



UNMIS Press Release

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SRSG Qazi commends DDR progress

Khartoum, 9 September 2008: Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) in the Sudan is very close to entering the implementation phase, UNMIS Special Representative of the Secretary-General said in Khartoum today. Policies are in place, planning is underway and the funding for some initial steps is available, SRSG Qazi said in an address to the National DDR Coordination Council this morning.

Mr. Qazi saluted the progress made so far in most key benchmarks for the DDR programme. He commended the National DDR Council as well as the North and South DDR Commissions for their constructive approach to what will be the most complex and largest DDR operation of its kind in the world.

Mr. Qazi pledged the full commitment of the UN to launching a pilot project in one of the three areas (most likely Blue Nile State) before the end of the year, noting that discussions to achieve this are well advanced between North and South DDR Commissions and the UN.

However, he acknowledged that much remains to be done. Adequate and timely funding for reintegration must be secured especially from donor countries regardless of whatever uncertainties may lie ahead, he said.

SRSG Qazi emphasized that DDR is one of the indispensable processes for moving the Comprehensive Peace Agreement forward. Such progress is central to peace in all of Sudan, including Darfur, he noted.

Expressing the hope that another milestone document would soon be signed on demobilization, the SRSG called for another roundtable meeting of the parties, the UN and the donor community to be held in October.

SRSG Qazi paid tribute to the leadership of the Government of Sudan and welcomed the appointment of William Deng Deng as the Chairperson of the South Sudan DDR Commission. He reiterated the full cooperation of the UN in making the DDR a successful part of peace and stability in the Sudan.

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