



**Joint statement by the Gender Centre for Research and Training,
Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights and Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion**

Universal Periodic Review Pre-Session for Sudan

I am pleased to make this statement on the right to a nationality and non-discrimination in Sudan.

Sudan is one of twenty-five countries with a nationality law that denies women the right to confer nationality on their children on an equal basis with men. Though the Constitutional Charter for the 2019 Transitional Period enshrines the equal right of men and women to pass nationality to their children, the Sudanese Nationality Act (amended in 2011) retains provisions that discriminate against women. According to the Nationality Act, Sudanese men automatically confer nationality on their children, while Sudanese women must apply for citizenship for children with non-Sudanese fathers. Despite the relevant articles in the Constitutional Charter, administrative authorities generally apply the more specific, practice-oriented, and discriminatory Nationality Act and related regulations.

In addition, according to the Nationality Act, if a father's nationality has been revoked, the children may lose their Sudanese nationality without consideration of the mother's Sudanese nationality. Sudanese women are also denied the right to confer nationality on a noncitizen spouse, a right reserved for Sudanese men.

While undermining women and men's equal citizenship and equality in the family, gender discrimination in the nationality law results in wide-ranging human rights violations, including obstacles to accessing education, healthcare, formal employment, financial services, inheritance, property rights, family unity, freedom of movement, and freedom to choose a spouse. This discrimination violates the state's obligations under international law, including as a state party to the CRC and the ICCPR.

We welcome the Sudanese Supreme Court's 2017 decision reaffirming the right of Sudanese women to confer nationality on their children. To ensure that this right is enjoyed in practice, reform of the Nationality Act and Regulations is needed to uphold the independent right of Sudanese citizens to confer nationality without discrimination on the basis of gender or marital status.

We also welcome steps taken by the Sudanese government to ratify CEDAW, though are deeply troubled by proposed reservations to articles pertaining to women's equality with men in the family (Article 16) and to efforts to eliminate discrimination against women generally through legislation (Article 2).

The co-submitting organisations urge reviewing States to make the following recommendation to Sudan:

- **Reform the Nationality Act and related regulations to uphold gender equality;**
- **Ratify CEDAW without reservations**

Thank you.