

AFRICAN UNION

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**PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
112TH MEETING
28 FEBRUARY 2008
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

PSC/PR/Comm(CXII)

COMMUNIQUE

**COMMUNIQUE OF THE 112TH MEETING OF
THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL**

The Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the Africa Union (AU), at its 112th meeting, held on 28 February 2008, adopted the following decision on the situation in Darfur:

Council,

1. **Takes note** of the Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the Situation in Darfur [PSC/PR/2(CXII)], as well as of the briefings made by Mr. Rodolphe Adada, the AU/UN Joint Special Representative in the Sudan, Mr. Sam Ibok, representing the Special Envoy of the Chairperson of the Commission for Darfur and the Representative of the Government of the Sudan;
2. **Welcomes** the successful transfer of authority from the African Mission in the Sudan (AMIS) to the United Nations (UN)/African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), which took place on 31 December 2007;
3. **Welcomes** further the signing of the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) between the AU/UN and the Government of Sudan on 9 February 2008. In this regard, Council **expresses** its appreciation to the Government of Sudan for its cooperation and **urges** it to continue to extend full cooperation for the implementation of the mandate of UNAMID, including in the force generation in order to ensure the full deployment of UNAMID;
4. **Notes with concern** the fact that UNAMID is severely under-resourced with gaps in the area of attack helicopters, utility helicopters, aerial reconnaissance, as well as heavy and medium transport units and multi-role logistic units. Council **appeals** to members of the international community capable of doing so, to support UNAMID by providing these assets to enable it to expeditiously deploy and effectively fulfill its mandate;
5. **Commends** the AU Member States for their pledges of troops and other personnel to UNAMID to ensure that the Hybrid Operation has a predominantly African character. In this respect, Council **expresses** appreciation for the planned deployment of Egyptian and Ethiopian troops in March 2008, within the framework of the implementation of the UNAMID Early Effect Package;
6. **Requests** the Joint AU-UN Force Generation Team to accelerate the generation process in order to provide UNAMID with the required troops and police, as well as their enabling capabilities;
7. **Encourages** continued cooperation between the AU Commission and the UN General Secretariat for the restoration of peace in Darfur through the political process and the Hybrid Operation. In this regard, Council **calls upon** the AU Commission and the UN General Secretariat to urgently strengthen the institutional mechanisms to that

effect, especially the Joint Mediation Support Team (JMST) and the Joint Support and Coordination Mechanism (JSCM);

8. **Notes with grave concern** the reluctance of some Darfurian movements to join the negotiating process. Council **reiterates** that there will be no military solution to the Darfur crisis and, therefore, **urges** all the parties to accept in good faith, without any precondition and further delay, the start of the substantive political talks. Council **appeals** to all the Sudanese parties to show flexibility, take into consideration the suffering of their people and to seek a political settlement, as this is the only way to reach a lasting solution in Darfur;

9. **Expresses concern** at the deteriorating security situation in Darfur, especially as a result of the recent fighting, including aerial bombardment, in West Darfur where many civilians have been killed and many more forced out of their villages. Council **condemns** the repeated violations of the humanitarian ceasefire, signed in N'Djamena in April 2004, as well as the attacks on civilians in violation of international humanitarian law. Council **urges** all the parties to put to a definite end the unacceptable acts of violence and to show respect for human life and condemns the statements made by some rebel movements to pursue armed actions;

10. **Welcomes** the re-energizing of the political peace process in Sirte, on 27 October 2007, and **commends** the continued efforts of the AU and UN Special Envoys, Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim and Jan Eliasson, aimed at bringing all the parties to the negotiating table. Council **reiterates** its full support to the efforts of the two Special Envoys and their respective teams, with the support of regional actors, namely Chad, Egypt, Eritrea and Libya. Council **further welcomes** the unification efforts deployed by the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) towards the Darfurian movements and **expresses its gratitude** to the Government of Southern Sudan and the leadership of the SPLM for lending a helping hand to the Joint Mediation Team;

11. **Stresses** the need for regional and international cooperation in the quest for a peaceful solution to the crisis in Darfur and calls upon the mediation team to lead and coordinate the efforts of partners to this effect;

12. **Encourages** the Chairperson of the Commission and the UN Secretary-General to finalize their consultations for the formal appointment of the Joint Chief Mediator for the Darfur peace talks;

13. **Underlines** the regional dimension of the crisis in Darfur and **reiterates** its appeal to the Governments of Chad and Sudan to normalize their bilateral relations and to maintain a secure environment at their common border, in accordance with the agreements that they have signed. In this regard, Council **further reiterates** its support for the efforts by Leader Muammar al-Gaddafi and President Denis Sassou Nguesso aimed at helping the two countries to normalize their relations;

14. **Decides** to remain seized of the matter.