



**Permanent Mission
of the Arab Republic of Egypt
Geneva**

**Sixth Session
of the Human Rights Council**

**Report of the Group of Experts
on Darfur**

**Statement by
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Permanent Representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt
on behalf of the African Group**

Geneva, 24 September, 2007

Please check against delivery

Mr President

I have the honor to take the floor on behalf of the African Group.

The African Group welcomes the report of the expert group presented to the Council today. We heard with great interest the briefing by the rapporteur of the expert group on the detailed technical discussions held a few days ago with the high level delegation dispatched by the Government of Sudan. Such welcomed developments give us hope that the final report of the group due to be submitted to the Council in December 2005 will indeed build upon the existing positive momentum and provide the Council with a detailed analysis about the objective situation on the ground and of the level of implementation by Sudan of the various resolutions of the United Nations regarding Darfur.

The African Group commends the high level of cooperation shown by the Government of Sudan with the expert group as well as with both the African union and the United Nations. In this regard, the Group welcomes the forthcoming start of the new hybrid UN-AU force in Darfur early next year, and the voluntary return by 360000 internally displaced and returnees from abroad to their homes. These positive developments as well as the marked improvement of the situation on the ground are testimony to the strong political will of the Government of Sudan to abide by its international obligations with a view to regain normalcy in the various parts of this African Nation.

The African Group looks forward to the final report to be submitted by the Expert Group to the Council. It is our belief that the December session will represent the right time for a detailed examination of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Situation in the Sudan within the context of the review, rationalization and improvement by the Council of all its thematic and country mandates.

The Group feels that there is a strong case for the abolishment of this mandate bearing in mind the high level of cooperation from the part of the Government of Sudan, the positive developments witnessed on the ground in all parts of Sudan, the fact that Darfur is a localized problem for which the expert group is the most appropriate mechanism to deal with, and that like all other countries member of the United Nations, Sudan will be subject to the universal periodic review mechanism. Therefore, the African Group has tabled a procedural draft decision whereby the Council would defer the decision on the review of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur to the second part of the sixth session.

Mr President

The African Group would like to express its solidarity with the Government and People of Sudan and to reiterate the need to strengthen the current positive momentum, in particular the tripartite partnership between the United Nations, the African Union and the Sudan. What the Sudan needs now is a continuation of the present constructive and objective approach adopted by the Council. It also needs that the promise made by the Council and indeed the international community to continue to assist the country while respecting its sovereignty and its legitimate right to receive assistance from the international community and to compel the rebel movements to renounce violence and to join the peace process so that the achievements made can be maintained and preserved and, indeed, built upon. It is the hope of the African Group that we all work hand in hand to achieve these objectives.

I thank you