

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

---

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, P.O. Box: 3243 Tel.: (251-11) 5513 822 Fax: (251-11) 5519 321

Email: [situationroom@africa-union.org](mailto:situationroom@africa-union.org)

---

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Addis Ababa, 15 July 2011:** The Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Dr. Jean Ping, welcomes the signing of the Darfur Outcome Document in Doha, Qatar, on 14 July 2011, by the Government of the Republic of Sudan and the Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM). This important event was witnessed by His Highness Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar and attended by the President of the Republic of Sudan, Omar Hassan al-Bashir, as well as the heads of State of Burkina Faso, Chad, Eritrea and the Prime Minister of the Central African Republic. The AU Commission was represented at the signing ceremony by the Deputy Chairperson, Erastus Mwencha.

The Chairperson congratulates the two parties who have signed the agreement for their courage and for putting the interests of the Darfurian people above any other considerations. He considers this as a positive development that will greatly contribute in bringing about sustainable peace, security and development to the people of Darfur who so richly deserve it. He also commends the efforts made by the State of Qatar, and, in particular, the work accomplished for the last three years by Ahmed Bin Abdullah Al-Mahmoud, the Qatari State Minister for Foreign Affairs and Djibril Bassolé, the former AU-UN Joint Chief Mediator and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Burkina Faso.

The Chairperson is of a strong view that the signing of the Agreement by the Government of Sudan and LJM will now pave the way for the start of the Darfur-based political process as it has been agreed by the AU and UN and endorsed by the Communiqué issued at the end of the All Darfur Stakeholders Conference on 31 May 2011. The AU High level implementation Panel (AUHIP) and the AU-UN hybrid operation in Darfur (UNAMID) are prepared to facilitate the Darfur Peace Process (DPP), as soon as possible. In this regard, the Chairperson reiterates his call to the other armed rebel movements to cease hostilities in Darfur and join the peace process so as to put an end to the suffering of the Darfurian people.