

Approved by the Deputy Secretary-General

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Report of the Secretary-General on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 2296 (2016), by which the Council extended the mandate of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) until 30 June 2017 and requested that I report, every 90 days, on its implementation. The report provides an update and analysis of the conflict and the political situation, as well as the operational environment in Darfur, including the main challenges to effective mandate implementation, from 15 June to 15 September 2016. The report also presents the steps taken by UNAMID towards achieving its benchmarks and describes progress made towards the implementation of the recommendations of the Secretary-General and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, as presented in their joint report of 8 June 2016 (S/2016/510) and endorsed in resolution 2296 (2016). Finally, the report provides an update on the transfer of tasks to the United Nations Country Team and the development of an exit strategy for UNAMID.

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II. Conflict dynamics and security situation

A. Current trends and conflict dynamics in Darfur

2. Following the intense fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Sudan Liberation Army/Abdul Wahid (SLA/AW) in the Jebel Marra, between January and May 2016, since June, there have been only sporadic ground skirmishes, along with reports of aerial bombardment in the same area. A seasonal spike in violence between pastoralists and farmers occurred in the overall Darfur amidst a reduction in the number of large-scale inter-communal clashes. Meanwhile, instances of criminality, including banditry, attacks on Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), and Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV), remained a significant driver of insecurity across Darfur.

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Fighting between Government forces and rebel groups

3. As a result of its recent air and ground military operations, the Government of Sudan partially succeeded in limiting SLA/AW's area of operations by uprooting its fighters from several of its bases in the foothills of the Jebel Marra. However, SLA/AW continued to maintain pockets of presence in areas close to Sortony, North Darfur, and prevented an SAF takeover of the main mountainous part of the Jebel Marra in Central Darfur, in particular the area east of Nertiti, south of Golo and between Rockero and Golo.

4. In order to sustain military gains in the Jebel Marra by securing unhindered freedom of movement near bases captured from SLA/AW in Kutrum and Sarrong, SAF launched several attacks on

rebel positions from these areas. On 20 June, the SAF attempted to capture Kwila, 20 km northeast of Nertiti in Central Darfur. The SLA/AW retaliated with an attack against a SAF base in Boldon, Central Darfur, 18 km southeast of Nertiti. On 27 June, Government forces attacked SLA/AW locations in Tui and Korambe in North Darfur, 3 km east of Sortony. In apparent support to SAF and to prevent SLA/AW forces from securing logistical supplies, armed Arabs, mostly from the Northern Rezeigat, and some suspected of being members of the Rapid Support Force (RSF), continued to maintain a watchful presence to monitor the Kabkabiya-Sortony route in North Darfur.

5. While the Government announced a unilateral ceasefire on 30 June, intermittent skirmishes between SAF and SLA/AW continued throughout July and August. On 7 August, the SAF conducted aerial bombardments targeting SLA/AW positions in the areas of Konda and Boranga, 20km east of Nertiti. SLA/AW forces reportedly retaliated with an attack against a SAF position in Kutrum, east of Nertiti, on 8 August. SAF aircraft reportedly carried out further aerial bombardments in Boldon, east of Nertiti, on 27 August. UNAMID was unable to verify these reports, including the number of casualties reported in the media, due to the Government of Sudan's repeated refusal to grant access to the area, citing security reasons.

6. As stated in previous reports, there was no military engagement between the SAF and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) or the Sudan Liberation Army/Minni Minnawi (SLA/MM) during the reporting period.

Local conflicts and inter-communal violence

7. During the reporting period, there was an overall reduction in the number of inter-communal security incidents, particularly as a result of a more effective involvement of the Native Administration as well as the impact of security measures taken by the State Governments, including the expedient deployment of security forces, establishment of buffer zones in hot spots and the prevention of the use of compensation money (*diya*) as an extortion tool. With the beginning of the farming season in June, however, disputes over access to land resulted in several security incidents.

8. In West Darfur, on 22 June, the Awlad Janoub sub-clan of the nomadic Northern Rezeigat clashed with the sedentary Mahadi over land ownership in the Umtajok area, east of El Geneina, resulting in 23 fatalities, including one SAF soldier, the destruction of 12 Mahadi villages and the displacement of approximately 7,000 to 8,000 people. SAF and police personnel were deployed to the area to contain the situation. Despite the signing of a peace agreement between the two sides on 22 July, the Mahadi tribal leadership expressed dissatisfaction due to the absence of provisions on compensation (*diya*) and the continued occupation of their land by the Awlad Janoub. On 25 June, Misseriya Jebel and the Awlad Zaid sub-clan of the Northern Rezeigat clashed over farming and grazing dispute in Seleah, West Darfur, resulting in three fatalities. The Government forces arrested two persons in relation to the incidents. On 11 August, the Wali of West Darfur State, Khalil Abdalla Mohamed, was relieved of his position by a presidential decree. The same decree appointed Fadalmula Haggo, a former Member of Parliament from Sinar State as his successor. According to media sources, the previous Wali's tenure was characterized by several inter-communal security incidents in

the state, uneasy relations with the leaders of local communities and a certain irritation of the central authorities at a lack of progress in facilitating the return of IDPs and refugees from Chad.

9. In Central Darfur, after an alleged cattle rustling incident by armed militiamen on 20 and 21 June, 17,000 persons fled Thur village and Thur East and sought refuge near a SAE base in the area. Ten people were reportedly killed and many others injured. Relative calm returned after the Native Administration returned most of the cattle to their owners. On 4 July, following a cattle-rustling incident involving suspected SLA/AW members, armed Nawaiba abducted five Fur in Kude Mara, north-east of Nertiti. The kidnapped persons were released on 18 July following the intervention of a local conflict resolution committee, the traditional leadership and state authorities. The Fur and Nawaiba agreed that local farmers would have unrestricted access to land in the area.

