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**UN JOINT TRANSITION FUND (UNJTF) ALLOCATES FIRST DONOR
CONTRIBUTION FROM SWEDEN OF US\$1.5 MILLION TO JOINT PROJECT IN
THE NUBA MOUNTAINS/SOUTHERN KORDOFAN**

Khartoum/Nairobi/Geneva/New York, 18 January 2005: The United Nations Joint Transition Fund (UNJTF)—a UN trust fund for the National Government of Sudan recently set up to allow donors to pool their resources during the six-month transitional period following the signing of the comprehensive peace agreement—today decided to allocate the fund's first contribution from Sweden of about US\$1.5 million to a joint UN project in the Nuba Mountains/Southern Kordofan. The joint project includes planned activities of five UN agencies¹ outlined in the UN and Partner's Work Plan for 2005, and includes monitoring and information services to more than 400,000 IDPs; support to basic services for 25,000 beneficiaries including health, water, sanitation, education and rural energy interventions; nutritional surveillance; and improved food security through support to agriculture and livestock for 15,000 beneficiaries. The project will assist GoS and SPLM areas on an equitable basis.

Manuel Aranda da Silva, the DSRSG/RC/HC, welcomed the decision. "We are grateful for the Swedish contribution, which will help provide an immediate peace dividend that will sustain peace, including by sustaining livelihoods during this critical period and by laying the foundation for recovery and development. The Nuba Mountains/Southern Kordofan already has a large vulnerable population and in addition is expecting large-scale return movements as a result of the recent signing of the comprehensive peace agreement. The area also faces the difficult administrative challenge of unifying GoS and SPLM areas under a single administration in accordance with the comprehensive peace agreement."

Sweden has earmarked an additional contribution to the UNJTF of approximately US\$1 million to coordination activities of the Office of the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Sudan and United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (DSRSG/RC/HC).

Notes to editors:

The United Nations Joint Transition Fund (UNJTF) has been established for the National Government of Sudan (GoS), to be administered by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as Administrative Agent on behalf of the Participating UN Organizations. A fund for the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) has similarly been established and is administered by UNICEF.

¹ Participants include: World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

The governance structure of the UNJTF includes UN agencies, representatives of contributing donors, an NGO representative, and Government representatives from the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, the Ministry of International Cooperation, and the Ministry of Finance. The main decision-making body, the Project Acceptance Committee, is chaired by the DSRSG/RC/HC, who has the final decision-making authority although decisions normally are taken by consensus.

The United Nations and Partner's Work Plan for 2005, on which the joint project that was adopted today is based, has been developed in consultation with sectoral ministries/departments and the GoS and SPLM/A leadership and draws on the priorities reflected in the GOS/SPLM/A document, Urgent Needs in Sudan: October 2004-June 2005.

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