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Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission In Sudan/ Public Information Office

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Highlights

(Local Arabic and English language press)

NCP and SPLM warn of potential insurgency in the Nuba Mountain

Al-Rai Al Aam reported that NCP and SPLM at a meeting intended to discuss removal of obstacle impeding CPA implementation in Southern Kordofan and the Blue Nile warned of potential rebellion in the Nuba Mountains. They pledged to work together to address insecurity and any potential insurgency in the area. They criticized performance of the DDR in the north and south Sudan. Presidency Affairs Minister Bakri Hassan Saleh said 1500 of SPLA elements have been integrated into the police and emphasized the need to integrate the remaining number estimated at 1500 soldiers. There was agreement between the two partners on the status of the People's Defence Forces (PDF) and the People's Police (PP). SPLA agreed that PDF and PP could be maintained provided they should be under SAF and Police. SPLA deputy Chairman Malik Agar speaking at a rally in Kauda has accused what he described as "warmongers" in the north and south of seeking to make mischief between SPLM and NCP. "They are coward," he said. NCP leader Al-Dirdiri at symposium at Kadugli said relations between NCP and SPLM are at "their best" despite some difficulties.

29 persons nominated for elections commission

Local dailies reported that the Sudanese Political Parties nominated 29 persons for the Elections Commission. The Political Parties' committee spokesperson Siddiq Yousuf said the list would be submitted to the Presidency to select nine personalities for the commission. According to Al-Sudani newspaper the list includes seven women. GoSS Presidency Affairs Minister Luka Biong said a donor conference would be held to discuss the issue of funding forthcoming elections the total cost of which is estimated at \$70 m.

120 Russian pilots to join peacekeepers in southern Sudan

Al-Sudani carried a report stating that the first batch of Russian military personnel will arrive in southern Sudan to join UNMIS peacekeepers. Russian Defence Ministry's spokesperson Vector Evanov said it was a regular rotation and the first batch for Sudan would include 70 military personnel to be followed by 50 others. He said the Russian pilots would fly four Russian helicopters operating with UNMIS. He said Russian helicopters' safety standards were high as none of them experienced any technical problems since their induction in April 2006. 120 personnel from Russian air force are working with UNMIS, operating Russian helicopters (Mi-8 MT).

Sudanese lawyers Union advocates all peacekeepers leaving Sudan

The **Citizen** newspaper reported that the General Union of the Sudanese lawyers yesterday renewed its firm position against the presence of any foreign troops in Darfur, saying that the presence of these troops affects the country's sovereignty and

independence.

The Union issued a statement yesterday calling on the international community to remove the foreign presence in Sudan and to stand against the resolution of the Security Council concerning allegation of Sudanese nationals having committed crimes in Darfur. The Union rejected SC resolution that extended UNAMID mandate because of not including any reference to the allegations raised by ICC. “we call upon the International Community and the free nations in the world to free Sudan of foreign troops and support it against SC allegations,” the statement said.

Kiir not a unionist but a separatist – MPs

The Citizen newspaper carried an article by Swangin Issac captioned “Kiir not a unionist but a separatist”. The article said some members of the Southern Sudan legislative Assembly stated that GoSS President Salva Kiir is not a unionist. This came as a result of Kiir’s nomination by the SPLM to contest forthcoming presidential elections.

“it is in the interest of the people of southern Sudan if Kiir contests presidential elections,” says MP (SPLM) Remijo Lasu Peter. “If Kiir is elected President of the Sudan it will be easy for southern Sudanese to vote for unity or separation in the upcoming referendum in 2011,” he added.

“Contesting presidential elections by Kiir is unwise decision,” says MP (UDF) David William. “If Kiir loses the presidential elections he will be voted out from GoSS presidency seat,” he added. Daniel Achilla MP (SPLM) said if Kiir is voted President of the Sudan it would be difficult for southerners to vote for separation.

GoSS oil revenue for June amount to US\$ 278.47 m

Sudan Vision carried a report stating that oil revenues for June 2008 reached US\$ 787.08 million, out of which the export revenues were US\$513.17 million and the crude used in the local refineries valued at US\$173.91 million.

National government share from the oil revenue for June amounted to US\$408.61 out of which 288.68 government share from export and from the crude oil used locally US\$119.93 million.

