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By Public Information Office

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Highlights

Main News

Taha Urges donors to consider issues of debts, economic sanctions and to support agricultural development in Sudan, South Sudan tells donors 25% of peace deal not implemented

(SUNA/Al-Ayyam/ST) Vice - President of the Republic, Ali Osman Mohamed Taha, has called on the donors to consider settlement of debts of Sudan, lifting economic sanctions and to support the agricultural development projects in the country.

Addressing the opening sitting of the Donors Conference in Oslo, Taha said that support to the development projects aims to realize the Millennium goals and to combat poverty by funding projects, especially in the agricultural field. He referred to the efforts of Sudan government for realization of peace and stability as well as progress of implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and achieving solution for Darfur issue.

Representatives of the United Nations and the World Bank addressed the opening sitting. A sitting was held after the inaugural one and discussed the progress of implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). The sitting, which was chaired by the Minister of International Cooperation, Dr. Al-Tigani Salih Fedail, reviewed a paper presented by Dr. Tajal-Sir Mahjoub on issues relating to the implementation of the clauses of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

GoSS Presidential Affairs Minister Dr. Luka Biong also addressed the conference stating that CPA implementation was slow adding 25% of the CPA was not implemented and when it comes to Abyei, the percentage rises to 65% explaining that for these reasons GoSS suspended its participation in the GoNU in October.

The two-day conference is part of a series of donor nation meetings that began in Oslo in 2005, just after the signing of the CPA which ended fighting that cost 2 million lives, many from famine and disease.

Further Biong expressed worries for the slow implementations in Nuba Mountains and Blue Nile.

"The implementation of the protocols for these areas will be a litmus test for the overall implementation of the CPA in the other war affected areas of the Sudan." He said.

Biong warned that if the CPA implementation "fails to provide a meaningful self-rule in Nuba Mountains and Blue Nile, then the chance that war will erupt again is most likely in these transitional areas."

According to the protocols related to these regions, signed in May 2004, the Nuba Mountains and Southern Blue Nile will each have their own government headed by a governor directly appointed by registered voters after 2009 elections.

The Sudan Consortium, as the donors group is called, is chaired by the Sudan Government of National Unity, the Government of Southern Sudan and the Norwegian organizers, the World Bank and the U.N.

Norway and the European Union on Tuesday pledged \$935 million in aid to Sudan over the next four years.

Conference host Norway pledged \$500 million between 2008-2011 to help Africa's largest nation recover from 21 years of internal warfare. The E.U. immediately followed up with a promise of \$435 million in the same period.

Norway helped broker the 2005 peace accord, with northern and southern Sudan are in an interim peace period due to end with a 2011 referendum on whether the south will secede.

800 million Euro from EU and Norway for development in Southern Sudan

(Al-Rai Al-Aam) Donor countries and Sudan Government pledged yesterday to implement the CPA and to make unity attractive through development programmes.

The Sudanese Vice President Taha addressed the conference stating national unity was the major strategic concern and can only be achieved through sustainable development.

The European Union pledged Euro 300 m and Norway pledged Euro 500 m for Sudan.

[UN/Agencies](#)

More international support needed for South Sudan, says Migiro

(UN News Centre) 6 May 2008 – The international community needs to refocus on South Sudan and to increase support for recovery and development there, the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General said today.

Speaking to the third meeting of the Sudan Consortium held in Oslo, Norway, Asha-Rose Migiro said the main goals must be to improve security and living standards,

rebuild infrastructure, advance disarmament and demobilization, strengthen the rule of law, and to create secure conditions in the country.

The Sudan Consortium, which is led by the UN and the World Bank, brings together governments and civil society organizations from around the world, including representatives from Sudan itself. It was established in 2005 following the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) which ended 21 years of civil war between South Sudan and the national Government of the country.

Ms. Migiro said that the initial pledging conference for Sudan three years ago had “proved crucial in mobilizing resources for the initial phase of the CPA. It is therefore opportune that, three years later, we return here once again to energize our efforts in support of the CPA.”

She cited significant achievements, including the return of thousands of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) to their homes, and the increase in the number of children going to primary school in South Sudan from 350,000 in 2005 to 1.2 million in 2007. But she added that “much more needs to be done. A unique but narrow window of opportunity exists, which, if grasped, can help Sudan...achieve a lasting and broad-based peace.”

