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# Highlights

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## Local Arabic and English Language Press

### *SG releases his report on Sudan*

**Akhbar Al Youm** reports SG Ban Ki-moon released yesterday his period report on Sudan. The report stated that lack of mutual trust between NCP and SPLM remains a major challenge for the CPA implementation. The report also tackled DDR and urged donors to show generosity at roundtable conference scheduled for November. UN spokesperson Michele Montas during the daily press briefing yesterday said the people of Southern Sudan and Abyei would exercise their legitimate right to self-determination in 2011 by voting for unity or separation.

The Security Council is expected to discuss the report next month.

**Al-Sahafa** newspaper, in its coverage of SG report on Sudan stated that UN said it does not see how the ICC indictment of President Bashir will affect peace and security in Darfur and in the Sudan as a whole and stressed that dialogue for peaceful solution of the conflict in the region requires security on the ground. According to the paper, UN also criticized the Government and the armed movements for seeking military solution.

### *Fifth arbitrator of Abyei Area arbitration tribunal appointed*

**Local dailies** report the International Court of Justice named French legal expert Mr. Pierre Marie Dupuis to preside over Abyei Area Arbitration Tribunal after NCP and SPLM failed for the second time to select the fifth arbitrator.

**Al-Sahafa** reports GoSS Presidency Minister Luka Biong expects the Tribunal to begin proceedings on 2 December. He said the fifth arbitrator was selected from a list of seven submitted by the Court to the two parties a couple of weeks ago, adding formation of the tribunal would be announced after the fifth arbitrator consents to preside over the tribunal. He welcomed the appointment of the fifth arbitrator saying "from his CV he is competent and efficient person and we are confident he will do what is required to be done by him," Luka said Pierre is also a human rights activists.

According to **Ray Al-Shaab**, Sudan's representative to the Arbitration Tribunal, Al-Dirdiry Mohamed Ahmed, said the fifth arbitrator is required to submit in writing within a week an undertaking of neutrality and to work full-time for the Court.

### *Lack of budget hinders Abyei administration work – Moyak*

**Al-Ayyam** reports Abyei Area Chief Administrator Arop Loyak has urged the government to expedite channeling budget to his administration to enable it to carry out its functions. "We have submitted to the government an integrated budget plan for the remaining period of the current year so that we are able to embark on implementing our priorities and the huge task in the area which lacks lots of things," Moyak told the paper yesterday.

### *Presidency urges Parliament to expedite passing of Parties Council*

Reliable sources told **Al-Sahafa** newspaper that the Presidency is in the process of withdrawing nominees for the Parties Council from the National Assembly to introduce amendments in the SPLM's list of nominees after objections were raised by political forces.

The Presidency held a meeting yesterday for discussion on progress of works of subcommittees of the People of Sudan Forum. The meeting also discussed ongoing efforts to form the Parties Council as well as nominations for membership of the Elections Commission. The Presidency meeting also urged the National Assembly to expedite passing of the nominees for the elections commission for final approval by the Presidency.

According to ***Ajras Al-Hurriah***, Presidency meeting was attended by President Bashir, FVP Kiir and VP Taha. The meeting discussed a range of issues including progress of implementation of Abyei roadmap, Abyei Area interim administration and arbitration, unity fund for development of North-South border areas and prospective IGAD meeting in which FVP Kiir will represent Sudan.

### ***JIUs receive Egyptian donation***

***Al-Sahafa*** reports two Egyptian military planes landed in Kadugli airport on 20 Oct carrying two generators, 50 tents and kitchen equipment for the JIUs. Maj. Gen. Abdul Maged Abdullah, JIUs DC, received the Egyptian donation on behalf of the JIUs.

### ***UNMIS denies precautionary measures in Damazin***

***Akhir Lahza*** reports UNMIS dismissed circulated information about alleged measures and arrangement being taken by the Mission in the Blue Nile which were seen as an indication of presence of threats in the backdrop of the kidnapping of nine Chinese nationals in southern Kordofan.

UNMIS spokesperson Khaled Mansour told the paper that work of the Mission will continue in the State and all over the country, dismissing claims of precautionary measures by the Mission. "Our work is continuing," Khaled said.

