, civil societies and communities; improving of controlled interventions, which can lead to protection of civilians and communities from abuses and demands in terms of sexual harassment by security forces.

Preventing conflict is vital to promoting sustainable development and peace. The next development agenda must address this key gap left by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and minimize factors fueling conflict including economic and political policies that stimulate discontent and often translate to full-scale violence.

At the global level:

All global partnerships will have to focus on development; otherwise we might lose the original ultimate goal. We should move away from business as usual and focus on people over profit and those of the margin must be at the center for development.

Address the imbalance of world market prices for local and imported products; examine the artificial shortage of import products², while tackling the murky interest of external powers in exploiting local resources.

Reinforce transparency, accountability and democratization of the global economic systems, while setting mechanisms for international quality standards for local and imported products. That would contribute to minimizing the negative impacts of an imbalanced economy on peace and security and would reduce global migration.

Reduce neocolonial influence on former colonies. This includes addressing neocolonial relationships which either press local governments for unbalanced trade with the former colonial power³ or support opposition/rebel groups by providing weapons, military equipment, training and influencing media and public opinion while imposing new values of manipulation.

Regulate in a win win approach, the rising presence of powerful commercial interests in continents like Africa. Such unregulated interests lead to global growing security challenges due to political instability and criminal activities, including threats to local national security and governance, as well as private investment and personnel.

Support reform and regulation of the international global monetary system and the foreign investment institutions to uphold human rights and gender equality through reexamination of such policies as structural adjustment that disproportionately impact women and already at risk groups.

Strongly call for a target reducing military spending to reduce violence and free up resources for gender equitable social development. Member states should regulate, monitor closely and hold accountable “industrialized countries” for the arms trade as well as military interventions. The \$1.7 trillion arms trade fuels violence and exacerbates armed conflicts, should be redirected to promote inclusive conflict resolution, development and peace.

At the regional and subregional level:

Strengthening the coordination of regional and sub-regional institutions to promote an integrated approach to conflict prevention, development, and peacebuilding. The Regional Economic Communities (RECs), such as COMESA, IGAD, CEPGL, SADC, etc., could and should play a vital role in minimizing the high risks of conflicts. While regional and continental organizations need to be included in the partnerships, too (AU, EU, Arab League, etc.).

Creating new mechanisms to uphold human rights obligations for both state and non-state actors, and regulate inherent power struggles and conflict of interests between governments, business sector, and civil society, even among the large corporations and the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

Supporting the establishment of early conflict warning systems at sub-regional and regional level for identifying and analyzing signs that can trigger conflicts, and develop collective and holistic responses. **The world can't afford another Rwanda's Genocide!**

At the national level:

Facilitate an enabling environment for development and peace by enhancing national action to strengthen inclusive participation, justice, and rights, while moving from global commitments to local action. Such an inclusive approach would provide a dynamic stimulus to engage in dialogue with officials and non-officials actors, including

² Petroleum products, wheat, machinery, spare parts, etc.

³ Export of raw products cheaply and import of processed products costly.

civil society as well as women-led civil society. A constructive and trust building attitude will lead to a mutual awareness and understanding the complexity of the matter.

The current sanctions approach, impacting negatively on societies and communities, need to be thoroughly and urgently addressed, with particular focus on vulnerable communities including children, youth and women.

Establishment of new financing mechanisms to build national resilience to conflict through debt relief and debt workout mechanisms, reduction in military expenditures, and reform of macroeconomic policy to promote human rights and gender equality.

Addressing corruption, exploitation, human trafficking and harassing, which affect society's most vulnerable groups while building culture of peace and solidarity; through education, research and innovative, affordable access to technology and other means.

Recognizing all people and in particular minorities right to prevent violence and conflicts based identity issues, while taking all actors involve including multilateral institutions, accountable.

Recognizing traditional knowledge in mediation and reconciliation and strengthen the capacity of indigenous local communities, including women, to continue their vital role in reconciliation and sustaining peaceful communities.

Mr. President, Secretary General of the UN, distinguished member states, colleagues from civil society and the private sector, friends of equality, peace and security: Without a substantial and structural change, the **current development model will continue to fail.**

No Security, No Peace
No Peace, No Sustainable Development
No Sustainable Development, No Security

Let us break the cycle by reducing poverty, creating enabling environment for gender equality and peaceful societies!

Let's break it together!

I thank you all.