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## **African Union – United Nations Mission in Darfur**

### **Press Release**

#### **Conclusion of phase one of the AUPD Fact-Finding Mission**

KHARTOUM, 04 April, 2009: The African Union High Level Panel on Darfur (AUPD) visited the Republic of Sudan from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> of April for its first fact-finding mission in the context of its mandate to examine the conflict in Darfur.

During the visit, the Panel met, amongst others, with government representatives, the judiciary, the diplomatic community in Khartoum, civil society, leaders of political parties, the AU/UN Mediation Team, some traditional leaders in Darfur and leaders of Internally Displaced People in at least two camps in Darfur.

The Panel's interactions with these stakeholders were highly useful as they exposed the team to the facts about the conflict and the socio-political context within which the facts make their meaning; predating the independence era and straddling to the present period.

This provided the objective basis required in the search for a comprehensive and lasting peaceful solution in which democracy, accountability, justice, reconciliation and nation building and socio-economic development are implicit.

Various stakeholders from across the political divide also drew attention to the relations of state actors in the region and further afield as another factor requiring intimate understanding and attention in the search for a solution to the Darfur conflict.

The Panel has developed a work programme which includes returning to Sudan and the region, local and international non governmental and multilateral organisations, further to engage with them, the better to deepen its understanding of the conflict and, together with these actors, make recommendations that will enable the African Union to accelerate efforts towards finding a lasting peaceful solution.

The Panel believes that the resolution of the conflict in Darfur requires the commitment of all Sudanese, the region, the continent and beyond. Accordingly, the Panel is committed to ensure that all relevant players are given a voice in the process of its work.

Lastly, the Panel wishes to thank all those who set aside time from their busy schedules for interactions and looks forward to meeting with more players in the future.

**Khartoum, 4 April 2009**