SC/PRST/2007/1

3

4

6

8

9

10

11

12

13 14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32 33

34

35

36

37

38

Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the meeting of the Security Council, held on 19 November 2007, in connection with the Council's Consideration of the item entitled Situation in Darfur, the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council is concerned by the current outbreak of violence in Sudan and is deeply discouraged by the hostility existing between groups within Sudan towards the hybrid United Nations and African Union peacekeeping force (UNAMID).

Recalling previous resolutions on the Sudanese matter, specifically 1769 and 1779, including Resolutions 1674 on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, 1612 on children in armed conflict, 1502 on the protection of humanitarian and United Nations personnel, and lastly, Resolution 1325 on women, peace, and security, the Security Council has shown a clear consensus on protecting the rights of civilians in conflict zones. However, the Security Council would like to make clear the important role that state sovereignty plays in the international system and that this current situation has been exacerbated by a lack of clear and honest communication between the international community and the Sudanese Government.

The world stands united that there is in fact a grave humanitarian crisis ongoing in the Darfur region of Sudan and throughout the Central African region as a whole. The Council stands firm in its commitment to stopping atrocities where they might occur. In Darfur, the Council is particularly worried that diplomatic efforts (such as the previous meeting in Sirte, Libya) in the past have not been as successful as the international community anticipated. Previous attempts at mediation have encountered a number of problems along the path towards achieving a negotiated accord, such as the best ways to reach a ceasefire and ensure the participation of rebel groups. Key issues that remain include the participation of important constituencies (such as civil society, the internally displaced, and ethnic communities). negotiation modalities (i.e., timing, deadlines, and substantive issues like land), and sufficient human and financial resources for the peace talks. The Council recognizes the urgency of the situation and strongly emphasizes the need for full participation of all groups affected, as well as comprehensive support for the diplomatic process. Also, the Council remains cognizant of the importance that regional cooperation has in diffusing crises in light of the importance the Council places on individual state sovereignty. Consequently, the Council urges the sovereign government of Sudan, the Central African countries, and the African Union as a whole, to recommit to talks as a main priority and urges these same entities to do what they can to bring all affected parties to the table.

While the Council recognizes the importance of diplomacy as a tool of first resort and ultimately a tool that will help establish a safer post-conflict environment in Sudan, there is still the matter of how to address the ongoing humanitarian crisis. As a second component of the crisis, the Security Council has put in place two operations to safeguard humanitarian personnel such as employees of non-governmental organization (NGOs) and members of International Organizations (IOs) such as the UN High Commission on Refugees and the World Food Program

so that they might help the people of Sudan. In this regard, the Council remains supportive of the Hybrid United Nations-African Union Mission Force (United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur) and the concurrent UN Mission in Sudan (UNAMIS).

However, it has become patently clear that since the adoption of Resolution 1769, the hybrid force finds itself unable to meet its new mandate, a mandate that this Council established unanimously. This Council urges in the strongest possible language that countries which have committed resources (equipment, personnel, finances, etc.) follow through on their pledges as expeditiously as possible. With such pledges in place, this new cooperation between the UN and regional blocks to establish regional stability is more likely to succeed. The Council recognizes that, in addition to the vital need for logistical and material support for those forces that already are or will shortly be deployed, there is a grave necessity for further coordination with the AU, committed resources from the General Assembly for the \$2.6 billion that is expected to be required, and a review of the complexities of the challenges of management, infrastructure, logistics, security, and the environment. The Council also calls for sponsoring states to come to agreement on the issue of UNAMID's mandate to protect civilians. The Council applauds those Countries which have already met their commitments to this operation. However, there remain unfulfilled commitments of resources, equipment, and logistical support that are absolutely essential for the success of the UNAMID mission. The Council calls for these commitments to be fully supplied, but also for new commitments to be established and fulfilled in a timely fashion. The goal of this effort is to foster the growth of positive North-South security ties that can help stabilize the region in the future. Concurrently, the Council also urges that the Government of Sudan to grant visas to non-African personnel essential in fulfilling the mandate of Resolution 1769 and other humanitarian civilian personnel.

The third component of the crisis is humanitarian relief. The Council recognizes that any effort to establish stability in the region can only occur concurrently with efforts to alleviate human suffering. The Council thus directs the World Food Program, World Health Organization, and United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund to continue to actively plan for ongoing humanitarian crises, and budget for aid increases for the purposes of creating a safer environment which would facilitate diplomatic talks.

The crisis in Darfur can only be alleviated through this three-tiered diplomatic, military, and humanitarian approach. The Security Council calls on all nations to commit and fulfill their pledges to help sustain the African Union/United Nations joint mission in Darfur.

We call for the positions of this Presidential Statement to be adopted within the December 31 deadline as set forward in Resolution 1769.