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CONSEIL DES DROITS DE L'HOMME
Quatrième session
Point 2 de l'ordre du jour provisoire

**APPLICATION DE LA RÉOLUTION 60/251 DE L'ASSEMBLÉE GÉNÉRALE
DU 15 MARS 2006 INTITULÉE «CONSEIL DES DROITS DE L'HOMME»**

**Note verbale datée du 21 février 2007, adressée au secrétariat du Conseil des
droits de l'homme par la Mission permanente de la République du Soudan
auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève**

La Mission permanente de la République du Soudan auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies et des autres organisations internationales à Genève présente ses compliments au secrétariat du Conseil des droits de l'homme et a l'honneur de lui faire tenir ci-joint une copie du message* que M. Lam Akol Ajawin, Ministre des affaires étrangères de la République du Soudan, a adressé le 18 février 2007 à M. Ban Ki-moon, Secrétaire général de l'Organisation des Nations Unies, concernant la visite de la Mission de haut niveau du Conseil des droits de l'homme au Soudan.

La Mission permanente du Soudan prie le secrétariat du Conseil des droits de l'homme de bien vouloir faire distribuer le texte de la présente note et de son annexe comme document officiel de la quatrième session du Conseil des droits de l'homme et saisit cette occasion pour lui renouveler les assurances de sa très haute considération.

* Reproduit en annexe tel qu'il a été reçu, dans la langue originale seulement.

ANNEXE

Republic of the Sudan

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The Minister

شركة السودان



جمهورية السودان
وزارة الخارجية
الوزير

No: 25/2/2

Date: 18 February 2007

Excellency,

I would like to refer to what has transpired recently about the entry visas to Sudan to the High Level Mission of the Human Rights Council. As you may recall, the Council decided, in its Decision S-4/101, to assess the human rights situation in Darfur and the needs of Sudan in this regard.

You may also recall that during your meeting with H.E Omer Hassan AL-Bashir, the President of the Republic, which took place in Addis Ababa on 29 January 2007, in the margins of the African Union Summit, you raised the point pertaining to the delay in issuing the entry visas to the members of the Mission. You may further recall that H.E the President gave his directives that this issue will be tackled by the concerned Sudanese authorities.

In this regard, I would like to underscore while the above-mentioned Decision was adopted by consensus and accepted by the Government of the Sudan, yet my Government expressed reservations on the composition of the Mission. We believe it is our legitimate right, as a sovereign state, to ascertain the impartiality, neutrality and objectivity of that Mission.

Excellency,

While consultations were underway between our Permanent Mission in Geneva and the President of the Human Rights Council, with a view to reaching an acceptable formula, our Permanent Representative was astonished to receive, within a very short time, two letters of the same date (14 February 2007), from Ms. Judy Williams, the Head of the High Level Mission. In the first letter she said, and I quote: *'... We regret to inform you that any further delay in the issuance of visas beyond 12:00 noon on 14 February 2007 will make the proposed visit to the Sudan impracticable and will compel us to proceed with our work through alternative arrangements.'*

In the second one, Ms. Williams stated, and I quote:

'...I deeply regret that visas for the Sudan have not been issued to the High Level Mission in time for it to conduct a visit to the country. Consequently we are forced to consider this as a denial of access to the Sudan and to seek other means to carry out the responsibilities entrusted to us by the Decision of the Human Rights Council.'

Allow me in this regard to emphasize the following:

1- We categorically reject such a provocative manner in addressing sovereign states. There is solid ground to believe that it is ill-intended, prejudiced and lacking respect for the country and its people.

2- We believe that this inappropriate approach contravenes the principles and objectives establishing the Human Rights Council. General Assembly resolution 60/251 calls for; *inter alia*, the promotion and protection of human rights on the basis of cooperation and genuine dialogue with member states. It further states that its work shall be guided by objectivity and constructive international dialogue and cooperation. It also stipulates that its work shall be in close cooperation with governments.

3- It is our firm belief that the High Level Mission, including its Head, should adhere to the applicable norms and standards consistent with the resolution establishing the Human Rights Council.

In this vein, it is much desired from the Council, now more than at any other time, to come up with concrete results on the proposed Code of Conduct of the mechanisms and special procedures of the Council.

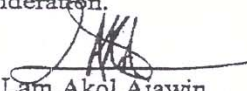
Excellency,

While the reservations on the composition of the High Level Mission still hold, we respectfully expect that you assume your duties with regards to the inappropriate approach undertaken by the Head of the High Level Mission, as I have explained above.

Excellency,

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate our full commitment to cooperate with the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms. I believe the cooperation by the Sudan is unprecedented in this regard. I would also like to affirm that we are committed to receiving an independent, impartial, objective and neutral Mission.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.


Dr. Lam Akol Ajawin
Minister of Foreign Affairs
The Republic of the Sudan

H.E. Ban Ki-moon
Secretary General of the United
Nations, New York.
