

Permanent Mission of  
The Republic of the  
SUDAN  
To U.N. Office, Geneva

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



البعثة الدائمة  
لجمهورية السودان  
جنيف

**4<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council  
12-30 March 2007**

*High Level Segment*

*Statement by*

*H.E Mr. Mohamed Ali Elmardi*

*Minister of Justice of the Sudan*

*And*

*Head of Delegation*

**Geneva 13<sup>th</sup> March 2007**

*Check against delivery*

*Mr. President,*

Let me at the outset on behalf of the delegation of the Sudan congratulate you on your continuous efforts to steer the work of the Council and stress our assurance to you Mr. President and the distinguished members of your bureau, of the utmost cooperation of my delegation throughout this 4<sup>th</sup> session.

*Mr. President,*

The Government of the Sudan always followed a policy of transparency and open door in addressing all the human rights issues in the country on the firm belief that only constructive dialogue and sincere cooperation promote and protect human rights in the county. Away from confrontation and short-sighted stands, this commitment has materialized into full cooperation with all Unites Nations' mechanisms working in the field of human rights. Happily, this cooperation has been noted and acknowledged by the Human Rights Council's relevant decisions so far adopted on the Sudan.

*Mr. President,*

It is within this context of commitment and cooperation that the Government of the Sudan has extended its invitations to the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Sudan, other UN mandate holders and many international NGOs, the number of which has reached 160, to visit the country and work there. In the same vein, the Government has accepted and the African Group members and others have co-sponsored the decision of this esteemed Council to "dispatch a High-Level mission to assess the human rights situation in Darfur and the needs of Sudan in this regard" in order to engage into constructive dialogue in full transparency and to be part of the solution of the problem in Darfur and not to Repeat the stereotyped politically motivated and dismissed approach of naming and shaming.

*Mr. President,*

Although it was agreed from the start that nomination of the members of the assessment mission to Darfur should be consultative, we have noticed that there has been no engagement of different groups. The selection came as a result of and in response to unjustified pressures. No consideration was paid to our legitimate and objective reservations and concerns, especially with regard to the outspoken expressions by a member of the mission of preconceived judgment about the situation in Darfur and false projections of "Genocide" in a flagrant violation to the well-known and preserved standards of impartiality and neutrality. The Chairperson of the mission also took, after her appointment, a preconceived and hostile attitude against Sudan as noted in her statements to the media and her meetings with the different regional groups in Geneva.

What raises particular concern, Mr. President, is the unprecedented attitude of the Head of the Mission in requesting visas for all members of the Mission in less than one hour's time on 14th February 2007. Added to this is the undue insistence to proceed with the task outside the Sudan and to prepare this questionable report which was never the same case as in previous similar missions particularly with regard to the fact that this mission was intended to assess the situation and the needs. This job can never be accomplished outside the place in question. This fact alone speaks of the double-standards practiced by this particular mission. Regrettably enough those who today insist to see the report of this mission have turned a blind eye on the unwarranted denial by some countries of access to previous similar missions mandated by special sessions.

*Mr. President,*

Upon the non participation of two of its five members, this mission is no longer valid and can not therefore be in a position to effectively and objectively discharge its mandate specified in the decision of its establishment. We therefore strongly and resolutely oppose any consideration by this esteemed Council of any report that comes out of this mission. Any attempt to confer legitimacy on this mission will constitute a serious and dangerous precedent in the eyes not only of the Sudan but also of many members of this esteemed Council. It is destined to deal a heavy blow to the credibility of the newly established Council even before we complete the process of institutional building presently underway.

*Mr. President,*

The Government of the Sudan has repeatedly announced and emphasized its firm willingness to reach a just, lasting and comprehensive solution to all the problems in the Sudan, in the South, East and West. I have informed this esteemed Council in previous sessions of the steps taken to enforce these accords. However, I take a moment to concentrate on the more recent core steps taken in Darfur as follows:

**The DPA (Darfur Peace Agreement)**

I can say without hesitation Mr. President, that the situation in Darfur, since the eruption of the conflict three years ago, has never been much more stable than it is today. After the signing of Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) in last May tremendous changes have occurred on the ground:

- **Implementation of the DPA is rapidly on the march. Institutions of the Darfur Rehabilitation Authority have been completed.**
- **More seats in the Executive and the Legislature have been allocated to representatives of the signatory movements. Beside the post of Senior Assistant to the President of the Republic, The Governor of West Darfur State (Mr. Abulgasim Imam) and State Minister at the Federal Chamber (Mr. Mustafa Terab) and State Minister at the Cabinet (Dr. Abdelrahman Musa) are all from these movements. 12 seats at the National Assembly (the parliament) have been allocated to representatives of the movements.**
- **A number of 100.000 IDPs and refugees have voluntarily returned to their original villages in the three Darfur states (10 villages in North Darfur). (22 villages in South Darfur) (76 villages in West Darfur).**
- **1730 km of passages for farmers and herdsmen have been identified and marked (used to be one of the main causes for the conflict in Darfur).**
- **The UN first phase of Light Support package to the AU in Sudan was successfully completed with the deployment of 106 UN military experts, 34 police officers in addition to logistical and technical equipment worth 21 million US Dollars.**
- **95 intertribal reconciliations have been concluded, which culminated in peaceful co-existence among tribes.**

- **The humanitarian situation is much more stable now and there is visible decrease in malnutrition and mortality rates, a fact that has been stressed by a joint survey conducted by UN agencies working in Darfur and the GOs. No occurrence of any epidemic diseases in IDPs camps has been observed.**
- **Huge sums of money have been allocated and actually delivered to the newly formed Darfur Authority for the purposes of development and services.**
- **A fund for compensations for victims of the war and intertribal disputes has been established and payments of blood money and compensations are well underway.**

*Mr. President,*

**Before concluding, I would like to reiterate the willingness I have expressed earlier to cooperate sincerely and earnestly with all efforts that aim at supporting the Government of the Sudan to bring about peace and stability in the Country. What is required from the International Community is to exert more efforts to bring on board the peace process the non-signatory movements of the DPA which the whole international family has commended. Such constructive engagement and nothing else is what Sudan is in need of at this particular time.**

*I Thank you Mr. President.*