10. In South Darfur, Fallata herdsmen, aided by the Rezeigat, attacked Massalit farmers in Um Assal, west of Graid, South Darfur, killing three of the latter group and preventing other farmers from accessing farmland. Government forces were immediately deployed to the area to contain the tension and arrested seven suspects in relation to the incidents. On 20 July, under the facilitation of the Governor of South Darfur, the leaders of the two groups signed another cessation of hostilities agreement, committing to implement the terms of their previous accords from September 2015 and May 2016 and the State Government's decrees aimed at facilitating a peaceful migration and farming season. On 22 and 27 August, however, the

situation deteriorated once again with Fallata herders attacking Massalit farmers in the Towiel and Nabbagaya areas located, respectively, east and west of Graid, resulting in the death of nine Massalit, two Government police personnel and injury to 12 people. In North Darfur, on 14 August, Arab militia attacked Zaghawa herders in Ba'asheem village, north-west of Mellit killing three of them, injuring two, abducting five and stealing livestock.

11. In East Darfur, the conflict over land ownership between the Southern Rezeigat and the Ma'alia remains unresolved. However, despite the continuation of security incidents between the two communities related to cattle-rustling, the swift intervention of their local leadership, as well as the presence of Government forces in the area, prevented a further escalation of violence. On 1 and 2 August, cattle-rustling-related fighting between the Agarba sub-group of the Ma'alia and the Southern Rezeigat in the Keilkeili area, East Darfur, led to five fatalities and seven injuries. Under the facilitation of the Government, the two groups signed a peace agreement to end the fighting in El Muglad, West Kordofan, on 27 August, yet, on 3 September, representatives of all of the Ma'alia sub-clans, protested against the agreement in Adilla, claiming that it was not inclusive of the whole Ma'alia community and that it was not signed by the actual representatives of the Agarba.

12. Moreover, the Government's attempts to impose security measures and address the consequences of the fighting in April 2016 in East Darfur resulted in an increase in tensions with both groups. On 28 June, after the fatal shooting of one of their soldiers in El Daein, SAF aborted an attempt to apprehend Southern Rezeigat militia suspected of involvement in the attack

on the Governor's residence. On 4 July, nine SAF personnel were killed in heavy exchanges of fire with Southern Rezeigat militia in the area between Um Waragat and Giawazat, west of El Daein. Amidst reports of further mobilization of Southern Rezeigat militias in the area, on 6 July, the Governor of East Darfur announced that persons involved in the attacks in April 2016 would not be prosecuted. On 10 July, Ma'alia youth held a protest, which took place without security incident, against the Governor's decision in Adilla and demanded the release of their own kinsmen being held by state authorities for various offenses.

Criminality and banditry

Criminal incidents targeting Internally Displaced Persons

13. A total of 38 criminal incidents targeting IDPs, including murder, rape and abductions, perpetrated by opportunistic criminals or ethnic militia were reported to UNAMID Police. In some cases, the murders and rape formed part of a broader strategy of intimidation directed against the displaced population in order to prevent them from undertaking farming activities outside the camps in their areas of origin. In cases of abductions, Government authorities and Arab leaders have often taken actions and negotiated the release of the victims.

14. UNAMID continued to patrol both inside and outside displacement camps and gathering sites to serve as a deterrent to criminals and to offer protection to their residents. The Mission maintained a continuous presence in the displacement sites to monitor and address issues concerning the safety and security of the displaced persons. INCIDENTS OF CRIMINALITY

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affecting the IDPs are also systematically being reported to Government law enforcement agencies and authorities by UNAMID. However, in many cases, effective investigations were not conducted or criminal cases were not opened.

Criminal incidents affecting other civilians

15. A total of 335 criminal incidents and 79 fatalities were recorded compared with 435 incidents and 92 fatalities during the last reporting period. These included murder (48 cases), armed robbery (39 cases), attempted robbery (seven cases), assault/harassment (96 cases), burglary/break-ins (19 cases), looting (three cases), abduction (11 cases), arson (one case), shooting (62 cases), attack/ambush (nine cases), threat (seven cases), livestock theft (30 cases) and others (three cases).

16. There was a reduction in criminality in the main towns in Darfur due to some measures taken by the Governors such as the banning of motorcycles and the carrying of arms by unauthorized persons in the cities, as well as the deployment of additional Government security forces. Violence and organised crime in rural areas also remained issues of serious concern and a key challenge to the restoration of the rule of law and security in Darfur.

B. Political developments

Roadmap Agreement and talks on Cessation of Hostilities

17. ~~There was some progress in the various processes aimed at resolving n the conflicts in Sudan, including Darfur. During meetings held from 18 to 21 July in Paris, France, the~~

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opposition groups under the umbrella of the *Sudan Call*, despite their initial persistent refusals to sign the Roadmap Agreement brokered by the African Union High level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) in March 2016, agreed in principle to sign the document, contingent on the following conditions being met: a) a pre-dialogue meeting with the government in Addis Ababa on requirements and modalities for the conduct of an inclusive National Dialogue; (b) an independent and neutral person to chair the Dialogue and (c) a guarantee of the Government's commitment to implement its outcomes.

18. On 8 August, the Sudan Call signed the Roadmap Agreement in Addis Ababa, which the Government had already signed on 21 March 2016. The signatories included two Darfur rebel movements, the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and the Sudan Liberation Army/Minni Minawi (SLA/MM). As endorsed by the parties, the Roadmap Agreement aimed at paving the way towards achieving the following objectives: ending the war in Darfur and the Two Areas, and addressing the urgent humanitarian needs and root causes of the conflicts. In addition to these substantive objectives, the Roadmap was designed to facilitate a sequence of negotiation processes that address the main areas of dispute between the Government and the opposition, through a genuine and inclusive National Dialogue. The main opposition groups continuously rejected a Khartoum-based National Dialogue Conference, to which they were invited by the Government, arguing that the process has been manipulated by the ruling National Congress Party. They have further insisted that any peace agreement should be national in nature and carried out within the framework of a political reform process involving all opposition forces, rather than through separate talks on Darfur and the Two Areas.

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National Dialogue

19. On 6 August, during a meeting of the general assembly of the National Dialogue in Khartoum, President Omar Al-Bashir instructed the Coordination Committee of the Assembly to quickly reach a consensus on the recommendations made in February 2016 by the six sub-committees before the convening of the all-party conference on 10 October. The recommendations of the sub-committees addressed issues related to the system of governance and transitional arrangements, Sudanese identity and freedoms and basic rights.

