STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. AHMAD ALLAM-MI AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHAD TO THE UNITED NATIONS ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICA GROUP AT THE 57TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Under the General Discussion of Agenda Item 3, Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equalityndem 0.2 (t) 0 () -2p 1 Tf [(Asse)-0.2 (d) -0.5 (d) -0.5



Chairperson,

While the marginalization of Africa is rooted in the historical, political, socio-economic and cultural context, their rights have been a priority in Africa. The Assembly of Heads of States and Governments of the African Union has demonstrated its commitment to Gender Equality and women's empowerment through the adoption of landmark provisions and statutes. This is reflected in relevant provisions of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, the Solemn Declaration and Gender Equality in Africa and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). These instruments provide the basis for holding governments accountable for advancing the status and rights of women in their respective countries. Indeed, the ADF VI held in Addis Ababa in 2008 had called for a three-year Africa-Wide Campaign to Eliminate Violence Against Women and Girls. The campaign focused on fostering a universal responsibility to protect and respect women and girls, as well as preventing and punishing all forms of violence against women and girls. It also addressed underlying factors, such as, the socio-economic causeTc 501.2 (co (r