

## Press Release: International Women's Day - Khartoum - March 8th, 2018

On the occasion of 8th of March, the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation in Khartoum in partnership with Al Neelain University celebrate together the International Women's Day in the presence of H.E Ambassador Mubarak H. Rahamtalla, representative of the Ministry of Security and Social Development, H.E. Dr. Ali Mohamed Khair, the Italian Ambassador Mr. Fabrizio Lobasso, Ms Sara Lavinia Brair, Dean of Scientific Research, Alsamany Abdal Muntaleb University Principal and Ms. Delphine Marié, Governance Coordinator at the European Union.

The event, targeting young students and organized around the quiz game #PressforProgress, aims to sensitize with respect, cultural awareness and sensitiveness, on issues that may concerns us all, as individuals as well as societies: the participation of women in public and private life, tackling different issues such as Health – Economic Development – Leadership - Environment - GBV - Education.

The Ambassador of Italy recalled in his welcome speech that there's a strong call-to-action to press forward and progress gender equality, in line with goal 5 of the SDG promoting the ending all forms of discrimination against women and girls which is not only a basic human right, but it also crucial to accelerating sustainable development. While we can be proud of the significant progress already made, every year the celebration of International Women's Day reminds us that much work lies ahead to achieve true gender equality, he concluded.

The Undersecretary – added – that we welcome this initiative and express our gratitude to Italy and to the involved partners, because we strongly believe that cultural participation is a very powerful tool to produce social transformation and promote respect of human rights, dignity and equality.

The celebration has been the occasion to underline the Italian Commitment in Sudan in supporting all women to achieve their goals, to realize their dreams, to raise their voices, to be free from any kind of political, social, economic discrimination and violence based on gender biases and stereotypes.

The Italian Government invested more than 6 million euro in initiatives aiming to promote inter-cultural dialogue and the fulfillment of gender equality and equity, women's empowerment, and access to health facilities.