C. Humanitarian situation

20. By the end of August, according to the United Nations humanitarian country team and its partners, approximately 80,600 people, mainly women and children, were newly displaced across Darfur since the beginning of the year, mainly due to the fighting in Jebel Marra. An additional 117,400 people, which are yet to be verified due to lack of access, were also reportedly displaced. Concurrently some 59,000 were reported to have since returned.

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21. North Darfur hosted the majority of verified IDPs (52,912), followed by South Darfur (22,445) and Central Darfur (5,023). In North Darfur, there were no new arrivals reported since the previous reporting period, and the number slightly decreased (from 58,000), following the results of a World Food Programme (WFP) head count conducted in Sortony and Tawilla. Meanwhile, in South Darfur, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and WFP conducted door-to-door verifications in Kass town and

Otash camp as well as Mershing and Menawashi villages and El Malam town. In Central Darfur, verifications and registrations were possible only in Hasahisa and Hameedia camps to date.

22. Up to 110,500 unverified IDPs have been reported in Central Darfur. Sudan's Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) and other sources indicated that 58,000 people have been displaced to or were affected in Thur village, Guldo, Golo, Nertiti town and Nertiti North camp. Up to 45,000 people are also still reported to be displaced in the Boori and Wadi Boori area and confirmation of such reports is still not possible due to lack of access. Some 12,500 people were reportedly displaced in Zalingei town (Hasahisa and Hameedia camps), Daya and Fanga Suk villages and Rokero town, of which only some 5,000 in Zalingei had been verified. In South Darfur, some 2,900 people have recently reached Kass town and are reported as displaced from Thur village by HAC, while a reported 800 people remain inaccessible in Deribat due to lack of humanitarian access.

23. Authorities reported the presence of some 148,000 returnees in need of humanitarian assistance in Golo town, and that the Government had provided relief items. However, humanitarian partners were yet to verify the return and could not confirm its voluntary nature, due to access restrictions.

24. In addition, in Hajar Bukes, West Darfur, an incident that involved the killing of one villager and burning of 16 houses led to the displacement of some 1,500 persons to Um Tajok town, according to HAC and UNAMID, and an additional 1,000 people fled to another village within the locality. On 30 July, a team comprised of International Non-Governmental Organizations, the Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS) and HAC conducted a needs assessment of the displaced within the Um Tajok area and

indicated approximately 1,600 were in Um Tajok town. OCHA is still corroborating additional information on population movements. Reportedly, when Um Tajok residents returned, they found their lands already occupied.

25. Between July and August, an estimated 46,200 people in North, South and West Darfur, including both IDPs and host communities, were affected by flooding. Kalma and Al Salam IDP camps in South and Shangyl Tobaya IDP camp in North Darfur are among the most affected. Flood Contingency plans for North, South and West Darfur projected an estimated 85,000 people would be affected. The humanitarian response is ongoing, but is hampered by access challenges and inter-communal tensions.

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26. Lastly, by the end of July, about 65,000 South Sudanese (both verified and estimated) fleeing fighting in Raja and Wau areas or conflict and food insecurity in the Bahr el Ghazal region arrived in East, South and North Darfur. Most of these refugees moved to nine locations in East Darfur, while an estimated 5,300 went to North and 5,600 to South Darfur. For various reasons, including stringent movement restrictions imposed by the Government, not all refugees were accessible and verification of their numbers as well as response to their needs remained challenging.

D. Operating Environment

Attacks, restrictions of movement, and access denials on UNAMID

27. Criminals and armed gangs continued to target UNAMID personnel and property. A total of 16 criminal incidents including nine break-ins/burglaries/theft attempts, two of trespassing and one armed attack were recorded as compared to 20

incidents in the previous period. On 28 June, 16 armed men attacked two UNAMID security individual contractors who were guarding a water point in Labado, East Darfur, robbing them of their personal effects and stealing a generator.

28. Government security personnel continued to impose restrictions on UNAMID air and ground movement. In South Darfur, Government security agencies denied access to 37 ground patrols in and around Nyala in July and August, arguing that the Mission's use of Armoured Personnel Carriers created an impression of insecurity in the area. In Central Darfur, UNAMID remained without full and unhindered access to conflict areas in Jebel Marra preventing it from verifying reports of ground and aerial attacks. Furthermore, from 21 to 27 August, SAF personnel denied security clearance for UNAMID to conduct regular night patrols from its team sites in Zalingei and Nertiti, Central Darfur. In North Darfur, the road between Kabkabiya and Sortony remained blocked by Arab militias with a considerable adverse impact on UNAMID and humanitarian operations, including the provision of assistance to IDPs. In its engagement with UNAMID, the state Government maintained that the blockade was due to the alleged presence of SLA/AW elements at the Sortony gathering site for IDPs and repeated theft of livestock from Arab nomads. UNAMID continues to engage the authorities on these restrictions.

Attacks, restrictions of movement, access denials on humanitarian actors

29. During the reporting period, 5 incidents against humanitarian actors (3 UN agencies and 2 INGOs) were recorded.

On 16 June, eight armed men attacked the Khor Omer IDP camp in east Darfur, resulting in the stealing of a UNICEF-provided 10,000-litre water bladder and the damage of two others.

30. Overall, the humanitarian operating environment in Darfur remained extremely challenging owing to insecurity and Government-imposed bureaucratic hurdles. Since the adoption of the "2016 Directives and Procedures for Humanitarian Action" travel permits to the Darfur region are issued only for a maximum duration of six months, and instances of attempted imposition of specific national operating partners have been recorded. Travel permits to areas outside the state capitals remained challenging due to, among other issues, the lack of state level procedural frameworks clearly prescribing timeframes and roles of different authorities.

