



12/12/06

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STATEMENT

BY

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**ON BEHALF OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE**

AT THE

**FOURTH SPECIAL SESSION
OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
ON HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN DARFUR**

**Geneva,
12 December 2006**

Mr. President,

I am making this statement on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. Once again we thank you for your leadership and sagacity in convening this session.

The OIC countries care for the people of Darfur and Sudan. We support the efforts of the Government of Sudan, the African Union and the United Nations to resolve the internecine, economic strife that has wracked Darfur for the last three years.

Without a doubt, the people of Darfur have suffered. Relief has been provided to them. More relief needs to be sent to the region. Human rights abuses by all parties must come to an end.

This Special Session of the Human Rights Council is important. It would be a mistake to project it as a tit for tat for the three Special Sessions held on the Middle East earlier this year. We would not have raised this if this linkage had not been established by the UN Secretary General himself in his message to the Council on November 29: "There are surely other situations, besides the one in the Middle East, which would merit scrutiny by a Special Session of this Council. I would suggest that Darfur is a glaring case in point." As if, Mr. President, holding a Special Session is a panacea; considering that the decisions taken by two of the three Special Sessions have not been implemented at all.

The Secretary General has chosen to send a message for this session. Were Lebanon and the Gaza Strip less worthy of his attention? Does the approach being recommended suggest that we deal with the Middle East with "tough talk and a toothpick" and Darfur with "tough talk and a big stick"? The comparison between the two situations in any case is inapt.

Turning to the session on Darfur, we would like to make the following points:

- **First**, arguably for the first time there is cross-regional sponsorship of a country-specific situation including by the country concerned. An honest effort has been made by the African Group to explore decisions by consensus through open dialogue.
- **Second**, it is important that the Special Session should not prejudge the outcome of a mission being established which will make a definitive, impartial determination about the situation.
- **Third**, this session's resolution/decision should not be one-sided. It must fully reflect and respect the views of the Sudanese Government which is cooperating with the human rights machinery.
- **Fourth**, there is conflicting information about almost everything: from killings to IDPs to the measures being taken. These gaps must be ascertained through objective means, not by muzzling opposite view.

While doing so we must pay attention to the following factors:

- The situation in Darfur is serious. We commend the steps taken by the Sudanese Government to resolve the crisis. It should be helped further to completely stabilize the situation.
- Since 2003, the situation in Darfur has been under the spotlight of the international community. The Security Council has been seized of the matter and has been addressing all dimensions of peace and security, including human rights.
- No government has been more forthcoming than Sudan's in welcoming international community's involvement and encouraging visits by the Secretary General, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Special Rapporteurs, NGOs and humanitarian organizations. Today, there are 150 foreign and local NGOs in Darfur employing 1,250. Their presence in Darfur is highest per capita. Some 80 UN monitors are in the field. Donors are also operating in the region without let or hindrance, according to the Sudanese Government.
- The Sudanese Government has made strenuous efforts to implement the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, the Darfur Peace Agreement and the N'djamena Humanitarian Agreement. Other parties have been dragging their feet on the DPA. Sudan has also formed a National Unity Government with the representation from Southern Sudan. The Southerners right now are engaged in rebuilding their region.
- The African Union Mission in the Sudan (AMIS) needs to be strengthened by providing adequate financial and technical assistance to the Government of Sudan and the relevant state and non-state actors.

The Security Council has upheld the sovereignty, unity, independence and territorial integrity of the Sudan. This makes the Sudanese Government the principal actor. We cannot undermine it after making it responsible for the implementation of agreements. NGOs have played a commendable role in providing relief to the people of Darfur. NGOs, however well intentioned, alone cannot resolve this crisis. We must bolster homegrown solutions. NGOs should act as catalysts not arbiters.

Mr. President,

The Human Rights Council is a new body. It should build bridges not create new fissures. The Council, while dealing with issues in its current phase, should look at the broader, strategic and long term picture so that human rights norms, standards and laws are strengthened; and implemented effectively. Moreover, they should create a global environment for the respect of fundamental human rights. The Council should not become a battleground for pushing narrow, parochial or neo-provincial agendas. It must pursue the vision of all human rights and human rights for all

I thank you Mr. President.