

The African Union High-Level Panel on Darfur: Q&A

1. What is the AU Panel on Darfur?

- The AUPD was Mandated by the AU Peace and Security Council in July 2008 and re-mandated in February 2009. It was set up in March and began its activities in April.
- The AUPD was mandated to look into the issues of peace, justice and reconciliation in Darfur, with a view to finding an overall solution to these challenges.
- The Panel's Chairman is President Thabo Mbeki, and its members include President Abdulsalami Abubaker, President Pierre Buyoya, Justice Florence Mumba, Al Haji Kebir Mohammed, Ms. Rakiya Omaar, and Mr. Ahmad Maher.
- The AU constituted the Panel as an independent body, to make recommendations to the AU for action. The Panel therefore will submit its recommendations to the AU PSC, including actions for the AU, the AU-UN Joint Chief Mediator and UNAMID.

2. What is the Panel's Vision?

- The Panel defined the crisis as "Sudan's crisis in Darfur." This calls attention to the fact that the conflict is the manifestation of a deep-rooted problem of unequal power and wealth in Sudan. This is a legacy of the colonial period that successive post-colonial governments have failed to correct.
- The Panel sees the issues of peace, justice and reconciliation as interconnected and that any solution to the three must be found as part of an integrated package.
- The Panel believes that any solution to the crisis must be found through the people of Sudan taking ownership of the process and the solution. The Panel does not support any externally-determined blueprint.
- Furthermore, the Panel holds that recommendations will be meaningful only if they can be agreed and implemented by the people of Sudan. For that reason, the Panel extended its work to include an additional round of consultations, so that it could share its preliminary recommendations with the Sudanese people.

3. How Did the Panel Go About its Work?

- The Panel had a three month mandate, which it extended by an additional two months in order to undertake additional consultations.
- The Panel's method of work was to meet with as many different stakeholders as possible, from the President of Sudan to villagers and displaced people in rural Darfur, to obtain their views, analyses, fears, hopes, and opinions. During its four missions to Sudan the Panel met with more than 2,700 people

in Darfur and 400 in Khartoum. It undertook a pioneering round of public hearings with stakeholders. The Panel used the good offices of the DDDC and UNAMID to organize these meetings.

- Members of the Panel travelled to neighbouring countries to meet with government officials, members of the armed movements, refugees, and civil society organizations. The Panel also met with the special envoys of the P5 countries and the EU, plus senior officials of the AU, League of Arab States, Government of Qatar, and the UN. It consulted with the Prosecutor of the ICC and leading members of the Save Darfur campaign and other human rights organizations.
- The Panel conducted a final round of meetings with stakeholders to discuss its preliminary recommendations.

4. What are the Recommendations for Peace?

- The Panel heard from
- Process
- Participants
- Agenda

5. What are the Recommendations for Justice?

- The Panel heard unanimous views that justice needs to be done. The question posed to the Panel is, how should it be done.
- Conception
- Negotiation
- Proposals
- Hybrid
- ICC
- Social and economic

6. What are the Recommendations for Reconciliation?

- Local measures
- TJRC

7. What does the AUPD Have to Say about Sudan as a Whole?

- Sudan's crisis in Darfur
- Elections
- National reflection

8. What Happens Next?

- Report presented to the AU Peace and Security Council

- The Panel does not have a blueprint. Its recommendations are