



**Permanent Mission  
of the Arab Republic of Egypt  
Geneva**

**Sixth Resumed Session  
of the Human Rights Council**

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**Item 4  
Final Report of the Group of Experts on Darfur**

**Statement by  
H.E. Mr Sameh Shoukry  
Ambassador Permanent Representative of  
the Arab Republic of Egypt  
on behalf of the African Group**

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**Geneva, 11 December 2007**

*Please check against delivery*

Mr President

I have the honour to make the following statement on behalf of the African Group.

The African Group takes note with satisfaction of the final report of the Group of Experts on Darfur before us today, and welcomes the efforts exerted by the members of this Group since its creation. The content of the final report of the Group of Experts is a testimony of the fruits of the new cooperative spirit prevailing in our Council, marking a welcome departure from the years of politicization and confrontation which previously prevailed.

The African Group takes particular satisfaction from the opinion of the Expert Group on the level of cooperation with the Government of Sudan since its creation, and takes note of the constructive dialogue between the Government of Sudan and the Expert Group on the implementation of the agreed set of recommendations, and that the Government of Sudan has taken a series of concrete steps in this regard.

The African Group welcomes in particular, the measures taken by the Government of Sudan in issuing decrees to the Army and Police forces, and of a Declaration of the Sudanese Armed Forces concerning the regulations and rules of conduct of armed forces in conflict zones, The African Group also welcomes the issuance by the Sudanese Parliament of the Armed Forces Bill which contains for the first time a chapter on international humanitarian law. The Group equally welcomes the improving security situation in Darfur and the efforts made by the Government of Sudan to provide, with the assistance of the international community, the necessary social services to the population of this province.

These and other measures have led to a marked improvement in the situation in Darfur, and to the return of a large number of displaced persons to their homes. The positive momentum generated by the constructive relation between the Government of Sudan and the Expert Group has therefore contributed to the implementation of a large portion of short

term recommendations, and it will no doubt lead to the successful implementation of the recommendations of the Expert Group.

The African Group acknowledges that many challenges still remain. The efforts of the Government of Sudan to bring an end to all acts of violence perpetrated against civilians should be continued, including bringing perpetrators to justice and ensuring that there will be no impunity. The African Group takes note with satisfaction of the measures taken by the Government of Sudan and of its replies to the Group of Experts in this regard, We urge the international community to exert every effort to guarantee that all parties join the peace agreement in Darfur.

The African Group urges all humanitarian actors present in Darfur to strictly abide by the humanitarian principles and to respect national and international laws. While we salute the work of the vast majority of law abiding humanitarian NGOs, the African Group expresses its strong condemnation of the recent attempt by an organization, to abduct a number of Sudanese and Tchadian Children. We trust that the appropriate judicial processes in Tchad, Sudan and France, which are presently investigating the matter, will expeditiously uncover the truth about this sad episode and garner the political will and international cooperation which will ensure that such crime never recur again. We take this opportunity to reiterate our request that the relevant mechanisms of the Human Rights Council examine this issue with the attention it deserves. We are surprised that the Group of Experts, did not see fit to pronounce itself on the matter.

Mr President

The African Group believes that bearing in mind the improving situation in Darfur, the Expert Group has indeed fulfilled its objectives. The African Group further believes that it is time for the Council to show the Government of Sudan its appreciation for the efforts made thus far, and that cooperation

pays off. In this regard, the Group believes that it is high time for the Council to look into streamlining the various human rights mechanisms presently operating in Sudan.

The African Group believes that it is the duty of the international community and of the international organizations and UN agencies to assist the Government of Sudan to implement its national strategy for the return to normalcy, reconciliation and national reconstruction. We regret that a thorough assessment of the needs of Sudan has not been undertaken so far and that the international community has failed to provide the needed assistance to the Government of Sudan to support its efforts to address more fully the situation in Darfur.

The African Group trusts that the high level Sudanese Delegation attending the present resumed session is testimony of the seriousness with which the Sudan is engaging with the UN human rights mechanism. We are therefore confident that the distinguished Undersecretary of the Ministry of Justice of the Sudan will include in his address to the Council a renewed commitment by his country to continue on the path of cooperation and its determination to exert all efforts towards the achievement of durable peace and sustainable development in all parts of Sudan.

*I Thank you*