

**The Third Retreat of the Joint Special Representative of the African Union – United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) with Special Envoys for Sudan**

**Nyala, South Darfur, Sudan**

**18 February 2011**

**Outcome Statement**

1. On 18 February 2011, the Joint Special Representative (JSR) of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), Mr. Ibrahim Gambari, convened a retreat of the Special Envoys and representatives of member states and United Nations partners in Nyala, South Darfur<sup>1</sup>. The meeting was convened as a follow-up to the earlier Retreats held in Kigali and El Fasher in 2010.
2. The purpose of the Retreat was to take stock of recent developments in Darfur, and generally in the Sudan especially following the outcome of the Referendum in South Sudan; and to consider their implications for the peace process in Darfur with a view to sustain the international community's engagement with and support to efforts to bringing an end to the Darfur conflict.
3. The participants reviewed developments since their last meeting in July 2010. They welcomed the peaceful conduct of the referendum on the self-determination of South Sudan in January 2011, and congratulated all parties to the CPA for achieving this significant benchmark. Noting that the conclusion of the referendum is only one aspect of the search for durable peace in the Sudan, the participants made a renewed call for an inclusive process that would lead to comprehensive peace in Darfur. In this regard, they urged the Government of Sudan and the armed movements to seize the opportunities presented by the peaceful conduct and conclusion of the Referendum to achieve meaningful progress in the Darfur peace process. They expressed their support for the Mediation and welcomed recent progress made in negotiations between the Government of Sudan and LJM; the return of JEM to Doha, and strongly urged all parties to the conflict to engage in the peace process immediately and without preconditions. In this regard, the participants noted the need for the armed factions, in particular, to show genuine commitment through participation in the peace negotiations.
4. Participants agreed that peace in Sudan remains indivisible and a resolution of the conflict in Darfur is necessary to achieve overall peace and stability. They expressed concern over the continued violence in Darfur and the consequent suffering of the people, including those newly displaced as a result of recent upsurge in clashes between Government forces and armed groups. They called on all parties to immediately cease hostilities and allow UNAMID and humanitarian actors unrestricted freedom of movement and access to civilian populations

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<sup>1</sup> Participant list attached



in need of assistance. Participants also took note of the role that the armed movements play in creating insecurity and urged for their cooperation with UNAMID and the humanitarian community. However they underscored that the Government of Sudan has the primary responsibility to improve the overall security situation on the ground.

5. The participants condemned the increase in criminality, including the continued attacks and kidnapping of peacekeepers and humanitarian aid workers. They called for the safe return of all remaining hostages and strongly urged the Government of Sudan to take further measures to bring perpetrators to justice and end the culture of impunity. In this regard they welcomed the actions of the Darfur Special Prosecutor in recent arrests and prosecution of perpetrators.
6. The participants welcomed and stressed the importance of UNAMID's robust approach to the protection of civilians and the Government's recent positive pronouncement on access for the Mission's operations. They commended the improved coordination and cooperation mechanisms recently established between UNAMID and the UN Country Team in Sudan for enhanced and effective operations. They further noted that while the new UNAMID approach has contributed to improvement on access for its operations and for the delivery of humanitarian assistance, concerns on freedom of movement and access prevail, including for example in east Jebel Marra. They urged the Government to take measures to ensure that the recent assurances given are effectively translated into tangible outcomes on the ground to further improve UNAMID operations and humanitarian access in Darfur.
7. The participants also welcomed UNAMID's continuing efforts to promote the engagement of all Darfurian stakeholders in support of the political process in Darfur. Participants recognized that the coming months represent a critical period for Sudan and Darfur in particular, and agreed that reaching comprehensive and inclusive peace in Darfur is of the utmost urgency. They stressed the importance of reaching an immediate cessation of hostilities. In this regard, participants commended the progress made by the AU-UN Joint Chief Mediator, and urged the negotiating Parties towards the early conclusion of a concrete agreement in Doha, in accordance with the latest timeline given by the Mediation. Furthermore, the Participants recognised that the involvement of the people of Darfur in the peace process is an indispensable element in the search for a comprehensive and inclusive solution to the conflict. They agreed that a Darfur based Political Process (DPP) will, through extensive and sustained engagement with the people of Darfur, enhance popular support for a peace agreement, and better enable the people to be involved in the implementation of the outcomes of the Doha negotiations. They stressed that establishing an enabling environment for this process, which includes freedom of movement, assembly and expression of all participants; including the freedom from harassment, arbitrary arrest, intimidation and of interference by the government or armed movements is essential for the credibility of the DPP. Participants welcomed further clarification on the DPP as it takes shape, pending the outcome of the Doha process. They also requested that regular updates on progress made in the indicators of an enabling environment for conducting the DPP be provided to the United Nations Security Council and African Union Peace and Security Council.