31. Rebel-held areas in Jebel Marra remained cut off from humanitarian access. Since the beginning of the Jebel Marra hostilities, access to certain areas in Darfur has been restricted, including Thur, Deribat, Golo, Guldo, and Rokero. Furthermore, access to Jebel Marra was complicated by the decision to handle access requests to certain locations in Jebel Marra through HAC at the federal level. The humanitarian community made numerous attempts, without success, to conduct comprehensive multi-sector assessment missions to affected locations including, Guldo, Golo, Thur, Boori and Wadi Boori. Where access was permitted, tight control measures affected the ability to conduct independent assessments and deliver assistance. For example, on 3 August, a field visit to Golo, led by the Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator for Darfur, with the participation of UNAMID, United Nations Country Team members and

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Government representatives from federal and local levels, was permitted ~~to only remain on the ground for a few hours.~~

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32. While an emergency food distribution was carried out by WFP in Fanga Suk, Nertiti and Thur, lack of access and administrative restrictions, prevented food distribution in Guldo, Rokoro or Golo, and delayed NFI distribution in Guldo town and Thur village.

Visas and customs clearances

33. A total of 492 visas were approved during the reporting period, the majority of which were for UNAMID contractors and police personnel. As at 12 September, 83 visa requests were pending from those submitted since January 2016.

34. While the Human Rights Section has not been granted any visas since the beginning of 2016 and the vacancy rate remained at 57 percent, the vacancy rates in the Communication and Public Information (24 percent vacancy rate), Security (12 percent vacancy rate), Joint Operations Centre (23 percent vacancy rate) and the Protection of Civilians (17 percent vacancy rate) were lower than during the previous reporting period. The visa request for the Chief Protection of Civilians remains outstanding. In the 2016/17 budget, the General Assembly abolished 10 posts which remained vacant for over three years due to visa denials, which include the Senior Women Protection Advisor and the Senior Planning Officer.

35. With the new staff selection and managed mobility system for the Political, Peace and Humanitarian Network (POLNET), which took effect in the Secretariat on 15 January 2016, the

filling of vacant positions of staff members in the professional and higher categories up to and including the D-2 level experienced severe delays. As a consequence, no selection processes for substantive personnel in UNAMID were completed in 2016, as compared to last year, which affected the number of visa applications submitted.

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36. Following technical-level meetings between UNAMID and the Government on 15 June, 27 July and 7 August 2016, 271 food ration containers were released from Port Sudan, while 59 shipments (101 containers) are still pending clearance. A total of 367 shipments of United Nations-owned equipment and Contingent-owned equipment, some of which had been there since April 2015, remained at Port Sudan and Khartoum, pending customs clearance. The resulting shortages severely hampered the ability of UNAMID troops to communicate, conduct robust patrols and protect civilians, and caused demurrage charges and additional costs for troop and police-contributing countries and the United Nations.

III. Mandate Implementation

A. Support for an Inclusive Peace Process

High-level mediation

37. On 11 July, at a meeting facilitated by the United States Special Envoy to Sudan and South Sudan, the Joint Special Representative/Joint Chief Mediator met with the leader of SLA/AW, Abdul Wahid al Nur, in Paris to persuade him to re-join the Darfur peace process. Abdul Wahid al Nur agreed to convene a meeting of the leaders of his movement in mid-September to

deliberate in this regard. He requested UNAMID to assist with logistical arrangements for this meeting. Despite repeated requests, he is yet to provide further details on such a meeting.

38. Following the signing of the Roadmap Agreement, talks on a cessation of hostilities in Darfur between JEM and SLA/MM and the Government of Sudan commenced on 9 August. Former Nigerian President Abdulsalami Abubakar chaired the talks on Darfur, while the UNAMID Deputy Joint Special Representative (Political) served as the facilitator. The discussions focused on a draft cessation of hostilities which was previously discussed in Debre Zeit, Ethiopia, on 25 January 2016.

39. On 14 August, the talks were suspended *sine die*, following disagreements between the parties on the disclosure of locations of rebel forces, the role of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD) as the basis for subsequent political negotiations, the need for a new joint supervisory structure for humanitarian operations, and the release of prisoners of war. Talks between the Government and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/North, which took place simultaneously were also suspended until further notice due to disagreements over the modalities for the delivery of humanitarian aid in the Two Areas.

40. From 1 to 4 September 2016, as a follow-up to talks, the Deputy Joint Special Representative-Political held consultations with the leaders of JEM and SLA/MM in Kampala, Uganda. Both movements restated the areas of contention in the talks and indicated that if the necessary flexibility were demonstrated by both parties on the release of prisoners of war and the

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mechanism for the oversight of humanitarian assistance, an agreement could be reached in the near future. The Deputy Joint Special Representative-Political also met with the Government of Uganda and sought its support in urging the two movements to sign the cessation of hostilities document and move on to a political process that would result in a negotiated peace in Darfur. Upon his return to Sudan, the Deputy Joint Special Representative-Political met with the Chief Negotiator for Darfur to urge the Government to consider the requests on the release of prisoners of war.

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Doha Document for Peace in Darfur

41. On 7 September, the President of Chad, Idriss Deby Itno, the Emir of Qatar, Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani, and the President of the Central African Republic, Faustin-Archange Touadéra, took part in a ceremony organized by the Government of Sudan to mark the end of the DRA. At the ceremony, President al-Bashir did not provide any further clarification regarding the successor arrangements to the DRA, except to say that the Government of Sudan would continue to implement development projects in Darfur. A formal decree on the establishment of successor arrangements to the Darfur Regional Authority (DRA) has yet to be announced.

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42. Meanwhile, on 2 August, the European Union signed an agreement to support the Darfur Internal Dialogue and Consultation (DIDC) process with 800,000 euro. The contribution is expected to support the conduct of 15 locality-level meetings in Darfur and one among refugees in Chad. With regard to the recommencement of 28 locality-level meetings with the funds contributed by the Government of Sudan in 16 March 2016, the

United Nations Development Program (UNDP) signed an agreement with the implementing partners on 2 August 2016. With the disbursement of the funds at the locality level, consultations were held in Bileil locality on 1-2 September and at El-Fasher on 7-8 September 2016.

