

UNAMID BULLETIN

DDPD Implementation Follow-up Commission Meets in El Fasher, North Darfur

On 28 April 2014, the Implementation Follow-up Commission for the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD) held its eighth meeting at the UNAMID headquarters in El Fasher, North Darfur. The meeting was chaired by His Excellency Ahmed bin Abdullah Al Mahmoud, Deputy Prime Minister of the State of Qatar and Minister of State of the Council of Ministers and Chairperson of the Implementation Follow-up Commission.

The event was attended by high-level delegates from the African and European Unions, the League of Arab States, Organization of the Islamic Conference, Canada, Chad, China, Egypt, France, Japan, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States, Government of Sudan (GoS), the Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM), the Justice and Equality Movement-Sudan (JEM) and UNAMID representatives.

Topics discussed at the meeting included progress made regarding the provisions of the DDPD since the last meeting in December 2013, challenges faced and the way forward. All those present acknowledged the continued commitment and efforts of GoS, LJM and JEM-Sudan toward the implementation of the DDPD.

Addressing the meeting, His Excellency Mr. Al Mahmoud emphasized that developmental and reconstruction projects should be initiated parallel to the peace processes. This, he said, would empower Darfuris and go a long way toward establishing coexistence and stability across the region.

Speaking at the meeting, UNAMID's Joint Special Representative (JSR) and Joint



On 28 April 2014, the Implementation Follow-up Commission for the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD) held its eighth meeting at the UNAMID headquarters in El Fasher, North Darfur. Photo by Hamid Abdulsalam, UNAMID.

Chief Mediator Mohamed Ibn Chambas observed that the parties to the DDPD have made some progress in a number of areas since the last meeting in December 2013. "I urge all parties to continue to accommodate each other in this progress and I hope that the same spirit will prevail toward the inclusion of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) into governmental institutions and the Darfur Regional Authority," said the JSR.

He nevertheless expressed his concern that the first quarter of 2014 has been tumultuous due to an alarming increase in violence in many parts of Darfur that resulted in more displacement particularly in North and South Darfur states; inter-communal conflicts and criminal activities continue to take a debilitating toll on the civilian population in Darfur.

UNAMID's JSR also explained his efforts to gather regional support for the peace process in Darfur. "I have held consultations with the Foreign Ministers of Burkina

Faso, Ethiopia, Rwanda and Uganda, the Executive Secretary of the Inter-Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD) and a number of envoys for Darfur and Sudan, briefed the President of Uganda and President of Chad and sought their support for the peace process," he added.

Additionally, the IFC welcomed the national dialogue initiative announced by President Bashir and appealed to the armed movements to cease hostilities and participate in the same. The forum also recognized the tireless efforts of President Idriss Deby of Chad to bring peace and stability to Darfur through the Um Jaras process. Additionally, political forces as well as the armed movements were called upon to join the process in good faith. Moreover, members underscored the DDPD as a vital agreement that should feed into the national dialogue initiative.

UNAMID's JSR and the IFC Chairperson responded

to media inquiries during a joint press conference held at the end of the meeting with regard to the State of Qatar's US\$88 million grant agreement with the United Nations Multi-Partner Fund administered by the United Nations Development Project (UNDP) to finance the recovery and reconstruction priorities of the Darfur Development Strategy launched at the International Donors Conference in Doha in April 2013.

The grant agreement was signed on behalf of the State of Qatar by His Excellency Ambassador Ahmed Al-Meraikhi, Director, International Development Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. On behalf of the UN, the UN Resident & Humanitarian Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Sudan, Mr. Ali Al-Za'tari, was the signatory. This grant represents the largest single contribution made by the State of Qatar to the UN system worldwide.

