On 27 September 2014, the 18th meeting of the Tripartite Coordination Mechanism on UNAMID’s mandate took place at the UN headquarters in New York. During the meeting, delegates from the African Union, United Nations and Government of Sudan welcomed progress made in the implementation of the Mission’s mandate as well as the cooperation received from the host government.

The delegations were headed by Ambassador Sana’a Hamad Awad, Acting Under-Secretary of the Sudanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ambassador Smail Chergui, AU Commissioner for Peace and Security; Mr. Hervé Ladsous, UN Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations; Ms. Ameerah Haq, UN Under-Secretary-General for Field Support; and Mr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, AU-UN Joint Special Representative for Darfur.

The participants welcomed Security Council Resolution 2173 (2014), the reprioritization of UNAMID’s strategic priorities following Resolution 2148 (2014) and the forthcoming discussions on UNAMID’s exit strategy on the basis of progress on the ground and in coordination with the United Nations Country Team.

The forum looked forward to further work toward building an environment for recovery and development in Darfur. The participants welcomed the initiative of the inclusive national dialogue launched by H.E. Mr. Omar Hassan Ahmed Al Bashir, President of the Republic of the Sudan, on 27 January 2014.

The meeting reviewed thoroughly the progress made so far on security issues, UNAMID’s deployment, issuance of visas and challenges in importation and exportation of goods for UNAMID’s operational needs. The AU and UN urged the Government of Sudan and UNAMID to increase coordination and work at the technical level to expeditiously solve these issues.

Ms. Haq briefed the gathering on measures taken with regard to the Ebola outbreak and the JSR assured participants that UNAMID continues to issue regular guidance to its personnel on prevention and precautions regarding Ebola. Participants urged UNAMID, the UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response, the UN Country Team and other relevant agencies to take necessary assistance in this regard.

The participants thanked Mr. Chambas for his dedication, commitment and outstanding contributions to the peace process in Darfur during his tenure as Joint Special Representative and wished him success in his new posting.

The next meeting of the Tripartite Coordination Mechanism is scheduled to take place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in January 2015.

On 25 September 2014, the United Nations Secretary-General and the African Union Commission Chairperson announced the appointment of Abdul Kamara of Sierra Leone as Deputy Joint Special Representative for the African Union-United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID).

Mr. Kamara brings to the position extensive experience following a distinguished career in the African Development Bank, having served as Resident Representative in the Sudan Country Office and Manager of the Research Division and Senior Agricultural Economist. Mr. Kamara also contributed to development policy research in East, West and Southern Africa in his capacity as Research Scientist at the International Water Management Institute in South Africa and Ghana.

Mr. Kamara holds a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics and Rural Development from the Institute of Rural Development of the Georg-August-University of Göttingen, Germany.

Born in Tambiama, Sierra Leone, in 1963, he is married and has three children.
AU-UN Joint Special Representative’s Message on the Occasion of Eid Al-Adha and the Haj

On behalf of the African Union-United Nations Mission in Darfur, I wish the people and the Government of Sudan a peaceful and joyous Eid Al-Adha and Haj Mabroor to the lucky ones.

As we commemorate this occasion, we should all remember the message of peace and sacrifice that this occasion symbolises and draw lessons from the story of Ibrahim and his son (Peace Be Upon Them).

The road to achieving peace is fraught with hurdles, hardships, tests and sacrifice. It is only when we have the will and the resolve that we are able to achieve this condition, to which we all aspire; and which holds so many benefits for all.

The ritual of Haj in its essence is a quest for peace and redemption. Redemption from worldly desires and a renewal of our commitment to the Almighty to be fair and compassionate in our relationships with each other. It is also a unique lesson in the value of unity as you see millions congregating in the holy sites to know each other, trade and develop peacefull relationships.

While celebrating this year’s Eid, fresh hopes are looming in the horizon. The prospects of an inclusive national dialogue and the recent discussions with armed movements in Addis Ababa breathe fresh air in the quest for peace in Darfur, and indeed all of Sudan. The progress of the Darfuri internal dialogue is yet another positive step in the direction of peace stability and development of Darfur.

We hope that all these efforts shall converge to achieve strides in the search for sustainable peace, democracy and development for this historic country and its good people.

On this day, we also remember our courageous peace-keepers, the men and women who sacrificed their lives for the people of Darfur.

May the goodwill of this most holy occasion inspire us all to intensify our search for an all-inclusive, just and durable peace in Darfur and, indeed, all of Sudan.

Eid Mubarak to all and Haj Mabroor to those who are participating this year!

South Darfur Women Discuss Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325

On 29 September 2014, as part of global open days on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security, UNAMID’s Gender Advisory Section organized a one-day forum for women in Nyalah, South Darfur to identify the priorities, concerns and needs of women in the area. The session brought together more than 60 women representatives from the Darfur Regional Authority, the South Darfur Legislative Council, traditional women leaders and members of the state committee on UNSCR 1325.

Addressing the women’s forum, Ms. Yegerawork Angagaw, UNAMID’s Senior Gender Adviser, explained that the session was an opportunity to assess the impact of the implementation of the landmark resolution 1325, the achievements so far, the challenges faced and the way forward.

The participating women were also encouraged to share their experiences, concerns and priorities as a contribution to national and regional efforts to resolve conflicts and peace building. The outcomes of these global open days are expected to inform and influence policies and programmes related to the implementation of Resolution 1325 as well as highlight challenges faced by women and their contributions to conflict resolution and peace building.

Ms. Angagaw reaffirmed the Mission’s continued logistical and technical support to women’s committees in Darfur in the implementation of the resolution.

The UN Security Council adopted Resolution 1325 on 31 October 2000. The Resolution recognized the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peace-building, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and in post-conflict reconstruction and stressed the importance of their equal participation and full involvement of women in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security.

Global open days are commemorated annually on the anniversary of UNSCR 1325, to voice the opinions on the topic with the aim to accelerate the Resolution’s implementation.