

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



AFRICAN UNION

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**STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMISSION
ON THE 5TH ROUND OF INTER-SUDANESE PEACE TALKS
ON DARFUR, IN ABUJA, NIGERIA**

1. The Chairperson of the AU Commission, Alpha Oumar Konaré, while welcoming the current calm generally maintained by the Sudanese parties in Darfur, nevertheless remains concerned over the slow pace of the negotiations in Abuja arising from the entrenched positions adopted by the Parties during the ongoing discussions on the Declaration of Principles (DoP).
2. Recalling the very serious impact of the conflict on the generality of the people of Darfur, especially the women, children, the elderly and other vulnerable groups, both refugees and internally displaced persons, the Chairperson underscores the fact that the core of the conflict in Darfur is political and socio-economic, which requires a negotiated political solution. In this context, he remains convinced that the Abuja Peace Talks provide the most viable mechanism to accomplish that objective.
3. The Chairperson of the Commission also wishes to reaffirm his full confidence in Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim, the AU Special Envoy and Mediator, under whose authority the Fifth Round of the Inter-Sudanese Peace Talks are being conducted in Abuja, with the personal support of H.E. Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, current Chairman of the AU. Dr. Salim is also supported by the Teams from the AU Commission, the Republic of Chad and the other African Facilitators and the Observers from AU Partner countries. The Chairperson believes that the people of Darfur, especially the refugees and the IDPs, are anxiously awaiting the outcome of the negotiations to reach a comprehensive peace agreement on the more important issues of power and wealth sharing, as well as on security arrangements, to consolidate peace in Darfur.

4. The Chairperson wishes to express appreciation to President Idriss Deby, his Government and the people of Chad for the efforts deployed to end the conflict in Darfur. He also expresses appreciation for the support

extended by the Facilitators and observers. It remains his hope that they will all continue to extend maximum support to the Mediator and to do their utmost to encourage the parties to reach an early agreement on the couple of issues outstanding on the DoP.

5. Finally the Chairperson strongly appeals to the Sudanese Parties to extend full cooperation to the Mediator and to earnestly expedite negotiations on the Power Sharing, a Wealth Sharing and Security Arrangements issues in good faith, with flexibility, and in a spirit of mutual compromise. While expressing appreciation for past support, the Chairperson of the Commission appeals to all the international partners to continue to support the Abuja Talks and the African Union Mission in the Sudan (AMIS).

Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

2nd July 2005