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الاتحاد الأفريقي



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UNIÃO AFRICANA

P. O. Box 3243, Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA Tel.: (251-1) 513 822 Fax: (251-1) 519 321
Email: oau-ews@telecom.net.et

**PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
17TH MEETING
20 OCTOBER 2004
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

PSC/PR/Comm.(XVII)

COMMUNIQUÉ

**COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE SEVENTEENTH MEETING
OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL**

The Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU), at its seventeenth meeting held on 20 October 2004, adopted the following Communiqué on the situation in the Darfur Region of the Sudan.

Council,

1. **Recalls** the decision adopted at its 13th meeting held on 27 July 2004 [PSC/PR/Comm.(XIII)], requesting the Commission to prepare and submit to it, for consideration, a comprehensive plan on how best to enhance the African Mission in the Sudan (AMIS), including the possibility of transforming the said Mission into a full-fledged peacekeeping mission, with the requisite mandate and size, to ensure the effective implementation of the Humanitarian Ceasefire Agreement of 8 April 2004. Council **further recalls** all other relevant AU decisions on the situation in Darfur, including decision Assembly/AU/Dec.54(III) adopted by the 3rd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, held in Addis Ababa, from 6 to 8 July 2004;

2. **Notes** that the Sudanese Parties, namely the Government of the Sudan (GoS), the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A), have accepted the need to strengthen AMIS, for it to assist more effectively in the restoration of peace and security in Darfur. In this respect, Council **notes** that the GoS has formally expressed its support for the enhancement of AMIS and pledged full cooperation in that regard;

3. **Takes note** of the report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the situation in Darfur [PSC/PR/2(XVII)], particularly with regard to the enhancement of AMIS, including its size and mandate;

4. **Decides** that the enhanced AMIS shall be deployed for a period of one year renewable if need be, to perform the following mandate:

- to monitor and observe compliance with the Humanitarian Ceasefire Agreement of 8 April 2004 and all such agreements in the future,
- to assist in the process of confidence building,
- contribute to a secure environment for the delivery of humanitarian relief and, beyond that, the return of IDPs and refugees to their homes, in order to assist in increasing the level of compliance of all Parties with the Humanitarian Ceasefire Agreement of 8 Apr 2004 humanitarian Ceasefire Agreement and to contribute to the improvement of the security situation throughout Darfur;

5. **Endorses** the proposals contained in the Working Document [PSC/MS/2(I)] on the Enhancement of the African Mission in the Sudan, as reviewed by the 1st Meeting of the Military Staff Committee (MSC) at the level of the Chiefs of Defense Staff, held in Addis Ababa on 18 – 19 October 2004;

6. **Decides** that, within the framework of its mandate as spelt out in paragraph 4 above, AMIS shall, *inter alia*, perform the following tasks:

- Monitor and verify the provision of security for returning IDPs and in the vicinity of existing IDP camps;
- Monitor and verify the cessation of all hostile acts by all the Parties;
- Monitor and verify hostile militia activities against the population;
- Monitor and verify efforts of the GoS to disarm Government controlled militias;
- Investigate and report about allegations of violations of the Humanitarian Ceasefire Agreement of 8 April 2004. Humanitarian Ceasefire Agreement;
- Protect civilians whom it encounters under imminent threat and in the immediate vicinity, within resources and capability, it being understood that the protection of the civilian population is the responsibility of the GoS;
- Protect both static and mobile humanitarian operations under imminent threat and in the immediate vicinity, within capabilities;
- Provide visible military presence by patrolling and by the establishment of temporary outposts in order to deter uncontrolled armed groups from committing hostile acts against the population;
- Assist in the development of proactive public confidence-building measures;
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- Assist and advise local police in their quality of service enhancement measures through training and close mentoring programs;

Assist local police authorities in equitable recruitment practices to ensure representation of all tribes in Darfur.

Assist local police in developing security plans for the IDP camps and refugee camps and humanitarian distribution efforts.

- Investigate and report all matters of police non-compliance with the Humanitarian Ceasefire Agreement.

