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**STATEMENT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
AFRICAN UNION TO THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL**

**NEW YORK, 28 AUGUST 2006**

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AFRICAN UNION TO THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL**

**Mr. President,  
Mr. Secretary-General,  
Members of the Security Council,**

Let me begin by expressing AU's deep appreciation to the President and to the other members of the Council for extending an invitation to the African Union Commission to participate in this session.

I wish, at the outset, to state that today's Security Council deliberations are a clear reflection of the collective concern of the international community towards the prevailing situation in Darfur and of its determination to ensure the speedy return of peace in the region. It also testifies to the profound sense of urgency we all feel and to our earnest desire to translate on the ground the hopes generated by the signing, last May, in Abuja, of the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA).

**Mr. President,**

As you are all fully aware, the AU has been at the forefront of the efforts to address the crisis in Darfur. Notwithstanding serious financial, logistical, managerial and other constraints, the AU nevertheless embarked on the most extensive and challenging military undertaking in its history, with the deployment, to date, of over 7,000 civilian police and military personnel in Darfur. In spite of the particularly challenging environment in which AMIS has been operating, the Mission, with the support of the international community, has made a significant contribution in alleviating, to a certain extent, the suffering of the civilian population in Darfur.

At the political level, the AU, working closely with its partners, including the United Nations, was able to mediate the complex and lengthy political negotiations in Abuja among the Sudanese parties towards a successful conclusion, with the signing, in May this year, of the DPA. Needless to say the DPA, like other similar political agreements, is a compromise document, which, we all believe, reflect the legitimate concerns of the negotiating parties. At the AU, we strongly believe that it offers the best possible framework for ending the crisis in Darfur and ushering in a new beginning in that conflict-weary region.

Unfortunately, due to the refusal of some of the rebel movements to sign the DPA and other factors, the situation in some parts of Darfur is reverting back to violence.

**Mr. President,**

When the AU launched its efforts in Darfur, it operated on the assumption that the respect by the parties of the cessation of hostilities, as provided for by the N'djamena Humanitarian Ceasefire Agreement of April 2004, and a speedy conclusion of a peace agreement addressing the root causes of the conflict would create the necessary

conditions to enable the Sudanese parties to successfully carry on with the peace and reconciliation process, without the need to deploy a fully-fledge peace support operation in Darfur. However, that assumption proved wrong, because of the deterioration of the security situation in Darfur and the protracted nature of the political negotiations in Abuja. This situation prompted the AU to increase the strength of its mission on the ground, notwithstanding its limitations in terms of its ability to manage an operation of such magnitude and the absence of a predictable and secure source of funding and logistical support.

It was against this background that the PSC, at its 45<sup>th</sup> meeting held at ministerial level on 12 January 2006, expressed its support, in principle, to a transition from AMIS to a UN operation, within the framework of the partnership between the AU and the United Nations in the promotion of peace, security and stability in Africa.

The 46<sup>th</sup> meeting of the PSC, held at ministerial level on 10 March 2006, reiterated that, given the progress made in the initial stabilization phase of Darfur and the then ongoing efforts to conclude a peace agreement, steps should be taken to sustain the peace support operation in Darfur in 2006 and beyond, bearing in mind the requirements for an increased integration of the different aspects of the peace efforts. In this respect, the PSC welcomed the adoption, by the Security Council, on 3 February 2006, of a presidential statement commending the efforts of the AU and requesting the Secretary-General to initiate contingency planning without delay, in close and continuing consultation with the Security Council, and in cooperation and close consultation with the parties to the Abuja Peace Talks, including the Government of National Unity (GoNU), on a range of options for a possible transition from AMIS to a UN operation. The PSC stressed that the transition from AMIS to a UN operation in Darfur should be informed by the following elements:

- the preparedness of the Government of the Sudan to accept the deployment of a UN operation in Darfur;
- the need for the decision on the mandate and size of any future UN peacekeeping operation in Darfur to be informed by the evolving situation on the ground. In this respect, the PSC stressed that a successful outcome of the Abuja Peace Talks and a significant improvement in the security and humanitarian situation on the ground would be key factors in any decision by the UN Security Council on the nature of the peacekeeping operation in Darfur;
- the need to maintain the African character of the mission in Darfur, including through its composition and leadership, in order, as much as possible, to secure the cooperation of all the parties, which is necessary to achieve a lasting solution to the conflict in Darfur;
- the need to maintain the lead role of the AU in the overall Darfur peace process, including the conduct the Darfur-Darfur Dialogue and Consultation (DDDC), as well as in the implementation of the agreements between the parties;

- the need to maintain, during and after the transition, consultations between the AU and the UN, including between the PSC and the UN Security Council, as well as between the Chairperson of the AU Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, particularly prior to any decision by the UN Security Council regarding the envisaged UN peacekeeping operation in Darfur.

