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P.O. Box: 3243, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Tel.:(251-11) 551 38 22 Fax: (251-11) 551 93 21
Email: situationroom@africa-union.org, oau-ews@ethionet.et

PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
103RD MEETING
29 NOVEMBER 2007
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/BR(CIII)

PRESS STATEMENT

**PRESS STATEMENT OF THE 103RD MEETING OF THE
PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL**

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union, at its 103rd meeting held on 29 November 2007, considered the implementation process of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) signed between the Government of the Sudan (GoS) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A), on 9 January 2005.

Council recalled the communiqué adopted at its 89th meeting held on 24 August 2007, on the implementation process of the CPA.

Council expressed its deep concern with regards to the current difficulties faced in the implementation process of the CPA and the suspension by the SPLM, on 11 October 2007, of its participation in the Government of National Unity (GoNU). Council further expressed its concern that failure to address the outstanding issues in the implementation process of the CPA could jeopardize the significant progress achieved thus far, with serious consequences for peace and stability in the Sudan and in the entire region.

Council noted with satisfaction that, in spite of the current difficulties, both parties have reiterated their commitment to the CPA and their determination to seek a solution through peaceful means and dialogue.

Council urged the parties to the CPA to expedite their consultations and spare no efforts to overcome the obstacles impeding full implementation of the CPA, including those relating to the Abyei Protocol, the full redeployment of forces, the complete formation and deployment of the Joint Integrated Units, the demarcation of the North-South border and full implementation of the Wealth Sharing Protocol, and ensure that all the necessary steps are taken in preparation for the forthcoming elections as stipulated in the CPA.

Council expressed hope that the envisaged meeting between President Omar Al-Bashir and First Vice-President Salva Kiir would agree on the way forward regarding the resolution of the outstanding issues and further provide guidance to enable the Committee of Six established by the two parties to fulfill its mandate.

Council expressed support for the efforts of the IGAD, through the IGAD Chairperson's Special Envoy, former President Daniel arap Moi. At the same time, Council stressed the need for the AU to be actively involved in support of the regional efforts aimed at assisting the parties to overcome the current difficulties and fulfill their obligations under the CPA.

Council requested the Commission to accelerate ongoing efforts aimed at providing more effective support to the implementation of the CPA, including through the appointment of a new Special Envoy and the opening of an appropriately staffed African Union Liaison Office in Khartoum, with an office in Juba.

Council agreed on the need to review on a regular basis the status of implementation of the CPA, including when so required, on the basis of comprehensive reports on the evolution of the situation and the steps taken by the parties to fulfill their obligations under the CPA.

Addis Ababa, 29 November 2007

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