



Security Council

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Letter dated 5 January 2011 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you, and through you to the members of the Security Council, a concept paper on the position of the Government of the Sudan on the Darfur peace talks in Doha, Qatar (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Daffa-Alla Elhag Ali **Osman**
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 5 January 2011 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

Subject: Position of the Government of the Sudan on the Darfur peace negotiations in Doha

1. Rounds of negotiations in Doha have dragged on for some two years or more. The consistent position of the Government has been that the negotiations should be intensified and that a peace agreement should swiftly be concluded. For those reasons, the Government informed the Joint Mediation that its delegation's participation in the negotiations would end on 31 December 2010. The subcommittees had all reached consensus positions on most of the issues under consideration, and the time had come to take decisions regarding the final wording of the framework document on peace in Darfur.
2. On 30 December 2010, the Joint Mediation submitted proposals on the sticking points, the most important of which were the administrative status of Darfur, the position of Vice-President of the Republic and the Transitional Darfur Regional Authority. The Government delegation responded promptly to the proposals on 31 December 2010. Its response contained a number of substantive reservations, the most significant of which are summarized below:
 - (a) There were inconsistencies in nomenclature, terms and concepts, particularly in connection with the Transitional Darfur Regional Authority and its Council. In addition, there were discrepancies between the Arabic and English texts of the proposals submitted by the Joint Mediation.
 - (b) The proposals went beyond the Framework Agreement signed by the Government of the Sudan and the Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM) in March 2010. The proposals included paragraphs that contradicted parts of the Framework Agreement.
 - (c) The proposals contravened the Interim National Constitution and the generally accepted principles of democracy. For instance, it was proposed that members should be appointed to the elected National Parliament, in alternation with the elected members. It was also proposed that a Vice-President of the Republic should be appointed on a regional basis, without there being any Constitutional provision for such a position.
 - (d) The proposals went beyond and contradicted what had been agreed between the two parties to the negotiation (the Government of the Sudan and LJM).
 - (e) The proposals necessarily contravened established principles, notably as regards the number of members from Darfur in the National Parliament. Those members account for an established proportion of parliamentarians, in accordance with the proportion of citizens from Darfur to the population of the Sudan as a whole.
3. The Government of the Sudan reiterates its recognition, appreciation and gratitude for the tireless, sincere and genuine efforts of the State of Qatar, and for the unflagging and genuine efforts of the Joint Mediation, which has shown great

patience and assiduousness. The Government of the Sudan stresses its irrevocable commitment to achieving a comprehensive political settlement in Darfur as soon as possible. Delay in reaching a settlement would only increase the suffering of internally displaced persons and others affected by the conflict. It would also encourage the armed movements to continue violating the ceasefire and exacerbate their fragmentation. It need hardly be mentioned that the continuation of negotiations for over two years has induced certain movements to delay and defer even further.

4. The stated position of the Government of the Sudan concerning the negotiation process and its outcomes has been set out in the statements of the presidential adviser with responsibility for the Darfur issue, Ghazi Salah al-Din, and by the head of the Government delegation, Amin Hassan Omer. One example is the statement issued by the office of the presidential adviser on 30 December 2010 in Doha, regarding the Government's views on the final phase of the Doha negotiations. The Government's position on that issue is summarized below.

5. The Government of the Sudan reiterates that it has not definitively withdrawn from the Doha mediation process. However, it has recalled its delegation on the grounds that the two years of negotiations are a sufficient basis on which to prepare a draft definitive peace document. The formulation of such a document does not require the presence of large delegations in Doha. Nonetheless, the Government stands ready to receive a draft document and discuss it with the Joint Mediation at any time through the customary channels of communication.

6. The Government of the Sudan believes that a transition must now be made to the final phase of the negotiation, namely the broad participation of the people of Darfur. Peace cannot be based on an agreement with the armed movements alone (or, in this case, a single armed movement).

7. The Government will inform the African Union and President Mbeki, who has been tasked with organizing a conference on inter-Darfuri dialogue, that it is prepared to move into the final phase. It would be useful if, during that time, a definitive peace document could be prepared for discussion at the conference.

8. The Government remains committed to implementation of the peace agreement concluded in Abuja in 2006, which has the recognition and support of the international community.