It is worth mentioning that information reaching the paper from Al-Damazin alleged the organization has taken measures including limiting movement of its vehicles and its personnel were also called to the Sector's HQs.

### ***3600 soldiers to join UNAMID by the end of the year – US envoy***

***Al-Sudani*** reports US envoy for Sudan Richard Williamson expects 3600 troops to join UNAMID before the end of this year. Williamson also said optimistic that 80% of UNAMID troops would deploy by March, adding his country is consulting with DPKO chief on how USA could assist completion of UNAMID deployment.

### ***Abel Alier named GoSS Public Service Chief***

***Sudan Tribune newspaper*** reports GoSS President Kiir named Sudan's ex-Vice President Abel Alier as GoSS chief of public service reform launched early this year. Justice Alier will work to streamline the policies of the semi-autonomous government which has been badly hit by corruption since its establishment in September 2005.

### ***France says has no objection to trial of Haroun and Kushayb in Sudan***

***Al-Rai Al-Aam*** reports Paris yesterday said has no objection to trial of Ahmed Haroun and Kushayb locally should ICC agrees. French Foreign Ministry spokesperson said his country has no desire to be a "mediator" or a "negotiator" in the ICC issue.

### ***Sudan denounces US aggression on Syria***

***Local dailies*** report Sudan government strongly denounced what it described as the "heinous

aggression” by the American troops on Syria at Albukamal area, killing civilians. An MFA statement described the aggression as a flagrant violation of the international law and the United Nation's charters. The statement, condoling families of the martyrs, has reiterated Sudan's solidarity with the Syrian people.

### ***Document refutes Ocampo allegations***

**SMC** reports a serious document shows that the ICC prosecutor Ocampo has picked his information of allegations against President Bashir from a book entitled "Darfur short history long war" authored by Joli Flint Alex De Wal and published in 2005 in South Africa.

## **Websites/International News Coverage**

### ***Lack of mutual trust main obstacle to north-south peace in Sudan – UN report***

28 Oct (**UN News**) - A lack of mutual trust between the signatories remains the main challenge to implementing the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) that ended the long-running north-south civil war in Sudan, says a new United Nations report released today.

“This lack of trust consequently permeates into all major pending benchmarks set under the Agreement,” Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon writes in his latest report to the Security Council on Sudan, which the 15-member body will discuss next month.

He urges the leaders of both the National Congress Party (NCP) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) to make an effort to improve their relationship, saying the “onus of improving mutual trust and confidence lies with the leadership of both sides.”

One of the things that Mr. Ban says will significantly contribute to confidence-building between the parties is successful implementation of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme, which is “critical to peace in the Sudan.”

But disarmament and demobilization alone cannot lead to a durable peace, he adds, stressing the need to provide ex-combatants with the opportunities they need to successfully reintegrate into society. In this regard, he urges donors to be generous with their pledges at a round-table conference to be held in November.

At the same time, he does note some positive achievements in recent months, particularly with regard to the agreement reached by the parties to resolve the conflict over the disputed town of Abyei.

This includes the successful redeployment by the parties of most of their forces out of the interim borders, agreement on the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the interim administration, appointment of the remaining members of the Abyei Executive and Area Councils, and the ongoing deployment of the Abyei Joint Integrated Unit and the Joint Integrated Police Unit.

Noting that the process of arbitration on a final settlement of the issue is under way in the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague, Mr. Ban urges the parties to immediately redeploy their remaining forces out of the interim borders and set up the interim administration.

He also urges that agreement be reached quickly on the report of the Border Commission, so

that the demarcation process can begin as soon as possible. “Demarcation of the border is a critical benchmark with implications for almost all other benchmarks under the Comprehensive Peace Agreement,” he stresses.

The report also notes that voluntary returns to Abyei remained “slow but steady.” As of 1 October, between 12,000 and 16,000 of the estimated 50,000 people uprooted from their homes due to the fighting that preceded the Abyei agreement had returned to the area.

There have also been positive developments related to the electoral process, including the completion of the census enumeration and the passage of the electoral law. Also, negotiations to appoint members of the National Elections Commission are under way.