Ms. Migiro noted that the continuing violence in the Darfur region of Sudan is “of grave concern,” but added that it is “of critical importance that the focus on Darfur should not eclipse our work for peace throughout the rest of Sudan.”

Before today’s meeting in Oslo, a group of 20 women from all over Sudan said that progress since the first Consortium meeting had been “too slow” and called for international support for women’s leadership in the country and the realization of a 25 per cent quota for women in public office.

At a meeting in the Norwegian capital facilitated by the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the women expressed “grave concern” about the situation in Sudan and said they are “particularly concerned about the persistence of extremely poor human development indicators in relation to women and girls’ literacy, maternal mortality, productive asset security, economic and political empowerment and protection from gender-based violence.”

Senior UN relief official urges immediate access to wounded in North Darfur

(UN News Centre) 6 May 2008 – Voicing her deep concern about the reported attacks on villages in North Darfur, the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator for Sudan has called for immediate access to the affected areas to provide assistance and medical evacuation for the injured.

In Oslo for the Sudan Consortium, which is evaluating progress in implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between North and South Sudan, Ameerah Haq joined delegate after delegate in calling for an immediate end to the attacks in North Darfur, which have left three dead and at least eight injured in recent days.

“I am deeply perturbed by the reported bombings of a school, water installations and a market where civilians, especially women and children are present. It is essential that we have immediate humanitarian access to the affected populations in order to provide humanitarian assistance and medical evacuation,” said Ms. Haq.

The joint UN-African Union (AU) hybrid mission in Darfur, known as UNAMID, has mobilized helicopters and medical evacuation teams to evacuate casualties. The mission said it successfully airlifted wounded civilians, “following SAF [Sudanese forces] air attacks on the village of Umm Sidir in North Darfur” on Thursday.

Yesterday General Martin Luther Agwai, UNAMID’s Force Commander and the Chairman of the Ceasefire Commission (CFC), said the reported bombings of villages, markets and populated areas in Umm Sidir, Ein Bassar and Shegeg Karo are unacceptable acts against civilians, compounding the extent of displacement, insecurity and untold human suffering.

In addition, the UN Children’s Fund (**UNICEF**) said it is also deeply concerned at reports that a number of children have been killed during the attacks, and called on the Government forces and the other parties to the ongoing conflict to take every necessary action to prevent future deaths or injuries amongst children.

UNICEF reminded all parties to the conflict that under international conventions, children are to be afforded special protection during military operations and urged that every effort be made to ensure that schools, health centres and other such humanitarian facilities are considered as zones of peace.

The conflict in Darfur – which have claimed more than 200,000 lives and displaced nearly 2.5 million others since 2003 – has taken a high toll on children. UNICEF estimates that half of the conflict-affected population in Darfur are children – including at least one million who have been displaced by fighting.

Ethiopia: UN closes camps as refugees return to South Sudan

6 May - After 23,000 refugees returned home to South Sudan, the United Nations refugee agency has closed two camps in western Ethiopia.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) announced today that it had closed Bonga and Dimma camps after the organization assisted refugees to return, mainly to Blue Nile state in South Sudan. Last week’s closures bring to three the number of camps which have been emptied in western Ethiopia since last year.

The repatriation operation has now halted for the rainy season and is scheduled to begin again in November. Around 3,000 refugees who remain in the two camps will be transferred to other camps in Ethiopia. Some of these refugees have indicated that they will return to Sudan later in the year using their own means.

UNHCR is now planning to rehabilitate the camps before handing them over for use by the local community. There are proposals to use one as an agricultural centre and the other as a technical training college.

Overall, some 275,000 Sudanese refugees have returned to South Sudan since 2006 from various surrounding countries, including Uganda, Ethiopia, Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Kenya. This year alone, some 47,000 Sudanese refugees have returned home, mainly with UNHCR assistance.

[GoNU](#)

SC to listen to report on hybrid force in mid May

(Al-Sudani) The Security Council will listen in mid May to a report on the progress of hybrid operation in Darfur.

According to Sudanese Ambassador to UN Abdul Mahmoud Abdul Haleem the measure was routine, part of UN follow up of progress of UNAMID.

With regard to British initiative to host Darfur negotiations, he said things would unfold during the forthcoming days. Sources said it was likely that Britain would present the initiative to the Security Council.

