

UNAMID BULLETIN

As Talks Advance in Darfur, UN Peacekeeping Official Urges Sustained Focus on Peace Process



On 24 January 2013, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Edmond Mulet, briefs the Security Council on the Secretary-General's latest report on UNAMID. Photo by JC McIlwaine, UN Photo.

While the Government and one of the main rebel factions in the Sudanese region of Darfur have agreed on an agenda for negotiating a comprehensive peace, the international community must keep all of the parties focused on resolving the conflict, a senior United Nations official told the Security Council on 24 January 2013.

"It is now imperative that the parties, including all the armed movements and the

Government of Sudan, cease their hostilities and become exclusively engaged in their working out their grievances through peaceful dialogue," the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Edmond Mulet, said during his briefing to the 15-member body on the Secretary-General's latest report on the African Union - UN Mission in Darfur (UNAMID).

Mr. Mulet said that negotiations had begun in Doha, Qa-

tar, on 20 January between the Government and the Mohamed Bashar faction of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and were being facilitated by the Joint Chief Mediator *a.i.*, Aichatou Mindaoudou, and the Qatari government.

The parties signed a framework agenda that would set the parameters for negotiations on the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD). The DDPD forms the basis for a permanent ceasefire and comprehensive peace agreement to end the fighting that began in Darfur 10 years ago.

The Mohamed Bashar faction of JEM is the second rebel group to commit to the DDPD, after the Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM) signed it in 2011. Along with the Government of Qatar, UNAMID has been heavily involved in mediation efforts in the Darfur conflict, and recently organized a workshop on negotiation skills for the JEM delegation.

On implementation of the DDPD, Mr. Mulet said that the Council of the Darfur Re-

gional Authority, an oversight body required in the agreement, had been formally inaugurated on 16 January following the appointment of most of its membership. During the inauguration, senior Sudanese Government officials reiterated Khartoum's commitment to the Darfur peace process and announced a parliamentary allocation of some US\$181 million to support relevant activities.

In addition, in December 2012, Sudan's President Omar Al-Bashir issued a decree establishing a committee that would review the conditions under which humanitarian organizations are working in the country. UNAMID and humanitarian partners are awaiting improvements in the humanitarian access on the ground, Mr. Mulet said. He expressed serious concern over the increase in hostilities between the Government and some armed movements, as well as over the rising inter-communal violence taking place in some parts of Darfur, and the associated impact on the civilian population. ■

Former Combatants Participate in Ceasefire Workshop

On 23 January, 22 former combatants of the Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM) completed a workshop focusing on the articles of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD) and geared toward enhancing the participants' administrative skills related to the Darfur Regional Authority.

The three-day session, organized by UNAMID in El Fasher, North Darfur, included extensive discussions on the role of the Ceasefire Commission, an entity that is stipulated

in the DDPD and officially charged with monitoring and implementing a permanent ceasefire and final security arrangements.

In an interview with UNAMID following the workshop, LJM Chief of Staff Ismail Rifa noted that the workshop was beneficial and informative, particularly on issues related to ceasefire and security arrangements. "This workshop allowed us to transfer the knowledge we learned to our colleagues," he said.

The training was designed



On 21 January 2013 in El Fasher, North Darfur, former combatants of the Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM) participate in a workshop focusing on the articles of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur. Photo by Sojoud Elgarrai, UNAMID.

to assist the 22 LJM members in carrying out their adminis-

trative duties with the Darfur Regional Authority. ■

UNAMID Delivers Critical Aid to North Darfur Displaced



On 19 January 2013, UNAMID delivers urgent humanitarian aid to thousands of civilians who were displaced in El Sereif, North Darfur, as a result of tribal clashes over gold mines in the Jabel Amir area. Photo by Sojoud Elgarrai.

From 17 to 22 January, UNAMID delivered more than 56,000 kilograms of urgent humanitarian aid, by land and air, to thousands of civilians who were displaced in the North Darfur villages of Saraf Omra, Kabkabya, El Sereif and Abu Gamra.

The aid, provided by the

Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), consisted of non-food items such as plastic tarps, sleeping mats, blankets and water purification equipment.

In addition to providing a full spectrum of logistics support to deliver the aid, the Mission provided security escorts to humanitarian workers, enabling them to carry out their duties, and has been supporting mediation efforts to reduce the tensions in Jabel Amir.

"The operation marks a significant step forward for UNA-

MID and its partners," said UNAMID Acting Joint Special Representative and Joint Chief Mediator *a.i.*, Aichatou Mind-aoudou. "We have witnessed a great amount of cooperation between all stakeholders, at all levels, which has ensured that access to those in need would be granted quickly."

The current humanitarian situation in the region emerged earlier in January as a result of clashes between the Abbala and Beni Hussein tribes over gold mines in the Jabel Amir area, resulting in a mass displacement of some 70,000 people and more than 100 killed, according to Government figures. ■

UNAMID Inaugurates Youth Centre in Nyala



On 22 January in Nyala, young people participate in the inauguration ceremony of a youth centre rehabilitated by a UNAMID project. Photo by Kone Mouroulaye.

On 22 January 2013, UNAMID, in collaboration with the organization Social Solidarity, inaugurated the Al-Wehda West Youth Centre in Nyala, South Darfur, which was rehabilitated by local young people who participated in one of the Mission's community-based labour-intensive projects (CLIPs).

The CLIPs programme was launched by UNAMID's Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) Section in July 2012 to reduce violence in strategic locations across Darfur, by engaging at-risk youth and other vulnerable groups in rebuilding their fragile communities. More than 2,500 young men and women have participated as the direct beneficiaries of the 17 CLIPs implemented throughout Darfur. During each CLIP, participants learn livelihood and life skills designed to improve their employability and social cohesion while rebuilding their communities.

During the inauguration ceremony, Mr. Paul Ebikwo, on behalf of UNAMID Head of Office in South Darfur, expressed hope to see a substantial reduction of conflict in

South Darfur through the engagement of young people in rebuilding their communities. "I wish to reiterate our desire to work with all peace-loving and development-minded people in South Darfur to ensure that peace, stability and development is achieved sooner rather than later in Darfur," Mr. Ebikwo said.

The South Darfur Minister of Youth, Sports and Tourism, Mr. Khattab Ibrahim Wadaa, said that the project shows UNAMID's strong will to contribute to peace, stability and development in Darfur. "We have been looking for this kind of project, which we believe will help the youth to participate in the development and reconstruction process in Darfur," he said.

"This is what we really need to bring peace to Darfur," Mr. Wadaa said. "It is time for the young people in our community to have the opportunity to explore the potential they have for the sake of their region and their country." ■

Gender, Human Rights the Focus of Training in West Darfur

A four-day training session designed to raise awareness of gender-based violence and human rights concluded on 14 January in El Geneina, West Darfur.

A total of 29 Darfuris, including eight women, took part in the forum, which was organized by Sawa Sudan National Organization and funded by United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). UNAMID assisted by providing trainers for two of the sessions.

The sessions focused on the Bill of Rights stipulated in Sudan's Interim National Constitution (2005), and on human rights principles and standards, with a particular focus on the existing mechanisms for the protection and promotion of human rights applicable to Sudan. ■