

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 1 April 2009 from the Permanent Representative
of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President
of the Security Council**

It gives me great pleasure to enclose herewith for your information, and through you for the information of members of the Security Council, the agreed outcomes of the Tripartite Committee meeting, comprising the Government of the Sudan, the African Union and the United Nations, held in El Fasher on 31 March 2009. The outcomes demonstrate the strong commitment of the Government of the Sudan to the full deployment of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex were issued as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdalmahmood Abdalhaleem **Mohamad**
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 1 April 2009 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Government of Sudan, African Union and United Nations Tripartite Committee on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

31 March 2009
El Fasher

Agreed outcomes

1. On 31 March 2009 representatives from the Government of Sudan, the African Union (AU), the United Nations and the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) met in El Fasher to conduct the fifth Tripartite Coordination Mechanism meeting in UNAMID. The meeting focused on issues needing further attention and follow-up relating to the UNAMID deployment as well as a review of the current political and security developments in the context of Darfur.
2. The Government of Sudan included representatives from Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Interior, Defence, National Security and Civil Aviation and was led by Lieutenant General Majzoub Al Badawi, Deputy-Director of the National Technical Mechanism for Peacekeeping Operations in Darfur. The Africa Union Commission delegation was led by Mr. Ramtane Lamamra, Commissioner for Peace and Security. The United Nations delegation was led by Under-Secretary-General for Field Support, Ms. Susana Malcorra. The UNAMID delegation was led by the AU/United Nations Joint Special Representative Mr. Rodolphe Adada.
3. In his opening remarks, Commissioner Lamamra reiterated the instrumental value of the tripartite mechanism in facilitating the deployment of UNAMID as evident in the current state of deployment and cooperative nature of the relationship between all parties.
4. UNAMID conducted a state-of-deployment briefing to provide the Government of Sudan, AU and the United Nations with an update on the current deployment and highlight key milestones to occur during the next quarter and towards the end of the year. The participants noted with satisfaction that the deployment of UNAMID has reached 67 per cent by the end of March.
5. The review of the implementation of the agreed outcomes of the last Tripartite meeting focused on the following:
 - (a) Air operations:
 - (i) The United Nations and the AU expressed their appreciation for the efforts of the Government of Sudan to comply with the agreement to restrict the use of white aircraft and for exerting the necessary efforts to distinctly mark Government planes operating in the Darfur area. Since the last Tripartite meeting (held on 18 February 2009), there have been no reports of violations of the agreement.

(ii) Parking space for five Ethiopian tactical helicopters to be deployed: although technical discussions are ongoing, the Government of Sudan noted the request of UNAMID to ensure the co-location of the related 180 personnel responsible for operating, servicing and securing Ethiopian tactical helicopters. The Government of Sudan, while noting space constraints within the airfield, agreed that the necessary measures would be taken by the Sudanese Civil Aviation Authorities to ensure operational priorities, including the co-location of pilots, flight crew and necessary staff within the airport. The remaining personnel linked to the tactical helicopter deployment would be located near the airport.

(b) Railways: The United Nations has taken two approaches to address the issue of the railway. The first, a short-term approach, envisages addressing the maintenance of the lines at the minimum level required to ensure the rail-line remains operational. In mid- to long-term approach, engagement with the United Nations Development Programme is planned to define the scope of action that can be undertaken, including financial resources to upgrade the capacity of the railway. The Government of Sudan agreed with this strategy.

(c) Visas: The Government of Sudan reiterated its commitment to continue facilitating the issuance and processing of visa requests as agreed previously with UNAMID. However, the Government of Sudan reminded UNAMID of the need to submit all visa requests through the already established UNAMID and Government of Sudan mechanism.

(d) Local procurement capacity:

(i) UNAMID informed participants that since the last Tripartite meeting, held on 18 February 2009, purchase orders worth \$7.1 million were issued to local companies. UNAMID reiterated its commitment to continue to work with Sudanese construction companies and hopes that more Darfurian companies will respond to invitations to bid. UNAMID has been taking steps to ensure the inclusion of local companies through the various seminars and conferences.

(ii) UNAMID has issued an information circular to all its affiliated contractors to comply fully with local rules, regulations and laws.

(e) National staff: UNAMID has reached 62 per cent of the total authorized strength for the national recruitment and this percentage will increase as the deployment progresses.

(f) Police:

(i) The AU, the United Nations and the Government of Sudan have acknowledged with appreciation the continuous cooperation between the UNAMID and the Sudanese Police. Since its establishment, UNAMID Police has trained more than 2,000 national police on issues relating but not limited to investigations, human rights, crime scene management and gender-based violence. This programme will increase as training centres are established and equipped in Nyala and El Geneina. UNAMID committed to assist in this regard as it did in El Fasher.

(ii) UNAMID has agreed to provide maintenance service for the police vehicles made available during convoy protection as of 1 April 2009.

(iii) UNAMID has further committed to lend vehicles to Sudanese Police during UNAMID convoy protection.

(iv) UNAMID has expressed its appreciation to the Government of Sudan for providing national police forces to secure the UNAMID camps in the three main areas of deployment.

(g) Radio: The Government of Sudan agreed to a bridging solution while the final approval for the UNAMID broadcasting licences is finalized. The solution envisages the use of the FM and MW wave for the Darfur States Radio Stations for a set number of hours per day. In addition to the use of the Darfur radio stations, the Government of Sudan has offered the use of Al-Salam Radio. UNAMID expressed its gratitude for the interim solution while noting the need to expedite the issuances of the required licences in accordance with the status-of-forces agreement.

(h) Assets of the international non-governmental organizations whose licences were revoked: The Government of Sudan agreed to honour the custodian role of UNAMID until a final solution is reached according to the signed agreement between the Government of Sudan and the international non-governmental organizations.

(i) Safety and security for UNAMID: The Government of Sudan has reiterated its commitment to the full protection of UNAMID personnel, assets and premises. UNAMID expressed its appreciation for the Sudan Police support during the investigation of the tragic murder of the Nigerian soldier.

6. In conclusion, the Government of Sudan, AU and the United Nations expressed their satisfaction with the progress achieved through the Tripartite Mechanism and resolved to hold its meeting at the beginning of June 2009 in Darfur.

For the Government of Sudan
Lieutenant General
(Signed) Majzoub **Al Badawi**

For the African Union
Commissioner
(Signed) Ramtane **Lamamra**

For the United Nations
Under-Secretary-General, Department of Field Support
(Signed) Susana **Malcorra**