GoSS share amounted to US\$278.47 million out of which US\$224.49m was from export and the local refined oil amounted to US\$53.98 million. Ministry of Finance Undersecretary, Al-Tayeb Abu Ganaya stated, in the joint committee meeting over the prices and the net revenues that the direct transfers to GoSS for June 2008 amounted to US\$217.24 million.

Abu Ganaya pointed out that the oil producing states transfers for the same month amounted to US\$8.56 millions out of which Unity State share reached US\$1.34m, Upper Nile US\$5.77m, and South Kordufan US\$1.45 million. As for the amounts agreed on over Abyei Reconstruction Fund, Abu Ganaya stated that it amounted to US\$17.17 million.

GoSS Ministry of Finance Undersecretary, Salvador Mayardit commended the transparency and accuracy of joint committee oil revenues accounts.

Corruption in the South increases tremendously within GoSS

Sudan Vision newspaper stated that the Anti-Corruption Commission Chief, Pauline Riak affirmed that 76% of Southerners believe that the corruption percentage is increasing within the GoSS adding that this was reached through a study conducted by the commission.

This came during an interview conducted with her by Al-Ahdath Daily Arabic Paper. Pauline added that people in the South are frustrated because they see no improvement in the infrastructure which they expect after the signature of the CPA besides their feeling that their wealth is being utilized by some individuals in the South.

Pauline said that the commission recorded more than 1462 corruption cases in the South in the first six months of 2008 and that most of the cases were related to nepotism.

She said that the main problem which faces the commission is Southern Sudan Legislative Council not endorsing the corruption bill which hinders the work of the commission.

Pauline expressed satisfaction with the unlimited support she found from GoSS President Salva Kiir Mayardit and South Sudan Legislative Assembly Speaker James Wani.

Southern Assembly failed to debate child bill

The **Citizen** reported that the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly members failed yesterday to debate on the child bill for this year. "There is no sitting today because Michael Makeui, the Minister of GoSS Legal Affairs and Constitutional Development is in Khartoum and we can not discuss in his absence," said Mark Nyikang Yomon Assembly clerk.

President Al-Bashir receives Chairperson of African Union Commission

SUNA reported that the Chairperson of the African Union Commission Jean Ping has emphasized the need for the International Community to fulfill its commitments to provide technical and logistic support to UNAMID and to boost efforts of the joint AU-UN Chief mediator Djibril Bassolé to realize the political solution in Darfur. Mr. Ping said in a press statement after meeting with President Bashir yesterday. The meeting discussed situations in Sudan, UNAMID besides the mission of the joint AU-UN Chief mediator Djibril Bassolé. He said the decision of the ICC would complicate the situation in Darfur and negatively affect the peace process in the region.

ICC movements add oil to the fire

"At the time when we are making efforts to address the issue they chose to add oil to the fire", says AU Commission Chairman Jean Ping in his comment on ICC application, according to local daily Arabic newspapers of today. The AU Commission Chairman Jean Ping and AUPSC chief Ramtane Lamamra conveyed to President Bashir the position of the AU on ICC request of warrant against Bashir. Jean Ping told the press that from his meetings with Bashir and some Sudan Government officials he had noted the desire of Sudan to cooperate with the SC to resolve the issue.

OIC affirms full support to Sudan

SUNA stated that the Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC) Executive Committee affirmed its firm stance in support of Sudan against ICC allegation. In a statement it issued Monday, the OIC Executive Committee called on the international community to refrain from pursuing double-standard policy.

Government, AU hold talks at MFA

SUNA reported that the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Deng Alor, and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Dr. Jean Ping, Monday co-chaired joint talks at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs which focused on issues of UN-AU peacekeeping mission in Darfur as well as means of pushing forward the peace process and the allegations of the prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Government says SC promised to debate ICC application

Al-Ayyam newspaper learned from diplomatic sources that SC promised to debate ICC application for warrant against Bashir. Sudanese Ambassador to Egypt Idriss Sulaiman said the efforts exerted by the Arab League, AU and Non-Alignment Movement (NAM) led to renewal of UNAMID mandate which was victory for Sudan and justice.

