

AFRICAN UNION

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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

75TH MEETING

4 - 5 APRIL 2007

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/Comm(LXXV)

COMMUNIQUE OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
ON THE SITUATION IN DARFUR

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The Peace and Security Council of the African Union, at its 75th meeting held on 4 and 5 April 2007, took the following decision on the situation in Darfur:

The Council,

1. **Expresses** its profound concern at the prevailing security situation in Darfur. Council **strongly condemns** all attacks against civilians and NGOs, the violations of the ceasefire and other acts of violence and banditry, in total disregard of the agreements signed by the Sudanese parties and the basic norms of international humanitarian law;
2. **Further expresses** shock and outrage at the series of attacks directed against the personnel of AMIS, in particular the abduction, on 10 December 2006, of a senior military officer from the Nigerian contingent; the murder of a civilian police officer from Niger on 1st February 2007, at the Kassab IDP camp, in northern Darfur; the murder, on 5 March 2007, of two AMIS personnel from the Nigerian contingent in Gaida; the shooting, in the Kurni general area of Jebel Marra, that clearly targeted an AMIS helicopter carrying the Deputy Force Commander and other AMIS personnel, on 31st March 2007; and the killing of five AMIS protection force soldiers from the Senegalese contingent, at a water point in Umbaro, on 1st April 2007;
3. **Strongly condemns** these heinous acts, which are clear violations of the different Ceasefire Agreements that the Sudanese parties have solemnly agreed to. Council **warns** that if this increasing hostility against AMIS continues, the peacekeeping operation in Darfur, which is already operating under extremely difficult conditions, will be in serious jeopardy;
4. **Demands** a prompt investigation into the recent attacks against AMIS and its personnel, with the full cooperation of all the parties involved, in order to identify the culprits and bring them to justice. Council **further demands** that both the DPA signatories and the non-signatories fully cooperate with AMIS and the humanitarian agencies, and create conducive conditions on the ground, including guaranteeing the security and safety of their personnel, equipment and assets;
5. **Expresses concern** at the continued difficulties impeding the effective functioning of the Ceasefire Commission (CFC) and the Joint Commission (JC) and **reiterates its appeal** to the signatories to the DPA, as well as the other parties, to extend full cooperation towards the efforts aimed at facilitating the effective functioning of these organs, including the CFC dual chamber system. Council **further expresses** its support to the ongoing efforts aimed at streamlining the composition of the CFC and the JC;

6. **Notes with deep concern** that AMIS continues to face restrictions to its freedom of movement imposed by the parties. Council **urges** the parties to facilitate the work of the Mission by lifting these restrictions. Council **further urges** the Government of the Sudan to extend greater cooperation to AMIS and the Troop Contributing Countries, particularly by expediting the issuance of visas and the granting of flight clearances.

7. **Stresses the need** for a robust peacekeeping operation in Darfur. In this respect, Council **notes with concern** that the strengthening of AMIS, as decided at its meeting held in New York on 20 September 2006, could not be implemented due to the lack of financial and logistical support. Council **appeals** to the African Union member states and partners to provide the financial and logistical support required for the strengthening of AMIS through the deployment of six additional battalions as authorized by the Peace and Security Council;

8. **Also notes with concern** the difficulties facing the implementation of the phased approach towards a strengthened peacekeeping operation in Darfur, as approved at its meeting held in Abuja on 30 November 2006. Council **emphasizes** the imperative for the speedy conclusion of the ongoing consultations between the African Union, the United Nations and the Government of the Sudan on the basis of the proposals submitted by the African Union and the United Nations on the heavy support package and the AU/UN hybrid operation, as part of the implementation of its Abuja decision. Council **expresses** hope that the forthcoming consultations of the African Union and the United Nations with the Government of Sudan will succeed in paving the way for the full implementation of the phased approach;

9. **Reiterates its support** to the efforts being exerted by the African Union and United Nations Special Envoys, Salim Ahmed Salim and Jan Eliasson, in order to re-energize the peace process in Darfur based on the DPA. Council **calls upon** the non-signatories to join the peace process, and **urges** all the Sudanese parties to display the necessary flexibility and spirit of compromise. Council **stresses the need** for all the other initiatives being deployed to re-energize the peace process in Darfur to be closely coordinated with the African Union;

10. **Reaffirms its determination** to continue working closely with the United Nations Security Council to consider the best ways and means of addressing the new threats to peace and security in Darfur and facilitating the restoration of lasting peace and stability in the region;

11. **Decides** to remain seized of the matter.

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