

PRESS RELEASE

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

21 May 2007

The High Level Committee, established by the Joint Communiqué on the facilitation of humanitarian activities in Darfur, met for the second time today, 21 May, at the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs. The meeting was co-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 and the SRRC, the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the European Commission, the Arab league, International and National NGOs and the UN.

All participants welcomed the significant progress that had been made by the Joint Procedures Centre in both the monitoring of the Joint Communiqué, and in efforts to resolve outstanding issues. Agreement was reached on a way forward for unresolved cases. Progress in the processing of humanitarian goods through customs, and on the expedition of visas and permits for Darfur was acknowledged. Efforts made by the Government to streamline current administrative procedures through the Joint Procedures Centre were greatly appreciated by members of the humanitarian community. All parties committed to the continued support of the Joint Procedures Centre and the Tripartite Joint Technical Committee.

The Committee supported the wide dissemination of the agreements made in the Joint Communiqué and it was agreed that a joint team would be dispatched to several locations in Darfur in order to ensure that the procedures agreed are fully implemented at the field level.

All parties welcomed the improved level of cooperation between the UN and the Government in facilitating implementation of commitments made in the Joint Communiqué.

