

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **OUTCOMES OF THE HIGH LEVEL COMMITTEE MEETING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE ON THE FACILITATION OF HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES IN DARFUR.**

The High Level Committee that was established by the Joint Communiqué on the facilitation of humanitarian activities in Darfur met for the first time today, 2 May, at the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs. The meeting was chaired by the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator/Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General. Attendants included representatives from the Humanitarian Affairs Commission, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the European Commission, the Embassy of Jordan, International NGOs and the UN. The Committee had positive discussions on facilitating the work of humanitarian actors in Darfur. The Committee acknowledged the progress that had been made in terms of improving access for humanitarian actors, and for addressing bureaucratic issues that had been identified.

Commitments were made by the Government to address issues of labour requirements with a view to resolving them prior to the next meeting. The United Nations agreed to expedite technical support to strengthen the capacity of the Joint Procedures Centre and the Technical Committee. A common monitoring mechanism was endorsed by the HLC and will be the basis for registering and addressing any issues related to the Joint Communiqué in a systematic manner. Progress was acknowledged on the processing of NGO visas, and humanitarian assets through customs, although it was noted that further work needs to be done. The Committee also supported the wide dissemination of the agreements made in the Joint Communiqué.

The Committee agreed to meet again in two weeks time.

