

**Office of the Spokesperson****UNMIS BRIEFING TO THE PRESS***06 June 2007*

*Below is a near verbatim transcript of the press conference hosting Chief of Public Information George Somerwill and also featuring Chief of United Nations Mission in Sudan' Recovery, Return and Reintegration Section Robert Turner, Deputy Representative of the UNHCR Craig Saunders and IOM Representative Mario Tavolaj.*

**CPIO Somerwill:** Good afternoon everyone. My name is George Somerwill. I am the Chief of Public Information for the United Nations Mission in Sudan. I am filling in today for Radhia Achouri, our Spokesperson, who is away on leave. She will be back next week. I would like to welcome you to our press briefing.

I am joined by three colleagues: Mr. Robert Turner who is the Chief of the Returns Section of the UNMIS, Mr. Craig Saunders, the Deputy Representative of the UNHCR and Mr. Mario Tavolaj, the Representative for IOM. Welcome to all of you.

In a moment, I will be introducing to you again our three guests and they will be speaking to you about returns and the returns situation. There will be press releases available on the situation regarding returns after the briefing. But to begin with, I am just going to give you a quick overview of the activities of United Nations Mission in Sudan and the United Nations agencies over the last week or so.

**UNMIS AND UN ACTIVITIES****UNMIS Political Affairs**

The CPA Monitor for May will be published on 10 June and is accessible on the UNMIS website, [www.unmis.org](http://www.unmis.org).

On **Darfur**, members of the Joint Mediation Support Team (JMST) are visiting Darfur, Chad and Eritrea to coordinate continuing initiatives along the lines agreed in the Tripoli Consensus. Pekka Haavisto, former European Union Special Envoy for Darfur has been appointed as Senior Adviser to the UN Special Envoy for Darfur with immediate effect. He will assist Jan Eliasson, to fulfill his mandate.

The JMST has presented the "road map" of the mediation process, prepared by the AU and UN Special Envoys to regional actors - Libya, Eritrea, Chad and Egypt, as well as to other key Darfur stakeholders, including the GOS.

**UNMIS Human Rights**

The Human Rights Committee of the National Assembly and UNMIS held a four-day “Workshop on Harmonization of National Laws with International Human Rights Standards”. The workshop aimed at strengthening national capacity to comply with international human rights obligations, in accordance with the CPA.

Chaired by Dr Priscilla Joseph Pouch, Chairperson of the National Assembly Human Rights Committee, along with Dr. Awais al Galy, a member of the National Legislative Committee, the workshop included members of the National Assembly, the National Constitutional Review Committee, the Advisory Council on Human Rights, the National Council for Welfare of Children, the Khartoum Centre for Human Rights, as well as students of human rights from Khartoum University.

Participants were able to identify gaps between the international standards and existing national law and to develop a series of recommendations to harmonize the two.

### **Ceasefire Joint Military Committee (CJMC)**

The CJMC continues to hold its bi-weekly meetings. The 53rd meeting of the CJMC was held on 22 May in Juba. The meeting considered several items, including redeployment of Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) troops, force structures, Other Armed Groups (OAG) alignment, Joint Integrated Units (JIUs) and demining.

The CJMC observed figures of redeployment were differently calculated, based on structures of battalions, brigades and divisions. SAF restated its commitment to meet the 9 July 2007 deadline for redeployment to the North. SAF also presented revised data of OAG aligned components of JIUs and said they would provide the OAG alignment details.

On JIUs, the CJMC noted that it was difficult for Joint Monitoring Teams (JMTs) to verify data on the ground in the absence of detailed nominal rolls. Both parties agreed to encourage representatives in the JIU to support the verification process. It was also agreed to arrange a meeting with JIU commanders. On demining, a comprehensive presentation was presented to the committee by the UN Mine Action Organization, which will notify the CJMC of future demining efforts.

### **UNMIS HIV/AIDS Unit**

UNMIS HIV/AIDS unit will be organizing the second Training of Peer Educators (TOPE) workshop in Wau from four to 14 June. The workshop, on HIV/AIDS peer leadership, will target mainly military personnel deployed in Wau, focusing primarily on treatment and care of people living with the disease. The course will have 38 participants from various troop contributing countries, Joint Integrated Units and people living with HIV/AIDS.

### **Humanitarian**

The situation in Darfur during May continues to be characterized by forced movement of civilians due to increased insecurity, swelling IDP populations, and rising tensions in camps, and ever-increasing targeted violence against humanitarian operations.

