

African Union High Level Panel for Sudan

Special Session on Post-Referendum Security Arrangements

Bishoftu, Ethiopia, 2-4 April 2011

Press Statement

Facilitated by the African Union High Level Panel for Sudan, and chaired by President Pierre Buyoya, delegations from the Sudanese Parties met in Bishoftu, Ethiopia, to discuss post-referendum security arrangements.

The Government of Sudan/Sudan Armed Forces delegation was led by the Chief of the Joint Staff, Lt.-Gen. Ismat Abdel Rahman Zain al Abdin, and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Sudan People's Liberation Army delegation was led by the Hon. Paul Mayom Akech.

The Parties discussed four agenda items, namely:

- a. Name/definition of security zone along the border;
- b. UNMIS mandate extension/third party support;
- c. JIUs and SPLA forces in and from South Kordofan and Blue Nile;
- d. Southerners associated with SAF.

The Parties addressed the issues in a constructive spirit, and made substantial progress on all four issues.

Notably, the Parties reached agreement on the definition of the security zone along the common north-south border, and on the resolution of the matter of the southern Sudanese who have been serving in the Sudan Armed Forces.

The Parties agreed to meet again shortly to discuss and resolve the outstanding issues on the remaining agenda items.