

UNAMID BULLETIN

Darfur Internal Dialogue and Consultation Process Launched in El Fasher, North Darfur

On 25 January 2015, UNAMID facilitated the launch of the Darfur Internal Dialogue and Consultation (DIDC) process at El Fasher University in North Darfur.

The event brought together Government of Sudan (GoS) and Darfur Regional Authority (DRA) officials, members of the DIDC Implementation Committee, representatives of Darfur civil society and internally displaced people and UNAMID officials.

The speakers at the launch underscored the significance of the DIDC as a milestone in the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD) in its endeavor to bring peace and stability to the region.

The Deputy Joint Special Representative (DJSR) of UNAMID, Abdul Kamara, reiterated the importance of the DIDC and assured UNAMID's continued commitment to support it. "It will provide an opportunity to consolidate peace, promote confidence building and encourage reconcili-

ation as well as unity amongst the people of Darfur and Sudan in general," Dr. Kamara remarked.

"The aspirations of young Darfuris for prosperity and security cannot be fully realized in this situation of conflict, insecurity and continued violence," said the DJSR, calling on Darfuris to fully embrace this process.

DRA Chairman, Eltigani Seisi, called on all Darfuri stakeholders to join the DDPD for the sake of peace, stability and development across the region and commended the significant contribution of the State of Qatar in the peace process. Dr. Seisi called on IDPs and refugees to participate in the DIDC, so that their concerns and aspirations are taken into account.

The Head of the Darfur Peace Follow-up Office, Dr. Amin Hassan Omer, drew attention to key issues in Darfur related to trust-building, land ownership, provision of justice, return of the internally displaced people and refugees, as well as development projects. He expressed hope that the DIDC



On 25 January 2015, UNAMID facilitated the launch of the Darfur Internal Dialogue and Consultation (DIDC) process. The event, conducted under the theme, "Darfur: Let's Talk Peace Now," was attended by UNAMID officials, Government of Sudan representatives, the DRA and civil society organizations. Photo by Mohamad Almahady, UNAMID.

process will present a genuine opportunity for the people of Darfur to come together and address their differences.

"Our basic concern in Sudan is the issue of trust building. I am confident the people of Darfur will be successful in building trust and achieving social harmony. Therefore, the government is committed to creating a suitable environment for reconciliation," said Dr. Omer.

"There is no choice for the people of Darfur to get out of their cri-

sis other than dialogue," said Siddiq Abdalla (Wada'a), the Chairman of the DIDC Implementation Committee, pointing out that dialogue is the best way to bring an end to fighting and destruction.

This event heralds the start of the formal DIDC, a process that will take place in 64 localities across the five Darfur states, in addition to Khartoum. The dialogue will involve all sectors of Darfuri society, including IDPs, refugees, civil society and Darfuris in the diaspora. ■

UNAMID Concerned over Impact of Fighting on Civilian Population in Darfur

Following clashes between armed opposition groups and the Sudanese Armed Forces in the East Jebel Marra area and north of Kutum over the past few weeks, the African Union-United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) is concerned about the impact of the ongoing conflict on civilians. Newly displaced people arrived in several localities of North Darfur, mainly in Um Baru, Tawila and Sartoni as well as Nertiti in Central Darfur. UNAMID is working in coordination with the UN Country Team (UNCT) and other humanitarian actors to provide protection and

assist in the distribution of urgent aid to the affected populations.

A significant number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) have sought refuge in a safe zone adjacent to the Mission's Um Baru Team Site in North Darfur. They reportedly fled the surrounding villages of Orchi, Abu Leha and Doldol. UNAMID is providing protection as well as temporary shelter, water and some medical assistance to the IDPs, while humanitarian actors have arrived on the ground and started distributing and providing additional assistance.

In Tawila, where more than 5,700 newly displaced individ-

uals have settled in Argo, Dali and Rwanda IDP camps, UNAMID peacekeepers intensified their patrols around the camp and are coordinating with humanitarian agencies which are providing assistance to those in need. The Mission also assisted some displaced people to retrieve their property from Konjara village which they have since vacated.

At midnight on 20 January, 150 civilians, mostly women and children from Tui and Korambi villages, arrived at Sartoni, North Darfur, and sought refuge in an area some 500 meters from

the Mission's Team Site fearing Government of Sudan forces' alleged plan to attack their villages. Peacekeepers provided the newly displaced people with tents and water and the Mission is liaising with the UNCT for appropriate humanitarian support. The majority of the newly displaced returned to their villages on 21 January. The Mission continues to monitor the situation.