43. During the reporting period, UNAMID provided technical and logistical support to the planned demobilization of 800 ex-combatants from the DDPD signatory movements and the outstanding Abuja Darfur Peace Agreement caseload in Central Darfur. Meanwhile, the community-based reintegration of 700 ex-combatants (500 in North Darfur and 200 in West Darfur) demobilized by UNAMID continued. Further planning by the Government commenced for the reintegration of an additional 1,000 ex-combatants.

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44. On civilian disarmament, the Government developed a phased plan to address the proliferation of small arms in Darfur. The phases included awareness raising and sensitization, arms registration and marking, voluntary surrender of arms tied with "arms for developments", and possible forced disarmament. The final plan would be shared with UNAMID and relevant partners to solicit technical and financial support. However, some states, such as North and South Darfur, remain at different stages in discussing State plans and implementing pilot disarmament efforts. UNAMID Community Stabilization Section continued to engage with the Sudan Demobilization Disarmament and Reintegration Commission and other relevant stakeholders to discuss strategies of disarmament which take into consideration the United Nations Integrated Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration Standards.

B. Protection of civilians

45. In its resolution 2296 (2016), the Security Council endorsed the recommendations of the Secretary-General and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, as presented in their joint report of 8 June 2016 (S/2016/510), for UNAMID to focus its activities on ensuring the protection of Internally Displaced Persons and addressing inter-communal violence. During the reporting period, UNAMID concentrated its Protection of Civilians efforts on risk-prone locations, supporting durable solutions where conditions are appropriate, increasing cooperation with the United Nations Country Team and Humanitarian Country Team and placing a greater emphasis on early warning and response, monitoring and evaluation and training activities.

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46. This also included preparations for a mapping, in coordination with the United Nations Country Team, of the protection situation of Internally Displaced Camps, areas at risk of further displacement and potential areas of return across Darfur. A team of experts is ready to conduct this mapping, but is awaiting the issuance of visas. Specific emphasis was also placed on enhancing early warning and response mechanisms and joint protection of civilians coordination structures to resolve and/or prevent inter and intra-tribal conflicts.

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47. As part of these efforts, Integrated Field Protection Teams (IFPTs) were established across five Sectors to work closely with local communities and to provide, among others, early warning information, essential for better informing the provision of patrols in support of vulnerable civilians,

primarily women and girls, in conducting livelihood activities, and to undertaking coordinated and integrated rapid interventions in emergency protection of civilians situations. Furthermore, Joint Protection Groups (JPG) at Mission Headquarters and Sector levels and new Civil-Military Field Coordination (CMCoord) were established to enhance, information sharing, logistical arrangements vis-à-vis the provision of escorts and other logistic assistance to humanitarian partners.

Provision of physical protection

48. UNAMID continued to focus on providing targeted responses to civilians under threat in conflict affected areas. The Mission actively engaged with the Government and worked in coordination with the country team to address those specific protection issues. Despite these efforts, inter-communal violence continued to adversely affect the civilian population causing death, injuries, displacement and the destruction of livelihoods.

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49. During the reporting period, tensions remained particularly high in Sortony, North Darfur, in the aftermath of the Northern Rezeigat attack on newly displaced Fur in May 2016. On 15 July and 25 August, UNAMID troops prevented the entry of a group of armed Arabs into the IDP gathering site claiming the need to recover their animals which were earlier stolen. As part of efforts to address the situation in Sortony, UNAMID leadership actively engaged the authorities. The Mission also maintained its military and police presence to conduct day and night patrols in order to respond to security needs, particularly those of women and children engaged in livelihood activities outside the IDP gathering site.

50. As a follow-up to the major inter-communal violence that has occurred in several parts of West and Central Darfur since May 2016, UNAMID Integrated Field Protection Teams (IFPT) conducted assessments and verification visits to the affected areas to identify early warning threats that could affect the civilian population. During the reporting period, the teams visited Umtajok and Habila in West Darfur and Thur in Central Darfur and interacted with the local communities and authorities on measures to address protection threats.

51. During the reporting period, UNAMID conducted a total of 22,298, patrols comprising 8,145 routine patrols, 9,634 short-range patrols, 372 long-range patrols, 2,689 night patrols, 355 humanitarian escorts and 1,103 logistics and administrative escorts covering 7,125 villages and 2,666 IDP camps. Patrols continued to play a key role in protection of civilians by gathering early warning information and planning of an appropriate response to emerging protection threats.

Logistic and security support to humanitarian operations

52. From 1 June to 12 September UNAMID military personnel provided 418 round-trip escorts for partners providing humanitarian assistance and monitoring the humanitarian and protection situation, mostly in North Darfur. In addition, between 1 June and 31 August, UNAMID FPU's provided 65 humanitarian escorts (mainly in South and Central Darfur, including for the delivery of food and non-food items.

Promoting a protective environment

53. During the reporting period, 402 criminal cases were reported to UNAMID leading to 77 arrests by the Sudanese police (compared with 336 cases reported in the same period in 2015). UNAMID police continued to carry out its community policing initiatives and strengthening professional skills for 248 Sudanese police officers (226 males and 22 females), in addition to training for Community Policing Volunteers (CPVs).

54. As part of crime prevention initiatives in IDP camps, 454 joint patrols were conducted with 711 community policing volunteers (658 males and 53 females). In addition, UNAMID held 138 awareness-raising sessions for 6,340 IDPs (2,519 Males, 2,323 Females and 1,498 Children) on sexual and gender based violence, safety and security issues, with emphasis on the importance of reporting criminal cases to the police and seeking medical treatment for the victims.

55. A total of 606 visits were conducted to police stations and detention centres to monitor the conditions of children in juvenile detention centres and those living with their mothers in such facilities. Moreover, 22 workshops were conducted on gender mainstreaming, sexual exploitation and abuse and livelihood skills for 374 IDPs (307 male and 67 female), and 141 English classes were conducted for 3240 IDPs (1683 male and 1557 female). These activities contributed to strengthening the relationship between Sudanese Police, CPVs and IDPs with UNAMID Police and also enhanced the capacity of the participants as well as improved access to justice and rule of law.

