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UNIÃO AFRICANA

P. O. Box 3243, Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA Tel.: (251-1) 513 822 Fax: (251-1) 519 321
Email: oau-ews@telecom.net.et

PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
13TH MEETING
27 JULY 2004
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

TALKING POINTS FOR THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON

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TALKING POINTS FOR THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON

INTRODUCTION

1. Peace and Security Council members will recall that the situation in Darfur was extensively discussed during the 3rd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, held in Addis Ababa from 6 to 8 July 2004.
2. On that occasion the Assembly, having reiterated its serious concern over the prevailing situation in Darfur, underlined the centrality of a political solution and agreed that the political dialogue between the parties should resume on the scheduled date of 15 July 2004, in Addis Ababa, with a view to reaching a political agreement. The Assembly urged all parties to participate at the meeting at the highest level.

POLITICAL DIALOGUE

3. It was in this context that the Chairperson of the Commission invited the representatives of the Government of the Sudan (GoS), the Sudan Liberation Movement/ Army (SLM/A) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), to a meeting from 15 to 17 July 2004.
4. The meeting was attended by a high level delegation of the GoS, led by Dr. Magzoub El Khalifa Ahmed, Minister of Agriculture, and representatives of the two movements; it should, however, be stressed that the leadership of the two movements did not attend the talks.
5. The meeting was also attended by the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General, the Foreign Minister of Chad, the Ambassador of South Africa, as Chair of the PSC for the month of July 2004, the Ambassador of Nigeria, as representative of the Chairman of the AU, and international observers and AU partners, including the USA, UK, France and the EU.
6. During the official opening of the meeting, the Chairperson emphasized the need for the parties to engage in political dialogue. He also stressed the need for both the GoS and the rebel movements to abide by the Humanitarian Ceasefire Agreement of 8 April 2004.

7. In presenting its position, the GoS highlighted the efforts it is making to implement the Humanitarian Ceasefire Agreement, while accusing the rebel movements of violating that instrument. The GoS delegation specifically stressed the need to implement the following measures:

- the neutralization of the armed groups;
- the cantonment of the rebel groups;
- the increase in humanitarian assistance, as well as the repatriation and return of refugees and IDPs; and
- the launching of the political dialogue.

8. On their part, the representatives of the JEM and the SLM/A accused the GoS of violating the Humanitarian Ceasefire Agreement, including the failure to disarm the Janjaweed militia. They also expressed outrage at the continuing Government attacks against the civilian population by Antonov warplanes and helicopter gunships.

9. The JEM and SLM presented the following six points as necessary conditions to be fulfilled before the commencement of the political dialogue:

- the need to disarm the pro-government *Janjaweed militia* ;
- the launching of an international enquiry to investigate the charges of genocide and bring the perpetrators to justice;
- the cessation of attacks on the two rebel groups and the civilian villages;
- the removal of all obstacles to the delivery of humanitarian aid;
- the release of political prisoners; and
- the need to find a new venue for the next round of talks.

10. Following the opening session, it was agreed that the AU would establish a Mediation Team, led by the Chairperson's Special Envoy, Hamid El Gabid, and comprising the UN representatives, to undertake separate consultations with the parties. These consultations took place on 16 July 2004.

11. During those consultations, the GoS, *inter alia*:

- called for all militias, including the Janjaweed, but also the Tora Bora and the Peshmergas, to be declared outlaws;
- stressed its commitment to the convening of a General Conference on Darfur, to be prepared by a Joint Commission;
- held view that the conditions put forward by the rebel movements should be discussed during the dialogue;
- stressed that it had taken action against the Janjaweed and called on the AU to canton the rebel movements.
- requested that all rebel movements be represented at the highest level to the political discussions with a clear mandate;
- indicated that the GoS was not in favor of the presence of international forces;
- stressed that the Nuba Mountains Agreement could serve as a basis for the resolution of the problem in Darfur.

12. On their part, the rebel movements, *inter alia*:

- reaffirmed their support for the AU/Chadian mediation efforts;
- stressed that the six points they had put forward during the plenary session were basic requirements for a successful dialogue and proposed the establishment of a mechanism for their implementation;
- requested the disarmament of the Janjaweed;
- stressed that conditions for the convening of the General Conference were not yet met;
- requested and increase in the number of the Protection Elements and the extension of their mandate to include the protection of the civilian population;
- indicated that the cantonment of their elements would only take place once a comprehensive agreement has been signed.

12. Although the parties were unable to agree on an agenda and on a concrete framework on how to proceed, the Addis Ababa meeting helped the mediators better to understand the issues at stake. At the conclusion of the talks, an agreement was reached on the need to have further consultations in order to determine the next steps to be taken for the political dialogue to commence.

13. The AU Special Envoy has since embarked on a series of consultations. He was recently in Geneva to meet with the representatives of the rebel movements, and is due to travel to Khartoum for consultations with the GoS.

