

**HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL, 6<sup>TH</sup> SESSION, SEPTEMBER 24, 2007**  
**CANADA STATEMENT – SUDAN**

Mr. President,

With respect to Sudan, Canada welcomes the recent progress on Darfur; specifically the reinvigoration of the Darfur peace talks to commence Oct. 27 in Libya, and the agreement to deploy the hybrid AU-UN peacekeeping mission. However, Canada would like to register our ongoing concern with the violations and abuses of human rights, including sexual and gender-based violence, and of international humanitarian law by all parties to the conflict in Darfur, which are continuing, even with renewed vigour, as this recent progress has been made. Protection of civilians continues to be undermined, including safe and full humanitarian access. Government and rebel forces in Darfur continue to act with impunity. Children are targeted and have endured deplorable violations.

Mr. President, at the last session of the Human Rights Council the Sudanese Government agreed to cooperate with the Experts Group, including to implement the recommendations to improve the human rights situation in Darfur. Canada welcomed this spirit of cooperation. In that regard, Canada is appalled by the recent decision of the Sudanese Government to appoint an individual who has been indicted by the International Criminal Court for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Darfur as co-Chair of a National Committee to investigate human rights violations in Sudan. This recent move can only cast doubt on the Government of Sudan's real commitment to improve the human rights situation in the country. We call on the Government of Sudan to cooperate with the International Criminal Court, and to implement the recommendations of the Experts Group.