Nearly 140,000 people have been identified as newly displaced since the beginning of the year, with at least 10,000 on the move during the month of May alone. This week 300 families in very poor conditions arrived in Um Dukhum, having fled militia attacks in Um Dafog.

A very visible consequence of the continued pace of displacement is the swelling population of IDP camps – many of which can no longer absorb any new arrivals. Nearly all the camps in and around two of the three Darfur state capitals (El Fasher, North Darfur, and Nyala, South Darfur) are now at full capacity. Only Zam Zam, in El Fasher, can still accommodate about 3,000 more IDPs.

Also, in May, 17 vehicles used to support the humanitarian operation have been hijacked, bringing the total to 67 vehicles hijacked or attacked so far this year. There also continues to be a very high rate of attacks on NGO compounds and staff. The increasing use of physical and mental violence used during the hijackings, is of serious concern. Abductions, though temporary, are also more and more common. In one recent incident, 20 UN and NGO workers were temporarily abducted when their convoy was hijacked during an assessment mission.

The UN estimates that 566,000 people across Darfur are currently cut off from all humanitarian assistance. Compared to February, when 900,000 were inaccessible, this is an improvement, attributable to the increased efforts of humanitarian workers to reach conflict-affected populations and in spite of the deteriorating security conditions.

Building on the signing of the Joint Communiqué to facilitate administrative procedures governing humanitarian activities in late March, the High Level Committee comprised of representatives from the relevant Government ministries, UN and NGOs has met three times since its formation. On 30 May, a delegation of the High Level Committee visited El Fasher and Nyala to begin dissemination and implementation of the Joint Communiqué. The delegation met with local authorities to explain the workings of the Communiqué and look at any issue that remain to be addressed.

### **Security Developments in Darfur**

On 3 June, one of two AMIS pickup trucks traveling from Force HQs to the AMIS Camp in ZamZam near El Fasher was stopped and robbed by two armed bandits near El Fasher. The bandits took away money and valuables from all nine occupants and drove away in one of the pickups.

### **Security Developments in Southern Sudan and Transitional Areas**

Increased violence between villagers and nomads in areas of traditional nomadic migration in Southern Kordofan has been reported lately in the Lagawa-Julud corridor and the Talodi-Kauda-Dilling corridor. The Kadugli-Dilling road was blocked by SPLA soldiers and GoS police for 10-12 hours in the early morning of 29 May and again on 30 May.

A major fire broke out in Juba's Customs Market on 31 May, destroying eight shops and injuring more than 15 people. Seven officers and 60 soldiers from UNMIS Juba went to the scene, bringing along eight water tankers, an excavator, an engineering unit, two doctors and three medical personnel. The fire, which started in a shop selling petrol, was brought under control about two and a half hours later.

*More information about security developments in Darfur and Southern Sudan can be found in The UNMIS News Bulletin, available on [www.unmis.org](http://www.unmis.org)*

Thank you very much. I am now going to hand over the presentation to Mr. Robert Turner.

**Robert Turner:** Thank you George and thank you for the opportunity.

It has been a few months since we briefed our colleagues in the media on the pace of returns. I am joined, as you said, by Craig Saunders from UNHCR who will brief on the refugee component and by Mario Tavolaj of the IOM who will talk about some of the operational details on the IDP side.

The reason that we chose today to come and brief you is that we realized that last week that we just surpassed 100,000 organized IDP and refugee returns since January 2006. This, in our view, is a very impressive achievement particularly given that Sudan represents probably the most difficult operational environment in the world and that the pace has increased dramatically. When we were discussing this last week, we realized that in mid-2005 – 6 or 7 months after the signing of the CPA, it was still impossible to fly between cities in southern Sudan. In 2006, we were able to return 20,000 IDPs and refugees and in the first five months of 2007, we have returned 80,000 IDPs and refugees. We have for you after the briefing a Press Release and two maps that have all the data and the numbers.

The pace is increasing and the operations are continuing. Many road corridors, of course, are now closed or are in the process of closing as the rains set in to southern Sudan but operations continue. For IDPs, we will be taking advantage of the river corridors by using the barge and we are beginning an airlift of IDPs from Khartoum to Juba within the next few weeks. The numbers may decrease a bit over the next few months but we will be continuing operations and we will begin again convoys in large numbers starting in November.