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56. During the reporting period, UNAMID documented 117 new cases of human rights violations and abuses involving 303

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victims (including 32 children), compared to 120 incidents involving 387 victims during the previous reporting period. Violations of the right to life accounted for 35 cases, involving 65 victims, including six children, the right to physical integrity accounted for 45 cases involving 167 victims including one child, sexual and gender-based violence including conflict-related sexual violence in the form of rape accounted for 18 cases involving 31 victims (including 24 children), 11 cases of arbitrary arrests and illegal detention involving 25 victims were documented. There were 8 abductions involving 15 victims. UNAMID confirmed 77 cases of human rights violations and abuses, while the remaining 40 cases could not be verified owing to access restrictions. From the 117 reported incidents, 21 cases involving 69 victims were reported to have been perpetrated by government security forces and "allied groups". The remaining 96 cases, involving 234 victims, were allegedly perpetrated by unidentified armed men often described by the victims as Arabs.

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57. On 31 July, the National Intelligence and Security Service reportedly arrested at least 15 individuals from various IDP camps in Central Darfur, following their meeting with the United States Special Envoy for Sudan and South Sudan during the latter's visit to Darfur. On 12 August, the United States State Department expressed concern at the reported detention of these individuals and called on the Government of Sudan to release them immediately. UNAMID also raised concerns over the alleged arrests. As of 15 September, seven of the detainees have, so far, been released.

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58. From 15 to 30 June, in collaboration with the Prisons Directorate, UNAMID trained 150 prison officials in Standard

Operating Procedures to facilitate their application by the prison service, particularly in regard to prison security. Furthermore, the Mission, through its Quick Impact Projects (QIPs), provided two 45,000-litre underground water tanks to Ardamata Prison in Sector West.

59. From 11 to 14 July, a UNAMID fact-finding mission to El Daein prison in East Darfur, conducted in response to persistent reports of deplorable and life-threatening conditions, congestion and the recent prisoners' escape, reported that 42 female inmates (38 convicted and four awaiting trial) accompanied by 12 children below the age of 24 months were detained in a cell with a holding capacity of 15 inmates, which violates international standards. In coordination with the United Nations Country Team and state authorities, UNAMID proposed the use of a QIP to address the situation and provide for more space.

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60. In July, UNAMID received information from the office of the Special Prosecutor for Darfur Crimes in Nyala, that 14 cases of murder, robbery, illegal possession of weapons and ammunition, and alleged terrorist crimes were being investigated with seven already being prosecuted.

61. With respect to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, the capacity-building and training program was complemented by the launching of the campaign "Protect Children/Support Efforts of UNAMID - No Sexual Relations with Minors". In this regard, 50,000 pocket cards were printed for distribution to staff members with a message of the Secretary General translated into 12 languages prohibiting sexual activity with persons under the age of 18 regardless of the age of consent locally. Banners and

posters carrying the same message were displayed in Mission premises.

62. This programme was extended to national institutions and host communities benefiting 1,879 participants (1,141 female and 738 male) among whom were 153 government police; 52 government military; and 1,674 IDPs and other members of the communities, including child protection focal points. Meanwhile, continued monitoring activities confirmed that more efforts are needed ~~to~~ create a more protective environment, while promoting local ownership of the protection of children in anticipation of a possible, future UNAMID exit from Darfur.

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63. Advocacy meetings to prevent recruitment of child soldiers, use of children as fighters in communal clashes, as well as the continued rollout of the campaign "No Child Soldier-Protect Darfur" were successfully held during the reporting period in Al Salam IDP camp and Nertiti in Central Darfur, Krinding IDP camp in West Darfur, Otash IDP camp, Kalma IDP Camp and in Manawashe town in South Darfur. While concerted efforts to curb child soldiers in Darfur have yielded significant progress, the potential use of children in ethnic clashes remains a major concern.

64. UNAMID continued to facilitate, support and promote gender mainstreaming into all its operations through training of 695 peacekeepers including 110 females on gender mainstreaming and Sexually Gender Based Violence (SGBV). In addition, as part of the follow up on the recommendations made during the 2016 International Women's Day, UNAMID trained 15 senior government officials (all women) on advocacy and communication skills.

65. The Mission also continued to address the threats of Explosive Remnants of War (ERW). During the reporting period, general explosive hazard assessments were conducted in 18 villages in Darfur (seven in sector north, three in sector south, five in sector west, one in sector central and two in sector east) where clearance teams destroyed 1,165 items of unexploded ordnance and 225,728 small arms ammunition. The destruction of the ERW items contributed to creating a safer environment for communities, Mission patrols and humanitarian partners.

66. UNAMID conducted 365 sensitisation sessions on the risk of ERW for 29,531 (4,786 men, 5,073 women, 10,517 boys and 9,155 girls) beneficiaries. The risk education took place in high priority areas with high ERW contamination and concentration of IDPs who fled from armed hostilities in Jebel Marra. UNAMID also provided ERW recognition and firearms safety awareness training to 38 UNAMID Police Officers. In support of national capacity enhancement efforts, UNAMID provided International Ammunition Technical Guideline training to 12 Government Police in El Geneina, West Darfur on 16 June.

C. Local conflict mediation

67. Further to Security Council resolution 2296 (2016), UNAMID commenced the implementation of a new Mission-wide strategy to address inter-communal violence in Darfur. The strategy establishes internal mechanisms for the coordination of the Mission's, as well as United Nations Country Team efforts in this context, at both Headquarters and the level of the sectors, as well as external ones for coordination with the Truth Justice and Reconciliation Commission and State Governments. The

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strategy will be implemented based on state-specific action plans which are currently being developed and which will define immediate, medium and long-term priority areas for the Mission's prevention, mitigation and conflict resolution activities.

68. To prevent seasonal inter-communal violence and to ensure a peaceful farming season, UNAMID held 31 meetings with various stakeholders across Darfur, including the native administrations, peaceful co-existence and agricultural protection committees, farmers and herders, local authorities and community leaders. The meetings focused on defining and implementing preventive measures to avoid clashes between farmers and herders, including outreach and dialogue forums, social peace awareness campaigns, the demarcation of livestock migration routes and community projects.

