

## **CONCLUSIONS OF THE 7<sup>TH</sup> HIGH LEVEL SESSION OF THE JOINT COMMISSION FOR THE CEASEFIRE IN DARFUR**

1. The 7<sup>th</sup> Session of the Joint Commission was held in N'djamena, Republic of Chad, on 16 and 17 February 2005, under the Chairmanship of His Excellency Idriss Deby, President of the Republic of Chad and under the co-Chairmanship of His Excellency Mr. Alpha Oumar Konare, Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union.

The session was preceded by a Summit, held on 16 February 2005, in the morning, at the invitation of President Idriss Deby, and was attended by the Presidents of Gabon, Congo, Sudan, the Representative of the Leader of the Great Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the Presidents of Egypt and Nigeria, as well as the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union, the Secretary General of the International Organisation of Francophony and the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General.

2. The agenda of the session was adopted as follows:

- i. Presentation of the Report of the Chairman of the Ceasefire Commission and reaction of the Parties;
- ii. Reinforcement of the implementation of the Ceasefire Agreement in Darfur;
- iii. Preparation for a vigorous resumption of the peace process;
- iv. Any other businesses.

3. The Joint Commission welcomed the laudable initiative taken by the President of the Republic of Chad, who organized a Summit in N'djamena, to consider ways and means to reinforce the implementation of the N'djamena Humanitarian Ceasefire Agreement of 8 April 2004, and the two Abuja Protocols of 9 November 2004, respectively on the Improvement of the Humanitarian Situation and the Enhancement of the Security Situation in Darfur, as well as the vigorous resumption of the peace process.

4. The Commission committed itself to implement the decisions of the Summit, in particular those related to:

- Sending to the ground in Darfur, a team to verify the positions occupied by the forces on the ground, with a view to working out a separation plan of the forces, the proclamation by the Parties of a comprehensive and final ceasefire as well as the recommendation made to the Peace and Security Council to reinforce the African

Mission in the Sudan (AMIS) in order that the crisis in Darfur finds its solution within an African framework;

- The active preparation by the Mediation (African Union and Chad) on the crisis in Darfur, conditions for a rapid and vigorous resumption of the next peace talks to achieve an agreement between the Parties on the crisis in the Sudanese region of Darfur, in harmony with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement of 9 January 2005 between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army;
- The participation of the Parties in the next Round of negotiations at a high level, without preconditions, in order to arrive at a rapid conclusion of an agreement;
- The call on the international community to continue to support the ongoing African efforts, notably the role of the African Mission to Sudan, and refrain from any action that hinders these efforts and any deployment of non-African forces.

5. The Parties committed themselves to fully cooperate with the verification team in order to help it correctly discharge its mission.

6. After having listened to the report of the Chairman of the Ceasefire Commission, the Joint Commission strongly condemned the continues and repeated violations of the ceasefire by the Parties and the continued killings of the innocent civilian populations. It asked all the Parties to resolutely commit themselves to permanently put an end to all attacks of any nature whatsoever and whoever are the actors. The Commission urged the Parties to recommit themselves to scrupulous respect their obligations. In this respect, it took note of the commitment of the Parties in that sense.

7. Furthermore, the Commission vigorously condemned attacks on the AMIS forces in Darfur and demanded that the Parties immediately stop these unacceptable attacks.

8. The Commission welcomed the measures taken by the Government of the Sudan to withdraw its forces from Labado and Ishma, positions they occupied on 8 December 2004, and demanded that it completes, without delay, its withdrawal from Marla and Graidia.

9. The Commission invited the Government to review the plan it submitted to the Ceasefire Commission on the disarmament of the armed militia and to resubmit a more workable plan that is limited to the armed militia alone.
10. The Commission demanded that the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) communicate, without delay, to the Ceasefire Commission, the positions occupied by their forces.
11. The Commission recommended to the Commission of the AU to upgrade the status of the AMIS troops from companies to battalions and to equip them with weapons of a battalion. The Parties and the partners from the international community welcomed this recommendation.

Done in N'djamena on, 17 February 2005