The UN has already received a request for electoral assistance from the Government of Southern Sudan and a needs assessment mission will be visiting the country in this regard.

The Secretary-General adds that in 2011, the people of Abyei and Southern Sudan will exercise their right of self-determination to vote for unity or separation. “Whether the verdict is unity or separation, the sides cannot ignore their interdependence and common interest,” he says, encouraging the parties to initiate discussions on a long-term wealth-sharing agreement beyond 2011 for the sake of peace and the people of Sudan.

Mr. Ban also writes that efforts by the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) to seek an indictment against the Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir on genocide and war crimes charges could have the potential to “profoundly affect” the UN’s work in the country.

“The Government of National Unity assured the United Nations that it would continue to cooperate with both [the UN Mission in the Sudan] UNMIS and the African Union-UN Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID). However, senior Government officials issued public warnings of possible serious consequences for UNMIS if the President is indeed indicted.

“I and my Special Representative received similar warnings directly. We have reiterated to the Government that the United Nations will respect the independence of the judicial process and that UNMIS will remain committed to implementing its mandate in support of the peace process in the Sudan,” says the Secretary-General.

He urges the Sudanese Government to cooperate with the Court and put in place an effective judicial and political process at the national level.

### ***Progress in Darfur undermined by ongoing conflict, UN peacekeeping chief says***

28 Oct (**UN News**) - The United Nations and African Union are making good progress in the deployment of their joint peacekeeping force in Darfur but the war-racked region of western Sudan remains beset by deadly fighting, the displacement of civilians, banditry and human rights abuses, the head of UN peacekeeping told the Security Council yesterday.

Alain Le Roy, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, briefed Council members on his recent visit to Darfur, where the hybrid UN-AU operation (known as UNAMID) will eventually become the UN peacekeeping force in the world with more than 26,000 troops, military observers and police officers.

So far, however, only about 10,000 blue helmets have been deployed since the mission started

work in January, and UN officials have repeatedly urged Member States to provide the key personnel and equipment – particularly helicopters – needed by UNAMID.

“Increased numbers and, more importantly, increased capability will give UNAMID a chance to implement the wide-ranging mandate given to it by the Security Council,” Mr. Le Roy said. “Above all, it will give UNAMID the tools to protect civilians as initially envisaged by the Security Council.”

The Under-Secretary-General said he saw “good progress” on his recent visit, citing the collaborative efforts between the mission and the humanitarian community in West Darfur and the recent permanent patrols established by UNAMID police at the Kalma camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in South Darfur, the scene of deadly recent clashes between Sudanese security forces and the residents.

“I also heard from Government officials, at every level, that a new page had been turned and that every effort would be made to support our efforts to deploy UNAMID.”

But many UNAMID troops remain under-equipped or poorly resourced, he said, stressing the need for robust troops with the necessary capabilities to operate in such a difficult environment.

He also cautioned that “the day-to-day tumult and tragedy of Darfur” continues, presenting a serious challenge to the forces already deployed as they try to protect civilians and quell the suffering.

“There is still fighting. There is still displacement. We still receive reports of rapes and civilians under imminent threat,” Mr. Le Roy said, noting also the “relentlessly high level of banditry and criminality.”

Susana Malcorra, Under-Secretary-General for Field Support, told the same Council meeting that she believed UNAMID can reach targets of 60 per cent deployment by the end of this year and 80 per cent by next March.

“These new, revised targets reflect a scaling back of initial extremely ambitious projections,” she said. “The new targets are still ambitious, but in our view can be achieved.” Ms. Malcorra urged donors to mobilize personnel and equipment and fill resource gaps so the mission can meet its targets.

### ***Sudanese parties appoint president of Abyei arbitration tribunal***

October 28, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — The Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) announced today the appointment of Pierre Marie Dupuis as the Presiding Arbitrator of an arbitration tribunal on the finding of Abyei Boundary Commission (ABC).

The President is appointed by the four arbitrators that are named by the two Sudanese parties.

The arbitration tribunal has to determine whether or not the ABC experts exceeded their mandate “to define and demarcate the area of the Nine Ngok Dinka Chiefdoms transferred from Bahr el Ghazal to Kordofan in 1905”.