69. During the period under review, UNAMID continued to work closely with State Governments and community leaders in an effort to support the peaceful resolution of inter-communal conflicts. In South Darfur, UNAMID supported the implementation and dissemination of agreements signed between the Massalit and Fallata, Misseriya and Rezeigat, Zaghawa Umkamalti and Zaghawa Rotana and Ta'aisha and Salamat. On 13 August, following a two-day social peace conference which was held in Shattaya, southwest of Kass, South Darfur, an area which had witnessed considerable tensions between nomads and farmer IDPs over the past three years, a comprehensive peace agreement was signed between the leaders of the Beni Halba, Dajo, Fur, Khuzam, Misseriya and Zaghawa and was facilitated by the Sudanese First Vice-President, the Governor of South Darfur and UNAMID. The agreement provided for the return of all farmland and houses to their rightful owners, the deployment of Government forces and

rule of law institutions in the area and other measures to encourage the return of IDPs and peaceful co-existence.

70. In the aftermath of the violence between Fur and Nawaiba in Nertiti, Central Darfur, in early July, UNAMID engaged with the peaceful co-existence committee, agriculture protection committee, native administration and local authorities to successfully resolve their dispute and to achieve the return of the kidnapped Fur. Since July, UNAMID participated in and facilitated the work of a conflict committee to resolve the land dispute between the Shabtiyah, a sub-clan of the Northern Rezeigat and the Zaghawa in the Kolgay area, west of El Fasher in Tawilla locality. The committee engaged both communities to ensure their peaceful co-existence and is expected to prepare recommendations to the Governor of North Darfur for this purpose. In an effort to prevent further conflict between the Northern Rezeigat and Fur IDPs in Sortony, North Darfur, UNAMID conducted missions and facilitated several meetings between the two groups with a view to defusing tensions.

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IV. Implementation of the troop and police-to-task review, transfer of mandated tasks and exit strategy

A. Implementation of the troop and police-to-task review

71. UNAMID continued to operate with 14 battalions, as opposed to the authorized 16, and will only be able to fully implement the troop-to-task analysis recommendations once the shortfall battalions are fully deployed into the Mission area. The Mission, nevertheless, commenced preparations for the

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implementation of the recommendations. The Secretariat and the Mission intensified their efforts to ensure the deployment of the incoming battalions, as well as the outstanding military utility helicopters unit.

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72. UNAMID Police commenced internal restructuring at the strategic and operational levels, with stringent control and performance management mechanisms put in place to achieve greater efficiency. According to the recommendations of the review, the police component increased the number of Individual Police Officers (IPOs) at team site level. A total of 222 officers were deployed to team sites, which increased the IPO ratio in the field by five per cent since the review. To address the shortfalls in the operational capabilities of FPU, particularly with respect to the protection of civilians and ensuring unhindered humanitarian access, UNAMID Police encouraged the Police Contributing Countries to train and equip their personnel to meet the operational requirements and adhere to the COE serviceability rate.

B. Transfer of mandated tasks to the United Nations Country Team

73. UNAMID and the United Nations Country Team continued the planning process for the gradual transfer of tasks, in accordance with Security Council resolution 2228 (2015). The UNAMID-UNCT periodic coordination meeting was held in El Fasher on 19 July, to discuss the Joint Rule of Law Programme for Darfur. The Joint Programme received a boost thanks to concerted advocacy efforts at donors meetings both in Khartoum and New York, under the auspices of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), which resulted in expressions of interest by donors to fund the implementation of the programme.

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Meanwhile, UNAMID and the United Nations Country Team continue to hold monthly meetings to discuss how to raise funds and give technical support to the transitioned gender related tasks.

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C. Exit strategy

74. Resolution 2296 (2016) requested the Secretary-General to make recommendations, at the end of October 2016, on practical steps required to make tangible progress towards achieving the UNAMID benchmarks. In this context, the African Union, the United Nations and the Government of Sudan have started consultations regarding the format, process and objective of the next Joint Working Group meeting scheduled to take place in October. As requested by the Security Council, the Secretary-General will report and make recommendations by 27 October, on practical steps to be taken in order to make tangible progress towards achieving the benchmarks, including by building on any agreed recommendations of the Joint Working Group.

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V. Financial Aspects

75. The General Assembly, by its resolution 70/286 of 17 June 2016, appropriated the amount of \$1,039.6 million for the maintenance of the Operation for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017.

76. As at 2 September 2016, unpaid assessed contributions to the Special Account for UNAMID amounted to \$730.5 million. Total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations at that date amounted to \$5,392.8 million. Reimbursement of troop and formed costs has been made for the period up to 30 April 2016, while reimbursement of the costs of

contingent-owned equipment has been made for the period up to 31 December 2015, in accordance with the quarterly payment schedule.

VI. Observations

77. The signing of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel Roadmap Agreement by the Sudan Liberation Army and the Justice and Equality Movement, as members of the Sudan Call, constitutes an important step forward in the Darfur peace process. I commend all the parties to the agreement, the African Union High-level Implementation Panel and UNAMID, on this achievement. The faithful implementation of the Roadmap offers means to address the conflicts in Sudan, including Darfur, and resolve them through a political process. Its success will ultimately depend on the willingness of the parties to abide by its provisions and seize the opportunity to resume negotiations and reach an agreement on the cessation of hostilities and modalities for the provision of humanitarian access. At the same time, those who remain outside the peace process must realise that the interests of the Darfuri population are best served by their full and unreserved participation therein. I therefore urge Abdul Wahid al Nur, once again, to join the peace process without preconditions.

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78. Notwithstanding the progress made with the signing of the Roadmap Agreement, significant challenges lie ahead. Open hostilities have decreased overall in Darfur but 2.6 million people remain internally displaced. Sustained security will also depend on the level of support it receives from the people of Darfur and the prosperity it brings them. I therefore call on the Government to demonstrate the necessary commitment to

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finding a sustainable political solution to the Darfur conflict that fully addresses its underlying causes.

