

PRESS RELEASE

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

24 September 2007

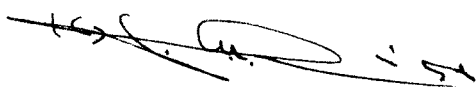
The High Level Committee that was established by the Joint Communiqué on the facilitation of humanitarian activities in Darfur met on the 24 September, at the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs. The meeting was co-chaired by the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and the new UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator/Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General, Ms Ameerah Haq. Attendants included representatives from the Humanitarian Affairs Commission, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the UN, International and National NGOs. Observers were represented by the Embassy of the United States, the Embassy of DRC, and the Arab and African group

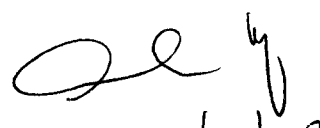
The new Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, as co-chair of the Committee, commended the progress that has been made so far by the High Level Committee and noted the good working relationship between the International NGOs and HAC in addressing bureaucratic procedures in Darfur.

The Committee was briefed on the launch on the 23 September of the General Procedures' Directory and the Darfur Fast Track Annex, which had been formally adopted by the High Level Committee. This document provides clear guidance on administrative procedures for NGOs working in Sudan. The document will be translated into Arabic and widely circulated over the next few weeks. Training at the field and Khartoum level will be initiated to support effective implementation of the procedures. The HLC members commended the initiative and expressed their appreciation for the extensive work carried out in order to finalise the document. They also highlighted the need to receive regular reports on the monitoring of the implementation of the Procedures. It is hoped that the completion of this Directory will assist in facilitating the work of the humanitarian community throughout Sudan.

With regards to the pending issue of the CARE director, Mr Paul Barker, the Committee was informed the Government had met with the Regional Director of CARE, and that they will report more extensively at the next meeting.

The Committee was requested to look into the conditions and actions necessary to initiate an extension of the "Moratorium on Restrictions" (2004) which currently expires on 31 January 2008. The Chair mentioned that the progress of the political talks in Libya and its ensuing implications on Work Plans of NGOs will have to be assessed. He invited NGOs to feedback to the TJTC with relevant information in this regard. This will be discussed further at the next meeting in order to initiate timely action.


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