7. **Decides** that AMIS shall consist of 3,320 personnel, including 2,341 military personnel, among them 450 observers, up to 815 civilian police personnel, as well as the appropriate civilian personnel. The enhanced Mission shall be headed by a Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission (SRCC), who shall ensure the overall direction and coordination of the activities of the Mission and shall

maintain close contact with the Sudanese Parties, as well as the UN and all others concerned actors to ensure harmonization and coordination of efforts;

8. **Requests** the Commission to report regularly on the situation in Darfur and the operations of the enhanced AMIS, with the view of making, as deemed necessary, further proposals on the reinforcement of the effectiveness of the Mission on the ground;

9. **Requests** all Parties to fully abide by the provisions of the Humanitarian Ceasefire Agreement and to comply with the recommendations of the Ceasefire Commission and the Joint Commission provided for by the Humanitarian Ceasefire Agreement. Council **further urges** the Parties to cooperate with AMIS to facilitate the effective execution of its mandate, in particular by ensuring the safety and freedom of movement of AU and associated personnel throughout Darfur;

10. **Takes note** of the efforts to improve communication and cooperation between the GoS and the Commission, with the view to facilitating the operations of AMIS, and **welcomes** the concrete steps taken by the GoS in this respect. Council **further requests** the GoS to extend full cooperation to AMIS and associated personnel to facilitate the process of enhancing the Mission, including the speedy issuance of visas, accelerated customs clearance procedures for imported items and any other relevant aspect;

11. **Requests** the Chairperson of the Commission to take all necessary steps to expedite the implementation of the enhancement of AMIS and, in this respect, to explore all possibilities for shortening the timeframe envisaged, including the emergency deployment of personnel, to ensure that the requirements for an effective presence on the ground are met as early as possible;

12. **Welcomes** the support provided by the United Nations and other AU multilateral and bilateral Partners (the EU and its Member States, the USA, Canada and Australia), which has made it possible to deploy and sustain the current Mission, and **takes note** of the pledges already made in support of the enhancement of AMIS. Council **encourages** the Commission to maintain close liaison with all AU Partners to ensure a regular exchange of information and to mobilize further resources, both financial and logistical, in support of AMIS;

13. **Calls** on all Member States that are in a position to do so to contribute resources to the Mission. Council **further calls** on Member States to urgently make available to the Commission the military and police personnel required for the enhancement of the Mission;

14. **Takes note** of the ongoing efforts to harmonize the implementation of the Plan of Action signed between the GoS and the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General, on 5 August 2004, to operationalize the relevant provisions of UN Security Council resolution 1556 (2004), and the Humanitarian Ceasefire Agreement;

15. **Welcomes** the convening, in Abuja, Nigeria, from 21st October 2004, of the 3rd Round of the inter-Sudanese Peace Talks on the crisis in Darfur, under the auspices of the AU;

16. **Urges** the Parties to demonstrate the required flexibility and to work with determination towards a lasting and comprehensive political settlement of the conflict in Darfur. In this respect, Council **calls** on the Parties to extend full cooperation to the AU-led Mediation Team and to the Special Envoy of the Chairperson of the Commission (SRCC) for Darfur;
17. **Welcomes** the readiness of the GoS to immediately sign the Protocol on the Improvement of the Humanitarian Situation in Darfur agreed upon in Abuja, Nigeria, during the 2nd Round of the inter-Sudanese Peace Talks on Darfur, and **urges** the JEM and SLM/A to agree to sign this Protocol. Council **urges** the Parties to sign the Protocol at the opening of the 3rd round of Talks, in Abuja;
18. **Stresses** the need for sustained efforts to ensure that progress continues to be made in the Naivasha Peace Process. In this respect, Council **urges** the GoS and the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) to demonstrate the necessary political will and spirit of compromise to conclude the negotiations on the outstanding issues;
19. **Reiterates** its concern over the prevailing situation in Darfur, including the attacks against civilians by Janjaweed and other militia groups. Council **urges** the GoS to take all steps required to bring the attacks against civilians to an end and to bring to justice all perpetrators of human rights violations;
20. **Urges** the SLM/A and the JEM to fulfil their obligations under the N'djamena Humanitarian Ceasefire Agreement, including by providing to the CFC information on the sites occupied by their forces;
21. **Reiterates its appeal** to Member States and the international community at large to provide the much needed humanitarian assistance to the affected population in Darfur;
22. **Takes note** of the outcome of the African Quintet Summit on Darfur, held in Tripoli, Libya, on 17 October 2004;
23. **Decides** to remain actively seized of the matter.