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Statement by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sudan on the meeting of the Ceasefire Joint Commission between the Government of Sudan and the rebel movements of Darfur

Khartoum, 26 November 2004: The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sudan Jan Pronk welcomes the meeting of the Joint Commission for the N'Djamena Humanitarian Ceasefire Agreement of 8 April 2004 held yesterday in the Chadian capital to review the status of implementation of the Agreement.

Mr. Pronk takes note of the reiteration by all parties of their commitment to the terms of the Ceasefire Agreement as well as the Abuja Protocols of 9 November 2004. He strongly urges all parties to see that this commitment is translated into concrete action on the ground by immediately halting hostilities. "I fully support the African Union stand on this issue. The parties have to understand that neither the AU nor the international community are prepared to sustain a process based on empty promises". Mr. Pronk reiterates his call for the rebel movements, particularly the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A) to cease hostile military actions. "The recent attacks by the SLA on Tawila and Kalma camp were acts of revenge for grievances pre-dating the Abuja Agreements. That's not acceptable. The Abuja Protocols were meant to be a fresh start". Mr. Pronk calls on the government to exercise maximum restraint and refrain from the use of aerial bombing in countering the rebel movements' attacks.

Mr. Pronk urges all parties to extend full cooperation to the African Union and its Ceasefire Commission. He calls on the parties to respond without delay to the AU demand that the government present a plan for neutralizing the armed militia and Janjaweed, and the armed movements provide information on their positions according to the agreements they have signed. "If the parties are to be taken seriously by the international community as reliable partners, they have to fulfill all their commitments. The forthcoming days will be the test of their seriousness. If they fail to live up to their commitments, they have to realize they will be held accountable by the AU Peace and Security Council and the United Nations' Security Council".