

**STATEMENT BY DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON E. MWENCHA ON THE OCCASION OF THE SIGNING CEREMONY OF THE DARFUR PEACE AGREEMENT**

Your Highness the Emir of Qatar  
Your Excellency the President of the Republic of Sudan,  
Your Excellencies Invited Heads of State and Government  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Chairperson of the AU Commission, Dr. Jean Ping and the whole AU Commission, let me express my sincere thanks and gratitude to the State of Qatar for having hosted the Darfur Peace negotiations since 2008, in the most fraternal, patient and generous manner. Today's historic event for the signing of the Darfur Peace Agreement is a testimony to the crucial role played by the State of Qatar in the search for peace in Darfur. The AU is also particularly grateful to the AU-UN Joint Chief Mediator and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Djibril Bassole and the Qatari Minister of State Al- Mahmoud for the tireless efforts they have made on our behalf, and for 3 years in the search for a lasting solution to the Darfur crisis. On this unique occasion, they deserve to be commended for what has been achieved.

Your Highness,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our considered view in the African Union is that the Doha outcome document that has just been signed by the Government of Sudan and the Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM) is a genuine expression of the will of the Darfurian people. This is evidenced by the discussions that took place during the All Darfur Stakeholders Conference in Doha at the end of May last. Indeed, what the Darfurian Stakeholders freely said when they met here from 28 to 31 May, was a clear reminder for all of us that they were tired of war and its terrible consequences and wanted NOW sustainable peace and security in Darfur.

As a result of today's Agreement, we continue to strongly believe that securing peace in their country lies with the Sudanese themselves. However, we have the duty and obligations as international community to support our brothers and sisters in Sudan for the implementation of their commitments for peace. At the same time, the AU reiterates its appeal to the rebel movements who have not yet joined the peace process to do so, for the sake of peace that will allow the people of Darfur to return to normal life they so richly deserve.

Ladies and Gentleman,

The AU and the UN agreed that the conflict in Darfur had yet to be addressed in the framework of its causes and consequences. In order to pursue such an objective, one of the tracks in Darfur will be to engage soon in an inclusive and Sudan-based Darfur Process. The final communiqué issued by the All Darfur

Stakeholders Conference has acknowledges the need to do so. In this regard, the AU and the UN will discuss in the coming days ways and means of implementing the Darfur Peace Process (DPP), in close coordination and partnership with UNAMID. Indeed, one of the key recommendations of the AU Panel on Darfur is to resolve the conflict in Darfur through an all inclusive process addressing the issues of peace, justice and reconciliation in an integrated, comprehensive and mutually reinforcing manner. As the process in Doha has drawn now towards a conclusion, the African Union is therefore of the view that international efforts should be exerted to carry forward the aspirations of the people of Darfur, to bring home to them the process of realizing a lasting solution to the crisis.

Your Highness the Emir of the State of Qatar,  
Your Excellency the President of the Republic of Sudan  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the parties for their achievements and to appeal to the international community at large to assist them in achieving sustainable peace and development in Darfur.  
I thank you.