In a related development earlier on 27 April, a meeting

of the Facilitators of the Darfur Internal Dialogue and Consultations (DIDC) took place in El Fasher to review progress made toward the launching of the dialogue. It was attended by His Excellency Ahmed bin Abdullah Al Mahmoud, representative of the African Union Commission Ambassador, Ibrahim Kamara, and JSR Chambas. The meeting approved the nominees of the DIDC Implementation Committee, as well as a proposal that donor contributions for the Darfur dialogue and consultations would be channeled through a trust fund managed by UNDP. In his remarks, Mr. Chambas underscored the centrality of the DIDC in promoting peace, healing, social cohesion and peaceful coexistence among Darfuris. In particular, the UNAMID Head stressed on the potential of the DIDC to feed into President Bashir's proposed national dialogue, as the basis for a broad-based national consensus on a peaceful settlement of the Darfur conflict as well as a comprehensive political and democratic transformation in Sudan. ■

South Darfur Students Debate Recent Surge of Inter-Tribal Conflict



On 23 April 2014, a student engaged in the third annual debate organized by UNAMID with the Centre for Peace Studies and Research, University of Nyala. Photo by Saeed Adam, UNAMID.

On 23 April 2014, more than 300 students participated in a debate on the theme "Recent Surge of Inter-tribal Conflict in Darfur: Identity or Economic?" This is the third annual debate organized by the African Union-United Nations Mission in Darfur's (UNAMID) Communications and Public Information Section in collaboration with the Centre for Peace Studies and Research, University of Nyala.

The event, which took place at the University of Nyala University Grand Hall, was de-

signed to give Darfuri students the opportunity to share and exchange their ideas and opinions on current affairs through a process of dialogue and debate. The recent escalation of violence amongst tribes throughout the Darfur region has claimed many lives and displaced thousands of civilians.

In the course of the debate, participating students observed that the negligence of the huge economic problems in Darfur by the current and previous regimes, the politicization of ethnic identities, the federal government's policy towards Darfur, which resulted

in severe developmental lack in the region as well as intensified competition for resources, such as water and grazing land, lie at the heart of such conflicts.

Dr. Abdulghani Abulgasim, Dean of Technology and Development and Representative of the Chancellor of Nyala University, described the debate as a time-appropriate platform for students to discuss issues relevant to the conflict of Darfur and arrive at constructive and useful conclusions. Additionally, he thanked UNAMID for supporting the university by presenting 22 computers to the Faculty of Technology and Development.

Mr. Tchaptile Bacop, representative of the Head of Office, UNAMID Sector South, addressed the gathering and said that UNAMID had come to Darfur to work with the different parties to the conflict toward restoring peace in the region. He called on Darfuri youth to work collaboratively in an effort to establish social, political and economic stability to Darfur through constructive dialogue and respect for the different cultures. ■

UNAMID Organizes Training for Prisons Personnel

On 21 April 2014, UNAMID's Rule of Law-Prisons Advisory Unit, in collaboration with the state Prisons Administration, organised a graduation ceremony for 65 newly recruited prisons personnel who participated in a month-long training programme on human rights and prisons duties. The occasion also marked a Training-of-Trainers (ToT) initiative that targeted 33 participants from the prisons system across all five states in Darfur. Both programmes were funded by UNAMID and facilitated by lecturers from the Faculty of Education, University of El Fasher.

The event took place at the General Command of the Armed

Forces in El Fasher, North Darfur, and was attended by UNAMID representatives, government officials and officials from the state Prisons' Administration.

Such training initiatives are the result of an agreement between the Mission and the Government of Sudan (GoS) which includes capacity building by UNAMID for local policing institutions. "We look forward to enabling newly recruited prisons' personnel to fulfill their mandated tasks effectively" said a UNAMID representative on the occasion, reaffirming the Mission's commitment to facilitate effective capacity building for GoS Police. ■



On 21 April 2014, a training graduation ceremony for 65 newly recruited prisons personnel on human rights and prisons duties. The month-long training was organised by UNAMID's Rule of Law-Prisons Advisory Unit in collaboration with the state Prisons Administration. Photo by Hamid Abdulsalam, UNAMID.