SAF readied weapons to defend Bashir

Al-Rai Al-Aam quoted SAF Chief of Staff Gen. Mohamed Abdul Gadir as saying that SAF readied its weapons to defend the President against ICC. Gen. Abdul Gadir was addressing a demonstration staged by wives of SAF officers and soldiers. "ICC will never get hold of Bashir alive," he said. "Sudan government will never hand over any Sudanese national to ICC even if he is a rebel," he added.

US envoy to visit Sudan on Friday

Al-Ayyam stated that US Envoy Richard Williamson will arrive in Khartoum on Friday on 7-day visit to meet with Sudanese Foreign Minister and other government officials. Sources said the Envoy would also visit southern Sudan and Darfur. his talks with Sudanese official will focus on crisis between ICC and the Sudanese government.

Vice President Taha met Hamas leader Khaled Masha'l

Al-Intibaha said Vice President Taha met yesterday with Hamas leader Khaled Masha'l. Speaking to SUNA Masha'l said the purpose of his visit was to express Palestinian solidarity with Sudan against ICC. "Hamas appreciates Sudan Government's support for the Palestinians' rights," he said.

6 killed and 13 wound on Nyala-Fasher road

Al-Sudani newspaper stated that six persons have been killed and thirteen others wounded when 50 armed men aboard land cruiser vehicles ambushed passenger buses and commercial trucks en route from Nyala to El Fasher in Amar Jadid area

(South Darfur) . Four trucks loaded with goods were taken to unknown destination. Eyewitnesses said the attackers destroyed the tyres of the ambushed vehicles.

Ministry of Agriculture and Forest determined to sue UNAMID

Al-Khartoum reported that Government is determined to file case against UNAMID for encroachment upon lands belong to the National Forests Corporation in El Fasher (North Darfur). “The law exempts nobody, whosoever on Sudanese soil is subject to domestic law,” says Al-Zubair Bashir Taha, Minister of Agriculture and Forests, at press conference yesterday at SUNA premises.

Website/International news coverage

Sudan opposition party hails Kiir run for presidency

(Sudan Tribune) – A Sudanese opposition party hailed the decision by the chairman of Sudan People Liberation Movement (SPLM) to run for presidency in the 2009 elections. “I warmly welcome the choice by the SPLM to pick my brother Salva Kiir to run for the presidential elections” Mubarak Al-Fadil leader of Umma Reform and Renewal party said in a statement today.

“The candidacy of Kiir, a leader from the south with considerable influence among the people will create a new reality that ends the power and wealth monopoly by the elites in central Sudan which led to the marginalization for the majority of Sudanese” Al-Fadil said. “The countryside in Sudan produces 80% of national income but only receives 20%” he added.

Last month the SPLM political bureau met in Juba and announced that Kiir is their candidate for president in next year’s elections. Kiir has previously been reluctant to run for president.

The timing of the SPLM announcement appeared to have angered the ruling National Congress Party (NCP). Some observers have suggested that Al-Bashir’s position may be weakened by the ICC accusations.

Sudan presidential adviser Nafi Ali Nafi said in press statements last week that president Omar Hassan Al-Bashir “is the most qualified person for presidency whether people like it or not”.

But Al-Fadil said that Kiir “enjoys an agreeable and balanced personality putting him in a position to gain national consensus that secures Sudan’s unity between the North and the South”.

However the opposition leader fell short of endorsing Kiir or saying whether he would run for presidency. “We in the Umma Party look to this development positively and we will take that all that into account when the party bodies deliberate on candidacy for presidential elections” the statement read.

Flooding in south reportedly drives 250,000 from their homes

(Sudan Tribune) — Cholera has seen a resurgence in southern Sudan, where 20 have died over the weekend following heavy rains that drove hundreds of thousands from

their homes, a local official said on Monday. Cholera, which has been in decline in southern Sudan until recent rains, has infected almost 6,000 people in the region and killed at least 44 this year in other parts of the semi-autonomous region.

"Twenty people so far died of a disease believed to be cholera over the weekend and many others are now admitted in Aweil hospital," said Tong Aken Ngor a member of parliament for the Aweil area of Bahr al-Ghazal state in southern Sudan. Ngor said some 250,000 people had been made homeless due to heavy rains that caused flooding and destroyed houses in the area.

