

UNAMID BULLETIN

UNAMID Acting Chief Brings Together Darfur Peace Parties for Talks with AU Leadership



Representatives from the Darfur Regional Authority, the Government of Sudan and UNAMID meet with the Chairperson of the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa. Photo by Abdourahman Ibrahim, UNAMID.

On 21 November 2012, UNAMID Acting Joint Special Representative (JSR) and Joint Chief Mediator *a.i.* Aichatou Mindaoudou, together with the parties to the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD), discussed progress made so far and challenges in the implementation of the Document with the leadership of the African Union (AU).

The meetings, held at the AU's headquarters in Ad-

dis Ababa, Ethiopia, brought together the Chairperson of the Darfur Regional Authority (DRA), El Tigani Seisi, the Sudanese Minister of State, Amin Hassan Omer, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, and the AU Peace and Security Commissioner, Ramtane Lamamra.

The DRA Chair highlighted the priorities of the institution, including creating an environment conducive to

the return of internally displaced persons and refugees, facilitating reconstruction and development in Darfur, and conducting internal dialogue and consultation in Darfur. Dr. Seisi requested the AU to advocate for the upcoming Darfur Donor's Conference, set to take place in January 2013 in Doha, Qatar.

The Acting JSR called attention to the importance of unconditional access to all areas of Darfur so the inter-

national community can assist the population more effectively and, in particular, so UNAMID can implement its mandate in the protection of civilians.

She concluded by commending the spirit of cooperation between the parties. "I encourage the Government and the DRA to redouble their efforts to accelerate the implementation of the DDPD and to sustain their cooperation with UNAMID," she said. ■

UNAMID Encourages Traditional Singers to Promote Peace in Darfur

On 29 November 2012, the African Union - United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), in collaboration with the North Darfur High Council for Culture, organized a workshop in El Fasher, North Darfur, for twenty *hakamat* to enhance their powerful role in promoting peace in the region. The *hakamat* are traditional

female singers who usually encourage men to go to war or take other serious actions for the community.

UNAMID's head of Community Outreach, Reuben Inaju, called on the *hakamat* to start singing for peace and not for evil. "From UNAMID's perspective, if you start chanting for peace, we believe that this

will help bring about peace in Darfur," he said. Mr. Inaju also asked them to denounce poems and songs that incite men to take risks and get involved in conflicts.

The Director General of the High Council for Culture, Tehmad Ahmed Almakin, described the forum as a positive step towards peace. "This is

a good start through which together we can get the message to our people on how we can make peace," said Mr. Almakin.

In order to highlight the significance of *hakamat* for peace, UNAMID is conducting similar workshops, under the theme "For the love of peace, chant for peace," in Darfur's other states. ■

UNAMID Peacekeepers Construct Women's Market in Jebel Marra, Central Darfur

In their latest effort to support development in Darfur, Rwandan peacekeepers from the African Union - United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) completed the construction of a market for use by women in and around the Nertiti locality in the Jebel Marra area of Central Darfur. The new building is spacious enough to accommodate roughly 20 local women, who now will be able to sell their goods indoors.

Speaking at the ceremony on 20 November to inaugurate the new market, the Rwandan contingent's Commanding Officer, Lt.-Col. Christopher Rutaremara, explained that the construction project was planned and completed by UNAMID's Rwandan contingent to contribute to peace in Nertiti.

"The market is designed to

create job opportunities for internally displaced women and returnees, as well as to raise their standard of living and their economic status in the community," said Lt.-Col. Rutaremara. "Women are at the heart of the family."

The ceremony was attended by UNAMID's Force Commander, Lt.-Gen. Patrick Nyamvumba, who commended the troops for taking the initiative to work on such development projects in line with UNAMID's mandate to protect the civilian population and assist in ensuring peace and security in the area.

The Force Commander said that the market will address the needs of the Nertiti women, enhance their living conditions and reduce the hardship they face in conducting business. "The completion of the market



On 20 November 2012, in the Nertiti locality of the Jebel Marra area of Central Darfur, women celebrate the official opening of a new women's market built by UNAMID's Rwandese peacekeepers. The new building is spacious enough to accommodate roughly 20 local women, who now will be able to sell their goods indoors. Photo by Albert González Farran, UNAMID.

is an indicator of an improved security situation within the troops' area of responsibility, despite challenges," he said.

UNAMID's Rwandese peacekeepers are currently im-

plementing three other projects in Central Darfur, including the construction of a primary school and the construction of a perimeter fence at a secondary girl's school. ■

UNAMID Supports Nomadic Education in North Darfur

As part of its support to recovery and development in Darfur, the African Union - United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) on 22 November presented 12 tents to the North Darfur Ministry of Education to be used as mobile classrooms for nomads in five localities in North Darfur.

The donation is part of the Mission's Quick Impact Project (QIPs) programme and was executed by the national non-governmental organisation Nomads Development Organizations Network in North Darfur. The nomadic communities requested UNAMID to assist them with facilities to enable their children to attend schools. The tents will accommodate thousands of nomadic

boys and girls and their teachers in the localities of El Waha, Serif, Saraf Omra, Kabkabiya and El Cuma, and will allow them to learn in a conducive environment.

North Darfur's Commissioner for the Humanitarian Aid Commission, Mr. Ibrahim Ahmed Hamid, thanked UNAMID for the gesture and also urged the Mission to assist the nomadic communities with capacity building and other skills training programmes. "The tents will improve the standard of learning for nomads, who are always on the move, including boys, girls and even the elderly," said Hamid.

QIPs are small-scale projects and among the key elements of UNAMID's strategy



Three nomadic boys, Ahmad Mohamed (age 13), Abu Ali Abas (4) and Abdu Muntalab (13), are pictured in front of a tent that will be used as a mobile classroom. UNAMID donated 12 tents to the nomadic community as part of the Quick Impact Project programme to enable children to attend school. Photo by Albert González Farran, UNAMID.

to underpin the peace process in Darfur and bring about socio-economic recovery and development. To date, the Mis-

sion has implemented more than 500 projects of benefit to diverse communities in all Darfur states. ■