

Human Rights Council, September 2007
Sudan: Draft Statement by Ireland

Ireland remains deeply concerned about the human rights situation in Sudan, particularly in the Darfur region. We have received shocking reports of attacks on civilians, killings, and the use of rape and gender based violence as a tool of intimidation.

Ireland calls on all parties to act now to end these attacks. Primary responsibility for ensuring the safety of its citizens lies with the Government of Sudan. We urge the Government of Sudan to ensure full respect for the rule of law and the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all Sudanese people.

We strongly urge the Government of Sudan to end the culture of impunity which exists in Darfur. In this context, we greatly regret the decision by the Government of Sudan in September 2007 to appoint as co-chair of a governmental Human Rights Committee Ahmed Mohammed Haroun, who is wanted by the International Criminal Court in connection with war crimes and crimes against humanity in Darfur. We urge the Government of Sudan to co-operate fully with the ICC.

On the other hand, Ireland welcomes the co-operation of the Government of Sudan in relation to UNAMID, and looks forward to the early deployment of this force. We trust that UNAMID will bring tangible improvements in the protection of civilians and ensuring humanitarian aid deliveries.

UNAMID should also create a breathing space which will allow the foundations of a lasting peace to be laid through the political process. We support the ongoing efforts of the UN and African Union in this regard. We welcome the priority which Secretary General Ban has attached to this issue.

In view of the continued seriousness of the situation, Ireland strongly supports all efforts aimed at monitoring and improving circumstances on the ground in Darfur. We welcome the ongoing work of the Special Rapporteur on Sudan.