The tribunal shall apply and resolve the dispute before it in accordance with the provisions of the CPA, particularly Abyei Protocol and Abyei Appendix.

The appointment of the French professor marks the beginning of the countdown for the six weeks period to present the oral arguments before the court and submit documents. The written pleadings are expected to start during the period of 8-12 December.

The court is expected to issue its final decision during in June 2009.

The government of Sudan and the SPLM appointed the following members of the arbitration tribunal: Judge Awn Al-Khasawneh, Professor Gerhard Hafner, Professor W. Michael Reisman and Judge Stephen Schwebel.

The Agent for the Government of Sudan is Ambassador Dirdeiry Mohamed Ahmed, Dirdeiry, while the Agent for SPLM is Gary Born, Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP. (**ST**)

### ***UN wants more troops in disputed Sudan oil region***

29 Oct (**Reuters**) - U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon wants to send more peacekeepers to protect an oil-rich region on the border of north and south Sudan where violent clashes broke out earlier this year.

The recommendation to deploy two more companies of troops to the Abyei region, including an armored personnel carrier platoon, was in Ban's latest report to the Security Council on Sudan's north-south armistice circulated at the United Nations on Tuesday.

The call for more peacekeepers known as UNMIS in Abyei, which straddles the border between northern and semi-autonomous southern Sudan, came after an investigation of the actions of UNMIS troops during an attack in May that killed dozens of people and forced about 50,000 from their homes.

Ban's report identified two other potential flashpoints where additional troops should be deployed -- the southern Blue Nile city of Damazin and the capital of southern Sudan Juba.

The reinforcements will raise overall UNMIS troop levels by 600 to 9,975, just under the mandate's ceiling of 10,000.

Williamson welcomed the decision to deploy more troops in Abyei and other flashpoints, saying it was an issue he had raised with the new U.N. peacekeeping chief, Alain Le Roy. "It is absolutely in the right direction," he said. Williamson said there were too few armed and active UNMIS troops in Abyei at the time of the fighting in the spring -- around 90 out of the full deployment of some 300. UNMIS has rejected Williamson's criticism of what it did during the fighting, saying it had neither the manpower nor the mandate to intervene militarily.

The final version of the report had significant changes in the section on the U.N. investigation of UNMIS behavior compared with an earlier draft, a copy of which was obtained by Reuters.

That section of the draft, which Security Council diplomats said had come from UNMIS, originally said a U.N. peacekeeping department fact-finding team had "concluded that UNMIS had been unfairly criticized for its response to the crisis."

That was deleted from the final report, as were sections saying that UNMIS "did a good job" during the incident and that "much of the criticism was politically motivated, not least by actors eager to divert attention from their own actions."

The final version said the investigators felt UNMIS "had been successful in protecting a large group of persons inside its compound" but found "room for improvement."

Williamson dismissed the suggestion that his criticism of UNMIS had been politically motivated. "It had nothing to do with politics," he said. "It had to do with the people that suffered".

### *US accuses Sudan of duplicity in Darfur*

29 Oct (**Reuters**) - Sudan has violated an embargo on arms transfers to its war-torn Darfur region and disguised planes to look like U.N. humanitarian aircraft, the U.S. envoy to the United Nations said on Tuesday.

Speaking at a meeting of the U.N. Security Council on Darfur, U.S. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad accused Khartoum of a litany of duplicitous actions, all of which he said had been documented by an expert panel of the U.N. Sanctions Committee.

They included "violating the limited arms embargo on Darfur, using aircraft painted to resemble U.N. humanitarian aircraft, (and) conducting offensive over flights in Darfur."

He also accused Sudan of "not accepting that there is no impunity for war crimes and crimes against humanity" - a reference to Khartoum's refusal to hand over two men indicted by the International Criminal Court for mass murder in Darfur.

Sudan's U.N. Ambassador Abdalmahmoud Abdalhaleem dismissed the allegations, adding that the charge about painting aircraft to look like U.N. planes had been recycled from a year ago.

Separately, a top U.N. peacekeeping official said that her department had revised its forecast for the deployment of U.N.-African Union peacekeepers in Darfur, known as UNAMID.

