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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
794TH MEETING
19 SEPTEMBER 2018
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/COMM.(DCCXCIV)

COMMUNIQUE

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The Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU), during its 794th meeting held on 19 September 2018, considered the situation in Darfur and the ongoing withdrawal process of the African Union United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and adopted the following decision:

Council:

1. **Takes note** of the introductory remarks by the Acting Director for Peace and Security, Dr. Admore Kambudzi delivered on behalf of Ambassador Smail Chergui, the Commissioner for Peace and Security, and the presentation made by the Joint Special Representative (JSR) of UNAMID, Ambassador Jeremiah Kingsley Mamabolo, as well as of the statements made by the representative of Sudan;
2. **Recalls** its previous communiqués and press statements on the situation in Darfur, including communiqués PSC/PR/COMM.(DCV), PSC/PR/COMM.(DCLXXIII) and PSC/PR/COMM.(DCCLXXVIII), adopted at its 605th, 673rd and 773rd meetings, held on 13 June 2016, 29 March 2017, 18 May 2018 and, 11 June 2018 respectively. Council **also recalls** the UN Security Council resolution 2033 (2012) of 12 January 2012, 2296 (2016) of 29 June 2016, 2363 (2017), and 2429 (2018);
3. **Acknowledges** the improved situation in Darfur, which has contributed to the creation of an environment conducive for economic development in Darfur. Council **reiterates its appreciation** for the leadership of the JSR, as well as the Mission's personnel, for their continued dedication and contribution to the promotion of peace, security, stability and reconciliation in Darfur. Council, once again, **notes with appreciation** the efforts made in the implementation of UNAMID's mandate, particularly with respect to the protection of civilians;
4. **Reiterates its full support** for the UNAMID transition plan which outlines the priority areas namely, rule of law; durable solutions for IDPs and host communities; immediate service delivery to IDPs; and human rights. Meanwhile, Council **urges** the Government of Sudan and the humanitarian actors to work together in order to ensure unhindered and timely access to the affected population;
5. **Appreciates** the cooperation and coordination between the Government of Sudan, UNAMID and the UN Country Team in mapping out the most appropriate transitional process from peacekeeping to stabilization and development in order to ensure a seamless transition in Darfur, while ensuring the protection of civilians, in particular IDPs and also guarding against relapse into conflict as UNAMID withdrawals;
6. **Welcomes** the decision to convene a joint high-level event on the transition from peacekeeping to stabilization and development in Darfur, by the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping and the United Nations Development Program, with the participation of the

African Union Commission, to be held on 28 September 2018 in New York. Council **recognizes** that the challenges facing the people of Darfur requires sustainable development including addressing poverty, inequality and environmental degradation, contingent on the creation of an environment of peace and justice for all;

7. **Reiterates its support** for on the ongoing mediation towards lasting peace in Darfur, based on the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD). In this regard, Council **welcomes** the mediation efforts by the JSR, in support African Union High Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP), led by former President Thabo Mbeki and **encourages** the parties to speedily reach agreement and bring an end to the negotiations;

8. **Further reiterates its concern** that the search for peace in Darfur is prolonged unnecessarily in the midst of loss of life and civilian displacement and **decides** that, henceforth, Council will seriously consider taking appropriate action against those who continue to obstruct efforts towards lasting peace and security in Darfur. Council furthermore **expresses concern** over the on-going clashes between the Sudan Liberation Army/Abdul Wahid and Government security forces in the Jebel Marra area which continue to bring untold pain and suffering to vulnerable Darfuris and **condemns** these attacks in the strongest terms possible;

9. **Calls on** members of the Sudan Liberation Movement/Abdul Wahid (SLM/AW), in particular its leader Mr. Abdul Wahid, to cease and desist from engaging in deadly clashes as they continue to cause unnecessary deaths and displace civilians and **further calls on** the United Nation Security Council and the larger international community to do the same in order to restore peace in Darfur. In this context, Council **demands** Mr. Abdul Wahid, members of the SLM/Abdul Wahid and other armed movements who have not yet done so, to finalize their on-going negotiations and join the peace process by December 2018, without any further delay, as failure to do so will lead to strict measures being taken by the PSC;

10. **Urges** the Government of Sudan, working with the United Nations and the international community, to act with speed and determination to stabilize Darfur by addressing the root causes of the conflict, which remain largely unaddressed, especially the underlying conflict drivers, which include land issues and resource distribution;

11. **Calls on** the Government of Sudan and UNAMID to cooperate and work closely together to ensure a smooth exit of UNAMID, guided by existing benchmarks and indicators which take into account the political, human rights and security situation on the ground so as avoid relapse into conflict;

12. **Decides** to remain seized of the matter.