

The Chairmen's Conclusions from the Arusha Consultations

At the invitation of the AU and UN Special Envoys for Darfur, Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim and Mr. Jan Eliasson, leading personalities of the Darfur Movements held consultations in Ngurdoto, Arusha, Tanzania, from 3 to 6 August 2007. The regional countries Chad, Egypt, Eritrea and Libya also participated in the meeting. Several Field Commanders were also present.

The Arusha meeting aimed at creating an enabling environment for the non-signatories to meet and consult amongst themselves, with other participants and the Special Envoys in order to facilitate the preparations for the negotiations.

The discussions focussed on the following issues: (a) Need for a common negotiation platform of the Movements for the resumed talks; (b) Criteria and level of participation in the final negotiations; (c) Agenda and venue for the renewed talks; (d) Inclusion of the concerns of IDPs, refugees, tribal leaders, women and other civil society groups; and (e) Security and humanitarian matters.

The meeting stressed that the conflict in Darfur can have no military solution and that a political solution is of utmost urgency.

The Representatives of the Darfur Movements present:

- I. Reaffirmed their commitment to the Road-Map of the Special Envoys for re-energising the political process;
- II. Expressed their commitment and readiness to fully participate in the forthcoming negotiations under the leadership of the AU/UN in partnership with regional actors, and with the support of the international community;
- III. Presented a common platform on power sharing, wealth sharing, security arrangements, land/hawakeer and humanitarian issues, for the final negotiations. They also recommended that final talks should be held between 2-3 months from now in countries of the regional initiatives or in any other country that the mediation considers suitable in terms of environment and facilities, to ensure the success of the negotiations;
- IV. Decided to keep open the possibility for those who were invited but did not participate in the Arusha Consultations, to join their common platform, in order to have an inclusive representation of the movements in the final negotiations;
- V. Reiterated their readiness to respect a complete cessation of hostilities provided that all other Parties make similar commitments;

- VI. Expressed their commitment to allow free access to humanitarian aid agencies, to refrain from any act of hostilities against the personnel and assets of the African Mission in the Sudan (AMIS), as well as against humanitarian organisations in Darfur;
- VII. Welcomed the adoption of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1769 on 31 July 2007, which authorised the deployment of the Hybrid Operation and expressed support for the ongoing political process. They also pledged their full co-operation for the implementation of the Hybrid Operation, bearing in mind that it would contribute to ending violence and insecurity on the ground;
- VIII. Urged the Special Envoys to continue and finalize their consultations with IDPs, refugees, traditional leaders and civil society organisations, including women's groups in an effort to develop a mechanism to channel their views and positions into the final negotiations.

The Special Envoys welcomed these common positions as an important development in the preparations for the negotiations. They also commended the representatives of the movements for the seriousness they demonstrated during the consultations.

With respect to the issues relating to the negotiations, inter alia, venue, timing and cessation of hostilities, the Special Envoys will consult the Government of the Sudan and other stakeholders, bearing in mind the views expressed by the representatives of the movements.

During the Consultations, the representatives of the movements expressed their concern over the situation of Mr. Suleiman Jamous. The Special Envoys recalled that they had taken up this issue on several occasions with the Government of the Sudan. They expressed their intention to pursue the matter in view of the role Mr. Jamous can play in the political process.

The Participants expressed gratitude and appreciation to the Government and People of the United Republic of Tanzania for hosting the meeting and for the generous hospitality extended to the participants.

Ngurdoto, Arusha, 6 August 2007