



UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION

**Statement of the Sudan Delegation
To the 4th Special Session of the Human Rights Council
Geneva, 12th December 2006**

Check against delivery

Mr. President,

1. Once more, we reiterate our firm belief in, and commitment to the promotion of human rights, and to ridding it of politicization and selectivity. We express also the aspiration of our people and the rest of developing nations to genuine action by the newly born Council in the promotion of these rights without recurring to the exposed practices of the Commission on Human Rights.
2. We state this as the colonizer of the past changes its robes and hides behind the noble slogans of international common action, only to exploit them in continuation of its known record of racial and cultural arrogance. Thus, targeting the Sudan to revenge a humiliating expulsion and to confront this nation and its national options, in an attempt to sever its ties with the mother continent and humanity. The culture of Sudan, its diversity and pluralism are the very reason for which this country is viciously hunted.
3. The change of "tactic" today does not deceive us. Our group and friends dealt in a positive way with the convening of the special session on Darfur. But the motives behind the call differ. For some, it is not the protection and promotion of human rights. Rather, it is tarnishing in turns the dignity, independence and sovereignty of the countries deemed weak, whereas our goal is to faithfully represent the truth. It is certainly a failed endeavour to strike an illusionary balance and resemblance between the three Special Sessions held by the Council and this fourth one.
4. It would have befitted this Council well to convene the session to welcome the Abuja Agreement, or, before this, the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed in January, 2005. Is it then politicization and selectivity?

Mr. President,

5. Being intent in this session to present the truth, we are being offered an opportunity that has never been availed to us in the media of the northern hemisphere. It used to repeat lies about the situation in Darfur until these seemed as representation of the truth. I would like to refer this august house to the statement of Mr. Jonathan Steele,

senior reporter of the Guardian, in a lecture he delivered on 6 July, 2006 in London, and I quote: "the media, in my view, have consistently failed to cover Darfur properly. Bad journalism has helped to prolong the war". He then continued "I believe that the media's role in making heroes out of the rebels and overlooking their misdeeds, as well as in constantly calling for sanctions on Khartoum or even military intervention, have a malign effect".

6. This being the situation with the media, we wonder what ails the High Commissioner and those whom she supervises? The Commission continued to overlook in its monthly and periodic reports the Redemption Front (RF) that was set up after the signing of the Abuja Agreement to undermine this very Agreement. Those reports failed to indicate the violations of (RF). This, unfortunately, contrasts with the statement delivered at the opening of the third session of the Council by Mrs. Louise Arbour, who spoke not only about the right of an occupying power to defend itself but also about its *duty* to do so. We expect that it is the obligation of international officials to observe absolute neutrality in their work and draw a line between their professional obligations and the positions and stands of their countries of origin.
7. Mr. Alfa Omar Konari, Chairman of the African Commission in his report to the 66th session of the African Council of Peace and Security at the level of heads of State; held in Abuja on 29 November 2006 indicated the violations perpetrated by armed groups in Darfur, including killing of civilians and internally displaced persons in their camps, rape, pillage, organized crime and assault on African troops. He indicated also the recruitment by these groups of children as soldiers.
8. We reiterate the concern that the reports of the international media and the High Commissioner not only overlook these violations of the armed groups, but blame the government and its armed forces for such violations. The matter has become a pattern that is repeated whenever it is Darfur that is in question.

Mr. President,

9. The reports of international mechanisms of human rights failed, unfortunately, in making the armed groups bear responsibility for

their violations. They further failed in noting the achievements and positive developments in Darfur following the Abuja Agreement.

10. The High Commissioner adopted a political and unprofessional position partial to the positions of certain countries, in relation to specific important issues such as the Darfur Peace Agreement and the deployment of international peace-keeping force.
11. The African Union in all its documents, and in the statements of the Council of Peace and Security (for instance those of 10 March, 20 September, 30 November 2006), affirmed that resolving the conflict and putting an end to violations lie in the Darfur Peace Agreement.
12. The Commission and the international media coordinated pressures on the government so as to give its consent to the international troops. By doing so, they were oblivious of the fact that these troops are basically a peace-keeping force to preserve the peace concluded by the Abuja Agreement, as there is no other agreement signed, and that this very agreement assigned to the African Union maintaining peace and monitoring the cease-fire.

