



## **PRESS RELEASE N013**

### **THE AU SPECIAL ENVOY FOR THE DARFUR TALKS AND CHIEF MEDIATOR WELCOMES THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE NETHERLANDS TO THE SIXTH ROUND OF THE TALKS**

The AU Special Envoy for the Darfur Talks and Chief Mediator, Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim expressed appreciation of the African Union to the Government of The Netherlands for the support the latter has been providing to the continental organization in its efforts to bring about peace in Darfur. The Special Envoy made this statement today, Tuesday 4 October 2005, during the special plenary meeting organized, on the occasion of the visit of Dr. Jan Peter Balkenende, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of The Netherlands, who seized the opportunity to address the participants to the Sixth Round of the Inter-Sudanese Peace Talks on Darfur.

The Prime Minister reiterated his Government's readiness to continue to support the African Union and its Mission in Sudan. He saluted Dr. Salim and the Sudanese Parties for having gathered in Abuja, ready to negotiate a fair deal for the people for Darfur. He also called on the Parties to negotiate in good faith, listen carefully and respectfully to the other parties to try to understand their positions. Unless the Sudanese Parties make a difference in Abuja, the future of the many refugees and internally displaced people, who face hunger and misery on a daily basis, is not going to change for the better, according to him.

Dr. Jan Peter Balkenende also appealed to the Sudanese Parties to stop the violations of the ceasefire. " The recent and serious violations of the ceasefire do not contribute to an environment of trust", he declared before pleading to them to make tough decisions that will lead to peace in the Darfur.

Stressing the support of the International Community to the Peace Process, the Prime Minister expressed the willingness of the latter to see results. " The International Community cannot go on spending resources on problems which should already have been resolved and still can be resolved in the coming months", he said.

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**Press Contact:**

Mr. Assane BA: Tel + 234 806 564 4914

Mr. Moussa Hamani: Tel + 234 806 529 4818