



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN

Office of the Spokesperson**UNMIS NEWS BULLETIN****4 December 2007****SRSO Ashraf Qazi to Represent the United Nations at Sudan Ministerial Meeting to be Held in Addis Ababa on the CPA***

Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Sudan Ashraf Qazi is scheduled to leave tomorrow to Addis Ababa where he will represent the United Nations at the Sudan Ministerial meeting to be held on 5 December. The meeting is convened by the US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to discuss with the CPA parties and the regional partners the implementation of the Agreement and re-energizing the role of the regional partners in the implementation of the CPA. SRSO Qazi will be accompanied by Principal Deputy SRSO Tayé-Brook Zerihoun.

Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Darfur Jan Eliasson to Visit Sudan

As part of the ongoing extensive activities of the UN and AU joint mediation to expedite preparations for direct negotiations between the Darfur Peace Agreement parties and non-signatory movements, the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for Darfur, Jan Eliasson, is scheduled to arrive in Sudan tomorrow, 5 December, for a seven-day. During his visit, Special Envoy Jan Eliasson will hold a series of extensive consultations in Darfur, Juba and Khartoum with all stakeholders concerned. In Darfur, Mr. Eliasson's activities include meetings with leaders of DPA non-signatory movements, local authorities, and UNAMID leadership. In Juba, Mr. Eliasson is expected to meet with the leadership of the Government of Southern Sudan, the SPLM Task Force on Darfur, as well as the Darfurian Movements present in Juba. In Khartoum, Mr. Eliasson is due to meet senior Government officials and the diplomatic community.

Special Envoy Jan Eliasson will arrive in Khartoum from Egypt which is hosting a meeting today in Sharm El Sheikh between the AU and UN Special Envoys for Darfur Salim Ahmed Salim and Jan Eliasson with regional partners of the Darfur peace process. The objective of the meeting is to follow-up to the Asmara meeting that was held on 14 November 2007, to brief the Partners on the latest developments, to undertake a joint appraisal of the second phase of the Sirte Process, and to agree on a common approach on the way forward.

UNMIS Gender Unit Convenes a Workshop on Enhancing Women's Political Participation

As part of a series of workshops organized by UNMIS Gender Unit in fulfillment of its mandate, including to support women's full and active participation in post-conflict, the Unit is convening a two-day workshop on 'Strengthening Women's Political Participation'. The workshop will be held on 5 and 6 December 2007 in Khartoum. The workshop participants include women in political parties, political parties' leadership, civil society groups, members of the donor community and other relevant stakeholders.

The following topics will be discussed at the workshop: strengthening women's political participation, reviewing existing national and international legal mechanisms related to women's political participation, and enhancing gender equality principles within political parties.

The expected outcome of the workshop is to identify strategies to enhance women's participation in political processes, particularly in anticipation of forthcoming mid-term elections in 2009.

UNMIS Human Rights Unit Assists Sudan's Efforts in Combating Violence against Women

In collaboration with the Unit for Combating Violence against Women of the Sudanese Ministry of Justice, UNMIS Human Rights Unit is organizing a three-day workshop on Human Rights and Community Policing from 4 to 6 December at the Police Home in Khartoum. The workshop will be attended by police officers of the Community Policing Unit of the Sudan Police Forces.

The workshop is organized in the context of the implementation of the recommendations of the Group of Expert on Darfur of the UN Human Rights Council, and as part of UNMIS contribution to 16 days activism campaign for combating violence against women.

Information Campaign Day on IDP Returns to be Held this Week

In an advisory issued to press yesterday, UNICEF announced the Sudan Information Campaign for Returns (SICR) is organizing the 7th Information Campaign Day on Saturday 8 December 2007 to inform internally displaced persons in the Soba Aradi camps of Khartoum on the Joint Organized Return Plan of the Government of National Unity and the Government of Southern Sudan, supported by the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and non-governmental organizations.

The objective of the Sudan Information Campaign for Returns is to provide accurate, relevant, and timely information to IDPs to enable them make informed decisions on their return options.

The programme for the Information Campaign Day of 8 December will run from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. Information fact sheets will be available covering various issues, including health, education, safety and security, as well as conditions in the various places of return. Officials from various agencies involved in return operations will be available to interact directly with the IDPs to provide information on the Joint Plan of Organized Return and about spontaneous returns options.

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