

AFRICAN UNION

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**PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
151ST MEETING
22 SEPTEMBER 2008
NEW YORK**

PSC/MIN/Comm.1(CLI)

COMMUNIQUE

**COMMUNIQUE OF THE 151st MEETING OF THE
PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL**

The Peace and Security Council of the Africa Union (AU), at its 151st meeting, held on 22 September 2008, adopted the following decision on the situation in Darfur:

Council,

1. **Takes note** of the Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the implementation of the Communiqué of 142nd meeting of the Peace and Security Council held on 21st July 2008 on the Sudan Darfur [PSC/MIN/2(CLI)];
2. **Welcomes** the progress report presented by the Government of National Unity of the Sudan on the implementation of the Communiqué adopted at its 142nd meeting, as well as the commitment of the Government of the Sudan, as reiterated by the Vice President of the Republic of the Sudan, Mr. Ali Osman Taha, regarding the pursuit and deepening of all aspects of the cooperation of the Sudanese authorities with the AU and the United Nations;
3. **Expresses deep concern** at the continued violence in Darfur, in particular the attacks against the civilian population, humanitarian workers and UNAMID. Council reiterates **its unequivocal condemnation** of all acts of violence in Darfur and violations of human rights, and **stresses**, once again, the need to bring their perpetrators to justice;
4. **Reiterates** AU's unflinching commitment to combating impunity and promoting democracy, the rule of law and good governance throughout the entire continent, in conformity with its Constitutive Act;
5. **Reaffirms** decision Assembly/AU/Dec.199(XI) on the abuse of the principle of universal jurisdiction adopted by the 11th ordinary session of the Assembly of the Union held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, on 30 June and 1st July 2008, **stresses** the need for international justice to be conducted in a transparent and fair manner, in line with the principles of international law, and **expresses concern** that such development may pose a threat to the efforts aimed at promoting the rule of law and stability, as well as building strong national institutions;
6. **Welcomes** the follow-up steps taken by the Commission, since its meeting of 21 July 2008, with respect to the application made by the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) for an arrest warrant to be issued against the President of the Republic of the Sudan, including the letter addressed by the Chairperson of the Commission to the United Nations Secretary-General on 24 July 2008 and the steps for the early establishment of the High-Level Panel provided for in paragraph 11(ii) of its communiqué of 21 July 2008, as well as the visit that he undertook to the Sudan from 3 to 4 August 2008 and the discussions that he had with the President of the Sudan and other high-level Sudanese officials;

7. **Recalls** resolution 1828(2008) of 31 July 2008, in which the United Nations Security Council took note of its communiqué of 21 July 2008, and **reiterates** the request it made for the deferral of the process initiated by the ICC Prosecutor, in accordance with Article 16 of the Rome Statute;
8. **Underscores** that the implementation of Article 16 of the Rome Statute of the ICC is indispensable for the consolidation of the progress recorded in the implementation of the provisions of the Communiqué of the 142nd meeting of Council and **requests** the Security Council to act immediately in this direction in order to promote peace and justice in Darfur and in the Sudan as a whole;
9. **Urges, once again,** the Government of the Sudan to urgently take concrete steps to bring to justice the perpetrators of human rights violations and, in this respect, **welcomes** the willingness of the Government of the Sudan to involve lawyers designated by the AU and the Arab League into the envisaged judicial proceedings in order to give them the required credibility;
10. **Welcomes** the decision of the Security Council, as contained in resolution 1828(2008), to extend the mandate of UNAMID for a further period of 12 months, and **notes with satisfaction** the efforts being made to expedite the deployment of UNAMID, with a view to reaching 80% of the Mission's authorized strength by 31 December 2008. In this respect, Council **urges** the international community to provide the necessary support, particularly with respect to logistics, to enable UNAMID carry out its mandated tasks more effectively;
11. **Reiterates its full support** to the Joint AU/UN Chief Mediator, Djibril Yipèné Bassolé, and **urges** all Sudanese parties to fully cooperate with him in order to facilitate the early resumption of the political dialogue and the conclusion of a comprehensive peace agreement. In this respect, Council **stresses** that there can be no military solution to the conflict in Darfur;
12. **Requests** all the Sudanese parties to work closely together and to extend full cooperation to the AU and the United Nations, in order to achieve a comprehensive peace that builds on the Abuja Agreement and addresses all relevant issues, including those relating to combating impunity and promoting healing and reconciliation;
13. **Decides** to remain seized of this matter.

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