

# UNAMID BULLETIN

## Peace Process Discussed at North Darfur Conference



On 30 and 31 October 2013 in El Fasher, more than 100 people from North Darfur took part in a two-day conference to evaluate and assess the peace process within the framework of the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur. Photo by Emadeldin Rijal, UNAMID.

On 30 and 31 October 2013 in El Fasher, North Darfur, more than 100 people took part in a two-day conference to evaluate and assess the peace process within the framework of the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD). The forum, jointly organized by UNAMID and the North Darfur Civil Society Follow-up Mechanism on Strategic Planning, brought together native administration, women's groups, youth groups, nongovernmental organisations, community leaders, internally displaced people and members of political parties.

UNAMID Deputy Joint Special Representative Joseph Mutaboba spoke during the event's opening moments and highlighted its importance. "I believe that through group discussions and brainstorming, the participants will be able to propose a set of recommendations for better DDPD implementation, whose success depends on a stronger and enhanced civil society in Darfur," he said.

The Head of the Darfur Regional Authority Council, Sultan Saad Bahr-Eldein, also spoke at the event. "This conference emphasizes that Darfur civil soci-

ety has become a key player and partner in the DDPD implementation," he said. "We in the Darfur Regional Authority believe that peace has prevailed in many parts of Darfur."

Following deliberations, conference participants recommended strengthening civil administration; building roads, bridges and other infrastructure to help in the timely transport of goods from production to consumption areas; addressing young people's concerns about unemployment, lack of vocational training and drug abuse; fully implementing the DDPD and including it in the

Constitution of Sudan; eradicating extreme poverty; and empowering civil society's role in raising awareness of peace and reconciliation issues among Darfuris.

The conference was organised as part of UNAMID's mandate to facilitate dialogue between interest groups and stakeholders; to undertake and support the efforts of the Government, native administration and civil society groups seeking peace and reconciliation; and to strengthen the conditions and structures for an environment conducive to sustainable peace in Darfur. ■

## More Than 1,000 Trained in UNAMID Vocational Programme

In October 2013, UNAMID's Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) section completed the final project in the second phase of a programme that this year alone has provided vocational training to more than 1,000 young Darfuris. In the most recently completed project, a centre for street children in El Fasher, 50 young men and women received vocational training in construction-related job skills while they worked to build the centre.

UNAMID's DDR section implements the community-based, labour-intensive projects (CLIPs) programme in coordination with the Gov-

ernment of Sudan and nongovernmental organisations to address the needs of at-risk youth and other vulnerable groups in Darfur. The projects are designed to mobilise unemployed youth in rebuilding Darfur's infrastructure while at the same time providing these young men and women with valuable livelihood skills, with the ultimate goal of improving their employability and social integration.

UNAMID's DDR section launched the first phase of the CLIPs programme in 2012, implementing in that year 17 CLIPs in 14 Darfur localities. In 2013, the second phase of the CLIPs programme included 15 projects.



On 7 October 2013, participants in UNAMID's community-based, labour-intensive projects (CLIPs) programme fabricate environmentally friendly bricks at the new Ardamata Youth Centre in El Geneina, West Darfur. Photo by Albert González Farran, UNAMID.

A total of 1,085 young men and women received training this year in the areas of construction, masonry, welding, auto repair, generator serv-

ices, electrical work, computer programming, sewing, nutrition and other skills that are in high demand in Darfur's job market.

In one construction project, young Darfuris learned how to produce cost-effective and environmentally friendly bricks. In another, participants learned skills for employment in a metalwork shop. As a result of this year's programme, there are new schools in South Darfur, new youth recreational centres in West Darfur and a new library in Central Darfur.

Surveys conducted by UNAMID's DDR staff members indicate increased confidence on the part of CLIPs participants for finding jobs. Nearly 100 per cent of those interviewed stated that the programme helped them gain necessary livelihood skills to secure employment. And nearly 70 per cent of the participants said the CLIPs programme has strengthened community cohesion and promoted peace in their localities by mobilizing youth of different tribes to work together for a common cause. ■

## UNAMID Celebrates UN Day with Darfur Partners



On 24 October 2013 in El Fasher, North Darfur, UNAMID Deputy Force Commander, Maj. Gen. Keita Balla, salutes the UN flag prior to delivering speeches on behalf of the UN Secretary-General and UNAMID's Chief. Photo by Hamid Abdulsalam, UNAMID.

On 24 October 2013, UNAMID hosted an event in El Fasher, North Darfur, to celebrate UN Day with representatives from the Government of Sudan, the Darfur Regional Authority (DRA), civil society, the local community, UN agencies and other Mission partners.

The event, held at Al Zubeir Stadium in El Fasher,

drew several hundred Darfuris from the community to participate in the UN Day festivities, including a music concert, poetry readings and a set of exhibitions designed to raise awareness of the UN's work in the region.

UNAMID's Deputy Force Commander, Maj. Gen. Keita Balla, represented the Mission at the event and deliv-

ered messages from the UN Secretary-General and UNAMID's Chief. "The United Nations works every day, around the clock and across the world, to confront today's emergencies while building foundations of peace for tomorrow," said the Deputy Force Commander, quoting the Secretary-General.

The Deputy Wali (Governor) of North Darfur, Mr. Al-Fatih Abdulaziz, and the DRA representative, Mr. Othman Wash, spoke at the event and praised the pivotal role of the United Nations in sustaining peace and security around the world. Both highlighted the determined efforts UNAMID continues to make in the interest of bringing about peace and stability in Darfur.

Similar celebrations were held in other parts of the region, including in El Geneina, West Darfur and in Nyala, South Darfur. ■

## South Darfur Football Tournament Promotes Friendship, Peace



On 31 October 2013, in Nyala, South Darfur, hundreds of people watched the final games of a month-long football tournament jointly organized by UNAMID and the South Darfur State Ministry of Youth, Sports, Environment and Tourism. The tournament was part of the celebrations to commemorate International Peace Day and United Nations Day. Photo by Hamid Abdulsalam, UNAMID.

On 31 October 2013, hundreds of people from Nyala watched the final games of a month-long football tournament jointly organized by UNAMID and the South Darfur State Ministry of Youth, Sports, Environment and Tourism. The tournament's final matches drew a large audience

to El Hilal Square Stadium to witness the event and participate in the festive celebrations, which included a peace march, music performances and the award of a trophy to the winning team.

A total 16 teams from Nyala and nearby camps for internally displaced people partici-

pated in the tournament, which initially was scheduled begin on International Peace Day, with the finals to be played on United Nations Day. Due to unforeseen delays, the tournament began on 4 October and culminated on 31 October.

Addressing the gathering during the finals, Mr. Tchaptile Bacop, representing UNAMID's Head of Office for South Darfur, said the gathering of young people in a friendly sports competition served to cultivate harmony. "The tournament inculcated in the young people a culture of love and peaceful co-existence, which translates to the Darfur community as a whole," he said. "In addition, this tournament showcases the kind of friendship and love that inspires Mission personnel here."

Also addressing the attend-

ees at the finals was the representative of the Wali (Governor) of South Darfur and Commissioner for Presidential Affairs, Mr. Omer Abakar, who stated that involving young people from the camps for displaced people in such tournaments gives them hope that peace is coming. Mr. Abakar confirmed the Government's interest in supporting young people in sports activities to contribute to peace in their communities.

One of the players, Mr. Mujahid Ibrahim, said that the tournament motivated the participants to spread messages to others about pursuing peace. Another player, Mr. Najm Jamal, explained that the tournament successfully brought different communities together. "This tournament has linked me to people I didn't know before," he said. ■