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**BEFORE THE SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS
REPORT ON THE GROUP OF HIGH LEVEL
THE AFRICAN UNION IN DARFUR**

NEW YORK, December 21, 2009

Mr. President of the Security Council,
Mr. Secretary General,
Distinguished Representatives of Member States,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me first express my sincere gratitude to the President and members of the Security Council United Nations have agreed to include in the agenda of the Council the report of the High-level EU African Darfur. This, obviously, an eloquent demonstration of the interest that this body is the situation in Sudan and the efforts being made to help the country handle the many challenges facing it.

I am pleased today to take the floor under your presidency, an African presidency committed and enterprising, and I want to congratulate you and the representatives of Libya and Uganda for having done so worthily rich in terms of Council to serve the causes of Africa. I also congratulate all the other distinguished members whose term expires at the end of the month.

I also express my appreciation to Secretary General United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, for his commitment to peace, security, stability and development on the African continent, as well as cooperation confident and promising that develops between the UN and African Union.

Darfur has a special place in the efforts of our two organizations to promote peace on the continent. More than any other area that symbolizes the uniqueness of the relationship between the African Union and the United Nations, which provided the framework and establish the scene of the first hybrid operation between our two organizations. This pioneering experience prompts us to better coordinate our actions to align our respective cultures and practices to the requirements of a joint objective circumstances which leave no alternative. While it may at times seem frustrating, but we have no choice but to persevere in this

direction: in Sudan, as in other situations of crisis and conflict on the continent, the future is to more in common action and joint efforts, and on the basis of comparative advantages of the United Nations, with the expertise and resources that are theirs, and regional organizations, particularly the African Union including the political, illustrated by the establishment of a continental architecture for peace and security, geographical proximity and a detailed understanding of the situations in question are an undeniable asset and confer the necessary legitimacy to actions.

Mr. President,
Distinguished members of the Council

As you know, the High Level Group of the AU on Darfur was established following the decision by a ministerial meeting of the Peace and Security (CPS) of the AU, 21 July 2008, in order to reflect and make recommendations on ways and means to address better the issues on the one hand, peace, reconciliation and healing, the other at justice, the fight against impunity and accountability.

In taking this decision on a proposal from the Commission of the African Union, the SPC was motivated by the belief that the challenges of peace, justice and reconciliation in Sudan were inseparable. While affirming that there can be no impunity for gross violations of human rights that have been committed in Darfur, the CPS has also stressed the need to continue the search for justice in a way that allows the goal of peace and reconciliation. Incidentally, this is also the spirit of resolution 1593 Security Council United Nations on Darfur. Clearly, these issues can not be compartmentalized and should be treated together with the desire to succeed in creating a dynamic and positive spillover effects covering all the land on which the action should unfold.

The Group carried out its mandate over a period of six months. During this period, he used to interact with each stakeholder, whether Sudanese or international. It is significant that, even with its recommendations, the Group considered it useful to maintain the Sudanese and international actors, to the fullest extent possible,

ensure their 'acceptability and feasibility and build the broadest consensus possible around the proposed approach, taking due account of the achievements such as the Peace Agreement in Darfur (DPA) signed in Abuja in 2006 and lessons learned from efforts undertaken so far by so many good wills, African and non-African.

It is equally significant that the Group has, during his various visits to Sudan, spent more than forty days in Darfur, traveling not only in areas under government control, but also in those controlled by the armed opposition movements .

This approach, which gave the Group and its report an unparalleled authority, was all the more necessary since the outbreak of war in Darfur, many people who spoke on behalf of Darfur. The people of Darfur have rarely had the opportunity to speak for themselves.

I wanted to make these remarks to highlight two elements that seem fundamental. On the one hand, it is the belief that the Darfur conflict is first and foremost a Sudanese problem and its resolution depends so importantly, the Sudanese themselves, the international community to play a role support and guidance. In the other recommendations made by the Group are the emanation of the concerns of the Sudanese parties as they have, wherever possible, be cross-checked and harmonized, and not a building detached from their realities and that the AU seek to impose.

I would also add that the group has articulated a comprehensive approach, based on the belief that the goals of peace, justice and reconciliation in Darfur are closely linked and equally desirable one than the other. At the same time, the Group has highlighted the profound aspiration for peace and security of the people of Darfur. Nothing better expresses the aspiration that the declaration of a nomadic group that met in El Fasher in June 2009: "We want peace. If it flies through the air, I am ready to fly and catch it. If it is buried underground, I'm ready to dig for it. If it is sold on the market, I find the money to buy it. "

At the same time, and as the Group noted, all Sudanese parties expressed their commitment to the imperative of justice, respect for which will facilitate the search for peace, understanding that justice and reconciliation are inextricably linked and must be addressed and implemented in an integrated and united.

