

Permanent Mission of
The Republic of the
SUDAN
To U.N. Office, Geneva

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



البعثة الدائمة
لجمهورية السودان
جنيف

**Statement of Sudan
Before the First Session of
The Human Rights Council**

Under

**Agenda Item 4
Implementation of the General Assembly
Resolution Go/251
(Pressing Issues)**

Geneva 26.6.2006

Please check against delivery

Informal Translation

Mr. President

We would like to express to you again our congratulations for your unanimous election as President of the first session of the Human Rights Council. Likewise we extend our congratulations to the Bureau and would like to express our confidence that you will be guided by the principles and provisions enshrined in the resolution establishing the Council. In so doing, we all would guarantee that our deliberations and discussions will be conducted in a healthy manner. This is necessary to reflect the unity of the international community in enhancing human rights by way of dialogue, cooperation, positive engagement and by distancing ourselves from selectivity and double standards.

Mr. President

Shortly before the convening of the present session and in May 2006, peace negotiations between the Government of Sudan (GOS) and armed groups in Darfur, were successfully crowned by concluding Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) in Abuja. The Government of Sudan, as testified and commended by the international community, demonstrated a high degree of flexibility which contributed to the accomplishment of this historic and great achievement. The Peace accord furnished us with the necessary instrument to end the internal conflict that erupted in 2003, exactly at the very time when prospects of peace in Southern Sudan ushered to end the conflict that has erupted even before the independence and up to the day on which the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) was concluded in January 2005.

Mr. President

The African Union, together with the United Nations and the entire international Community, shared our belief that continued conflict means continued human rights violations, and that ending the conflict is meant to address the root causes of violations. Hence our conviction that supporting the agreement reached, and availing it with all necessary means of implementation and success, is what we have to staunchly stick to under the circumstance and at this point in time and in the present forum.

Mr. President

Abuja Peace Agreement has elaborated on general principles for power and wealth sharing and for the promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The agreement established the Transitional Darfur Regional Authority to administer the region. The Agreement, as well, underlined policies for reconstruction, rehabilitation and development. The importance of such references is derived from the fact that the conflict is of an economic and developmental form in a country which itself is one of the least developed nations in the world. The Agreement further provided for the establishment of Land Commission to settle chronic disputes of land ownership together with relevant provisions on rights to land, rehabilitation and resettlement. It also elaborated on urgent programs for the IDPs, refugees and other war-affected population. Such programs are predicated on principles of voluntary return of the IDPs, their protection, compensation, restitution, establishing demilitarized zone around their camps, establishing courts to address war time grievances, effecting transitional justice, and enforcing national and local customs of reconciliation and healing.

Mr. President

The responsibilities and obligations incumbent on the parties to the Agreement and on the international community are crucial. The international community must basically help in bringing about an atmosphere conducive to stability and development. In this connection, we are delighted to bring to your kind attention that the Government of National Unity in Sudan has pardoned, by a Presidential Decree, all those who have raised arms in Darfur. The Vice-President has announced allocation of twenty thousands metric tons of food to the World Food Programme to balance the resultant deficit caused by shortages of international contributions.

It is within the context of immediate implementation of the Agreement, that the authorities have embarked starting last week and in the presence of representatives from United Nations, African Union, American and British embassies in disarming the militias, where around 750 militia men have surrendered their arms.

Mr. President

Internationally, the implementation of the Agreement has so far garnered support and positive attention. On invitation extended by the Netherlands government, a meeting was held in the Hague last week on 21 and 22 June. The meeting was attended by representatives of the National Unity Government, armed groups parties to the Agreement, African Union, United Nations, Arab League, European Union and high level representatives of governments of Netherlands, United Kingdom, Norway, Egypt and Unites States. It was agreed during the meeting to establish a Core Coordination Group C.C.G. to address the following issues concerning Darfur:

- Urgent needs.
- Enhancing and supporting the peace process.
- Reconstruction, rehabilitation, economic development and debt-relief.

The meeting will be followed by a pledging conference in the Netherlands next September.

Mr. President

Sudan welcomes the engagement of the United Nations and the international community in consolidating peace in the country. The role of the United Nations is a post-conflict one. It necessarily entails that the consent of the Government of Sudan has to be obtained. In this connection, we welcome the statement of the Secretary General of the United Nations that he is planning to meet soon the President of Sudan in Gambia to discuss with him the role of the UN in Sudan. That position in our view, Mr. President, comes in conformity with operative paragraph 4 of the Security Council Resolution 1679 (2006) dated 16 May 25006 which clearly states that the Secretary General should work closely with the Government of National Unity in Sudan.

On conclusion, I would like to reconfirm, Mr. President, our determination, resolve and good will to consolidate and reinforce peace in Darfur.

We would like to emphasize the expected role of the international community and especially the donor countries to fulfill their commitments and pledges and to favourably view what has so far been accomplished and exert all efforts to assist the parties of Abuja Peace Agreement.