The whole operation has been planned and implemented very much jointly with the governments. This has all been part of the joint plan that we briefed you on late last year. The Government of National Unity, the GoSS and the United Nations together with the IOM have been working together on a day-to-day basis to make sure that this operation has succeeded and it is without a doubt true that if no one of us partners had been fully engaged daily that this operation would fail. The contribution of the Government of National Unity and the GoSS has been instrumental in allowing us to move ahead. For example; issues we have had here in Khartoum with returns from the camps like resistance from the chiefs and some others has only been able to be resolved by relying on our partners in the government to work with us to get true and accurate information out to the IDPs so that they could take advantage of the operations. On the United Nations side, in addition to the UNHCR and of course the IOM, the WFP and UNICEF have played significant roles alongside a large number of NGOs. We identified 48 different national and international NGOs that made substantial contributions to the operations and I am sure that you will be hearing in the next few days that we missed some off the list but it has really been a huge collaborative effort of the entire humanitarian community and the governments.

On resources, we do want to raise the issue that inadequate resources are available to continue the operations. In the Work Plan for the United Nations for 2007, we requested \$68 million for return operations. To date, we have received on \$16.5 million ... all except 3 million of that has been provided through the common humanitarian fund. Only 3 million dollars has been provided bilaterally directly for return operations. The impact of this is that IDP return operations will stop in July if we don't get more resources. I will let Craig speak on the UNHCR situation but the truth is the same: the wheels come off the whole operation in July if the IOM does not get some more money to keep operating.

I will leave it at that as a general overview and turn over to Craig for some comments on the refugee operation.

**Craig Saunders:** Thanks Bob. It is also my pleasure to be here with you this morning. I will spend a couple of minutes to talk about the refugee aspect of returns.

Since the signing of the CPA, over 145,000 refugees have returned from five neighboring countries. Of this number, some 55,000 have returned under organized means. The others came either spontaneously or with some version of some assisted returns. This year alone, over 36,000 refugees have returned with the assistance of the UNHCR, IOM, UNMIS RRR and many other NGO partners that we work with. That is actually a quickening of the pace ... a stepping up of the momentum as compared to last year when some 21,000 to 26,000 people came back last year. So pace is picking up. Since the beginning of the operations, we had 10 corridors opened. Five of those have been closed. The closure of operations in a neighboring country of asylum is often a cause for celebrations; never is opening of a refugee camp any cause for celebrations. I am pleased to say today that we have, last Saturday, closed the operations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo with the final voluntary repatriation of a convoy from there. Some weeks before that, we closed the camps for Sudanese refugees in the Central African Republic and then, finally, we have also closed the camps in Ethiopia several months ago. This is, from the UNHCR perspective, a positive achievement.

I just want to say two others words quickly. The one is about reintegration and the other on returnee monitoring.

First, on returnee monitoring, the UNHCR, IOM and other agencies and NGOs are involved in this. Returnee monitoring is about interviewing people, making sure when they do get back home that they are safe, their needs are met, that their problems are addressed (and there are inevitable problems). We have teams doing that principally in Western and Eastern Equatoria. We also have a presence in central Blue Nile State and elsewhere.

On reintegration, UNHCR along with partners (IOM is also doing the same) has over 200 small-scale reintegration projects. This is a good start but is clearly not enough. There is a massive challenge ahead of us to assure that the basic services and infrastructure are in place. The UNHCR is part of that project but we believe development actors should be investing much more heavily in the early Recovery and Development phase. This is ongoing but there is clearly a lot of work ahead. There is an urgency in this and we should be clear on that. Sustainability of returns for IDP as well as refugee returnees depends on this.

At this stage, I will hand over to my colleague Mario and I will be available for questions afterwards.

**Mario:** Thank you Craig. The main aspects of this have been covered by my colleagues. Just focusing more on IDPs returns and on my organization. My organization is a non-United Nations organization but acting in Sudan under the United Nations mission and in very close cooperation with all the United Nations specialized agencies. We are part, of course, of the United Nations partners. As Craig mentioned, we are one of the Partners for the joint United Nations plan for Sudan and our role is more oriented to supervising towards the return of IDPs from the north to the south and some movements south-south. And for that, we have established a logistical network opening road, air and river corridors. Until now, we have operated more on land but are these days closing our operations on land because of the rains. But, as Bob mentioned, we will keep open the river corridors and will start some air operations to Juba covering also the Equatoria states.

