

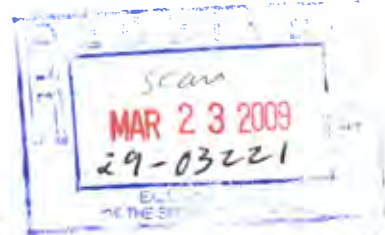
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Note to the Secretary-General

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN SUDAN ✓

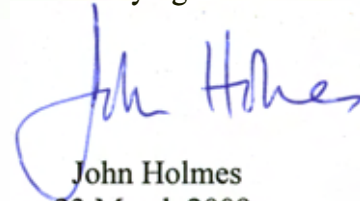


23/03/09

1. This is to update you on the technical findings of the joint assessments, efforts to cover some of the most critical life-threatening gaps created under Track 2, and discussions over the requirements heading into the 'hunger gap' and rainy seasons. //
2. The results of the rapid joint assessments, agreed at the technical level between the Government line ministries and UN agencies, were finalized on Saturday 21 March. Predictably, the results indicate that, while the situation is not yet disastrous and the most critical holes in coverage are being filled for now, there are significant gaps in the four life-saving sectors reviewed, particularly as time goes on. The findings also show that the capacity remaining on the ground is not able to cover the agreed needs of the population in a timely and sustainable manner.
3. On 22 March DSRSG/RC/HC Haq (accompanied by Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF, Ms. Hilde Johnson) delivered the technical findings with an executive summary cover note to the Commissioner General of the Humanitarian Aid Commission for their joint signature and release. Despite extensive discussions, the Commissioner has balked at signing the summary. Essentially, the joint assessment summary, and the technical findings which highlight the gaps created and lack of capacity to respond in the short-term, contradict the official policy and position of his Government, which is that the gaps are relatively small and will be easily covered.
4. Our preference is still to see the document jointly signed and released, given that the exercise was conducted jointly with the government. DSRSG/RC/HC Haq will continue to discuss the summary note with the Government tomorrow morning in a further attempt to accommodate some of their concerns without compromising the integrity of the document. Nevertheless, knowing the interest in the assessment report by members of the Security Council, the wider international community, and the press, and most importantly, given the urgency of meeting the needs of the population, Ms. Haq has set a deadline of 12:00 pm tomorrow in Khartoum to reach agreement with the Government. She has arranged a press conference for tomorrow at 1:00 pm in Khartoum, either to release jointly the assessment, or to make clear why this has not been possible and to spell out the assessments reached and release the key findings unilaterally.
5. I will follow suit at the noon briefing tomorrow and will probably brief the Security Council later this week. While this course of action could lead to more problems with the government, if in the end there is no agreement, it seems there are few alternatives, given the HAC's own confrontational posture and the intense interest in the report itself. We have acted in good faith throughout, and no-one could have done more than Ms. Haq to reach agreement. I have made clear to her that she has my full support.
6. More widely, while there is still no sign of a full reversal in the Government's decision, it is clear that the pressure is beginning to have an impact, especially in the line ministries in Khartoum, but also in the African Union. During Mr. Khalikov's briefing to

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the Council on Friday, there was a marked change in the positions of Uganda and Burkina Faso. We should continue to apply this pressure, using the findings of the assessment mission. We will revert with further suggestions to lobbying once we are through the next phase.



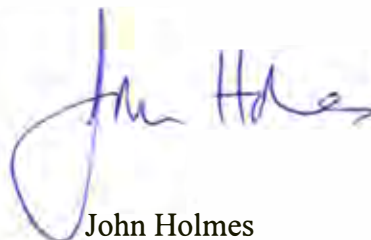
John Holmes
23 March 2009

cc: Mr. Le Roy
Ms. Malcorra
Ms. O'Brien
Mr. Veness
Mr. Qazi
Mr. Adada
Ms. Haq

Note to Mr. Nambiar

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN SUDAN

Please find attached a note to the Secretary-General regarding the humanitarian situation in Sudan.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Holmes". The signature is stylized, with a large loop for the "J" and a cursive "H".

John Holmes
23 March 2009