



**National Council for Child Welfare/United National Mission in Sudan/
United Nations Children's Fund
Joint Press Release
on Workshop on sexual abuse and exploitation**

Khartoum, 18 January 2007: A one day Workshop on sexual abuse and exploitation was held today in Khartoum at the initiative of the Sudanese National Council for Child Welfare (NCCW). The Workshop discussed shared concerns over sexual exploitation and abuse by military personnel, including peacekeepers, humanitarian workers and other actors.

The United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS) took part in the Workshop.

The Workshop participants recognized that sexual exploitation and abuse occur in most communities fragmented by conflict and devastated by war and poverty. They also recognized that these acts are not exclusive to UN personnel, military or civilian, humanitarian workers or armed forces and armed groups of the country concerned.

The Workshop reviewed the current policies of the Government of Sudan and the United Nations as well as the African Union Mission in Sudan to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse. They also discussed ways and means to strengthen existing instruments to ensure better protection to women and children.

The Workshop participants agreed to establish a UN/Government of Sudan Taskforce in order to foster coordination, information-sharing and partnership between all concerned. The Taskforce's mandate is to coordinate measures to prevent sexual abuse and exploitation; ensure a more effective communication on the subject between all actors concerned from the UN and the Government of Sudan; and review existing mechanisms for reporting, response and follow up on allegations of sexual abuse and exploitation.

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