**25th SESSION OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL, GENEVA, 17 FEBRUARY 2021**

**Draft AG Statement ON "Women’s representation in HR organs and mechanisms"**

Madam/Mr. Chair,

1. The African Group recognises the tireless work of the Advisory Committee regarding the integration of a gender perspective into the implementation of its mandate, as well as in the work of the HRC with a view to achieve substantive results on gender equality in the UN system.
2. Through the Advisory Committee, the HRC has a handful of duties, and one the most important is to continue to pave the way for the promotion, protection and realization of fundamental rights of women and girls.
3. The Council has developed guidelines on gender balance in its relevant resolutions, decisions and Presidential statements. The 2007 HRC resolution 6/30 encouraged Member States to promote the full participation of women in medium- and high-level ranks and gender balance by many means.
4. The statistics shared last year by the President of the HRC on the participation of women in the work of the Council showed that over the last ten years, women’s participation has merely increased for State representatives. The same observation can be made with regard to human rights bodies and other mechanisms.
5. As a Regional Group or individually as Member, we feel concerned and we look forward to the result of the report of the Advisory Committee on currents levels of representation of women, as well as on how to further increase participation of women in the Council’s work. We are of the opinion that the role of HRC Facilitators or Focal Points and Regional Coordinators could play in this regard is very important and crucial to what good practices on the promotion and observance of Gender Parity in others bodies or institutions could be brought to us and to the System.

I thank you Madam/Mr. Chair