MILITARY ASPECTS

14. As of today, the AU-led Mission in Darfur has a total of 114 personnel, comprising:

- 96 MILOBs from Chad, Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, the EU, the USA, the GoS, the JEM and the SLA;
- 11 members of the Ceasefire Commission from the AU, EU, Chad, GoS, JEM and SLM/A; and
- 7 support staff.

15. The Agreement of 28 May 2004, on the Establishment of the Ceasefire Commission and the Deployment of Observers, provides for the establishment of six sectors. The deployment of MILOBs in those sectors began on 11 July 2004. Thus far, MILOBs have been deployed in Nyala, Abeche, Chad, Kabkabiyah. Deployment in El-Geneina, and Tina will commence today, 27 July 2004. The deployment process is still ongoing. Logistics, including campsite construction, and communication problems delayed the deployment.

16. Ten additional MILOBs from Namibia, Senegal and South Africa are due to arrive in Sudan tomorrow, 28 July 2004. Algeria has communicated the names of three Military Observers out of the seven requested; South Africa has designated its 10th MILOB. Egypt and Libya have also offered to contribute MILOBs.

17. In accordance with its mandate, the CFC has conducted investigations in response to reports of ceasefire violations. Patrols are also being conducted by the MILOBs to promote confidence-building and show the AU presence on the ground, while confirmatory reconnaissance missions were undertaken to

the sectors to facilitate the deployment of MILOBs. The CFC also maintains contacts with the GoS, SLM/A and JEM military commanders.

18. Thus far, 6 cases of ceasefire violations have been reported to the CFC, of which three cases have been investigated.

19. In this respect, the following is to be highlighted:

- On 1 July 2004, the GoS forces filed a complaint accusing the SLM/A and the JEM of ambushing their supplies convoy travelling to Sani Afendu from Nyala. Similarly, the SLM/A/JEM also filed a complaint against the GoS forces, accusing them of attacking their forces at Sani Afendu. Investigations by the CFC revealed that both parties were guilty of violating the Ceasefire Agreement: the SLM/A for capturing five petrol tankers and their drivers, and the GoS for dispatching a patrol on 30 June without notifying the CFC.
- On 5 July, the SLM/A filed a complaint accusing the GoS forces of attacking the village of Ehda. The Fact-Finding Team sent by the CFC discovered that the entire Ehda village had been burnt and deserted, except for a few men. The CFC concluded that this was an unwarranted and unprovoked attack on the civilian population by the Janjaweed. However, the Team could not substantiate the allegation that the Sudanese forces fought alongside the Janjaweed.
- On 6 July 2004, the GoS filed a complaint accusing the JEM and the SLM of attacking the village of Suleia. However, the Fact-Finding Team dispatched by the CFC discovered that Suleia was attacked on 3 July by militia elements believed to be Janjaweed. The attackers looted the market and killed civilians, in some cases, by chaining them and burning them alive.
- On 10 July 2004, the GoS reported that rebel elements attacked, robbed, and murdered innocent civilians. It further alleged that a police station was attacked and weapons removed, while the head of all tribes in East Darfur was kidnapped. The written complaint was followed by a protest march by residents of El-Fasher on 12 July 2004. The CFC dispatched a Team to the area on 13 July 2004 and, thanks to its intervention, the kidnapped traditional leader was released. The incident is being investigated by the CFC.

20. I should also like to report that steps are underway to deploy 308 troops for the protection force provided by Nigeria and Rwanda. The troops are on standby, and the Commission has formally requested the Government of the Netherlands and the United Kingdom to provide airlift for the troops. Deployment will commence as soon as logistical arrangements for accommodation and other essential services have been finalized.

OTHER INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVE AND HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

21. The crisis in Darfur was discussed, on 24 July 2004, in the US Congress, which adopted a resolution describing the human rights abuses in Darfur as "genocide". The resolution called on the US to lead an international effort to prevent in Darfur, to consider multilateral or even unilateral intervention, and to impose targeted sanctions.

22. The UN Security Council is also considering a draft resolution on Darfur. The draft provides for specific timelines on actions to be taken by the Government and carries the possibility of sanctions being imposed. In this regard, on 21 July 2004, Mr. Kofi Annan warned that "the Sudanese Government doesn't have forever" to meet its pledges.

23. The GoS has criticized the ongoing initiatives in the UN Security Council, stressing that such a resolution would exacerbate the situation in Darfur. The GoS has stressed that it is exerting efforts to implement the joint communiqué signed with the UN on 3 July 2004, and requested more time to do so.

24. According to UN agencies, there are currently 2,2 million people who are affected in Darfur and Eastern Chad. Of these, 1,2 million are IDPs in Darfur, 200,000 are refugees in Eastern Chad. It should be noted that improvements have been registered in the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the affected population.

25. The UN agencies have indicated that they remain short of US\$ 203 million of the funding needed to provide relief for the rest of the year to the affected population.

CONCLUSION

26. Clearly, more efforts need to be exerted to address the crisis in all its dimensions and speed up the search for a solution. In this respect, the AU and its Member States should spare no effort to alleviate the plight of the civilian population and bring about lasting peace to the region.

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Talking Points for the Deputy Chairperson

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