



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **THE MEDIATION TEAM FOR THE INTER-SUDANESE PEACE TALKS BEGINS THE FIRST WORKSHOP ON POWER SHARING FOR THE PARTIES**

The first Workshop of a series that the Mediation Team is organizing for the Parties to the sixth Round of the African Union-sponsored Inter-Sudanese Peace Talks on Darfur, was formally opened today, Sunday 18 September 2005, by the Special Envoy of the Chairperson of the AU Commission for Darfur Talks and Chief Mediator, Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim. Two Sessions were planned for today's Workshop, which was on Power Sharing.

Chaired by the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the AU Commission for Sudan, Amb. Baba Gana Kingibe, the morning Session dealt with the General Aspects of State Construction in the Context of the Interim Constitution. In this Session, Presenter Dr. Marc Weller, a Lawyer and Lecturer at the University of Cambridge talked about the lessons learnt on Power Sharing in Ethnic Settlements. He underscored the different types of political system and recalled that power sharing does not mean sharing ministries but making sure that the different territorial entities and their competencies are represented. His presentation was followed by a lengthy discussion during which participants from the Government of the Sudan (GoS), the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) expressed their views on the topic.

The afternoon Session, which was chaired by Amb. John Yates from the United States of America, had Mr. Mark Simmons, a British Expert, as Presenter. His presentation, which focused on Transition, Democratization, Accountability and Confidence Building, was followed, like during in the morning Session, by discussions.

The Workshop on Power Sharing will continue tomorrow with a presentation on Power Sharing in the Context of Conflict Transformation by Dr. Domenico Polloni, an UN Expert, which will be followed by lectures on a Clarification of existing Agreements, particularly the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), the Interim Constitution as well as the Declaration of Principles and on Mozambique and DRC's cases.

Two other Workshops on Wealth Sharing and Security Arrangements are scheduled for the rest of the week, before the discussion on these substantive issues.

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