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African Union High Level Implementation Panel on Sudan (AUHIP)
Mecca Street, Riyadh, P. O. Box 8372, Khartoum, Sudan. www.africa-union.org

STATEMENT OF THE AUHIP

COMMENCEMENT OF NEGOTIATIONS ON FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT AND OUTSTANDING CPA-RELATED ISSUES

Negotiations to resolve outstanding issues related to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and post-Referendum arrangements amongst the Sudanese parties, the National Congress Party (NCP) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), began in Khartoum today.

Facilitated by the African Union High Level Implementation Panel on Sudan (AUHIP), the talks will consider a framework agreement within which the parties will pursue all matters serving on the agenda as well as detailed consideration of the specific matters.

These include finding a solution to the Abyei question, the north and south border, popular consultation in Blue Nile and South Khordofan States, security arrangements between the north and the south, citizenship, oil and economic co-operation.

Opening the meeting, AUHIP Chairperson, former South African President, Thabo Mbeki, said that previous experience, including the signing and implementation of the CPA, suggests that the parties are capable of reaching agreement in these negotiations.

By agreement of both parties, the United Nations Mission in Sudan and the United States Government will observe the negotiations.

Both parties expressed their determination to finding an agreement as soon as possible which will communicate a positive message about the country to the people of Sudan, Africa and the rest of the world.

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