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**PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
63RD MEETING
20 SEPTEMBER 2006
NEW YORK**

PSC/MIN/Comm(LXIII)

COMMUNIQUÉ

COMMUNIQUE OF THE 63RD MEETING OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL ON THE SITUATION IN DARFUR

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union, at its 63rd meeting, held at the level of the Heads of State and Government, on 20 September 2006, in New York, adopted the following decision on the situation in Darfur:

Council,

1. **Takes note** of the report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the situation in Darfur (PSC/MIN/2(LXIII));
2. **Reaffirms** its attachment to the unity, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the Sudan;
3. **Expresses** its conviction that the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) signed in Abuja, Nigeria, on 5 May 2006, which was the culmination of intensive negotiations conducted by the AU Mediation, with the support of the international community, remains a viable framework for a comprehensive solution to the conflict and a solid basis for the restoration of lasting peace and reconciliation in Darfur, and that its full implementation will positively impact on the rest of the Sudan and on the neighboring countries. In this respect, Council **welcomes** the steps taken towards the implementation of the DPA, including the preparations for the launching of the Darfur Darfur-Dialogue and Consultation (DDDC);
4. **Calls upon** the signatories to the DPA and the Declaration of Commitment (DoC) of 8 June 2006 to fully honor their commitments. Council **demands**, once again, that those parties that have not signed the DPA do so without delay. To this end, Council **encourages** efforts by the AU;
5. **Notes with concern** that, in spite of the signing of the DPA and the sustained efforts by the AU to create a conducive environment for its implementation, the hopes and expectations generated by the Agreement have not yet materialized. In this respect, Council **notes with deep concern** that the security situation remains volatile and continues to deteriorate even further in some parts of Darfur, consequently worsening the humanitarian and human rights situation, and that the current build-up of forces by all the parties poses further risks and challenges to the peace efforts. Council **demands** that all the parties cease all acts of violence and atrocities on the ground and comply with their commitments under the N'djamena Humanitarian Ceasefire Agreement of April 2004, the Abuja Protocols on Humanitarian and Security issues of November 2004, and the DPA, including refraining from conducting hostile military flights in and over Darfur;
6. **Reiterates** its decision to impose targeted measures against all individuals or groups undermining the DPA, obstructing its implementation, or violating the Comprehensive Ceasefire;

7. **Urges** the signatories to the DPA and the DoC, as well as the other parties, to extend full cooperation towards the efforts aimed at facilitating the effective functioning of the Ceasefire Commission (CFC) and the Joint Commission (JC);

8. **Notes** that the efforts aimed at reaching an agreement on the envisaged transition from AMIS to a UN peacekeeping operation, as called for by the Peace and Security Council and the UN Security Council, did not conclude successfully. In this respect, Council **takes note** of resolution 1706 (2006), adopted by the UN Security Council, on 31 August 2006, as well as the rejection of the deployment of a UN peacekeeping operation in Darfur by the Government of the Sudan;

9. **Decides that** consultations involving the Government of the Sudan, the United Nations and the AU should be undertaken to discuss issues relating to the deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping operation in Darfur, with a view to addressing the concerns raised by the Government of the Sudan with respect to the impact of this deployment on the sovereignty and unity of the country, as well as ensuring that the envisaged UN deployment is effected in a way consistent with the relevant provisions of Council's decision of 10 March 2006;

10. **Decides** to extend the mandate of AMIS until 31 December 2006. In this respect, Council **requests** the Commission, with the support of the AU Member States, the UN and other partners, to take all the necessary measures to enhance AMIS on the basis of the Concept of Operations (CONOPS), as approved by the Military Staff Committee at its meeting of 23 June 2006 and submitted to it at its 58th meeting held in Banjul, on 27 June 2006. Council **demands** that all the parties extend the necessary cooperation to AMIS and respect its freedom of movement to enable it discharge its mandate effectively. Council **requests**, in particular, the Government of the Sudan to take steps to remove all the bureaucratic and other related obstacles that are hampering AMIS operations, including the lifting of the curfew, the speedy release of AMIS equipment from customs warehouses and the speedy issuance of visas to AMIS personnel and contractors;

11. **Expresses its appreciation** to the AU partners for the logistical and financial support extended to the AU to sustain its Mission in Darfur. In this respect, Council **takes note** of the outcome of the pledging conference held in Brussels, on 18 July 2006, as well as the pledge by the League of Arab States to provide financial assistance to AMIS to enable it carry out its mandate;

12. **Underlines** the regional dimension of the conflict in Darfur and, in this respect, **supports** all efforts aimed at curtailing the flow of arms and preventing the movements of armed elements across borders. Council **welcomes** the progress made in the normalization of relations between Chad and the Sudan, including the reestablishment of diplomatic relations, and **calls on** the two countries to fully implement the commitments made in the Tripoli Agreement of 8 February 2006, and other subsequent agreements. Council further **encourages** any steps that could be taken, including by

the United Nations, to enhance security along the borders between Sudan and Chad and between Sudan and the Central African Republic, as well as ensure the protection and security of refugees in Chad;

13. **Decides** to convene at the level of Heads of State and Government in November 2006, to review the situation.

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