

PRESS RELEASE

The AUHIP welcomes the inaugural meeting of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism

Khartoum, 18th September 2011: Representatives of the Governments of Sudan and South Sudan concluded the inaugural meeting of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism (JPSM) in Khartoum today. The JPSM was established as a mechanism by which the two States would cooperate on security and political issues, particularly in relation to their common border.

The first meeting was convened, jointly, by Sudanese Defence Minister, Lt. Gen Abdulrahim Mohammed Hussein and his South Sudanese counterpart, Gen John Kong Nyuon, Minister for Defence and Veteran's Affairs.

At the request of the two Co-Chairs of the JPSM, H.E. President Thabo Mbeki, the Chairperson of the African Union High Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP), chaired the meeting, which was also attended by H.E Gen. Abdulsalami Abubakar, member of AUHIP, as well as the Force Commander of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei, Lt Gen. Tadesse Tesfay.

The meeting received and discussed a report from Gen Tesfay and also adopted the texts of five previous agreements and documents as reference instruments of the JPSM.

Today's meeting also took steps to make the JPSM operational by agreeing on the composition of several committees and location of various bodies established under previous agreements. The meeting also acknowledged the central role of the JPSM in ensuring that the two countries have a safe and secure border.

The chairperson of the AUHIP welcomed the formal commencement of the work of the JPSM and congratulated the co-chairs of the JPSM for the conclusion of a constructive and successful first meeting. The Panel also notes that the JPSM is of particular importance for constructing peaceful and mutually supportive relations between the two States and looks forward to its work in the management of joint security concerns and the promoting good neighbourliness between the two States

The next JPSM meeting will be held on 18th October, 2011 in Juba, South Sudan.