At the same time, we also cooperate with the UNHCR in supporting some of their repatriation. Despite logistical difficulties – as Bob mentioned, the country is very huge and the accessibility of several parts of the country have serious constraints and the period for accessing this land is quite short ... talking about the dry season only – but despite that and thanks also to the very good cooperation between all the partners including also the Government of National Unity and the GoSS represented in the Joint Task Force, we achieved until now important results. We are ready to re-

open the whole operations. We are planning and preparing already the conditions. We are starting from November for the next returns season.

**CPIO Somerwill:** Thank you very much Bob, Craig and Mario. Now I am going to throw this open now to questions. To begin with, I would suggest that we concentrate on questions for any of our three guests on issues pertaining to returns. If there are any questions that do not relate to returns, I would deal with them afterwards.

## Q & A

**Q:** On the question of returns, we heard that the government is preparing to return about 100,000 people to Abyei. Please tell us what is happening there; how many people have registered to go back to Abyei; what is happening with negotiations with the government on returns to Abyei because as far as Western Equatoria State are aware, they can't sustain returns of that number yet?

**Robert Turner:** On Abyei, there was discussion over a few weeks ago about government-organized returns to Abyei. We undertook a joint mission with the HAC and the SRRC to Abyei two weeks ago to look at accessibility and absorbing capacity for any returns this season. The mission came back and identified two communities north of Abyei [*indiscernible names of the two communities*] and one community south of Abyei, Agok, which will be accessible and suitable for returns. And we agreed at that point that up to 1,000 people may be appropriate. However, since that time, one of the conditions on that was that UNMIS staff would have access to those locations for planning and monitoring. Subsequently, access was granted south of Abyei and so we moved ahead with planning for a single convoy of 500 people to Agok. Last week, the Acting Commissioner of Agok decided that it was not appropriate to return anyone to that area until the end of the rains so at the moment there are no plans for returns to Abyei this season.

Our condition from the beginning, you may recall, is that we would be happy to do returns to Abyei if there was a civil administration with whom we could do planning. We remain hopeful that there would be an agreement on an administration for Abyei and we are prepared to begin operations there next season.

I believe that approximately 24,000 IDPs have registered in Khartoum for Abyei.

**Q:** There are reports that returnees to the south find a lack of basic infrastructure in their places of return and some of them come back to Khartoum. Do you have solutions for this?

**Robert Turner:** We know that there have been people who were returned and have come back but there have been a couple of things on that.

One; returns in a context like Sudan where people have been displaced for a generation is not a simple linear process. It is not like one day they are deciding that it is time to go home and they are picking up their whole families after being displaced for about 15 years and are just moving the family home. They are moving in smaller groups. They are sending part of the family down there looking at the conditions, establishing a shelter perhaps and they are moving back and forth. Often they retain some employment and housing here. But there has been some re-displacement. We have just had the Overseas Development Institute come in to do a study for us on reintegration – particularly of IDPs – but we will also be doing refugees, and that is one of the questions they will be looking at. And they did field research in southern Kordofan and in northern Bahr-el-Ghazal as well as in the camps here in Khartoum.

And while it is true, and no one pretends otherwise, that the conditions in many of the areas of returns are poor from the services standpoint. Overwhelmingly, the returnees that the ODI spoke to plan to stick. They recognize it is difficult; they recognize the challenges; they recognize that they are home and they want to be home and are going to stay home. We know it is happening; there is lots of back-and-forth travel; there are some people who have gone and have come back; but overwhelmingly the returnees want to stay in the south.

**Q:** IDPs will be going back to Equatoria in a few weeks to come. It is now raining seriously in those areas. How then are they going to settle down home? Are there any measures in place that could help them to manage their conditions there?

Will the returns convoys be limited to 500 returnees or will the number differ?

**Robert Turner:** On this issue of returning during the rains, the way we are addressing this is by looking at where the people are going and also looking at the type of packages we are able to provide them with – particularly of non-food items. For example, we would not consider returning people to northern Bahr-el-Ghazal during the rains; we would not consider returning people to rural Upper Nile during the rains. So during the rainy season we are focusing on areas around towns where we have done assessments that reception and reintegration are possible.

In the Equatorias, generally access is better during the rainy season than it is in most of the rest of the south and also one of our concerns about returns during the rains to these other locations where they live off a single large crop per year is that if they miss the planting season they may have to wait an entire 16 to 18 months before they could harvest. In the Equatorias there are two, and in some areas even three, harvests a year so that the reintegration process is not as long.

