

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNAMID



UNITED NATIONS

الأمم المتحدة

## African Union – United Nations Mission in Darfur

---

### Press Release

#### **The African Union High-Level Panel on Darfur (AUPD) meets stakeholders**

**Khartoum, 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2009:** The African Union High-Level Panel on Darfur (AUPD) commenced its consultative work in the Sudan yesterday; meeting various stakeholders in order to gain deeper understanding of the Darfur conflict.

Immediately after its arrival yesterday afternoon, the Panel met with representatives of Sudanese Political Parties, the Government and the Joint AU/UN Mediation Team.

During its stay in Sudan, the Panel will continue to interact with other political players, civil society, representatives of multi-lateral institutions working in the Sudan and will conduct site visits to Darfur.

The Panel, which held its inaugural meeting in Addis Ababa on March 18 last month, is mandated to examine the situation in Darfur and to recommend the best way/s to address issues of accountability and combating impunity, peace, healing and reconciliation, and the Darfur conflict as a whole.

Commenting on the Panel's impressions so far, former South African President and Chair of the Panel, Mr. Thabo Mbeki, said: "The Panel's interactions with the Sudanese stakeholders so far suggest that everything possible must be done as speedily as possible to end the conflict in Darfur."

Mr. Mbeki stressed the Panel's inclusive style of work, saying no stakeholders will be left out. Said Mr. Mbeki: "Everyone wants a long lasting solution to the conflict which must be characterised by peace and reconciliation which addresses such crimes as were committed during and in the context of the conflict as well as attending to matters of socio-economic development."

"This is why we have developed such an intense work schedule which involves meeting all Sudanese stakeholders from morning until later in the night. This is an inclusive consultative process which aims to contribute to the search for a lasting solution."

"Most importantly, the Panel looks forward to meeting with Darfurian stakeholders on the ground in the next two days."