AFRICAN UNION HIGH LEVEL IMPLEMENTATION PANEL FOR SUDAN

Press Statement

Addis Ababa, 29th June 2011: The Government of Sudan and the Government of Southern Sudan have today signed a border security agreement, facilitated by the African Union High Level Implementation Panel, which is chaired by former South African president, Thabo Mbeki.

The Agreement on Border Security and the Joint Security Mechanism (JPSM) is another building block for ensuring stability and unhindered development along the common border between north and south Sudan.

With 10 days of signing the agreement, forces from either side shall be redeployed from the Safe Demilitarised Border Zone (SDBZ), an area 10 kilometres either side of the common border.

The JPSM, which was set up under an earlier agreement, shall oversee the implementation of the agreement and shall be responsible for ensuring the effective administration of the SDBZ.

An international border monitoring and verification mission shall also be established, with the support of the African Union and the United Nations. Unarmed observers from both sides will work with UN observers to ensure compliance with the terms of the agreement.

The United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA), which has been set up under Resolution 1990 of the UN Security Council, shall assist the two parties in

drawing up the requirements for the security arrangements for the SDBZ.

The AUHIP welcomes this agreement as a significant contribution towards the ongoing efforts to create stable and peaceful relations between the two sovereign Sudanese States ahead of the secession of Southern Sudan on 9th July 2011.

The Panel is also confident that the Parties shall conclude all the necessary agreements and arrangements to create a soft-border between the two Sudanese States.

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