On Non-Food Items, we will be providing for those going back to their areas in the Equatorias, twice the package that they would normally get. That means more sheeting and more blankets, etc. and also cooking sets because they will be getting less luggage capacity when they fly. The plan is to move by air maybe 100 people at a time from here to Juba on a 100-seater aircraft. It is 300 at a time for those going by barge.

**Q:** Returnees coming from Wau to Warrap complain that the conditions there are not suitable. Some even say that returns operations discriminate between south-south returnees and those coming south from Khartoum. They also complain of problems of job opportunities. What comments can you give on this?

**Robert Turner:** I think you have described Warrap pretty well. Yes, I believe that it is common knowledge that the level of services in Warrap State is amongst the lowest in southern Sudan. For example, we have returned from Khartoum less than 1,000 – I could get you the exact figure but I think only about 300 people to Warrap. Most of the returnees to Warrap have been from Wau. We carried out information campaigns in Wau beforehand to make sure people understood the situation to which they are returning. We have returned some over almost 9,000 people now from Wau to Warrap. I am unaware of any specific complaints about the returns to Warrap. The conditions under which people have been returned have been the same regardless of whether or not they moved from South Darfur to Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal, from Wau to Warrap or from Khartoum to Southern Kordofan. So there should be no reason for any particular complaints about the movement from Wau to Warrap. In fact it is only a day trip to so operationally it has been easier and has certainly been easier on the returnees themselves as they don't have to spend multiple days on the road as some of the convoys have.

As I said, I am unaware of any specific complaints and the services and the packages they have received for food and non-food items have been the same for all operations.

**Q:** There are those who have been born in refuge in the neighboring countries who may find it difficult to know their places of origin. When these come back, do you bring them in convoys, settle them in camps and then take them to their places of origin or do you have specific places where they are put temporarily?

**Craig Saunders:** First of all, for those born of Sudanese parents outside the country are considered, from a UNHCR and a refugee perspective, as a citizen of this country. There are actually very few cases where people do not know where they are from and this would really be some of an extreme case where people have been separated from their families and there is just no knowledge whatsoever of where they came from. That is actually a very rare occurrence and I am not aware of any case right off the top of my head in this instance but it may happen.

As concerns returns, as part of the process of organized returns, people indicate where they are from. We organize convoys to assist them, as Mario pointed out, in some cases by air and mostly by road. I think we have a total of about 12 or 13 way stations and are about to add another five or so. These way stations are places that they could stop over along the way back home. But the goal is to try to get people back to their communities as quick as possible and not to get stuck in a way station. Sometimes it happens in rare cases but for the most part people are transiting these. They are given some assistance such as non-food items and food and other things and then move on to the communities where they are from and can begin the task of re-building their lives.

I think Bob has already indicated, and a number of you have raised some points, on the constraints that people face on returns. Those all exist; it is all part of why we are here and what we are trying to do. That is the answer to your question.

**Q:** You mentioned that returns operations may halt if no funds are provided. But this is expected in all such operations such as returns, development and even relief operations. Specifically, who is responsible for the flow of such funds? I was in southern Sudan two days ago and visited some villages where I saw a total lack of infrastructure and a very minimum levels of services. Returning IDPs think they will have better conditions around these towns but the towns themselves are near explosion due to lack of basic services. Government says it has no funds and is waiting for donor funds; the GoSS says it cannot address the issue of development without the necessary funds. Who can solve this problem?

**Robert Turner:** On the funding question, in general, funding to Sudan is very good compared to any other operation in the world. The scale of funding which is over a billion dollars a year; in addition to the overall total, the percentage of funding which we receive against our stated needs is also very high compared to almost any other country in the world. So I think that as far as funding goes, that is not so much an issue.

For returns operations specifically, we have not received the funding that we require and as far as the possibilities go, the reality is that international donors have no responsibility to provide this money. We need to make a good case and demonstrate that we could efficiently and effectively spend the money and that the cost is worthwhile. I think we are doing quite that.

Part of the problem, specifically on returns, has been the traditional donors for returns don't have additional money to make available. Many of them have funded the common UN fund; we have received money through the common humanitarian fund. We are therefore trying to seek out non-traditional sources of funding and certainly the governments are all in this. We would like to see



more resources come available from the governments for both the returns operation and reintegration and development assistance.

