

Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt Geneva

Sixth Resumed Session of the Human Rights Council

Introduction of draft resolution A/HRC/6/L.51 entitled "Human Rights Council Group of Experts on the situation of human rights in Darfur"

By H.E. Ambassador Sameh Shoukry Permanent Representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt on behalf of the African Group

Geneva, 14 December, 2007

Thank you Mr. President,

On behalf of the African Group, I have the honor to present draft resolution A/HRC/6/L.51 entitled "Human Rights Council Group of Experts on the situation of human rights in Darfur", jointly presented by the African Group and the European Union.

The text before you is a result of a laborious and fruitful process of consultations between the African Group and the European Union. Despite the well known difficulties and the sensitivities involved, we are glad that we were finally able to arrive at this draft, which reflects a delicate balance that was only made possible by the spirit of compromise that prevailed during the negotiations, for which we commend all parties involved, in particular the delegation of Sudan, which demonstrated a considerable level of flexibility in this regard.

In recognition of the relevant facts and improvement of the human rights situation on the ground in Darfur, the draft resolution acknowledges the cooperation of the Government of Sudan and its constructive dialogue with the Group of Experts, as well as Sudan's efforts to implement the recommendations identified by the Group. It urges the Government of Sudan to continue and intensify its efforts to implement these recommendations, and in this context, calls upon the relevant UN Bodies and agencies, in addition to donors, to provide the necessary assistance and support to Sudan.

The draft also calls upon all parties to put an end to all acts of violence against civilians, and on the non-signatory parties to the Darfur Peace Agreement, to join and commit themselves to this Agreement, in compliance with the relevant UN resolutions.

The resolution welcomes the final report of the Group of Experts, as well as the replies of the Government of Sudan thereto, in acknowledgement of the completion of its mission. This should be read in conjunction with the resolution just adopted on the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights Situation in the Sudan, which entrusts the Special Rapporteur with the task of following-up and fostering the implementation of the remaining short-term and medium-term recommendations.

The African Group reiterates its satisfaction with the understandings achieved in this joint effort with the European Union, and looks forward to the adoption of the draft resolution by consensus.

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