Statement on behalf of the Group of G77 and China
by Second Secretary Najla Abdelrahman, Permanent Mission
of the Republic of the Sudan to the United Nations, on agenda item 62: Advancement of women, in the Third Committee
of the General Assembly,
(New York, 12 October 2009)

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China on agenda item 62: Advancement of Women. We would like to thank the Secretary-General for his various reports submitted under this important agenda item ofthe Third Committee. The Group of 77 and China would like to reaffirm its support for the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly as the guiding policy frameworks for gender equali可and the empowerment of women. The international community further committed to promote gender equality and empower women at the Millennium Summit as one of eight goals to achieve sustainable people-centered development. We should sp町e no efforts to fulfill the commitments that we have undertaken to promote gender equality and empowerment of women, including by ending all forms of violence against them, guaranteeing the well-being for women and their development, and expanding the quality of affordable public health-care services, enhancing their capacities, increasing their access to full employment and decent work, as well as access to water and other indispensable resources.

The current global financial and economic crisis has increased the burden placed on
the countries of the south and undermined their efforts to achieve the internationally-agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, which puts剖risk in pa口icular women and children from the full achievement of economic and social development. The lack of resources and the increase in the demand for support over available funds have created more obstacles to fulfill the aspiration of the international community for the empowerment of women, ending violence against women, and ensuring the full enjoyment of all human rights for women and girls.

Despite the significant progress that has been made to achieve the goal of ending all forms of violence and discrimination against women, great challenges are stilllooming ahead. The international community must give its full support to the Secretary - General's campaign's framework for action to end violence against women 2008 - 2015.

Mr. Chairman,

Peace is crucial for the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the MDGs, particularly in the area of the advancement of women. In this regard The Group of 77and China would like to draw the attention of the international community to the rights of women living under foreign occupation, to ensure由at their inalienable rights are guaranteed and to prosecute and punish the pe 优ators of any violations against them.

The participation of women is critical to the economic and social development of all societies, as they supply a large proportion of the agricultural labor and produce up to 80 percent of food crops in many parts of the world. However, the current financial and economic crises, the challenges of climate change, and the food and energy crisis are likely to deepen the gap between the international community and donor governments' commitments for development and their application on the ground. This gap will increase inequality, threaten the well-being of women, and further impoverish women, especially female, in war-tom 町eas find themselves unexpectedly cast as sole manager of household and sole 缸ent. In this regard, G77 and China stresses the importance of implementing the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus 2008, including its strong commitments on gender equality, so as to allow progress in mco 叩orating gender perspectives in areas such as water, sanitation, human settlements and good governance, and to enhance the access of poor rural women and men to productive
assets.

The Group of 77 and China believes that education for women and girls is central to the elimination of poverty, as it contributes to improving the health ofthe family, allows women access to decent work. Educated women are empowered women. The G77 and China recognizes the positive results of South-South Cooperation initiatives to eliminate illiteracy, as one ofthe ways to support the efforts of developing countries to achieve the goal of gender equality and the empowe口nent of women. The Group further stresses the importance of international cooperation in strengthening the economic empowerment of rural women, through mobilization of resources and capacity-building on project development and management. This will then promote the participation of rural women in decision-making, expand their contribution in the global economy and thereby improve the welfare of the family.

The G77 and China continues to appreciate the valuable contribution ofthe International Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), which as a central focal point for research and training on the advancement of women within the United Nations system, is a positive ex缸nple of successful de-centralization of the

Maternal mortality remains high in poor and rural缸eas with the highest rates in sub-Sah Africa. The absence of health-care facilities at community level, lack of skilled staff at the primary-care level and the high cost of