Mr. President,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is of utmost importance to stress here the conclusion the group reached about the need to include the settlement of the Darfur crisis in the broader context of resolving the crisis in Sudan since its independence and some cases date back to colonial times. This is the fundamental inequality that characterizes the relationship between center and periphery Sudanese inequality which partly explains the various rebellions that have taken place and continues to face Sudan. That is why the Group has rightly defined the Darfur crisis as a manifestation of the wider crisis facing Sudan as a country and as a state.

As you know, the report of the High Level Panel and the recommendations contained therein were endorsed by the SPC at its meeting at Heads of State and Government in Abuja last October 29. The CPS also asked me to create a Group for implementation of high-level, consisting of former Presidents Thabo Mbeki, Pierre Buyoya and Abdulsalami Abubakar, to facilitate the implementation of recommendations made and to assist the Sudanese parties in implementing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and other related processes, as part of the democratic transformation of Sudan.

We have since taken many steps to implement recommendations of the Group, which is now the platform that will inform any action of the AU on Sudan. In this context, the Group implemented visited Sudan, there is this few days. On this occasion, the Group has met all stakeholders, who reaffirmed their support for the recommendations that were made and the decision of the CPS. Based on this visit, the Group has developed an action plan indicating the activities to be undertaken systematically and diligently both in regard to Darfur and the

implementation of the CPA.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We came to the United Nations to seek your support, convinced that with the Panel's report, the methodology that informed his approach and the comprehensive nature of vision and its recommendations, the positive response of the Sudanese parties, including Government of National Unity, we now have an appropriate instrument to guide our efforts and reach the goals that are ours.

This shows the importance of this meeting and the attitude expected of your Board, as it is true that the success of our joint work in Sudan would have this meeting this is not reducible to an event, but rather the mark launch a process in a spirit of partnership for peace, justice, security and reconciliation in Sudan. I have no doubt that we are all aware that we are now at a turning point in the efforts of the international community has made so far to end the conflict in Darfur and supporting the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement so that Sudan could experience a qualitatively new era of its history.

The urgency is great. Indeed, Sudan is on the eve of two major deadlines, which will determine the future of the country and whose impact on the African can not be underestimated.

First are general elections in April 2010, which should be a milestone in the democratic transformation of Sudan, as envisioned by the Comprehensive Peace Agreement of January 2005. Then there is the self-determination referendum of January 2011, which, under the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, will the people of Southern Sudan to decide either in favor of maintaining the unity of Sudan or for partition of the country. It is obvious that the choice to be made will have huge consequences for Sudan and for the rest of Africa, as it is obvious that the conditions and circumstances prevailing before, during and after these elections will have the greatest impact on the course and the consistency of events.

For Africa, which is played in Sudan is of existential importance. It is the largest country in the continent, Sudan is a melting pot of diverse cultural, religious and ethnic makeup Africa and which, far from being a handicap, is an asset, the Sudan shares borders with nine other African states, which, more than any other, will be the first to suffer from the persistence of the current situation and further developments in the possible negative future.

In setting up the High Level Group and actively follow up the recommendations, the AU has also tried, despite difficulties and setbacks, suffering and anguish, said his faith in the ability of the Sudanese to rise at the historical responsibilities that are their own and transcending their differences for the good of their country and that of Africa. A collective effort is possible if the inhibitions and inertia errors do not continue to obscure the generous vision of the future that the AU intends to popularize.

The mission entrusted to the Group of African Union is to promote the comprehensive approach to resolving the crisis in Sudan and the democratic transformation and peaceful country, this mission nicely complements the mandates of UNAMID Mediation joint and UNMIS mandates which it is intended to facilitate implementation, without duplication or duplication or jurisdictional squabbles. This mission sui generis responds to real needs, and the action of the international community in Sudan can only be strengthened in its effectiveness, consistency and credibility.

Sudan needs to move forward, and Africa is committed to provide all necessary assistance in this regard, the report of the High Level Group has become the strategy and source of inspiration activities of the AU in Sudan. We ask our partners in the international community to lend their support to this unprecedented effort, bearing in mind that solutions that will produce the desired results are those that the Sudanese will be appropriate and that Africa will supported. The African Union is confident that the UN support a healthy work whose success would honor the international community as a whole, putting away the scourge of war number of generations in Sudan, Africa and elsewhere.

Thank you for your kind attention and you are requested to allow President Thabo Mbeki to deliver the findings of the High-level and the prospects for the large scale action that we must pursue with all Sudanese and all other players in the best interest of all.

Thank you.