

**Statement by the Bangladesh Delegation on the situation in Darfur
Human Rights Council, 12 December 2006**

Mr. President,

My delegation strongly believes that the Human Rights Council should play a paramount role in the protection and promotion of human rights. It should address situations of gross and systematic violations of human rights, wherever and whenever it may happen. In our view, human rights should be kept above politics and political maneuvering. The Council should look for objectivity, and not seek for balance in responding to a human rights situation. The decisions of the Council should be action-oriented, and be enforceable and effective. Recent developments in the Council have raised concerns in the minds of many.

Mr. President,

We are deeply concerned at reported, and I emphasize the word reported, human rights and humanitarian situation in Darfur, Sudan. If the information we are receiving through some sources is true, then the situation is indeed serious. At the same time, we must also be aware that there are other versions that are not reaching all of us.

What we have been able to observe, reading between the lines and from eye-witness accounts, is that there appear to be three types of conflicts in Darfur, Sudan. First, is the age-old inter-tribal rivalry, which flares up from time to time. Recently, economic reasons have forced many tribes to covet the greener pastures in the South, leading to conflict. These conflicts require attention from their internal dispute settlement processes. Second, there are conflicts between the central Government of Sudan and the movements (or, rebels). Following the Darfur Peace Agreement (signed in Abuja in May 2006), many tribes are no longer in conflict with the Government, and expect to be paid compensation for some of their losses. The third type of conflict is one involving foreign state actors, along with cross-border forays. The international community should look not only at the issues in Darfur, Sudan involving the Government, but also at the manufacturers and suppliers of weapons and ammunition to the non-state actors.

Each type of conflict may lead to human rights abuses of different types, and we must understand each.

So long as we do not clarify the issues, we may continue to see conflicting accounts. Glaring differences exist in accounts of the IDPs involved, the numbers of dead, of disappearances, etc. Accounts of human rights abuses also seem to differ, depending on the source of the information. The Sudanese delegation says that the situation is improving after the Darfur Peace Agreement. The spoilers of the Peace Agreement claim slow progress in the peace process.

Mr. President,

Our task in the Council is to look for human rights violations, and to ascertain exactly who is responsible. Thereafter, we would need to consider what action to take.

It is important that the Council be provided with clear, accurate and authentic information for an objective and unbiased decision. A fact-finding mission in Darfur composed of responsible, competent persons with well-known integrity would be the only option. The proposal of the African Union, involving individuals of repute and reliability, would be the best choice we have before us up to now. Clearly, we would lend our support to the formation of such a team.

We appreciate the cooperation extended by the Sudanese Government to the Council, and to the OHCHR, and would urge continuation of such cooperation. The invitation extended by the Government to the officials and members of the Council to visit Darfur is a welcome development. We must recognize and utilize such offers.

I thank you.