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**PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
159th MEETING
24 NOVEMBER 2008
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

PSC/PR/Comm.1(CLIX)

COMMUNIQUE

**COMMUNIQUE OF THE 159TH MEETING OF THE
PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL**

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 159th Meeting held on 24 November 2008, adopted the following Communiqué on the implementation process of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) signed between the Government of Sudan (GoS) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A), on 9 January 2005.

Council,

1. **Takes** note of the report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the implementation process of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), [PSC/PR/Comm.(CLIX)], as well as the presentations by the Government of National Unity (GoNU), the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS), the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), South Africa, in its capacity as Chair of the AU Ministerial Committee on Post-Conflict Reconstruction of the Sudan, the United Nations (UN) and the Assessment and Evaluation Commission (AEC).
2. **Welcomes** the progress achieved by the Sudanese parties in the implementation of the CPA since 2007, namely, the enactment of the National Electoral Law, the establishment of the National Electoral Commission (NEC); the conduct of the fifth National population census; the redeployment of forces, and the signing, on 8 June 2008, of the Agreement on the Abyei Road Map, and the steps that were subsequently taken by the parties to implement it.
3. **Notes** with concern the delay in the implementation of crucial components of the CPA, such as, among others, the demarcation of the North-South border, the remaining legislations for the elections, the release of the census results, and the full redeployment of forces. In this respect, **urges** the parties to move swiftly towards the early and full implementation of these issues and encourages them to continue with their dialogue with a view to resolving them.
4. **Commends** the steps taken by the Commission to support the implementation of the CPA process including the operationalization of the AU Liaison Office, and the appointment of the Special Envoy and his subsequent consultations with the Sudanese parties and other international stakeholders. Council **further encourages** the Special Envoy to continue with his consultations to accelerate the pace of the implementation of the CPA.
5. **Welcomes** the visit to the Sudan by the AU Ministerial Committee for Post-Conflict Reconstruction of the Sudan from 31 March to 2 April 2008 and **encourages** the Committee and the Commission to intensify their resource mobilization efforts towards this end. In this respect, Council **urges** Member States to fulfill the pledges they have already made and others to make new contributions for post-conflict reconstruction in the Sudan.

6. **Extends** its gratitude to the international community for the assistance rendered thus far towards the implementation of the CPA and **stresses** the need for continued and increased support by the international community, including ensuring the disbursement of the pledges made during the Third Sudan Consortium in Oslo in May 2008, as well as extending debt relief and concessional aid to the Sudan. Council expresses its gratitude to the Chairman of the AEC for his briefing on the status of implementation of the CPA.
7. Further **urges** the international community, including AU Member States, to contribute towards programmes of Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR), and the training of the Joint Integrated Units (JIU's).
8. **Appeals** to the international community to cancel the debt of Sudan and to lift the economic and commercial sanctions against the Sudan in order to support it in the implementation of the CPA.
9. **Decides** to review, at least once every six months, the status of the implementation of the CPA.

Addis Ababa, 24 November 2008

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