8. The participants welcomed efforts to facilitate voluntary returns of displaced populations, where the security situation permits, in order for them to regain a sense of normalcy in their lives, and emphasized the importance of the Joint Verification Mechanism. They supported UNAMID's efforts in partnership with the UN Country Team and the Government of Sudan to address livelihood and early recovery issues in Darfur. Participants however underscored that the primary responsibility for security and bringing sustainable development to Darfur remains with the Government of Sudan and cannot be replaced by external actors. They also underscored the importance of ensuring a conducive working environment for humanitarian organizations, and considered as unfortunate the recent expulsion of the NGO Medecins du Monde by the Governor of South Darfur outside of the established mechanisms to resolve such situations.
9. The participants agreed on follow up actions to the conclusions of the Retreat. They reiterated their commitment to remain engaged with stakeholders for a comprehensive and durable peace in Darfur in 2011.

## Third Retreat of Special Envoys to Sudan

Nyala, 18 February 2011

### Participant List

Name	Title
Professor Ibrahim Gambari	Joint Special Representative UNAMID (Convener)
H.E. Mr. Michael Ryder	UK Special Representative for Sudan
H.E. Mr. Mikhail Margelov	Russian Special Representative for Sudan
H.E. Ambassador Liu Guijin	Chinese Special Envoy for Sudan
H.E. Ambassador Rosalind Marsden	EU Special Representative for Sudan
H.E. Ambassador Salah Halima	League of Arab States Special Envoy for Sudan
H.E. Mr. Douglas Proudfoot	Canadian Special Envoy for Sudan
H.E. Ambassador Marika Fahlen	Swedish Special Envoy for Sudan
H.E. Mr. Tom Vraalsen	Norwegian Special Envoy for Sudan
H.E. Mr. Koen Davidse	Dutch Special Envoy for Sudan
H.E. Ambassador Keitaro Sato	Japanese Special Envoy for Sudan
H.E. Mr. Haile Menkerios	SRSO UNMIS
Mr. Georg Charpentier	UN RC/HC Sudan
H.E. Ambassador Mahmoud Kane	Head of African Union Liaison Office
Mr. Azouz Ennifar	Deputy Joint Chief Mediator
H.E. Ambassador Patrick Nicoloso	French Ambassador
H.E. Ambassador Rainer Eberle	German Ambassador
H.E. Ambassador Envarbik Fazeliyanov	Russian Ambassador
H.E. Ambassador LI Chengwen	Chinese Ambassador

H.E. Ambassador Anderj Motyl	Swiss Ambassador	
Mr. Dennis Hankins	Charge D'Affairs USA	
Alex de Waal	Advisor AUHIP	
Jian Fangnin	Deputy Director – MFA- China	
Endre Stansen	Deputy Envoy - Norway	
Katie Campo	Political Affairs Officer, US Embassy	
Sean Brooks	Darfur Team – Office of the US Special Envoy	
Sarah Nouwen	Senior Legal Specialist – AUHIP	
Piers Craven	Political Officer, British Embassy	
Robin Wettlnafer	Senior Advisor Sudan Task Force – Canada	
Yusuke Tabuchi	Political Officer – Japanese Embassy	
Boitshoko Mokgatlhe	Senior Political Officer – African Union Commission	
Michael Amuzu	A.G. Head, Sudan Desk – African Union Commission	
Luca Zapetti	Political Advisor to the EU Special Representative	
Gerda Vrieling	Dutch Embassy	
Sofia Caltrop	Swedish Embassy	
Ke Wang	Chinese Embassy	
Mark Cutts	OCHA Head Of Office	
Nicholas Aarons	Special Assistant to RC/HC	
Illemassene Christophe	OCHA	