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UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL WORKING GROUP ON THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW, FIFTEENTH SESSION THE HRC

Statement on ECOSOC recommendations to the Kenyan Government

Thank you, Mr. President.

We, the undersigned Civil Society Organizations, welcome the 150 recommendations made to Kenya during the 7th meeting of the 8th Session of the Human Rights Council Working Group. We applaud the government of Kenya for supporting 128 of these recommendations and for undertaking to examine, consider and respond to 15 other recommendations. We acknowledge that despite few shortcomings and low political will to implement the recommendations, some progress is being made.

With regard to the implementation of the supported recommendations, we make the following suggestions in light of the new constitutional dispensation in Kenya;

- a) That the government fully operationalizes all the provisions of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2003 and puts in place measures to ensure the full realization and enjoyment of the rights of persons with disabilities;
- b) We advise the government to pass the reproductive health bill into law to comprehensively deal with the issues of reproductive health and maternal mortality. The government must also evaluate the extent to which the interventions aimed at addressing socio-economic rights of women are responsive to the needs in terms of whether the interventions (e.g. Women Enterprise Fund) are really helpful or counterproductive to women;
- c) The government must track the nature and extent of women's participation in the political arena in the country and the measures that have been put in place to enhance their participation and protect them from intimidation and in particular ensure that these interventions are in line with the provisions of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010.

We strongly urge the Kenyan government to consider adopting the recommendations that it deferred and specifically:

- a) To sign and ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (ICRMW), the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights (ICSECR), the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD) and the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).
- a) We encourage the government to seek the assistance pledged by the International community and capacity builds the relevant institutions for the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and its Vision 2030.
- b) We advise that the government monitors enrolment, retention, funding, quality education, and special needs of learning groups and fulfills its obligations in respect of the rights to health, housing and food as enshrined in the Constitution of Kenya, 2010.

Thank you Mr. President.

Esther Waweru (FIDH)