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## **PRESS RELEASE**

The Fourth Round of the Inter-Sudanese Peace Talks on Darfur between the Government of the Sudan (GoS), the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A), organized under the auspices of the African Union (AU) with the support of the international community, ended, today, in Abuja, Nigeria, with a commitment by the Parties to respect the Ceasefire Agreement signed in N'djamena, Chad, on 8 April 2004, and the two Protocols signed in Abuja, Nigeria, on 9 November 2004, and to seek a peaceful solution to the conflict in Darfur.

In their statement, the Parties requested the AU to rapidly ensure the full operationalization of AMIS and the strengthening of the Ceasefire Commission to enable these mechanisms to ensure the effective implementation of the Humanitarian Ceasefire Agreement and the two Protocols that were signed.

In order to ensure the verification of the commitments taken by the Parties during the 4<sup>th</sup> Round of the Talks, the Joint Commission is requested to convene as early as possible to finalize the plan to strengthen the Commission and to ensure a more proactive verification of the situation on the ground in Darfur, particularly as it relates to the location of the Parties and the disarmament of the Janjaweed/armed militia.

This Fourth Round of the Inter-Sudanese Peace Talks, which reviewed the security situation in Darfur, was attended by the international community and AU Partners.

**Abuja, 21 December 2004**

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