

**Office of the Spokesperson****UNMIS NEWS BULLETIN****3 July 2007****UNSG Ban ki-Moon says encouraged by agreement on Hybrid Operation in Darfur***

Addressing the press yesterday at the UN Office at Geneva, the UN Secretary-General said that he felt encouraged by the recent agreement reached by the Sudanese Government, the African Union, and the United Nations on the future deployment of the AU-UN hybrid operation in Darfur. He indicated that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations started to meet with potential troop and police contributing countries. He underlined in this regard that it was vital in the meantime that AMIS, deployed on the ground until December this year, receive the financial resources urgently needed to protect and assist people in Darfur.

In response to a question on whether he thought that President Bashir was willing to settle the Darfur problem, the Secretary-General stated that during the last six months slow but credible and considerable progress was made in helping resolve the Darfur problem. He expressed hope that the Sudanese Government will implement faithfully the commitment it has made. He indicated that President Bashir made firm commitments in the talks he had with him over the telephone and during bilateral meetings. The Secretary-General further stated that what was important at this time is to step up the political process. He indicated in this regard that UN and AU Special Envoys Jan Eliasson and Salim Ahmed Salim have been exerting tireless efforts towards progress in the political process. The Secretary-General highlighted four tracks in addressing the Darfur situation: the humanitarian operation, the hybrid operation to stabilize security, the political process that includes implementation of both the CPA and the DPA, and a good incentive for a development package to reconstruct Darfur and Sudan.

UN Deputy-Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro hails the AU role in Darfur and the UN/AU Cooperation

Addressing the Summit of the African Union on 1 July on behalf of the UN Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro stated that the African Union deserves enormous credit for stepping in Darfur when no-one else would, adding that AMIS has had a significant impact on the ground, but lacks the capacity to meet the extraordinary challenges of protecting civilians and bringing stability to Darfur. She indicated that the Secretary-General appreciates the collaboration between the United Nations, the African Union and the Government of Sudan and the UN is pleased that the Government of Sudan has finally accepted the African Union-United Nations hybrid operation. She emphasized in this regard the need to urgently proceed with the hybrid operation deployment, which will be unprecedented, and will constitute a new chapter in the UN-AU joint efforts to address the continent's peace and security challenges.

The Deputy Secretary-General indicated that the AU and UN are working closely together to reinvigorate the Darfur political process and bring a negotiated solution to the Darfur crisis. At the same time, she added, efforts in Darfur must not be allowed to diminish the UN and the AU resolve to take forward the crucial Comprehensive Peace Agreement for Sudan as a whole.

The AU-UN Joint Mediation Support Team continues its contacts on the Darfur Political Process

Over the past week, the UN-AU Joint Mediation Support Team, jointly led by Pekka Haavisto for the UN and Sam Ibok for the AU, has been traveling in Sudan and Eritrea for consultations with DPA non-signatory movements in North Darfur and those based in Asmara. The JMST met with Eritrean officials in Asmara to discuss the next steps of the political process as outlined in the Roadmap. The JMST, together with Eritrean officials met with First Vice President Salva Kiir in Juba on 2 July to discuss the SPLM's role in the political process.

Darfur

Security Developments

On 1 July, the GoS Police Chief in charge of Community Policing, Brig. Gen. Usman Abdur-Rahman, and his team visited the Es-Sherif IDP camp in El-Fasher. AMIS Civilian Police, UN Civilian Police deployed under the Light Support Package, as well as advisors from the European Union took part in the visit. Brig. Gen. Abdur-Rahman noted with appreciation the progress made in on-the-job training for the community policing volunteers within a short period, attributing the success to the cooperation between AMIS, GoS, UN and the EU.

On 30 June, a tanker belonging to a GoS agency was carjacked in Abu Shouk IDP camp (North Darfur) by three uniformed armed bandits. The driver was later released and returned to the camp. The vehicle was reportedly seen abandoned in Turra village (about 30km N of El-Fasher).

On 2 July, a group of unidentified people attempted to steal a Government agency water pumping facility in Al Salaam camp (South Darfur). The perpetrators fled the scene with the water pipe when the guard raised alarm. According to the humanitarian community, the damage to the water pumping facility will directly affect their efforts to provide safe water to Al Sallam camp, where the Government agency concerned is the only water provider for the camp population of approximately 30,000 IDP.

On 1 July, a group of fifteen unknown armed men attacked an NGO compound in Ad-Deain (South Darfur). They assaulted a security guard and robbed a pick-up truck.

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