79. Concerted efforts are still required to address the root causes of the violence, especially land ownership and management. I welcome the increased efforts by the Government of Sudan to address intercommunal conflicts by facilitating peace agreements and ensuring government presence in volatile areas. Given the importance of supporting local conflict resolution mechanisms, I call on the Government to work closely with UNAMID, the United Nations Country Team and local civil society groups to develop state-specific action plans to prevent and resolve inter-communal conflicts. The support of the international community, including through logistical and technical assistance, will also be necessary in this regard.

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80. The situation in Darfur cannot be fully resolved without a strategy that addresses the threat to civilians posed by those carrying weapons and their motives. As long as the militias who fought alongside the Government or rebel movements continued to have no exit strategy of any sort, potential spoilers in Darfur will continue to be in a position to exert their influence over them. In conjunction with the regulation and control of weapons, a fair system of land and resource management is the only way to ensure lasting security in Darfur. I urge the Government of Sudan to make headway in the strengthening of its administration of justice institutions by undertaking the necessary reforms to curtail impunity.

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81. I remain concerned about the impact of access denials and restrictions imposed on UNAMID personnel and humanitarian actors on the implementation of the Mission's mandate and the delivery

of humanitarian aid. I reiterate my call on the Government of Sudan to ensure unhindered access for UNAMID and humanitarian partners to conflict-affected communities to conduct monitoring and verification missions and deliver humanitarian assistance. I note with satisfaction the relative improvement in the issuance of visas to UNAMID personnel and the release of ration containers for its troops. However, I am concerned that a significant number of United Nations and contingent-owned equipment remains at Port Sudan, which continues to hamper the operational effectiveness of the Mission. I urge the Government of Sudan, consistent with its obligations under the Status of Forces Agreement, to take urgent steps to remove bureaucratic impediments and ensure the release of these shipments.

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82. I am also deeply concerned about the limited progress made in achieving durable solutions for Internally Displaced Persons. I therefore urge the Government of Sudan to work with all relevant actors, including the internally displaced, local communities, and humanitarian and development actors, to promote the creation of conditions conducive to their voluntary, safe and dignified return and access to basic services.

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83. In conclusion, I would like to express my gratitude to the Joint Special Representative/Joint Chief Mediator, Martin Uhomoibhi, the entire Mission leadership and personnel of UNAMID, the United Nations Country Team and humanitarian partners who continue to work tirelessly towards the pursuit of sustainable peace in Darfur in often very difficult conditions. I also wish to commend my Special Envoy for the Sudan and South Sudan, Nicholas Haysom, and Presidents Thabo Mbeki and Abdulsalami Abubakar of the African Union High-level

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Implementation Panel for their continued commitment towards sustainable peace and stability in Sudan.

United Nations



Nations Unies

Executive Office of the Secretary-General
Cabinet du Secrétaire général

#1 **PRIORITY**

To: The DSG

Please find attached for your approval the draft SG report on UNAMID, which is due to the Council, tomorrow, 27 September.

The report notes that the security situation remained volatile, with around 80,600 people, mostly women and children, displaced across Darfur since the beginning of the year. The signing of the AUHIP-sponsored Roadmap Agreement by the Government of Sudan and certain armed groups was a step forward but its impact will ultimately depend on whether or not the parties can reach agreement on the modalities for provision of humanitarian assistance in Darfur and the Two Areas. While there was relative improvement on the issuance of visas, significant amounts of UNAMID Contingent Owned Equipment remain stuck at Port Sudan.

In the Observations section, the SG calls on the Government of Sudan to show genuine commitment to resolving the root causes of the conflict in Darfur and remove administrative obstacles to the implementation of UNAMID's mandate and the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

Received in ODSG

Political Unit
26 September 2016

27 September 2016

Seen by:

16-08164



CONFIDENTIAL

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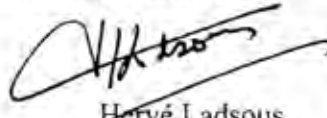
Note to Mr. Eliasson

ACTION *REC*

COPY *209/1011*

Report of the Secretary-General on UNAMID covering 15 June to 15 September 2016

1. Please find attached the draft progress Report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) for the period from 15 June to 15 September 2016.
2. The general security situation in Darfur remained volatile during the reporting period. Following intense fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Sudan Liberation Army/Abdul Wahid which took place in Jebel Marra between January and May 2016, there have been sporadic ground skirmishes since June 2016, along with reports of aerial bombardments. A seasonal spike in violence between pastoralists and farmers occurred across Darfur against a backdrop of an overall reduction in the number of large-scale intercommunal clashes. By the end of August, approximately 80,600 people, mostly women and children, were newly displaced across Darfur since the beginning of the year, mainly due to the fighting in Jebel Marra.
3. During the reporting period, in line with the recommendations of Security Council resolution 2296 (2016), UNAMID, in coordination with the United Nations country team, focused its activities on ensuring the protection of Internally Displaced Persons and addressing intercommunal violence, while also continuing to implement its mandate to support an inclusive Darfur peace process.
4. The signing, on 8 August 2016, by the Sudan Liberation Army and the Justice and Equality Movement within the Sudan Call of the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel Roadmap Agreement, constituted an important political development in the Darfur peace process and in addressing the conflicts in Sudan. However, the impact of the Roadmap will ultimately depend on the willingness of the parties to abide by its provisions and reach an agreement on the cessation of hostilities and modalities for the provision of humanitarian access in Darfur and the Two Areas of Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States.
5. There was a relative improvement in the issuance of visas to UNAMID personnel and release of ration containers for its troops. However, a significant number of United Nations and contingent-owned equipment remain held at Port Sudan, which continues to hamper the operational capabilities of the Mission. The Mission and the Government of Sudan held technical meetings to address these issues.
6. The publication date of this report is 27 September. We would be grateful if you could obtain the approval of the Secretary-General at the earliest convenience.


Hervé Ladsous
16 September 2016

cc: Mr. Feltman
Mr. Khare
Mr. O'Brien

REC-134/1011