



EUROPEAN UNION

DELEGATION TO THE REPUBLIC OF SUDAN



Speech of H.E. Ambassador Jean-Michel Dumond
Head of Delegation of the European Union to Sudan at Ahfad University for Women

Omdurman 6th February 2017

Distinguished Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Evening,

1. I'm glad to be here this evening, in the occasion of the 2017 Selection Board Meeting of the European Master in Migration and Intercultural Relations, the first African-European Erasmus Mundus Master Course in Migration Studies funded by the European Union.
2. My greetings in particular to the Ahfad University for Women for the kind invitation, but also for its active engagement in the field of human rights and social studies. The message of this important academic institution in Sudan since 1907 as a school, as a college and as a university since 1995 is to

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Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of the Sudan
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promote women rights, strengthen gender equality and empower women in Sudan.

3. Ahfad University is known for graduating hundreds of thousands of women who are shaping the political, economic, professional and social life in Sudan. In the European Union we believe that equality between women and men is one of our founding values. It goes back to 1957 when the principle of equal pay for equal work became part of the Treaty of Rome is 60 years old this year.
4. The contribution of Ahfad University to culture and education in Sudan led to its selection by the Delegation of the European Union to Sudan as the Champion for Human Right for 2014.
5. In parallel, The EU has been supporting the Master since several years: first in 2013, and then again last year when the programme was re-selected for funding under the European Erasmus Mundus label of excellence. Therefore, from 2017 onwards, another three editions of this Master programme will be supported by the EU, including through a number of scholarships for both European and non-European students.
6. By supporting this Master, the EU recognises not only the quality of the programme, which is managed jointly by African and European universities, and facilitated by a wider network of partners, but it also recognises the relevance of studies that focus on migration through an intercultural approach, and combine theoretical skills on migration with field work in Europe and Africa.
7. There is no doubt that migration plays an increasing role in shaping policies and social contexts in all countries worldwide, today. Moreover, and along with increasingly accelerating tendencies of globalization, migration puts into question the traditional concepts of the state-nation and territorial borders, to bring attention to issues of equality and social justice, human rights, conflict and reconciliation. In such a context, looking at migration through the lens of intercultural relations and communication becomes especially important and relevant, nowadays.
8. By doing so, this Master combines the expertise of African and European universities, to critically evaluate and to enrich the existing body of knowledge, concepts, theories and terminologies on migration.
9. The students come across the benefits and the challenges of an international learner group where diverse backgrounds of students and teachers offer innovative perspectives for the study of migration The programme is also

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embedded in a wide network, comprising international and national NGOs as well as professionals in the private and the public sector. I think this is an important advantage for students that can then be awarded with a joint, internationally-recognised Master degree.

Background information:

The EMMIR consortium consists of seven universities in Germany, the Czech Republic, Norway, Slovenia, South Africa, Sudan and Uganda, combining expertise in migration studies with intersecting fields, such as gender studies, cultural studies, education and development studies.

The two-year programme begins in Oldenburg. In the second semester, all students move to Stavanger. In the third semester, students attend the partner university of their choice, linked to their project-based internship. Before the final semester, a joint proposal colloquium leads to the formation of supervision groups continuing in the fourth semester in order to support the research and thesis writing.

Graduates are awarded a joint degree. They are qualified to pursue a PhD or employment with inter/national GOs and NGOs dealing with migration, intercultural competence and diversity.