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Statement on Sudan نسخة الالقاء

Mr President

The African group takes note of the report of the Special Rapporteur on ~~the Human Rights Situation in the Sudan~~. We welcome the references therein to the increased level of cooperation between the Government of Sudan and the Special Rapporteur and to the positive developments witnessed in Sudan in the implementation of the human rights related aspects of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and to its efforts for the promotion and protection of human rights in Sudan in general. Such positive advances build on the positive interaction which characterized the relationship between the Government of Sudan and this Council since its establishment.

Commended

The African Group believes that the increased level of cooperation and the improvements of the situation on the ground will no doubt lead to the desired improvement of the human rights situation in the Sudan so that this country can once again regain normalcy and achieve the legitimate aspirations of all its people for peace, reconstruction and development.

Mr President

The African Group calls on all members of the international community and on the United Nations system to continue and strengthen its support to Sudan through the provision of technical and financial assistance and the required equipments for the improvement of the human rights situation in the Sudan. We welcome the deployment of the Hybrid African-Un force in Darfur and call on all countries to contribute the necessary human and logistical support to enable it to accomplish its mission.

We also call on the international community to exert pressure on the non-signatories of the Darfur Peace agreement to join the peace process and to comply with their obligations and commit to a peaceful resolution in Darfur.

The African group condemns the attacks perpetrated by the armed groups which led to the death of ~~so~~ many African peacekeepers serving in Darfur

**Mr President**

The African Group condemns the recent armed attacks perpetrated against the capital city of Khartoum by some of those armed rebel movements, which have led to the death of large numbers of innocents and to severe human casualties in addition to the destruction of public and private properties. We are concerned of the use by these rebel groups of child soldiers in contravention to international humanitarian law. The African Group believes it is high time that the international community presents a unified stance in front of those rebel movements who are failing to join the peace process and constantly creating setbacks to the efforts to regain normalcy in Sudan in order to prevent the Sudanese people from realizing its legitimate aspirations for a better future after the landmark peace agreements in the south and in the east of Sudan.

**Mr President**

The African Group believes that the situation in Sudan has improved since the time the mandate of the Special Rapporteur was first launched by the Commission on Human Rights in <sup>2005</sup>1992. Peace Agreements have been reached, and Sudan is currently exerting concerted efforts to ensure the promotion and protection of human rights on its national territory. Such undertakings are by definition an ongoing process and it is the duty of the international community, and of the Human Rights Council in particular, to assist and encourage these efforts and to reward cooperation and strengthened efforts from the part of the Government of Sudan.

**Mr President**

The African Group believes the time has come for ending the proliferation of human rights mechanisms in Sudan as they have come to represent a burden on the national efforts and often lead to duplication and lack of

coherence among the various activities undertaken. The creation of the Human Rights Council should, in our view, help foster the rationalization and streamlining of the various existing human rights mechanisms, bearing in mind that Sudan like all other countries will remain subject to the Universal Periodic Review mechanism and that OHCHR has a large presence in the various parts of Sudan.

Mr President

The African Group <sup>has</sup> maintained a principled position in opposition to country specific mandates, and believes that the concerned country has the sovereign right to decide for itself on the manner in which it wants the international community to assist in implementing its national human rights strategies. It is in this spirit that the

*is seriously considering* African Group ~~has decided to support the decision of the Government of Sudan to call for~~ the termination of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights in the Sudan. Nevertheless, the African Group will work towards achieving a consensual outcome of this session and hopes other parties collaborate with us towards this objective.

I thank you

