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**DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION**

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**UNAMID CRITICAL IN ENSURING PEACE IN DARFUR-  
AUC DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON**



**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia 28 November**

**2011-** It is important that the African Union accompany Sudan in her peace efforts, especially in view of the successes that have been registered so far as well as the existing and potential threats to that peace. In this capacity, the role of UNAMID (African Union/UN Hybrid operation in Darfur) is critical.

This was said today by the African Union Commission's Deputy Chairperson (DCP) Mr Erastus when he met the UNAMID Joint Special Representative (JSR) and Joint Chief Mediator Professor Ibrahim Gambari,

who was at the Commission to brief the AU Peace and Security Council on the situation in Darfur and also to invite the DCP to visit the UNAMID headquarters later this year. In the meeting, Mr Mwencha expressed the AU's satisfaction with the level of interaction. The interaction helps the two parties to coordinate strategy and enhance the AU's joint ownership, with the United Nations of UNAMID.

Prof Gambari briefed the Deputy Chairperson on critical issues surrounding the Darfur peace process. Since the signing of the Darfur Peace agreement on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2011 between the Sudanese Government and the Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM), there has been demonstrable progress. A meeting of the international follow up group was held in Doha, Qatar in September, which was witnessed by the Deputy Chairperson on behalf of the Commission. The Ceasefire Commission (CFC), (which will monitor violations of the agreement, various older accords and dialogue among parties that have signed, as well as ensure the safety of those implementing the accords), has met 8 times since then; and arrangements are underway for the joint commission on 18 December. In addition, the Government of Sudan has made two appointments that are positive for the peace process that is the appointment of the

governor for Darfur and of the chairperson of the Darfur Regional Authority. Prof Gambari hailed the appointments, saying they would provide UNAMID with partners for the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD).

Prof Gambari also noted that the number of fatalities between government forces and armed groups has reduced by 70%, and this is helping in UNAMID's efforts to protect civilians. UNAMID, he said, is now working to support reconstruction and voluntary return of Darfuris to their homeland.

The UNAMID JSR however also flagged some areas of concern, calling on the AU to keep pressure to avoid a flaring up of military tensions in the region, which could potentially wipe out any progress that has been made so far. In this regard, he announced that UNAMID would, in the near future undertake visits to a number of African capitals to improve the prospects for peace.

UNAMID was established on 31 July 2007 with the adoption of Security Council resolution 1769 . It has the protection of civilians as its core mandate, but is also tasked with contributing to security for humanitarian assistance, monitoring and verifying implementation of agreements, assisting an inclusive political process, contributing to the promotion of human rights and the rule of law, and monitoring and reporting on the situation along the borders with Chad and the Central African Republic (CAR).

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With additional information from the UNAMID website