The U.N. under-secretary-general for field support, Susana Malcorra, told the council that her new targets assumed that 60 percent of UNAMID's full mandated strength of 26,000 would be deployed by the year's end.

The new U.N. peacekeeping chief Alain Le Roy had said last month he expected only half would reach Darfur by December 31.

Malcorra said a previous U.N. goal of 80 percent of full UNAMID deployment by the end of this year had been unrealistic. That would be reached by the end of March 2009, she said. "These new revised targets reflect a scaling back of initial extremely ambitious projections," she said. "The new targets are still ambitious but in our view can be achieved."

The United States complained for months about the slow deployment, blaming it on Sudanese obstructionism and U.N. bureaucracy. But Washington's special envoy to Sudan Richard Williamson told Reuters he welcomed the revised targets. "We're encouraged that we should have at least 3,600 more UNAMID troops in Darfur by the end of this year," he said.

Abdalhaleem rejected the idea that Khartoum was doing anything to impede UNAMID's deployment. "The government of Sudan has been trying to remove all obstacles," he said.

U.N. officials have dismissed suggestions that they have moved slowly with the deployment of UNAMID, which was created in July 2007. They accuse troop-contributing countries of not

providing badly needed military hardware like helicopters.

### ***Lakes State legislative assembly resumes sessions***

29 Oct (***Miraya FM website***) - The Lakes State Legislative Assembly resumed session after suspension by the State Executive following a vote of no confidence that was passed on the Speaker of the assembly in September 2008. Addressing the assembly, the acting speaker Marik Nanga Marik appealed to the legislators to abide by the resolutions of the President of the Government of Southern Sudan, which resolved the state political differences and reinstated the speaker of the assembly.

In his opening address, Governor Daniel Awet Akot of Lakes State advised the legislators to work in harmony so that they can be able to unite the people of the State. He also warned them to be cautious with the budget. The Assembly is expected to address issues of the state provisional disarmament order, the budget, government policies and insecurity in the state.

### ***Plan for secondary and basic schools in Abyei***

28 Oct (***Miraya FM website***) - The director of basic education in Abyei Aloure Deng Kuwal stated that the administration of education had set-up a plan for the secondary and basic schools final classes. He said the plan aimed to compensate the missing part of the academic year following the events of last May in the area. He added that the administration also rehabilitated with funding from UNICEF one of the schools in the area for final basic schools students to prepare for secondary schools exams.

### ***Floods left 31 people dead in Upper Nile's Maban County***

October 28, 2008 (JUBA) – 31 people were reported dead this week in Upper Nile state's eastern County of Maban after floods devastated a number of Payams in the area, according to a press release issued on Monday by the Ministry of Presidential Affairs in the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS).

The Director for Special Programmes (Disaster Management) in the Ministry, Goi Yol, who returned to Juba on Sunday after estimating the damages caused by the flooding, said the situation was desperate as tens of thousands of people were already displaced and in dire condition.

He said about 80% of the County's headquarters was submerged while five bridges connecting it to its neighbor counties and payams were also destroyed and washed away, cutting off supply of consumer goods from Melut and Renk counties.

A separate death toll was reported in Khor El Ahmer (Red Stream) Payam, where 25 people died after they drank from a pond. A sample of the water was collected for medical analysis.

Yol said a five-member team that included representatives of the Southern Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (SSRRC), UN agencies and NGOs had landed in Maban on Saturday for more assessment of the situation in preparation for humanitarian response.

A State of Emergency was declared by the Governor of Upper Nile state last week after

widespread flooding was forecasted in the state's eastern counties as Yabus streams and Sobat river tributaries burst their banks as a result of heavy rain falls in Ethiopia and Sudan.

Similar flooding is expected this year for other states that include Jonglei, Unity, Warrap and Northern Bahr el Ghazal.

GoSS and UN agencies are expected to conduct a joint meeting on Thursday to discuss how best to respond to the looming situation (**ST**)

### ***Sudan denies killing of Chinese oil workers during rescue operation***

October 28, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — Sudanese government dismissed reports that the Chinese oil workers were killed following fighting with the military units that tried to rescue them.