At that meeting, the PSC also decided to extend the mandate of AMIS until 30 September 2006.

Following the conclusion of the Abuja Peace Talks and the signing of the DPA, the PSC, at its 51<sup>st</sup> meeting, held at ministerial level on 15 May 2006, decided that concrete steps should be taken to effect the transition from AMIS to a UN peacekeeping operation. To that end, the PSC urged the UN and the GoNU to engage in consultations in line with the relevant provisions of its communiqué of 10 March 2006 and as a follow-up to the statement issued by the President of the United Nations Security Council on 9 May 2006, so as to ensure the commencement of the UN operation in Darfur at the earliest possible time.

As Council members are aware, subsequent to the above-mentioned decisions of the PSC and the relevant statements and resolutions by the Security Council, a joint UN/AU technical assessment mission visited Sudan from 9 to 21 June 2006. The mission examined the requirements for a possible transition from AMIS to a UN peacekeeping operation, as well as for the strengthening of AMIS in the interim, in order to enable it perform the additional tasks assigned to it by the DPA.

The 58<sup>th</sup> meeting of the PSC, held in Banjul at ministerial level on 27 June 2006, took note of the outcome of the UN/AU joint technical assessment mission and the position of the Government of Sudan rejecting the proposed transition from AMIS to a UN peacekeeping operation. The PSC reaffirmed its decisions of 10 March and 15 May 2006 on ending the mandate of AMIS by 30 September 2006 and on the transition from AMIS to a UN peacekeeping operation, and expressed its readiness to review the mandate of AMIS in the event that the consultations between the Government of the Sudan and the United Nations conclude on an agreement for a transition to a UN peacekeeping operation.

The PSC took note of the new AMIS Concept of Operations (CONOPS) proposed by the Commission and decided to consider it at the appropriate time, in the light of any decision on a transition to the UN and the availability of logistical and financial support. In the interim, the PSC approved the additional tasks and the new mandate of AMIS, including the protection of civilians within existing strength and capacity, as proposed in the CONOPS. The PSC welcomed the convening in Brussels, on 18 July 2006, of a pledging conference to mobilize the necessary financial and logistical resources for the sustenance of AMIS from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30 September 2006.

**Mr. President,**

With respect to the ongoing consultations, our expectation is that the draft resolution will duly take into account the elements articulated by the PSC in its communiqué of 10 March 2006 referred to above. Equally important, in our considered view, the resolution should reflect the specific responsibilities given to the AU by the DPA in the implementation of the Agreement, including the convening, under its auspices, of the DDDC. In this respect, we are pleased to inform the Security Council members that both the Chairman of the preparatory committee of the DDDC and the Chair of the DDDC itself have been identified. Other steps have also been taken towards the implementation of the DPA.

**Mr. President,**

Needless to state that AMIS is faced with numerous challenges on the ground as evidenced, among others, by the escalation of attacks against humanitarian and commercial traffic, AMIS personnel, including the attack on an AMIS fuel convoy on 19 August 2006, which resulted in the death of two soldiers from the Rwandan contingent and the wounding of three others, as well as by other acts of violence.

As agreed at its meeting of 25 August 2006, the PSC is expected to meet soon to review the situation in Darfur, including the future of AMIS, in light of its decision of 27 June 2006 referred to above, particularly any progress that would have been made by then on the issue of the transition from AMIS to a UN peacekeeping operation in Darfur.

In the meantime, the international community should be more forthcoming in its support to AMIS, as this is crucial to maintain the gains made so far in the search for peace in Darfur and to create the necessary conditions for a successful takeover of the mission by the UN.

I thank you.

**African Union Commission (AUC)**

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PSC Outcomes

Communiqués

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2006-08-31

# Communiqué of the 61st Meeting of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union Held on 31 August 2006, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Peace and Security Council

African Union Commission

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