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HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
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**IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 60/251
OF 15 MARCH 2006 ENTITLED “HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL”**

**Note verbale dated 21 February 2007 from the Permanent Mission of the
Republic of the Sudan to the United Nations Office at Geneva
addressed to the secretariat of the Human Rights Council**

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Sudan to the United Nations Office and Other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the secretariat of the Human Rights Council and has the honour to enclose herewith a copy of the message* of Dr. Lam Akol Ajawin, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Sudan, dated 18 February 2007 to Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, concerning the visit of the Human Rights Council's High-Level Mission to the Sudan.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Sudan, while requesting the circulation of the message as an official document of the fourth session of the Council under the agenda sub-item entitled “Follow-up of the decisions of the Human Rights Council”, avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the secretariat of the Human Rights Council the assurances of its highest consideration.

* Reproduced in the annex as received, in the language of submission only.

Annex

Republic of the Sudan

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The Minister

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



جُمْهُورِيَّةُ السُّودَانِ
وَدَارَةُ الْخَارِجِيَّةِ
الْوَزِيرَ

No: 25/2/2

Date: 18 February 2007

Excellency,

I would like to refer to what has transpired recently about the entry visas to Sudan to the High Level Mission of the Human Rights Council. As you may recall, the Council decided, in its Decision S-4/101, to assess the human rights situation in Darfur and the needs of Sudan in this regard.

You may also recall that during your meeting with H.E Omer Hassan AL-Bashir, the President of the Republic, which took place in Addis Ababa on 29 January 2007, in the margins of the African Union Summit, you raised the point pertaining to the delay in issuing the entry visas to the members of the Mission. You may further recall that H.E the President gave his directives that this issue will be tackled by the concerned Sudanese authorities.

In this regard, I would like to underscore while the above-mentioned Decision was adopted by consensus and accepted by the Government of the Sudan, yet my Government expressed reservations on the composition of the Mission. We believe it is our legitimate right, as a sovereign state, to ascertain the impartiality, neutrality and objectivity of that Mission.

Excellency,

While consultations were underway between our Permanent Mission in Geneva and the President of the Human Rights Council, with a view to reaching an acceptable formula, our Permanent Representative was astonished to receive, within a very short time, two letters of the same date (14 February 2007), from Ms. Judy Williams, the Head of the High Level Mission. In the first letter she said, and I quote: '*... We regret to inform you that any further delay in the issuance of visas beyond 12:00 noon on 14 February 2007 will make the proposed visit to the Sudan impracticable and will compel us to proceed with our work through alternative arrangements.*'

In the second one, Ms. Williams stated, and I quote:

'...I deeply regret that visas for the Sudan have not been issued to the High Level Mission in time for it to conduct a visit to the country. Consequently we are forced to consider this as a denial of access to the Sudan and to seek other means to carry out the responsibilities entrusted to us by the Decision of the Human Rights Council.'

Allow me in this regard to emphasize the following:

1- We categorically reject such a provocative manner in addressing sovereign states. There is solid ground to believe that it is ill-intended, prejudiced and lacking respect for the country and its people.

2- We believe that this inappropriate approach contravenes the principles and objectives establishing the Human Rights Council. General Assembly resolution 60/251 calls for; *inter alia*, the promotion and protection of human rights on the basis of cooperation and genuine dialogue with member states. It further states that its work shall be guided by objectivity and constructive international dialogue and cooperation. It also stipulates that its work shall be in close cooperation with governments.

3- It is our firm belief that the High Level Mission, including its Head, should adhere to the applicable norms and standards consistent with the resolution establishing the Human Rights Council.

In this vein, it is much desired from the Council, now more than at any other time, to come up with concrete results on the proposed Code of Conduct of the mechanisms and special procedures of the Council.

Excellency,

While the reservations on the composition of the High Level Mission still hold, we respectfully expect that you assume your duties with regards to the inappropriate approach undertaken by the Head of the High Level Mission, as I have explained above.

Excellency,

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate our full commitment to cooperate with the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms. I believe the cooperation by the Sudan is unprecedented in this regard.

I would also like to affirm that we are committed to receiving an independent, impartial, objective and neutral Mission.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.


Dr. Lam Akol Ajawin
Minister of Foreign Affairs
The Republic of the Sudan

H.E. Ban Ki-moon
Secretary General of the United
Nations, New York.