

AFRICAN UNION
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**AFRICAN UNION CHAIRMAN BRIEFS AFRICAN GROUP IN NEW YORK AND
ANNOUNCES RESUMPTION OF INTER-SUDANESE POLITICAL TALKS ON
DARFUR IN ABUJA ON 21 OCTOBER 2004**

In a meeting convened at the African Union Office in New York, H.E. Mr. Olusegun Obasanjo, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Chairperson of the African Union and Professor Alpha Oumar Konaré, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, addressed the African Group of Ambassadors to the United Nations, and briefed them on a wide range of issues of concern to the African Union, in particular the situation in the Darfur region of the Sudan.

The African Union Chairman provided an extensive update on the ongoing efforts of the African Union to assist the Sudanese parties to reach a political settlement of the crisis in Darfur.

He highlighted the progress made during the last series of talks held in Abuja, and announced the resumption of the talks scheduled to commence 21st October 2002 in Abuja.

Meanwhile, consultations are envisaged to pave the way for the resumption of the talks while efforts are also being pursued towards the strengthening of the African Union mission in the Sudan.

New York, 23 September 2004