

CONCLUSIONS OF THE SIXTH SESSION OF THE JOINT COMMISSION

1. The Sixth Session of the Joint Commission was held in N'djamena, Republic of Chad, on 3 and 4 January, 2005 under the Chairmanship of General Mahamat Ali Abdallah, Special Advisor to the President of the Republic of Chad and Chairman of the Joint Commission, assisted by Amb. Sam B. Ibok, Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union.

2. The draft agenda of the Sixth Session was as follows :

- i. Implementation of the conclusions of the 4th and 5th Sessions of the Joint Commission;
- ii. Report of the Chairman of the Ceasefire Commission and reactions by the Parties;
- iii. Reinforcement of the Joint Commission;
- iv. Establishment of the Joint Humanitarian Facilitation and Monitoring Unit;
- v. Any other business;
- vi. Conclusions

3. The Joint Commission noted with regret the difficulties encountered during the 4th Round of the Inter-Sudanese Peace Talks on Darfur, held in Abuja, Federal Republic of Nigeria, from 11 to 21 December 2004, subsequent to violations of the ceasefire that resulted in the adjournment of the said negotiations.

4. The Commission listened to the report of the Chairman of the Ceasefire Commission and noted with satisfaction the relatively calm situation on the ground despite some violations perpetrated by a foreign party to the agreements concluded between the Sudanese Government and two Movements (SLM/A and JEM). Furthermore, the Commission noted the inability of the Ceasefire Commission to discharge its mandate because of the non compliance by the Parties with the decisions of the 4th and 5th Sessions of the Joint Commission.

5. Accordingly, the Commission asked the Government of the Sudan to withdraw, without delay, its forces to the positions it occupied prior to 8 December 2004, in particular Marla, Ishma and Labado, pending the verification by the Ceasefire Commission of the positions on the ground, in order to help create a favourable environment for the resumption of the Abuja Talks. However, the Movements are requested not to occupy positions evacuated by the Government. The Ceasefire Commission is invited to help the local administration to ensure security in those areas.

6. The Commission also asked the Government of the Sudan to proceed, without delay, to disarm the Janjaweed/Armed militias as it committed itself to do at the previous sessions of the Joint Commission.

7. At the same time, the Commission asked the Movements to indicate, without delay, to the Ceasefire Commission, the positions of their forces, as they committed themselves to do at the previous sessions of the Commission.

8. The Joint Commission mandated the Ceasefire Commission to verify the positions on the ground, on the basis of information provided by the Parties on the issues mentioned in paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 above, and to immediately report to the Joint Commission.

9. The Joint Commission welcomed the fact that the Government of the Sudan has provided to the Ceasefire Commission, information relating to the locations of its forces as well as a list of its prisoners and has reacted to the list communicated by the Movements, by providing information on the various categories of persons it is detaining.

10. Furthermore, the Commission welcomed the fact that the Movements had given to the Joint Commission, the list of their members detained by the Government of the Sudan and requested the Movements to react to the list provided by the Government.

11. The Commission invited the AU Commission, in case the Parties do not abide by their above stipulated commitments, to take appropriate measures with a view to seizing the competent Authorities of the African Union and others.

12. The Commission would like to express its strong regret for not being able to discuss the other items on the agenda, including the Establishment of the Joint Humanitarian Facilitation and Monitoring Unit provided for in the Abuja Protocol on the Improvement of the Humanitarian situation in Darfur, to be located in El-Fasher, as well as the Reinforcement of the Joint Commission.

Done in N'djamena, on 4 January 2005

The Chairman of the Commission

General MAHAMAT ALI ABDALLAH