Ngor said many people in the flooded areas had little food or shelter and called for urgent international help. Southern Sudan is emerging from a civil war after a peace treaty signed in 2005 that created an autonomous government for the region.

Islamic countries ask UN to defer ICC move against Sudan president

(Sudan Tribune) — Members of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference joined their efforts to the African Union and the Arab League and urged the Security Council to defer any move by the ICC to issue an arrest warrant for Sudanese president Omer al-Bashir.

The OIC ministers, who met on Sudan's request as part of international campaign , described the ICC prosecutor demand for an arrest warrant as "unwarranted and unacceptable," and expressed "deep concern" that it could undermine efforts to resolve the Darfur conflict and promote peace in Sudan.

Foreign Ministers from Islamic states "urged the UN Security Council to suspend indefinitely the move by the (ICC) prosecutor directed against President Omar Hassan Al-Beshir," they said in a statement after a meeting at OIC headquarters in the Saudi city of Jeddah.

They decided that the OIC "should coordinate its efforts with the African Union, the League of Arab States, the Non-Aligned Movement and other political groupings to support steps in the UN and elsewhere aimed at defusing this dangerous situation."

The ministers also hailed the restoration of diplomatic relations between Sudan and Chad as good a step towards the resolution of Darfur conflict. They also welcomed the appointment of Djibril Bassolé as U.N. African Union chief mediator for Darfur peace talks.

Deferral of indictment for Sudan president not on UNSC August agenda

(Sudan Tribune) – The issue of suspending the indictment of Sudan president Omar Hassan Al-Bashir is not on the agenda of the Security Council (UNSC) for August, Jan Grauls the Belgian UN ambassador told reporters today.

Libya and South Africa sought to force a suspension in the UNAMID resolution adopted on July 31st but failed to get the required number of votes and instead accepted a watered down paragraph taking note of the AU's concern on the ICC move to seek an arrest warrant for Al-Bashir.

Russia, China and African countries in the UNSC are seeking an Article 16 resolution before the judges issue a decision on the Prosecutor's application.

However the Belgian envoy said that none of the UNSC members made a formal request for consideration of the matter. "At this stage no delegation has requested consultation or announced its intention to take this up at a particular moment in August" said Grauls whose country holds the rotating presidency of the UNSC.

China's UN envoy Wang Guangya last week hinted that they may soon introduce a resolution. Grauls said he is aware of the Chinese statements and that it is up to the SC members to decide whether "August is the right time" to debate the issue. "At this very stage I am not aware of initiatives with regard to Article 16" he said.

AU urges UN to consider African request for ICC suspension

(Sudan Tribune) – African Union Chief has urged the U.N. Security Council to take in account the AU request to suspend the ICC prosecution against the Sudanese president al-Bashir.

Along with AU Peace and Security Commissioner Ramtane Lamamra, AU Commission chairman Jean Ping met with Sudanese officials in Khartoum including the Ppresident, his deputies, Salva Kiir Mayadrit, Ali Osman Taha, Sudanese MFA Deng Alor and presidential assistant Nafi Ali Nafi.

Talks focused on AU efforts to counter the ICC request for an arrest warrant for al-Bashir, the obstacles facing deployment of UNAMID and ways to make political progress in resolving the conflict.

"We think that this decision should be examined clearly because we are here in Africa and the troops who are here are Africans, those who are dying are Africans," Ping said. Referring to the ICC, he added that the AU was concerned not only about "the people who died" but also "people who are still alive." It was important to "take into account not only the problem of justice but also the problem of peace", he said.

Stressing the need to suspend the ICC action lest it ignite further conflict, Ping said, "While we are trying to extinguish the fire here with our troops, we don't understand that they chose that moment to put more oil on the fire."

Acting on behalf of the AU group, Libya and South African failed to force the U.N. Security Council last week to suspend the ICC prosecutions in the second case of Darfur crimes against the Sudanese president for a period of 12 months. Instead they had to accept a watered down paragraph taking note of the AU concern on the ICC move to seek an arrest warrant for Al-Bashir.

