

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

P.O. Box: 3243, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Tel.: (251-1) 51 38 22 Fax: (251-1) 51 93 21

Email: oau-ews@telecom.net.et

Rev. 1

**THIRD ROUND OF THE
INTER-SUDANESE PEACE TALKS ON DARFUR**

**ABUJA, NIGERIA
21 OCTOBER – 9 NOVEMBER 2004**

CHAIRMAN'S CONCLUSIONS

Third Round of the Inter-Sudanese Peace Talks on Darfur
Abuja, Nigeria, 21 October – 9 November 2004

CHAIRMAN'S CONCLUSIONS

1. The Third Round of the Inter-Sudanese Peace Talks on Darfur was held in Abuja, Nigeria, from 21st October to 9 November 2004, under the auspices of the African Union (AU). In attendance were the representatives of the Government of the Sudan (GoS), the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A).

2. This Round was also attended, in an observer capacity, by the following AU partners: the United Nations (UN), the European Union (EU) Presidency (Netherlands) and Commission, the League of Arab States (LAS), France, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. Canada, Germany and Italy attended as invited guests.

3. The present Round was a follow-up to the 2nd Round held in Abuja, from 23 August to 17 September 2004, and during which the Parties adopted an agenda comprising the following items:

- Humanitarian Issues;
- Security Issues;
- Political Issues; and
- Socio-economic Issues.

4. It should be recalled that, during the 2nd Round, a Protocol on the Improvement of the Humanitarian Situation in Darfur (hereinafter the Humanitarian Protocol) was agreed upon but not signed. The Parties also initiated discussions on the Protocol on the Enhancement of the Security Situation in Darfur, in accordance with the N'djamena Agreement (hereinafter the Security Protocol).

5. During the present Round, the Parties finalized the Protocol on the Enhancement of the Security Situation in Darfur, thus paving the way for the signing, on 9 November 2004, of both the Humanitarian and the Security Protocols. We are grateful that this signing ceremony is being attended by President Olusegun Obasanjo, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Chairman of the AU.

6. It should also be added that, during the present Round of Talks, the Parties have initiated the discussions on the item agenda on political issues. Based on their written submissions, as well as the separate consultations held with the Mediation Team, a draft Declaration of Principles (DoP) was prepared.

7. The draft DoP outlines the broad principles that should guide the future deliberations of the Parties and constitute the basis for a just, comprehensive and durable settlement of the conflict in Darfur. It addresses a number of issues, including:

- the need to recognize and accommodate the diversity of the Sudanese society, as a way of enhancing the unity of the Sudan;
- the promotion of democracy, political pluralism and the rule of law, as a basis for the effective participation of all Sudanese citizens in the management of their own affairs at all levels of governance;
- the affirmation of citizenship as a basis for civil and political rights and duties;
- the establishment of a federal system of government, with an effective devolution of powers and a clear distribution of responsibilities between the national and other level of governance;
- the effective representation in government institutions at national level to ensure effective participation by all regions and communities, including those from Darfur;
- the equitable distribution of the national wealth, to ensure the effectiveness of the devolution of power in Darfur;
- combating impunity and ensuring that human rights violations has swiftly and effectively investigated and addressed;
- the inalienable right of refugees and IDPs to return to their places of origins;
- the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Darfur, as a priority;
- the need to address environmental degradation in Darfur, as well as disputes over water resources and land ownership and use;
- the need to address broad security arrangements to consolidate the restoration of peace; and
- the need to secure the full support of the people of Darfur to facilitate the effective implementation of agreements reached regarding the comprehensive settlement of the conflict in Darfur.

8. The draft DoP was revised twice to take into account additional inputs and observations by the Parties. The GoS has accepted the two successive revised versions of the draft DoP, while the Movements have put forward additional observations.

9. The Mediation Team sincerely hopes that, by the beginning of the next round of Talks, the DoP will be agreed upon. This is all the more crucial as this document will make it possible to address the generic issues of power and wealth sharing, broad security arrangements and other related matters.

10. The Mediation Team would like, once again, to stress the need to expedite the conclusion of the Talks, to alleviate the untold suffering of the civilian population in Darfur. Equally important is the need for the Parties to scrupulously comply with the N'djamena Ceasefire Agreement of 8 April 2004 and the provisions of the Humanitarian and Security Protocol.

11. The Mediation Team would like to express its gratitude to President Olusegun Obasanjo, Chairman of the AU, for his active role and continued commitment to the promotion of reconciliation and lasting peace in the Sudan. It also expresses appreciation to the Chairperson of the AU Commission, for his contribution in facilitating the conclusion of the present round of Talks, which role was acknowledged by the Chairman of the AU.

12. The Mediation Team also expresses appreciation for the support of the AU partners attending the Talks as observers.

13. The next Round of the Inter-Sudanese Peace Talks on Darfur will be held in Abuja around the 9th of December 2004. The detailed agenda of this Round will be communicated by the AU Commission in due course.