

**Informal comments to the Media by H.E. Mr. Abdalmahmood
Abdalhaleem Mohamad, Permanent Representative of Sudan on the
situation in Sudan.**

14 June 2010

I am sure you have been following the meeting of the SC today. Despite the fact that this meeting had no strong legislative mandate, as all Missions in Sudan have their own mandate from the SC, many important remarks were made. Regarding the presentation by the four panellists (Mbeki, Gambari, Bassolé and Menkerios) they all commended the cooperation that they are having from the Sudan Government.

They all also indicated that the democratic experience and the election experience of the Sudan was very important, ushering in a new era of democratic transformation in the country and also within the process of the CPA implementation. They also underscored their feeling that they are optimistic about what is going on in the Sudan vis-à-vis the challenges that are ahead of us in the next few months.

Regarding the interventions by delegations, there are also very important expressions of the fact that despite the involvement of the SC, the AU and others, the Sudanese are the only capable of drawing and forming and establishing their own destiny. The objective and the role of the International Community is to support the Sudanese to achieve that.

Regarding the CPA implementation, many ideas were expressed to reflect the fact that unity should be encouraged and efforts should be made to make unity attractive in the interest of Sudan and in the interest of Africa and the international community.

Many expressed concern about the security situation in South Sudan and called on the Government of South Sudan to shoulder their responsibility to protect the Sudanese citizens in the south.

Regarding Darfur, there was a call to rebel groups to join the political process and also many delegations underscored or referred to the role of the rebel groups in the problems that are accompanying the humanitarian situation in some parts of Darfur.

Despite these important and positive remarks by many speakers, there are also a few delegations like the USA, France and Austria, who opted again to invoke the issue of the ICC. Of course, this no doubt shows their lack of interest in the issues of Sudan and they are invoking issues that would only make the situation worse in our country.

It's an advice to those delegations and their countries to refrain from sending negative signals and also to stop sending signals determining the outcome of the referendum, especially from the part of the USA.

So all in all, President Mbeki at the conclusion, at the end of the session, informed the Council that he is optimistic about the developments in the Sudan and that the AU will

cooperate closely with the UN to achieve the deserved objectives which are peace, stability and security in the country.

Q: Some of the speakers said that they didn't want to prejudge the outcome, it was very important to start consultations between the government and the SPLM on potential post-referendum issues like citizens rights. What is your government doing?

A: We are of course taking these issues very seriously and we have the same view that soon after the formation of the Government in the Sudan, its objectives and the emphasis will be on the CPA and the referendum in South Sudan in order that unity is made attractive and cooperation with SPLM is achieved. It is one of our priorities as well.

Q: Khalil Ibrahim has been quoted as saying the Doha process is over and JEM won't participate. What do you think about this?

A: this only reflects that he is very desperate. After the Sudan-Chad reconciliation, he found no outlet to continue his destructive policies in Darfur. These are expressions of the fact that he's desperate but we firmly believe peace should be inclusive and JEM should join at any moment.

Q: Is there a time limit on the Doha process?

A: The mediators are right now working in Doha to make it inclusive and open to everybody. He has to catch the peace train speedily.

Q: The EU humanitarian aid commissioner said the government is blocking flights over South Darfur. Is this true?

A: No. The Minister of Foreign affairs issued a statement yesterday saying that this is not correct. There are no impediments or restrictions whatsoever.

Q: In Arabic.

A: In Arabic.

Q: There is a coalition of European NGOs that suggest that the exploration of oil in Sudan is what sparked conflict within Sudan.

A: Those are enemies of development in Sudan, the NGOs and those who are handling them by remote control. Indeed, it is our destiny and responsibility to explore avenues for development in our country, including oil exploration. What they are saying is absolutely wrong. Of course, anything may have some manifestations here and there but the objective continues to be the development and prosperity for our people.

Q: Will Mbeki stay with the process through the referendum, with the group that he's part of?

A: No. Mbeki's participation is for the implementation of the decisions of the AU regarding the blunders of the prosecutor and to help in the issue of peace in Darfur but since also the problems in Sudan are inseparable, he's also doing his best with the CPA. His core mandate is Darfur but he's also moving here and there to ensure coordination between several stakeholders.

Q: Some are saying that Uganda as a State party to the ICC should either not invite or arrest president Bashir during the upcoming AU Summit. I hear that they are not going to do so, that he is invited and everything is fine.

A: Uganda has issued a statement indicating that they have already invited President Bashir. It is now for President Bashir to decide.

Q: Has he been invited to Venezuela?

A: President Bashir has been invited to many places and he will definitely fulfil the invitations and accept the invitations in accordance to the convenience of his schedule.