Mr. President,

13. Facing this situation, the African Union was objective and true to itself when it decided, together with the United Nations, the permanent members of the Security Council and representatives of the Sudan, Congo, Egypt, Gabon, Libya, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, the E.U. and Arab League, on 16 November 2006 in Addis Ababa that :

- The Darfur conflict can only be resolved through a political process,
- The DPA is the only basis for this process and should not be re-negotiated,
- No party outside the DPA should be allowed to undermine its implementation,
- The African Union remains the lead actor in the process of implementing the DPA.

Mr. President,

14. Stability prevails in 80 % of the area of Darfur. Following the Abuja Agreement seven localities only, out of 27 in the three states of Darfur suffer still relative instability. It is quite disheartening to see such a situation being ill-represented and distorted.
15. The Sudan has its own pioneer experience in humanitarian action, and cooperation with the UN and its agencies. A case in point is Operation Life-Line Sudan which was an unprecedented programme that achieved great success. Reminiscent of this success is the present work in Darfur, where the effort of the Government in simplifying regulations for humanitarian organizations such as in the "Fast Track" policy in Darfur, to facilitate the work of these organizations whose number has now exceeded 200, employing 3000 foreign and 15000 local workers.
16. The aforementioned report of the Chairman of the Commission of the African Union, which dealt with the humanitarian health situation states that **"overall malnutrition rates remain statistically below the emergency threshold. 73.3 % of the conflict-affected people now have access to safe water, up from 62.5 % a year ago"**. The report goes on to add: **"I wish also to acknowledge the efforts by the Government of the Sudan and Sudanese humanitarian agencies to provide assistance to the affected population in Darfur."**
17. The statistics made available by the Sudan to international institutions and civil society organizations indicate clearly that incidents of violence against women have been exaggerated. We do not wish to relate again what we explained during the informal consultations on this matter, or the measures taken by the government at the national and state levels to address this unfortunate phenomenon. We assure you that the moral and cultural tradition of the Sudanese people and the laws based on these tenets do not tolerate this very sensitive matter.

Mr. President,

18. The Sudan will continue to be open to dialogue and cooperation to promote human rights in the Sudan generally and in Darfur particularly. However, we are aware of the difference between genuine concerns for human rights and ideological and political drives that push some countries and organizations which control the power, wealth and media in crucial centers in the world. Wars begin first in

the minds of men. Already, there are voices that warn of clash of civilizations. We plead to your conscience and humanity for objectivity and heed the truth. As regards Darfur, this is not going to be the case unless this Council takes this issue in its own hands, and comes forth to support the Peace Agreement, the African Union and the troops it deployed in Darfur. This is the gist of the African draft resolution tabled before you.

19. It is incumbent on the Council to reveal the truth. For it is inconceivable to take it that people die in their thousands in Darfur without this ever be shown on TV as is the case in Iraq, for example.

Finally, Mr. Chairman.

20. The root causes of the conflict in Darfur are economic, relating to the competition for depleting resources which is aggravated by desertification. This led to tribal struggles that did not escape the attention of the government. The Abuja Agreement provided for tribal reconciliations. The Joint Committees established by the Government and the signatory groups are working now in Darfur to implement the text of the Agreement. Many successes have been achieved, including the opening of roads that connect states and towns.

21. We are confident that the contribution of the international community and donors in the peaceful settlement will be decisive if the financial pledges made are fulfilled.

Mr. President,

22. The protagonists of confrontation mobilized and called for this session citing protection of civilians. A noble cause, but for the wrong purpose. They agitated the international media and mobilized countries, groups and individuals against a least-developed country, the Sudan. But this is a country that draws might from its belief in God, its belonging to humanity and its confidence in itself. It is a mobilization that seeks to divert attention from cities being air-bombarded with their population of women, children and the elderly, where more than 400 persons die daily. It attempts further to divert attention from the agony of people under occupation, from detainees suffering in secret detentions in this very continent where we are meeting. Clearly, a blind eye is turned to these horrific violations.

23. Mr. President, We wield no weapon by way of aggression or oppression, as we believe with Jesus Christ that he who lives by the sword perishes by it. We are architects of civilization with absolute tendency towards life.

Mr. President,

24. Having related the foregoing facts, this is an invitation to contemplate whether the end to be achieved by such mobilization and continuing campaigns is genuinely to protect human rights in Darfur or just an ignominious targeting of Sudan, its people, resources and territorial integrity.