On the reported visit of Security Council delegation to Sudan next month the Ambassador confirmed the desire of some SC members to visit Sudan and expected the date of the visit to be fixed during the current month.

However, he said, so far Sudan was not formally informed about the visit of the SC delegation.

Nearly 400 enumerators in South Darfur refuse to hand over census questionnaires

(Ray Al-Shaab) Nearly 400 enumerators in South Darfur have refused to hand over census questionnaires to the competent authorities because they were not paid in full.

The enumerators claimed that their colleagues in Khartoum State and Southern States were paid SDG 100 per day but in Darfur the daily pay for an enumerator was SDG 30. They demanded that the balance should be paid before questionnaires were delivered.

Final census report will be submitted to the Presidency in October

(Al-Khartoum) The Chairman of the Central Bureau of Statistics Yassin Al Haj Abideen said the census exercise was wrapped up and data collection process would continue until June to be followed by data analysis which would start in July and ends in September.

Mr. Abideen expected the final census report to be submitted to the Presidency in mid October.

Census completed ahead of schedule

(Sudan Vision) Central Statistics Bureau Director, General Population Census Supervisor, Dr. Yasin Alhadj Abdeen, announced that the head counting has been completed a day before the set deadline.

He told Sudan Vision that actual census taking finished last Monday, affirming that the process was smoothly run in all States as citizens positively responded to the counting.

Abdeen remarked that his Bureau will embark for two days, on checking census documents received to be followed by census forms analysis that will continue till the end of current May. Next the data will be entered into the computer. The whole process will take 50 days.

He further declared that the Bureau would submit the census results to the Presidency by the end of coming September.

In that context, Abdeen praised the Sudanese people for their contribution to the census success as well as the Government Authorities, UN Population Fund and all other parties that positively added to the process.

Interior Ministry accuses Darfur rebels of protecting narcotics dealers, decides to send 3000 police to Darfur

(Al-Sahafa) The Interior Minister Ibrahim Mahmoud Hamid at press conference yesterday said his Ministry would send 3000 central reserve police personnel along with 50 vehicles to secure five main roads in Darfur for delivery of WFP monthly 45000 tons of food materials to the affected population in Darfur.

The Minister said he held a meeting with WFP and truck owners and an agreement was reached for such an arrangement.

The Minister said the security situation was improving except for one incident which took place in Jebel moon, in Western Dafur.

The Minister also accused Darfur rebels of providing protection to narcotic traffickers.

National Assembly Speaker accuses GoSS of embezzling public money

(El Sharee El Syasi) The National Assembly Speaker Ahmed Ibrahim Al Tahir has criticized GoSS accusing it of mismanaging public money, as there was no audit for southern Sudan.

He wondered where the money allocated for southern Sudan go.

Second round of talks between Sudan-US soon (Al-Watan)

Al-Sudani) Consultations between the US Administration and the Sudanese government are currently underway to decide the venue of the coming talks between the two countries, US Charge de Affairs in Khartoum said.

He said his country was concened over the air bombardment by Sudan government on villages inhabited by children, aged and women in Northern Darfur State.

However, the US diplomat declined to reveal the agenda of the up coming talks, saying that they were extension of the negotiations conducted in Rome between the two sides.

[GoSS](#)

South Sudan pays last respect to its fallen heroes and heroines

(ST) May 6, 2008 (JUBA) – The Government of Southern Sudan organized a prayer on Tuesday at the Mausoleum of the late SPLM Chairman, Dr. John Garang de Mabior, in Juba to pay the last respect to the victims of May 2, 2008 plane crash that claimed the lives of Dr. Justin Yaac Arop, Presidential Advisor, Lt. Gen. Dominic Dim Deng, SPLA Affairs Minister, their respective wives and 17 others.

Tens of thousands of citizens turned up at the prayers asking God to forgive and take away such violent deaths that repeatedly befall their leaders.

Speaking to the crowd, the First Vice President of the Sudan and President of the Government of Southern Sudan, General Salva Kiir Mayardit, said the death of Dr. Justin Yaac and Lt. Gen. Dominic Dim is a great loss to the people and the nation.

“We are hit by another tragic incident three years after the death of Dr. John Garang who died in a similar disaster,” President Kiir reminded the crowd of the bitter memory.

He blamed the incident on the aircraft, saying Southern Sudan has become a dumping ground for unworthy vehicles and aircrafts that could not be allowed to fly in other countries.