Ping told reporters that they asked Khartoum to do more in exchange of this strong support for the Sudanese president in terms of peace process and peacekeeping force. "We think that the Sudanese government has accepted to cooperate with us since the beginning... and we want them to show it more. That's what we have been discussing

with the authorities here," he said.

The AU chief also said that Sudanese official responded in a positive way to his demand and back political efforts headed by the newly appointed Djibril Bassolé, the joint chief mediator for Darfur peace talks. In addition they gave assurances on commitment to cooperate with the deployment of the troops of the peacekeeping mission and equipment.

Foreign ministry spokesman Ali al-Sadiq said the two parties agreed that "if Sudan and the African Union made major breakthroughs in UNAMID and the political process... (this) may ease tension between Sudan the ICC."

Chadian Deby says willing to resume diplomatic relations with Sudan

(Sudan Tribune) — President al-Bashir today received a message from Chadian President Idriss Deby in which he stressed his country's willingness to normalize relations with Sudan. The Sudanese president made this statement on Monday during a meeting with a delegation from the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group (ACP) led by Niger's Ambassador Abdou Abarry who convoyed the message. The delegation arrived Khartoum from Nd'jamena.

Bashir reaffirmed Sudan's readiness to consider positively the resumption of bilateral relations in response to the request of the ACP and a number of countries, including Senegal and Libya. The head of ACP delegation told the reporter following the meeting that "The restoration of diplomatic relations between Sudan and Chad would rebuild confidence between the two countries and thus boost efforts to address Darfur crisis, which affect the country and led to many problems in the region.

New batch of Russian peacekeepers fly to Sudan

(Sudan Tribune) — Some Air Force personnel will leave today to Sudan as part of a scheduled rotation of Russia's contribution to UNMIS, a military spokesman announced today.

Russia participates with 120 aviation personal and four Mi-8 helicopters in this peacekeeping mission. The first unit of Russian peacekeepers arrived in Sudan in April 2006.

"Eighty pilots and technical specialists will fly to Sudan on August 4 aboard an Il-18 military transport plane," Lt. Col. Vladimir Drik said. A second group of 40 servicemen would fly to Sudan on August 8, he added. The Russian aviators transport military and civil members of the peacekeeping mission as well as cargoes. They also carry out rescue operations.

Sudan asks Burkina Faso to block Bashir's indictment

(Sudan Tribune) – Sudan has pressed the third member in the African group in the Security Council to support last week's efforts by Libya and South Africa to counter ICC prosecution of charges against President al-Bashir.

Burkina Faso supported the African initiative but in a low key manner. This was so as not to hinder efforts by former FM Djibril Bassolé recently appointed joint chief mediator for Darfur peace talks.

Speaking with reporters in Ouagadougou yesterday, Sudan's Parliamentary Affairs Minister Joseph Okelo said, "We have a problem with the ICC and we have come to ask the support of the president of Burkina Faso and other countries to have the decisions taken suspended to give peace a chance in Sudan."

Okelo noted that Burkina Faso had also "promised to send us 2,400 men" to participate in UNAMID.

Cholera in South Sudan kills 20, affects hundreds

(ST/Reuters) — Cholera has seen a resurgence in southern Sudan, where 20 have died over the weekend following heavy rains that drove hundreds of thousands from their homes, a local official said on Monday.

Cholera, which has been in decline in southern Sudan until recent rains, has infected almost 6,000 people in the region and killed at least 44 this year in other parts of the semi-autonomous region.

"Twenty people so far died of a disease believed to be cholera over the weekend and many others are now admitted in Aweil hospital," said Tong Aken Ngor a member of parliament for the Aweil area of Bahr al-Ghazal state in southern Sudan.

Ngor said some 250,000 people had been made homeless due to heavy rains that caused flooding and destroyed houses in the area.

Ngor said many people in the flooded areas had little food or shelter and called for urgent international help. Southern Sudan is emerging from a civil war after a peace treaty signed in 2005 that created an autonomous government for the region.

Cholera is a water-borne disease which causes vomiting and acute diarrhoea and can rapidly lead to death from dehydration if not treated.

A cholera outbreak in 2006 killed 700 people and affected around 25,000.

AU warns against Bashir genocide charge

(Reuters) The African Union (AU) has said a move by the International Criminal Court (ICC) to indict Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir for genocide and war crimes in Darfur was pouring "oil on the fire".

