

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

**Permanent Mission of
The Republic of the
SUDAN
To U.N. Office, Geneva**



البعثة الدائمة
لجمهورية السودان
جنيف

**Statement of the Head of the Delegation of the
Republic of the Sudan**

**H.E. Mr. ABDEL BASIT SABDARAT
Minister of Justice of the Sudan**

Before

**The High-Level Segment of
The Human Rights Council
7th Session**

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Unofficial Translation

The President of the Human Rights Council,
The High Commissioner for Human Rights,
Heads of Delegations, Representatives of
International and Regional Organizations and Specialized
Agencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to all UN Member States and to the President and Members of the Human Rights Council for having accomplished a great achievement by finalizing the institutional building of the newly established Human Rights Council, the achievement that happily coincides with the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. I am pleased, in this regard, to confirm that my country joins the celebrations of this anniversary by diffusion of awareness domestically of the principles enshrined in the UDHR and by discharging and implementing the voluntary goals, as agreed, for realization of the ultimate objective of enhancing the protection and promotion of human rights.

Mr. President,

We have fully cooperated with the former Commission of Human Rights and the present Human Rights Council, and have fully cooperated with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in The Sudan and, further, with the Group of Experts which the Council decided in the last session to discontinue its mandate. That cooperation has been acknowledged and welcomed by the Council. By doing so, we have advanced an exemplary precedent of constructive engagement with multilateral institutions; the common objective being to end the internal conflict which would ultimately lead to the ending of the violations.

We would like to reiterate that The Sudan will diligently continue to cooperate, as it did before with the Group of Experts and with the Special Rapporteur on Sudan who is currently visiting the country for a duration of twelve days. During the visit, she is free to go to any place including prisons and detention centres and to meet with whomever she wants to meet there inside or wherever outside. We see that it is important that the Special

Rapporteur, as agreed, should follow the same approach followed by the Expert Group.

Mr. President,

A full year has expired since the convening of the last High-Level Segment of the Council. Yet, our efforts to bring those who rejected the Darfur Peace Agreement, Abuja Agreement, to the negotiation table in Sirt in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to reach a comprehensive settlement, did not bear fruit. The Government intended to stick to the negotiations until its end result is achieved. To that end, the Government declared a unilateral cease-fire and released the detainees from the armed groups. It exerted relentless efforts in collaboration with the authorities in Southern Sudan to harmonize the negotiation positions of the different armed groups. This effort was culminated by dispatching a high level and fully authorized delegation to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. Unfortunately, the refusal of (Justice and Equality Movement) and the (Sudan Liberation Movement) to attend the conference in Sirt, led to its immature collapse.

The reluctance and acquiescence of the international community in applying pressure on the armed movements to accept setting to negotiation table sent wrong signals to the movements. Added to that, was the silence in the face of the armed movements' attacks against humanitarian aid convoys. As a result, the armed movements captured a big number of humanitarian aid vehicles. They also, in an attempt to expand their controlled areas, seized the opportunity of the unilateral cease-fire by the Government to capture Abu Surug and Abu Silaiaa towns in Western Darfur. They levied taxes from the people living in these areas and marauded transportation routes sending thereby the prices of the essential commodities to sky rocketing levels. The Sudanese Armed Forces were left with no choice but to retake, two weeks ago, the captured areas and eject the outlaws.

With regard to the UNAMID Hybrid Operation, the Government of The Sudan, in discharge its obligations towards it, has recently signed the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) which specifies the legal standing of these forces in The Sudan. In this connection, vast areas (tens of thousand of square meters of lands) were allotted within the three Darfur States to UNAMID Forces to be based at. The Government, as well, has permitted the importation of all the needs of the forces custom-free.

The Government of The Sudan, while reconfirming its determination to cooperate with the Hybrid Forces in discharge of the obligations specified in the Security Council Resolution 1769, expresses its disappointment over the reaction of those who were earlier, when the resolution was in the process of adoption, crying from the roof top and who have now resigned to apathy and refrained hitherto from providing the necessary support to the forces.

Mr. President,

In fulfillment of our commitment to revise the different legislations to conform to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), the political forces either in the Government or in opposition, have embarked on broad consultations in order to draft the 2008 Election Bill. It has been decided unanimously to allocate 25% of the parliament seats to women and to take up the proportionate representation system where 40% of the seats will be allocated to the smaller groups and regions beside the geographical constituencies. The committee established to revise the National Security Act has concluded its work. Efforts are now underway to amend the Press Act. On humanitarian aid, The Sudan has renewed its commitment to humanitarian Fast Track arrangement by concluding a new Agreement with the UN that will be valid until January 2009.

As regards protection of individuals' rights and protection of liberties, I have recently issued criminal circulars that prohibited the execution of warrants of arrests during night time or during holidays. I have issued directives to the attorneys to conduct daily tours to detention centres in order to regularly update the detainees lists and to promptly conduct investigations procedure.

Mr. President,

The challenges the two political partners in the Government of National Unity encountered, have bolstered their resolve to carry on the tasks of implementing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. In the process, the local currency, as agreed, has been newly denominated. The Government Armed Forces and the Sudan People Liberation Movement Forces have been redeployed in their respective 1956 demarcated boundaries. The Presidency is currently engaged in finding a settlement to the disagreement on Abyei. The Committee established for the demarcation

of the boundaries is drawing to conclude its work after having assembled the relevant documents from Egypt and UK. The preparations for the national consensus are currently underway.

Darfur Transitional Authority, comprised of the movements signatories of the Abuja Agreement is presently engaged in carrying out various infrastructural developments projects in Darfur including water networks, general and high education facilities and hospitals. On the other hand, the parties to the East Region Agreement have been integrated in the Central Government and regional Governments of Gedarif, Kasala and Red Sea States.

Mr. President,

The Sudan is expressing its continued deep concern on the act of kidnapping of children committed by the French (l'Arche de Zoe) Organization, including Sudanese children from Darfur. As you know, this criminal act negates all international instruments on protection of children and prevention of trafficking in human beings. We strongly call for the execution of the decisions of the courts against those who were held responsible for the crime and for the compensations to be carried out; and we call for the reuniting of the children with their respective families.

Mr. President,

The Sudan expresses its profound sadness over the mounting campaigns to defame religion under the pretext of freedom of expression. That dangerous trend will sow the seeds of hatred among world communities and will incite religious intolerance and suppress the principles of mutual intercultural coexistence. This faulty design of hatred, intolerance and bigotry has to be superseded by a collective approach that confirms the principle of religions and civilizations dialogue. This Council is destined to play a significant role in this regard.

Mr. President,

The entire world community is presently following with indignation and abhorrence the unfolding massacre in the occupied Palestine lands. We strongly condemn Israeli aggression and call upon Human Rights Council to take the immediate and necessary measures to protect the innocent civilians

including scores of innocent children and women who are being killed on daily basis in cold blood.

Finally, Mr. President, I would like to reiterate time and again our commitment to realize mutual cooperation between my Government and this respected Council for the promotion and protection of human rights.

Thank you.