

23 November 2007

Excellency,

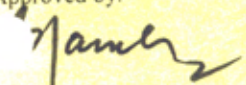
As you are aware, the United Nations is working in close cooperation with the African Union to achieve a political resolution to the conflict in Darfur and also to deploy the AU-UN hybrid peacekeeping operation (UNAMID) as quickly as possible. While we are making progress towards these objectives, a number of challenges remain which must be addressed as a matter of priority.

With respect to the deployment of UNAMID, we have been working with potential troop contributing countries to finalize the composition of the operation's military component. In many areas, including in the area of infantry battalions, troop contributors have pledged generously, and we are moving forward expeditiously with the deployment of these units.

Despite these efforts, we have not received appropriate offers for essential air assets, which are critical for the effectiveness of the force given the enormous area of operations. Nor have we received appropriate offers for ground transportation units, which will be crucial for the mission to move troops and logistical equipment throughout Darfur. We are still seeking one light tactical (attack) helicopter unit of 200 personnel, one medium transport company of 125 personnel, one heavy transport company of 200 personnel, three medium utility helicopter units of 160 personnel each, and one reconnaissance company of 120 personnel. Without these essential military capabilities, UNAMID will not be able to effectively implement its mandate, and its ability to provide protection for United Nations personnel in the mission will be severely impeded.

His Excellency
Mr. Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva
President of the Federative Republic of Brazil
Brasília

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