

EGYPT

Mr. President,

We fully associate ourselves with the statements of the OIC, the African and the Arab Groups.

Egypt is deeply concerned with developments in Darfur whether as regards the ongoing conflict and its ramifications, both regionally and internationally, or as pertains to the human rights situation in the region.

On this occasion, we reiterate our firm belief in the instrumental role that the Human Rights Council can play in promoting and protecting the human rights of all peoples, including the inhabitants of Darfur.

Mr. President,

We welcome the decision of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union at its 66th meeting at the level of Heads of States and Governments, on the 30th of November 2006, in Abuja/Nigeria, to extend the mandate of AMIS for a period of six months. This decision testifies to the resolve, as well as to the capability, of Africa to solve its own problems, in spite of the financial and logistical difficulties that face the African troops in Darfur. Furthermore, the extension of the mandate of these troops precludes the emergence of a security gap that can only lead to a significant deterioration in the humanitarian and security situation in the region.

We commend the Sudanese government for the cooperation it has extended to international and regional human rights mechanisms, as well as its efforts to address conditions in the Darfur region, including through disarming the militias, in spite of the serious practical challenges associated with the complex political and social situation.

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In that same vein, we attach importance to the steps taken by the government to implement the Darfur Peace Agreement (Abuja, May 2006) which, among other things, aims at reaching a comprehensive cease-fire, power and wealth sharing, final security arrangements and initiating the Darfur-Darfur dialogue.

In view of the above, we strongly believe that if indeed the international community is genuinely interested in restoring peace and security in the region, it should extend the necessary and urgent financial and technical support to the government of Sudan so as to enhance its capacity to provide the necessary humanitarian assistance to the inhabitants of Darfur, and, most importantly, to exert the necessary political influence to encourage the parties who refuse to join the Abuja peace process to do so, as well as effectively restrict the flow of arms to the region from external sources.

Mr. President,

The African group has co-sponsored this special session to express its concern about the human rights situation in Darfur, and to demonstrate its disposition and willingness to discuss, in an objective manner, issues related to that situation. Accordingly, we express our sincere hopes that dispatching a mission, composed of impartial personalities, will help in unraveling the reality of the situation on the ground in Darfur, with the priority objective of alleviating the human suffering in the region.

Egypt looks forward that the Council will assume its responsibilities in an equitable manner and demonstrate credibility by avoiding politicization of issues and by implementation of its decisions. So far, this does not seem to be the case. We also look forward that the Secretary General of the UN , may display an equal level of commitment towards the promotion and protection of human rights wherever they are threatened.