

INTRODUCTION

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Prof. Sidiga Abdelrahim WASHI is a Professor of Family and Consumer Sciences/Nutrition and Dean of the School of Health Sciences at Ahfad University for Women-Sudan. She earned her M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees from Iowa State University. She is currently involved in scholarly teaching, curriculum development and research at Ahfad University for Women-Sudan. She served in many leadership positions as a National Project Director for a Reproductive Health/Family - Planning Eradication of Harmful Traditional Practices Project run by School of Medicine at Ahfad University for Women in collaboration with the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA).

Out side the country she worked as a Director, Division of Nutrition & Home Economics College of Agriculture, King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Prof. WASHI is currently the President of a Sudanese Women's NGO called Babiker Bedri Scientific Association for Women Studies-Sudan (BBSAWS-S) and a Chair of the Board for the Strategic Initiative for Women in the Horn of Africa (SIHA) and an advisor for the Sudanese Association for Family Care.

Internationally, she served as Vice-President of East Africa Region for the International Vocational Education and Training Association (IVETA) for four years and a member of the Association of Women in Development (AWID). Currently she serves as Vice-President for Africa for the International Federation of Home Economics for the cycle 2006-2010.

Prof. WASHI has published 20 articles in refereed Journals, a book on Therapeutic Nutrition, 2 chapters and 5 articles in books and 20 Professional papers in Conference proceedings. She has carried out 7 major research projects, supervised 50 undergraduate researches, 25 masters students and 5 PhD students. Prof. Washi was awarded the Mrs. Glenn Murphy International Award by the Faculty Women's Club of Iowa State University of Science and Technology. Ames, Iowa, in 1992 and was listed in Who's Who in the World Marquis Who's Who (12th ed).

Since 1994, Prof. Washi has worked as a consultant for OXFAM, UNICEF, UNFPA, and many other NGOs. She has written and done trainings on gender roles in the Sudanese conflict, gender-based and family violence, gender and leadership, mainstreaming gender in development activities, conflict resolution, and advocacy

planning, among others. She has attended and presented at numerous conferences including the 4th International Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995), the Beijing +10 conference in New York in 2005. In April 2005, Prof. Washi was a member of the Declaration Drafting Committee at the Gender Symposium for Sudanese Women leaders from North and South Sudan (Oslo, Norway).

Prof. WASHI is an international trained visionary leader in population, reproductive health and nutrition on and was trained as a woman Leader in the New World at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University in the US. Prof. WASHI was the Head of the Scientific Committee who prepared for the First Ladies Organisation meeting during the African Summit in 2006 in Sudan. Prof. WASHI serves as an Executive Board member and Head Information and Research Unit for the Sudanese Women General Union. She is also an Executive member and Head of the Peace Office for the Sudanese Mothers for Peace in Khartoum. Prof WASHI is a Member at Large of the Executive office of the Middle East and North Africa Nutrition Association (MENANA) Cairo, Egypt 2006-2008. She serves as Vice-President for Africa for the International Federation of Home Economics (IFHE) July 2006-2010. Lately in recognition for her contribution to the advancement of the African women, Prof. WASHI was invited as a Member of the Council for Africa in Democracy and Good Governance ADG Gambia July 2007-July 2011.