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Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, P.O. Box: 3243 Tel.: (251-11) 5513 822 Fax: (251-11) 5519 321  
Email: [situationroom@africa-union.org](mailto:situationroom@africa-union.org)

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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL  
328<sup>TH</sup> MEETING

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA  
24 JULY 2012

PSC/PR/COMM.(CCCXXVIII)

COMMUNIQUÉ

## COMMUNIQUÉ

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 328<sup>th</sup> meeting held in Addis Ababa on 24 July 2012, reviewed the situation in Darfur and the activities of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), and adopted the following decision:

### **Council,**

1. **Takes note** of the report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the situation in Darfur [PSC/PR/2(CCCXXVIII)], as well as of the statements made by the Commissioner for Peace and Security, the Deputy Joint Special Representative for UNAMID and the Government of Sudan;
2. **Recalls** its previous communiqués and press statements on the situation in Darfur;
3. **Commends** the signatory parties to the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD) of July 2011, namely the Government of Sudan and the Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM), for the steps taken towards the implementation of the DDPD, including the appointment of several LJM officials at senior positions at both national and regional levels, the inauguration of the Darfur Regional Authority (DRA) in February 2012, the holding, in El Fasher, in July 2012, of a preparatory 'All Stakeholders Conference', to solicit public support for the implementation of the DDPD and to develop a plan for the launching of the Darfur Internal Dialogue and Consultation (DIDC), and the measures relating to the ceasefire and final security arrangements of the DDPD;
4. **Notes**, however, that many provisions of the DDPD remain unimplemented, including the transfer of funds by the central Government to the Darfur Reconstruction and Development Fund. Council **also notes** the challenges being encountered regarding the conduct of the verification exercise of the LJM military personnel and equipment, which is a pre-requisite to the demobilization, disarmament and reintegration of the LJM forces;
5. **Encourages** the Parties to the DDPD to spare no efforts in expediting the implementation of the Agreement. In this respect, Council **notes** the steps taken by the Government of Sudan, in particular the establishment, in May 2012, of the High Follow-up Committee for Peace in Darfur, chaired by the President of the Republic of Sudan, and the broadening of the membership of the Darfur Peace Follow-up Office, which is tasked to coordinate the Government's DDPD activities. Council **also takes note** of the initialing, by the DDPD Parties, on 18 July 2012, of the revised DDPD timetable, and **urges** them to comply with this new implementation schedule;
6. **Expresses serious concern** at the continued refusal of the hold out groups to engage in the peace process, in spite of the efforts made by the Joint AU/UN Mediation. Council, **once again, demands** that these Movements join the peace process without any further delay and adhere to the DDPD, which has been endorsed by the AU and the larger international community as a viable basis for achieving lasting peace and stability in Darfur. Council **expresses its determination** to take appropriate sanctions against individuals and entities whose actions

aims at undermining the DDPD process, and **requests** the UN Security Council to consider taking similar measures;

7. **Notes with satisfaction** the reduction of hostilities between Government forces and the armed Movements. At the same time, Council **expresses concern** at the sporadic fighting in Darfur, the increase in incidents of banditry and other criminal activities, and the attacks by unidentified armed individuals against UNAMID convoys;

8. **Further notes with satisfaction** the significant increase in the number of voluntary and spontaneous returns throughout Darfur in the past few months, and **calls** for continued efforts to sustain this trend, especially as close to 1.7 million Darfuris still remain in IDP camps, while dozens of thousands others are refugees in neighboring countries, particularly Chad;

9. **Commends** UNAMID for its invaluable contribution towards the protection of civilians, as well as for its support to early recovery initiatives, in particular through the implementation of Quick Impact Projects (QIPs). Council **also commends** the review by UNAMID of its Protection of Civilians Strategy, in order to enhance the robustness of its protection mandate. In particular, Council **welcomes** the focus of the new Strategy on the following pillars: (i) physical protection, (ii) humanitarian assistance, (iii) protection through access to the rights, (iv) early recovery and social empowerment, and (v) protection through political engagement;

10. **Notes with concern** the restrictions on the movements of UNAMID. Council **takes note** of the undertaking made by the Government of Sudan, in the context of the meetings of the Tripartite Coordination Mechanism, to address this issue and other related matters, in order to facilitate the conduct of UNAMID operations, and **looks forward** to concrete follow-up action;

11. **Welcomes** the steps being taken towards the implementation of the recommendations of the review exercise of UNAMID uniformed personnel, jointly conducted by the AU Commission and the UN Secretariat in February 2012, in accordance with Security Council resolution 2003 (2011), with the view to considering ways of enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of the military and police components of the Mission and of promoting a flexible and mobile force;

12. **Stresses** that achieving peace, security, justice and reconciliation in Darfur remains a priority for the AU, recognizing that the people of Darfur have been suffering for far too long. In this respect, Council **reaffirms** the continued relevance of the recommendations of the report of the AU High-Level Panel on Darfur (AUPD), as endorsed by its 207<sup>th</sup> meeting held in Abuja, on 29 October 2009 [PSC/AHG/COMM.1(CC VII)], bearing in mind that the Darfur crisis is a manifestation of the broader political and other challenges facing Sudan as a whole;

13. **Urges** the international community to extend the requisite support to the search for lasting peace, security, justice, reconciliation and reconstruction in Darfur, including support to the implementation of the DDPD, based on a proper understanding of the causes and consequences of the conflict in that region. Council, in this respect, **expresses appreciation** to the DDPD International Follow-up Committee for its efforts;

14. **Decides** to extend, for a further period of 12 months, the mandate of UNAMID as defined by communiqué PSC/PR/Comm.(LXXIX) of its 79<sup>th</sup> meeting, held on 22 June 2007, and United Nations Security Council resolution 1769 (2007) of 31 July 2007. Council **requests** the UN Security Council to do the same;

15. **Reiterates** AU's commitment to the hybrid nature of UNAMID and **requests** the Commission to continue to ensure that the AU fully plays its role. In this respect, Council **requests** the Commission to submit to it quarterly reports on the situation in Darfur and the work of UNAMID;

16. **Expresses appreciation** to the UNAMID leadership, in particular the Joint Special Representative and Joint Chief Mediator a.i. and his Deputies, the Force Commander and Police Commissioner, as well as to the entire staff of the Mission, for their dedication and contribution to the promotion of lasting peace, security and reconciliation in Darfur;

17. **Decides** to remain actively seized of this matter.

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