As far as services in the rural areas go, nobody hides the fact that the level of services is extremely low. But, in the end, if you look at where we were two years ago, a lot has been done: thousands of boreholes have been drilled in the last two years, thousands of kilometers of road have been built in the last two years. As I said, when I came in June two years ago, you couldn't fly or drive anywhere inside southern Sudan. Now, if things go well, by the end of next season we will be able to drive on an all-weather road from Khartoum to Juba. The only segment that is now missing is a segment between Wau and Abyei. These are huge changes; huge improvements. There still is much left to be done but let us not underestimate how far we have come in only two years.

**Craig Saunders:** If I may just say a word about the funding side of things because I think that is something that all agencies are facing – particularly the UNHCR and I could just as well speak for the IOM - we are agencies that rely on voluntary contributions. These voluntary contributions do indeed come from states, from governments but many of them come increasingly from private sources – sometimes individuals pay through websites just like that. In southern Sudan, I would like to draw attention to a couple of them that I think are interesting and important for UNHCR. One is the Dutch Postal Code Lottery. We received \$1.3 million from them. We also have contributions from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for \$4 billion. I wanted to bring your attention to the fact that there are not only government but also private contributions.

UNHCR and, I think the IOM, are facing a shortfall. We have actually been relatively well funded so far this year. The year is not complete but as it stands right now, we are also facing right now a \$14 million shortfall. I am actually optimistic we will get additional funds but it is always a challenge to try to go for short funding.

**Q:** Mr. Saunders, you mentioned that Equatoria is better than the other areas of return. People know that the Lord's Resistance Army roams these areas. My question is: isn't the Lord's Resistance Army causing insecurity in these areas?

**Robert Turner:** At the moment, the areas we are looking at for returns in the Equatorias are areas that we deem to be safe enough for our personnel to be working and therefore we are willing to provide the opportunity for returnees to go to those areas. It is up to them to make the determination whether or not they believe it is safe enough for them to be there. But if it is not safe enough for our staff to be there, if we don't have regular access, then we would not do returns to those areas.

Initially for return to the Equatorias for IDPs (I will let Craig speak about it on refugees), we are only looking at Yambio and Tombora payams in Western Equatoria in addition to Mundiri and Maridi payams – the main urban areas in Western Equatoria. Next dry season, we can look at expanding that into more of the rural areas but for now, because of the conditions, we will focus on those. In Central Equatoria State, similarly, we will focus on the main accessible areas during the rainy season such as Juba, Lainya and Yei. And, again, once the situation dries out in early November or even October, we can look at expanding that into more rural areas that we couldn't reach at the moment.

For IDP operations, we are not planning returns to Eastern Equatoria at the moment because of the security situation. It is slightly different for refugees based on where they are coming from and where they are going. But given security conditions particularly between Juba and Torit, we will not be doing IDP returns to Eastern Equatoria at the moment. Again, we are optimistic that there will be a resolution to the Lord's Resistance Army issue – negotiations are ongoing. As soon as the security situation permit, then we will expand our operations.

**Q:** Mr. Somerwill, you said that the African Union-UN mediation team has started efforts to unify the initiatives on Darfur. Has agreement been reached already on coordinating these initiatives from the neighboring states?

Has UNMIS been invited to attend the meeting in Juba of Darfur Peace Agreement non-signatory groups called for by Vice-President Salva Kiir?

**CPIO Somerwill:** Let me answer your second question first. Yes, the two Special Envoys from the UN and the AU – Jan Eliasson and Salim Ahmed Salim respectively – were invited to go down and to participate in the meetings in Juba which I now understand are going to take place I think about the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>.

In relation to your first question, I would say that we are keeping all of the countries that have mediation efforts underway informed and they are keeping us informed. Where it is possible, we are trying to unify the efforts, so to say. But I would say that the main thing is that we are keeping each other informed. We are especially keeping the neighboring countries informed of the efforts of African Union and the UN. But I think to say that they are unified at this point is possibly putting it a little bit strongly but I think wherever possible, where there are synergies where we could all work together – because ultimately the aim everyone is working towards is peace in Darfur. So there are plenty of synergies between what we want and it is good that there are many ongoing efforts to try to attain that goal.

Thank you very much for coming here today. I would like to thank our guests Craig Saunders from UNHCR, Mario Tavolaj from IOM and, of course, UNMIS' Robert Turner from our Returns Unit.

Thank you all of you for coming here and let me remind you as you are leaving that there is a Press Release available from our three colleagues here today and also there is a statement that I read to you earlier.