The Mission has not been able to assess the actual impact of the fighting on the affected villages where the newly displaced were coming from due to access restrictions. ■

UNAMID Acting Joint Special Representative Visits West Darfur

UNAMID Acting Joint Special Representative (AJSR), Mr. Abiodun Bashua, visited El Geneina, West Darfur, on 14-15 January to assess the security situation, the cooperation between the African Union-United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) and local authorities and the humanitarian situation, particularly the plight of internally displaced people (IDPs).

During his two-day visit, Mr. Bashua met with the West Darfur Governor (Wali), Mr. Haider Galikoma Ateem, who briefed him on the security situation, humanitarian issues and the government's role in the provision of basic services to IDPs and other returnees as well as facilitation of their resettlement

through allocation of residential plots. Additionally, they discussed aspects of cooperation between the State government and UNAMID regarding progress in implementing the Final Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM) forces along with a number of other issues.

Mr. Bashua reiterated the Mission's commitment and support for the success of the security arrangements programme for LJM forces as an important step to bring about lasting peace across the Darfur region. The AJSR praised the level of cooperation and coordination between UNAMID and the West Darfur State government working

together to promote peace efforts in the region. He also called upon the Wali to initiate the formation of a committee composed of the State government, UNAMID, UN agencies and representatives from the IDP community to work toward the success of the voluntary returns programmes.

Furthermore, the AJSR stressed that UNAMID will continue to provide support to the people of West Darfur through the implementation of additional community development projects, especially those aimed at providing potable water services to local communities, including IDP camps.

Mr. Bashua also had an extended meeting with IDPs in

the Ardamata camp where he was briefed on the camp's situation and the problems faced by the inhabitants, such as inadequate supply of water, as well as substantial shortages of education and health services. They expressed serious apprehension about their security and urged UNAMID to bolster its police and military presence in order to be more effective in protecting them.

On his part, the AJSR pledged to work closely with relevant stakeholders and UN agencies to find a resolution to these issues, adding that protecting innocent civilians, in collaboration with the Government of Sudan, is part of UNAMID's core mandate. ■

Implementation Follow-Up Commission of the Doha Document Discusses Progress and Challenges

The ninth meeting of the Implementation Follow-up Commission (IFC) of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD) was held on 12 January 2015 in Nyala, South Darfur. The Commission discussed the progress made and the challenges faced in the implementation of the DDPD since its last meeting which was held on 28 April 2014.

The meeting was chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister of the State of Qatar, H.E. Ahmed bin Abdullah Al Mahmoud. The Government of Sudan was represented by Minister of State Dr. Amin Hassan Omer, while the Wali (Governor) of West Darfur, Mr. Haider Galikoma, and Mr. Altoum Suliman, represented the Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM) and Justice and Equality Movement-Sudan, respectively. Also present were the representatives of the African Union, the European Union, the League of Arab States, Canada, Chad, China, Egypt, France, Japan, Russian Federation, the

United Kingdom and the United States of America. Mr. Abiodun Bashua, the Acting AU-UN Joint Special Representative (AJSR) and Joint Chief Mediator hosted the event at UNAMID's headquarters in Nyala, Sector South.

Presenting the IFC Secretariat's report to the meeting, Acting JSR Bashua reiterated UNAMID's commitment and determination to continue to support and cooperate with DDPD parties and IFC members in implementing mandated tasks, as stipulated in the DDPD. He sought for the collaboration of all IFC members: "I look forward to your support so that we can collectively continue, more steadfastly, the tasks of promoting lasting peace, stability and development in Darfur," Mr. Bashua said.

The AJSR underlined UNAMID's efforts in support of expediting the implementation of the Final Security Arrangements provisions of the DDPD for ex-combatants of JEM-Sudan and LJM. While commending the DDPD parties for their efforts in



On 12 January 2015, the ninth meeting of the Implementation Follow-up Commission (IFC), established by the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD), took place in Nyala, South Darfur. Photo by Hamid Abdulsalam, UNAMID.

this regard, the AJSR said, "I urge the parties to continue and finalize all arrangements and outstanding issues in order to bring the process to foreclosure as soon as possible."

Addressing the meeting, Deputy Prime Minister Al Mahmoud renewed his country's pledge to continue its steadfast support for the DDPD and strongly urged other international stakeholders and IFC members to rededicate themselves and demonstrate their continuing support through fulfilling their commitments and pledges

in order to facilitate timely and enhanced implementation of the DDPD with a view to enhancing peace and stability in the region. Furthermore, he stressed that "the aspired for peace in Darfur will not be achieved through agreements and protocols alone; rather by those who have the best interests of their country and their people at heart. Therefore, the implementation and follow-up phase should be an all-inclusive exercise encompassing all the communities and groups in Darfur." ■