He asked the people to overcome the pain of such tragedy and move forward with the nation building.

An Advisor to President Omer Al Bashir and representative of the Government of National Unity, Uncle Bona Malual Madut, conveyed a message of condolences from President Bashir.

Uncle Bona Malual who also represented the Twic Community of Dinka tribe in Warrap state said the incident is a great loss to the Twic Community in particular and the nation in general. It is to be noted that seventeen out of the twenty-one people killed in the plane crash are from the Twic Community among who are notably Dr. Justin Yaac Arop and Lt. Gen. Dominic Dim Deng.

Bona Malual reminded President Salva Kiir, both of whom are also from the Twic Community of huge contributions of the two deceased leaders in the struggle during their lifetime.

While leading the prayers, Bishop Nathaniel Garang of Episcopal Church of Sudan, urged the leaders of Southern Sudan to unite and prayer to God for forgiveness. "I call upon the leaders to unite and love one another then these evil deaths that follow us always will go away," he advised.

Bishop Garang also called on the leaders to turn to Christ for forgiveness. "I know there is something going on that is why these things are happening, adding that leaders should read the Bible and pray with clean hearts", he added.

Lt. Gen. Oyai Deng Ajak, SPLA Chief of Staff said the two heroes (late Dr. Yaac and Dominic Dim) contributed effectively to the "liberation of Southern Sudan."

Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda, Minister of Internal Affairs in the Republic of Uganda read out at the podium a message of condolences from President Yoweri Museveni. He said the tragic death of the two leaders is a great loss to the people of Southern Sudan and their government, the SPLM/A, the whole nation and the region.

He assured continuous cooperation from the Republic of Uganda and appreciated the Government of Southern Sudan for its mediation efforts between his government and the Lord's Resistance Army/Movement (LRA/M).

Late Lt. Gen. Dominic Dim Deng and his wife will be buried today, Tuesday, at Bilpam (SPLA General Headquarters) about three kilometers north of Juba town while the bodies of late Dr. Justin Yac and his wife will be flown back to Warrap State tomorrow, Wednesday, for burial.

Darfur

US slams Sudan attacks against civilians in Darfur

(ST) May 6, 2008 (WASHINGTON) — The U. S. State Department condemned air strikes by the Sudanese army killing 14 civilians in North Darfur last week.

"We condemn the aerial bombings by the Sudanese Armed Forces of civilian targets in North Darfur, including the reported May 4 attack on a primary school and marketplace which took the lives of several civilians." a statement issued today read.

Last Friday, An Antonov of the Sudanese army killed 11 civilians in Shegeg Karo area in North Darfur state and wounded 4 child and 2 women, the attack occurred on the market day. The army bomber also killed three brothers in Ain Bassir area, east of Jebel Midoub.

Washington urged the Sudanese government and the rebel groups to "adhere to their existing ceasefire commitments, end hostilities, and pursue a peaceful resolution of the conflict."

The head of the ceasefire commission, General Martin Luther Agwai, who is also UNAMID Force Commander, slammed yesterday the recent attacks saying "are unacceptable acts against civilians, compounding the extent of displacement, insecurity and untold human suffering."

Khartoum which denies systematically the bombing, didn't react to the different reactions from the regional and international institutions.

On the occasion of the second anniversary of Darfur Peace Agreement, the statement also reiterated the US commitment to the full implementation of Abuja agreement and "the pursuit of a prosperous, peaceful, and democratic Sudan."

However, the Department said peace remains elusive and civilians continue to be victims of violence and human rights abuses.

UN experts estimate some 300,000 have died and 2.5 million driven from their homes in five years of revolt in Darfur. Washington calls the violence genocide, a term Khartoum rejects and European governments are reluctant to use. Sudan blames the Western media for exaggerating the conflict and puts the death toll at about 10,000.

Darfur rebel chief calls on UK to send peacekeepers

(ST) May 06, 2008 (PARIS) — a key Darfur rebel leader living in France called on the British Prime minister Gordon Brown to send peacekeepers to the war ravaged region.

"The UK government should focus its efforts in the current stage on bringing security to Darfur and protecting the civilians," Abdel-Wahid Al-Nur, leader of Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) told Sudan Tribune today.

"We need to have boots on the ground to achieve conflict suspension. There need to be a peacemaking force. The international community should disarm the militias and preserve the livelihood of the people before any talks can commence," he said.

