Statement

of the delegation of the Republic of the Sudan

explaining the position after the adoption of the resolution No. A/69/L.88 entitled: (International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of This Crime)

His Excellency Mr. Omer Dahab Fadl Mohamed

Permanent Representative

New York, 11 September, 2015

Please check against delivery
Mr. Chairperson,

Sudan welcomes the adoption of the draft resolution entitled, “International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime.” The Government of the Republic of the Sudan will observe the day specified in the resolution for commemoration; which would definitely be an opportune solemn occasion to recall acts of genocide committed in Europe during the Second World War (SWW) and other parts of the world. Particularly, and as it primarily concern the events in our continent Africa, Rwanda genocide of 1994 will be memorialized and the “Report of the Organization of African Union’s (OAU) International Panel of Eminent Personalities to Investigate the 1994 Genocide in Rwanda and the Surrounding Events,” submitted to OAU Summit in Togo in July 2000, will be circulated, studied and reviewed in my Country.

Mr. Chairperson,

Regrettably, at the turn of this century, the third millennium, a disturbing trend to use the universally agreed principle of prevention of genocide for political ends is being traced. This is the most serious danger the international determination to fight genocide could face after the adoption of the Genocide Convention in 1948. It could be, by all account, the greatest disservice to the fight and prevention of genocide ever since. To vindicate this argument, I would cite hereby the allegations and accusations against our government and our nation of committing genocide in the western region of the country, Darfur since 2003. In all objectivity, I will briefly confine myself to the repeated testimonies world-wide indicating that the events in Darfur before the conclusion of peaceful settlements to the conflict in Abuja in 2006 and Doha in 2011 did not constitute genocide. That, and I have to stress, is to caution against offending the dignity of the victims of genocide especially in Europe during the SWW and in Africa in 1994 and, perhaps, elsewhere:

1. In June 2004, the then United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Anan said of the situation in Darfur “I cannot call the killings a genocide....”
2. The International Commission of Inquiry on Darfur established by the Security Council Resolution 1564 of 18 September 2004, was asked by
the Council to determine, "Whether or not acts of genocide have occurred". The Commission answered, "The Government of the Sudan has not pursued a policy of genocide... directly or through the militias under its control."

3. In July 2004, the African Peace and Security Council stated, "Even though the crisis in Darfur is grave ......... the situation cannot be defined as genocide."

4. In December 2004, the then Organization of African Unity (OAU) Chairman, Nigerian President Olosegun Obasanjo stated, "Now, what I know of Sudan, it does not fit in all respects to that definition (of genocide)." Previously, on 23 September, 2004 at a press conference in UN Headquarters in New York, President Obasanjo had stated, "That does not amount to genocide from our own reckoning. It amounts to, of course, conflict. It amounts to violence."

5. In August 2004, the European Union’s fact finding mission concluded that, although there was widespread violence (in Darfur), there was no evidence of genocide. A spokesman for the mission stated, "We are not in the situation of genocide there."

6. In May, 2004, the Arab League Commission of Inquiry to Darfur took the position that events in Darfur were neither genocide nor ethnic cleansing.

7. Regarding the individuals and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), the former US President, Mr. Jimmy Carter during a visit to Darfur in 2007 said, "There is legal definition of genocide and Darfur does not meet that standard."

In 2004 Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) said regarding Darfur, "By screaming "the crime of all crimes" mixing military with humanitarianism.... To justify intervention, words do have concrete implication and often serve political interests." MSF cautioned that to continue with its job would entail, "distancing ourselves from propaganda and resisting this era of confusion." In 2004 the then MSF-France President, Dr. Jean Herve Bradol labeled claims of genocide in Darfur as "Obvious political opportunism." It was MSF which asserted incidence of genocide in Rwanda in 1994, worked there, and accordingly won Nobel Peace Prize in 1999.
Mr. Chairperson,

I conclude with the words of Dr. David Hoile that, "the misuse of the genocide term is very regrettable. Crying wolf on genocide in Darfur can only but denigrate the memory of the reality of the Holocaust in Europe during the SWW and encourage Holocaust deniers."

This misuse, Mr. Chairperson is hopefully what the present resolution intends to suppress.

Again, while we caution against twisting this shared objective of prevention by memorialization, we confirm our support to the present resolution that has just been adopted.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.