



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN

Office of the Spokesperson

UNMIS NEWS BULLETIN**24 October 2007****United Nations Day Celebrated in Sudan***

In celebration of the United Nations Day, observed worldwide every year to mark the anniversary of the entry into force of the United Nations Charter on 24 October 1945, the United Nations Mission in Sudan in collaboration with UN Agencies, the UN Association of Sudan and the Government of National Unity are carrying out a number of activities in Khartoum and other areas in Sudan, including Kadugli, Ed Damazin, Wau, Malakal, Juba, El Fasher, and El Geneina.

In Khartoum, a ceremony was held today at the Khartoum State Headquarters. Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General Ashraf Qazi took part in the event and read the Secretary-General's message on the occasion of UN Day, in which he pledged to ensure that progress is made progress on existing pressing global problems in the areas of peace and security, development, and human rights, and to work towards strengthening UN ability to play its role to the fullest extent in finding global solutions to current issues on the international community's agenda.

The ceremony was attended by officials from the Government of National Unity, including State Minister for Foreign Affairs El Samani Al Wasila, State Ministers, the Speaker of the Legislative Council of Khartoum State, the Deputy Governor of Khartoum State and representatives of the UN Association of Sudan. Joint Special Representative Rodolphe Adada and Deputy Head of AMIS Monique Mukaruliza also attended the event, as well as other senior UN officials, including Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General Ameerah Haq, UN agencies representatives, and representative of the diplomatic corps accredited in Sudan.

Activities to mark UN Day in Sudan also include a televised debate that was recorded today on climate change, the theme selected to mark this years' celebration of the UN anniversary in Sudan. The guest speakers of the debate are Professor Abdallah Ahmed Abdallah, UN Sudan Association President and former Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Ismail Gizouli, Senior Advisor to the Higher Council for Environment and Natural Resources and member of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the very Panel that received this year's Nobel Prize, Ms. Teresa Iro, State Minister of Environment, and Ms. Hanan Mutwakil, UNDP's focal point for environment issues.

In other regions, UN Day will be marked by presentations and discussions of environmental issues, tree-planting activities, cultural and sports events, and cleaning campaigns.

AU Peace and Security Council Reviews Progress of UNAMID Deployment, UN Security Council to Meet today on the situation in Sudan

In a press release issued on 23 October, the Peace and Security Council of the African Union announced that it held a meeting yesterday on the status of implementation of the United Nations/African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), and heard briefing in this regard by the UN-AU Deputy Joint Special Representative Designate in Sudan, Mr. Henry Anyidoho.

The AU/UN Deputy Joint Special Representative Designate, as well as the Representative of the Government of the Sudan updated the Council on the latest developments on the ground and emphasized the complementarity of both the Hybrid Operation and the upcoming Darfur political talks in Tripoli, Libya.

The Council reaffirmed the full commitment of the African Union for the success of the peace process in Darfur.

The Council welcomed the progress achieved with regard to the preparations made for the deployment of UNAMID and further welcomed pledges by African member countries, ensuring that the Mission maintains a predominantly African character as called for in the communiqué of the PSC of 30 November 2006, as well as in the UN Security Council Resolution 1769 (2007).

The Council recalled that the United Nations Security Council has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. The United Nations, therefore, is expected to provide continued and increased support to enhance the capacity of UNAMID and to take the necessary steps to significantly and rapidly improve the resources needed for the smooth transition from AMIS to UNAMID in order to accomplish all identified tasks by the deadline of 31 December 2007.

The Security Council of the United Nations is scheduled to hold consultations today on the situation in Sudan, including on the deployment of UNAMID, Sirte talks, and the process of the CPA implementation.

Chairperson of the African Union Commission Alpha Omar Konaré and UN Special Envoy for Darfur JAN Eliasson Visit Sudan ahead of Sirte Talks

The African Union Mission in Sudan announced that Prof Alpha Omar Konare, Chairperson of the African Union Commission paid a brief visit to Khartoum, Sudan on Tuesday, 23 October 2007, where he met President Omar Al Bashir. Chairperson Konaré said that the objective of his visit was to exchange views with President Bashir on the upcoming talks. “I can tell you after my meetings this morning that President Bashir and his government are determined to do everything for Sirte to succeed”, Chairperson Konaré said after meeting President Bashir. He expressed hope that other Sudanese parties were similarly committed. “We have received word that all our brothers are also determined to work for the achievement of peace”, he said.

He stressed that the United Nations will be one with the African Union and that the AU and UN partners are also determined to support the Sirte negotiations. “The time for peace is now! The moment for peace is now and we cannot afford to waste anymore time. We do not have the right for further delay, given the damage and destruction we see everyday”, Chairperson Konaré said.

UN Special Envoy for Darfur Jan Eliasson also conducted a brief visit to Khartoum where he arrived last evening. During his visit, Mr. Eliasson met with Presidential Advisor Nafie Ali Nafie and briefed him on the preparation for the Sirte talks. Mr. Eliasson headed today to Asmara where he is expected to meet with senior Eritrean officials to discuss preparations for Sirte talks.

UN and Partners establish Darfur Community Peace and Stability Fund

In a press release issued today, the United Nations and Partners announced that they launched the Darfur Community Peace and Stability Fund. The Fund will support peace building in Darfur and reconciliation through the implementation of community based recovery and development activities in areas where local leaders can guarantee security and commit to a political dialogue.

The UN and Partners recognize that peace can only be sustainable when an inclusive political process and improved security situation go hand in hand with development. The Darfur Community Peace and Stability fund will complement positive developments on the political front during the forthcoming Darfur Peace Negotiations (and beyond) through providing programme support to livelihoods, governance/rule of law, peace support at a local level and the expansion of basic social service delivery.

Whilst needs on the ground dictate, humanitarian activities remain a priority for the UN and partners. Equally, the UN and Partners recognize that recovery activities at the community level for all Darfurians can effectively build momentum for a sustainable peace. This fund will further pave the way for the finalization of the Darfur Joint Assessment Mission and a major investment plan for recovery and reconstruction in Darfur, pending respect for a cessation of hostilities and a sustainable political settlement.

Security Developments

Southern Sudan and Transitional Areas

On 22 October, armed men, identified by witnesses as local soldiers, forcefully took goods from shops at the Rubkona market, (10 km N of Bentiu, Unity State). They fired shots at those who attempted to resist, reportedly injuring 5 traders. Local police is investigating the case.

Darfur

In South Darfur, Salamat tribe attacked on 22 October the Habaniya tribe in the areas of Samasin (approx. 38 km Southwest of Buram) and in two other locations near Shurab (approx 35 km Southwest of Buram). According to unconfirmed reports, a total of 75 Habania tribesmen were killed. An unknown number were wounded. In addition, 6 Salamat have reportedly been killed and 12 wounded. The attack is in retaliation of an attack by Habaniya tribesmen of the Salamat village of Manzula (120 km SW of Nyala) on 19 October, in which dozens of Salamat tribesmen were killed and injured.

West Darfur, a woman and a child she was carrying were shot at and injured by a drunken soldier on 22 October near the Hasa Hissa IDP Camp in Zalingei. The same day, in the Hamadiya IDP camp in Zalingei, a child was injured by a bullet fired by a militiaman.

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