

NCP Leadership Office Accepts Decisions of AU and UN Councils; Rejects Dialogue with North Sector



Khartoum -- The National Congress Party's Leadership Office chaired by President Omar Al Bashir, leader of the Party, announced last Wednesday morning its acceptance of the latest decisions by the African Union Peace and Security Council as well as the United Nations Security Council regarding Sudan and South Sudan; however, it had refused dialogue with so called Sudan People's Liberation Movement – North Sector (SPLM-N) while maintained the formation of the government's delegations with Juba and tasked a committee on security to assume security files.

The leadership office listened to analysis prepared by the Foreign Ministry and Sudanese embassies.

The Minister of Foreign Ali Karti who spearheaded shuttle diplomatic moves to defend his party's opposing stance, said: "positive dealing with the decision represents best option and accepting it was natural."

In press statements following the meeting, Karti said that his Ministry after the party's consent would work for developing and lauding positive aspects in the decision and working with the high level team concerned with negotiations on Sudan's reservations about remaining paragraphs. He added that among the advantages of the resolution was that it retained the African high level panel headed by Thabo Mbeki and underscored the importance of debating the pending issues between the two countries through this mechanism, the African mediation. The Minister denied a change to Sudan's negotiating delegation, saying: "There is no talk of a new delegation and that the delegation will remain the same because it has full knowledge of all issues, and that the political security committee will assume negotiations on security affairs, top priority."

Karti stated the leadership office completely turned down entering negotiations with SPLM-N, adding that this issue is currently being debated with the African mediation in addition to rounds of talks with friends at the UN Security Council on the same topic. The Minister said: "The office's acceptance of the two decisions came after an-in-depth explanation and scrutinizing the details to accept the decision. Speaking about the relationship

between the victories the national army has achieved on the ground and accepting the decision, he affirmed that was true. Karti added that some other issues were being discussed with the African high level panel headed by Thabo Mbeki, affirming that the NCP's leadership office stressed the importance of starting with negotiating the security file because it represents top priority, stating that accepting the decision was normal, and then deal with regional and international parties and emphasize the importance of these pending issues. The UN Security Council last week had unanimously issued a resolution demanding Sudan and South Sudan stop hostilities within 48 hours and resume negotiations unconditionally to resolve their dispute within a three months deadline under threats of sanctions, the ruling NCP rejected. The party earlier slammed the decisions of the two councils, affirming that the language of threat would not be the best option for endings Khartoum-Juba disputes, stressing that the decision unfairly treated both the victim and the aggressor equally.