Chairman of the AU Commission Jean Ping met Mr Bashir and other officials in Khartoum and urged the UN Security Council to suspend the ICC investigation into the president to allow peace efforts to continue.

"While we are trying to extinguish the fire here with our troops, we don't understand that they chose that moment to put more oil on the fire," Mr Ping told reporters after the meeting.

Regional powers worry that any indictment would cause problems for UNAMID and stall any peace process. But rights groups call the ICC move a blow against impunity.

AU Peace and Security Commissioner Ramtane Lamamra said the force could reach 80 per cent of its total by the end of 2009 if the international community showed goodwill towards the mission.

COMMENTARY

Darfur's development gap

[The Boston Globe, Op-Ed by David L. Phillips – 4/08/08]

BY ACCUSING President Omar Hassan al-Bashir of Sudan of genocide, the International Criminal Court has caused Khartoum to change its approach to Darfur, where 200,000 people have died and millions have been displaced since 2003. Hoping to defer the court's charges, Bashir is promising peace, development, and restitution to Darfurians.

The United Nations Security Council should leverage efforts by Russia and China to defer charges against Bashir by securing an agreement with Khartoum to cooperate with the international community in a development plan for Darfur. The initiative would address a root cause of the conflict, which lies in Darfur's poverty and historic marginalization.

The Darfur development initiative would run parallel to efforts aimed at addressing immediate security and humanitarian needs. Despite the activities of state-sponsored militias - the "janjaweed" - development activities are still possible in parts of Darfur less affected by conflict. In addition to widening islands of stability, a "peace dividend" may have the added benefit of revitalizing the political process by getting Darfur's movements to focus on the development horizon as an alternative to continued conflict. To this end, Columbia University's Center for the Study of Human Rights recently published a development dossier that identifies project opportunities focusing on water and the related sectors of agriculture, livestock, energy, and health.

The dossier proposes water catchment, harvesting, storage, conservation, and sanitation projects with immediate impact on traditional farming communities in the South, northern pastoralists who migrate seasonally, and Darfurians who share rangelands, woodlands, and water sources. It recommends expanding agricultural output through investments in improved seeds, fertilizers, and small scale water management, as well as agro-processing to make farming more profitable. In addition, it addresses the link between environmental conditions and public health.

A gap exists, however, between identifying projects and implementing them. A donor country can address this gap by agreeing to spearhead the Darfur development initiative. Of the major players in Sudan, Canada is best-placed for this role. Norway is preoccupied with leading the Sudan consortium of donors. The European Commission is too slow and bureaucratic. The United States and Britain are too deeply distrusted by

the government of Sudan.

Canada is principled - yet pragmatic. Though Canada phased out its development activities in response to Sudan's poor human rights record in 1989, it remained a major supplier of humanitarian relief. Canada reestablished its aid program providing crucial food supplies, healthcare, and water and sanitation services after the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2005. Canada provided more than \$445 million in voluntary contributions for peace efforts, humanitarian assistance, and early recovery since 2006.

Taking the lead on Darfur development would incur no additional cost to Canadians, but it will require more concentrated efforts by the Canadian government. Focusing on development would enhance, not compromise, its existing support for the UN's Sudan-wide efforts.

The Darfur Development Coordinator would assist inter-agency cooperation among Canadian agencies. He or she would also be a person of high moral standing with the clout to encourage other countries to invest the development agenda for Darfur.

The coordinator would assist a Darfur to Darfur development dialogue to foster consensus among Darfurians on development priorities. The dialogue would be institutionalized through the establishment of a committee of Darfurian technical experts and representatives from Darfur's different political movements. To facilitate links between the committee and Khartoum, the coordinator would also encourage set-up of a Joint Planning Mechanism to assist both parties in assessing needs, developing priorities, and drawing up action plans for project implementation.

Development is no substitute for accountability, security, or political talks. But with Bashir on a charm offensive to defer his indictment, an unprecedented opportunity exists to enlist Sudan in a cooperative effort aimed at improving the living conditions of Darfurians while fostering sustainable peace through development.

David L. Phillips is a visiting scholar at Columbia University's Center for the Study of Human Rights and director of Darfur Development Initiative.

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