"Anything different will provide the Sudanese government with the opportunity to continue its acts of aggression and killing our people in Darfur. Just this week they used their air force to kill schoolchildren. Unfortunately there was no effective force on the ground to stop them," the SLM leader added.

The UK Foreign Secretary, David Miliband, and the Secretary of State for International Development, Douglas Alexander, met last week with the Sudanese Foreign Minister, Deng Alor and the Sudanese presidential adviser Mustafa Ismail.

During the meeting the Foreign Secretary and Secretary of State for International Development, pressed Deng Alor on the UK's key concerns on Darfur: the security situation and humanitarian access; the urgent need for a cessation of hostilities; more active cooperation from the Government of Sudan on the UNAMID deployment.

The British officials further discussed how a cessation of hostilities could help improve prospects for progress in the political process, and how the UK could help.

However, the Foreign Office didn't elaborate on the initiative made by the British Prime Minister in mid-April to host Darfur peace talks. It was expected that they would deliver further details on the proposal.

The Sudanese presidential adviser Mustafa Ismail said last week that it is "premature to say whether we have accepted or rejected the British proposal since we are still in the process of inquiring and evaluating the situation".

Al-Nur also said he received fresh information on a wave of new Arab settlers from neighboring countries into Darfur.

"There are around 120,000 of them who came from Niger to Wadi Saleh. This also occurred in north, west and south of Zalingi. They are building new villages for them in these areas. This is a serious matter. Khartoum clearly is continuing its policies of repopulating Darfur with tribes from other countries".

There have been numerous reports since 2002 on alleged resettlement of Arab tribes from Niger and Chad in Darfur by the Sudanese government to change the demographics of the region.

International experts also say more than 300,000 were killed and 2 million have been driven from their homes by the conflict in Darfur, a region that is roughly the size of France.

South Korea mulling to join Darfur peacekeeping force

(ST) May 6, 2008 (SEOUL) — South Korean government is closely studying the possibility of joining the peacekeeping operation in the war-torn region of Darfur, the Korea Herald reported today.

"We have decided to cautiously consider sending troops after thoroughly reviewing the situation in (Darfur) by sending one or two more teams to the site," a source told the Seoul based daily.

A Korean high level delegation consisted of the foreign and Defence ministries paid a four-day visit to Darfur last month to assess the situation.

The Seoul government considers its involvement in the UN peacekeeping operations as a way to enhance Korea's global recognition. Currently South Korea is only part in the UN peacekeeping mission in Lebanon, with 350 troops.

The current UN Secretary General, who is native from this country, requested the participation of his country in the world biggest peacekeeping operation in Darfur.

However the daily reported that Seoul final decision will be made after taking into consideration the public sentiment in the country also.

The United Nations-African Union hybrid peacekeeping operation is supposed to deploy 26000 troops in western Sudan. So far only 9000 are deployed on the ground for the time being

According to the UN latest estimation, at least 300,000 people have died from the combined effect of war and famine since the conflict started in February 2003. Other sources give a much higher toll, but Khartoum disputes all these figures.

China renews commitment to support Darfur peace process

(ST) May 6, 2008 (OSLO) – China has reaffirmed its commitment to exert efforts to end Darfur crisis and to provide the necessary humanitarian assistance as well as its participation in the hybrid peacekeeping mission there.

Chinese ambassador to Norway Gao Jian read a message in donor conference in Oslo on behalf of the Chinese foreign minister Yang Jiechi, on Tuesday.

Goa said that China has done its utmost to seek an appropriate solution to the Darfur issue which includes actively participating in the peace-keeping operation in the region.

"We have committed ourselves of sending a 315-man engineering unit. So far, the first team of 143 engineers has already been dispatched to Darfur and undertaking its jobs now," the ambassador said.

He further said that China has offered 80 million RMB of humanitarian assistance to the region and an additional 1.8 million U.S. dollars to the AU peace-keeping mission. He added that Beijing recently donated 500,000 U.S. dollars to finance the joint mediation of the AU and the UN special envoys

China is very much concerned about the lacking of progress in the political process and "we call for the international community to exert positive influence urging the opposition parties in the Darfur region to return to the negotiation table at an earlier date", Gao said.

The two-day Sudan Consortium Conference will review progress on the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). The meeting is also expected to generate new pledges of aid and donations to support reconstruction and further development in Sudan, the ministry said in a statement.