The Chinese government said yesterday that three oil workers abducted by gunmen in southern Kordofan were killed Monday after a military operation carried by the Sudanese army to free them from.

The undersecretary at the Foreign Ministry, Mutrif Siddiq told reporters in Khartoum that there were no clashes with the kidnapers to free the hostages. He added that they started to shoot randomly and shot the Chinese workers when a helicopter that was monitoring their movement, overhead the group.

The Sudanese official said his government was seeking a negotiated solution for the kidnapping adding that tribal and local leaders were mandated to negotiate their release.

Khartoum also rectified the number of the killed Chinese. In a first time the Sudanese official said they were five but later said only three were killed and three others were injured. The kidnapers still detain three hostages.

Ahmed Hussein Adam the spokesperson of the rebel JEM denied the involvement of his movement in the kidnapping. He also accused Khartoum of orchestrating the operation to divert the attention of the international community.

In a telephone call the Chinese foreign minister Yang Jiechi asked his Sudanese counterpart Deng Alor to take substantial and effective measures to ensure the safety of Chinese personnel . "It is one of the most serious killing cases of oversea Chinese workers in recent years and we are very shocked by it," Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi said via a phone conversation with his Sudanese counterpart Deng Alor. Siddiq said Sudan is determined to seek the killers who committed this heinous crime.

"The kidnapers are criminals. They are outlaws. They are terrorists, and we will not have any rest until we arrest all of them and bring them to justice," said the undersecretary at the Foreign Ministry.

"Until we retrieve all the missing persons either dead or alive and until we arrest all the kidnapers, by then we will declare this operation over," he added.

However Siddiq said the whereabouts of three remaining Chinese hostages was unknown and that it was not known whether they were dead or alive.

The Chinese ambassador to Khartoum, who accompanied the bodies back to the capital, said information was still being gathered and that China would wait for the outcome of a Sudanese government investigation.

The rebel Ogaden National Liberation Front killed nine Chinese oil workers of Zhongyuan Petroleum Exploration Bureau (ZPEB) during an attack against a Chinese oil field in eastern Ethiopia on Tuesday April 24, 2007. (**ST**)

### **Top Sudan Officials Snub Regional Talks**

28 Oct (**The Nation**) – Nairobi - Senior Sudanese officials on Tuesday failed to attend an IGAD ministerial meeting in protest against Kenya's alleged involvement in the shipment of arms to southern Sudan.

Kenya became implicated when a Ukrainian ship, the MV Faina, was hijacked off the Somali coast in September. The Sudanese delegation to the regional talks on Somalia is being led by the minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr El Samani El Wasila, equivalent to a Kenyan assistant minister.

A source from Khartoum last week told the Nation that President Omar Bashir, Vice-President Ali Osman Taha, and Foreign Affairs minister Deng Alor would not attend the meeting, following a US Navy official report that the 33 T-72 tanks on the hijacked Ukrainian ship were destined for southern Sudan.

The Government has, however, insisted the arms, which would have arrived at Mombasa port, belong to Kenya.

On Tuesday, an aide to Mr El Wasila said the minister was not ready to talk to journalists. Asked if top Sudanese government officials would attend today's summit, the aide said: "Let's wait and see".

Sudan's move follows another by the country's Energy minister, Mr Zubain Mohamed Salih, to cancel a visit to Kenya to finalise an oil deal.

The minister should have been in Nairobi last week to sign an agreement with his Kenyan counterpart, Mr Kiraitu Murungi, which would have enabled Kenya to import cheaper oil from Sudan.

Kenya had already signed a memorandum of understanding with Sudan regarding the purchase.

Somalia's President Abdullahi Yusuf was the first to arrive for the summit over the weekend, while Uganda's Yoweri Museveni came on Monday.

Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi and Djibouti's Ismail Omar Guelleh are also expected to join host Mwai Kibaki for the meeting.

On Tuesday, every speaker at the meeting expressed concern over increased hijacking of ships by Somali pirates.

Somalia Foreign Affairs minister Al Jamah Ahmed said piracy thrived on insecurity in Somalia,

and called on the international community to give Somalia financial and technical support.

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