



Security Council

Sixty-eighth year

Provisional

7048th meeting

Wednesday, 23 October 2013, 10 a.m.

New York

President: Mr. Mehdiyev (Azerbaijan)

Members:

Argentina	Mr. Oyarzábal
Australia	Ms. King
China	Mr. Zhao Yong
France	Mr. Araud
Guatemala	Mr. Rosenthal
Luxembourg	Ms. Lucas
Morocco	Mr. Laassel
Pakistan	Mr. Ahmad
Republic of Korea	Mr. Sul Kyung-hoon
Russian Federation	Mr. Pankin
Rwanda	Mr. Gasana
Togo	Mr. Menan
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Mark Lyall Grant
United States of America	Ms. Power

Agenda

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan

Report of the Secretary-General on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (S/2013/607)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan

Report of the Secretary-General on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (S/2013/607)

The President: In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of the Sudan to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, Joint African Union-United Nations Special Representative for Darfur and Head of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, to participate in this meeting.

On behalf of the Council, I welcome Mr. Chambas, who is joining us via video teleconference from Khartoum.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Hervé Ladsous, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2013/607, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur.

I now give the floor to Mr. Chambas.

Mr. Chambas: I am grateful for this opportunity to brief the Security Council on the work carried out by the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) in the implementation of its mandate and to provide the Council with an overview of political and security developments in Darfur since July, when I last had the privilege of briefing the Council (see S/PV.7010).

As highlighted in the report before the Council (S/2013/607), the security situation in Darfur and threats to UNAMID and humanitarian personnel

continue to be a serious concern. On 11 October, a Zambian peacekeeper was killed in a criminal incident a few hundred metres from the Mission's headquarters in El Fasher. On 13 October, a Senegalese formed police unit was ambushed near El Geneina, West Darfur, while escorting a water convoy to our sector headquarters. The attack led to the death of three personnel and injury to one. I appreciate the solidarity with the mission demonstrated by the United Nations Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, which issued statements condemning those heinous crimes. On 15 October, I visited El Geneina to pay my respects to our fallen colleagues. I will continue to urge the Government of the Sudan to do much more in order to bring to justice the perpetrators of those and other attacks against UNAMID.

The situation in Darfur is further complicated by the intertribal conflicts that continue to plague the region. Fighting between the Southern Rezeigat and the Ma'alia in East Darfur, the Misseriya and Salamat in Central Darfur and the Aballa/Northern Rizeigat and Beni Hussein in North Darfur have led to a large number of civilian casualties, mass displacement and attendant humanitarian tragedy than the clashes between forces of the Government and those of the non-signatory movements.

As part of our efforts to mitigate the situation, UNAMID worked closely with regional, State and local authorities, including through the provision of logistics and technical support, towards renewed attempts at bringing about reconciliation between the conflicting tribal groups. Although a number of agreements on a cessation of hostilities have been reached, the situation remains fragile.

UNAMID continued to facilitate the delivery of relief assistance by humanitarian actors to affected communities. Instances of denial of access and restriction of movement and bureaucratic impediments remain challenges that have a negative impact on that common effort. At the meeting of the tripartite coordination mechanism held on 28 September at Headquarters in New York, representatives of the African Union (AU) and the United Nations underscored the importance of unhindered freedom of movement for UNAMID. However, it must also be said that the number of such restrictions taken in proportion to the number of patrols and escorts carried out by the mission, which the Council will have seen in the report, is quite low.

Let me now update members on the status of the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur. At its sixth meeting, held on 23 September in Doha, the Implementation Follow-up Commission expressed concern at its overall slow pace and called on the parties to step up efforts.

Since the donor conference held in April, the signatory parties have been concentrating on developing institutional mechanisms for the implementation of the Darfur Development Strategy. In September, the Darfur Coordination Board for Recovery, Reconstruction and Development, which has the mandate to coordinate donor support for the Strategy, held its inaugural meeting in Doha.

In August, public tenders were launched for the first phase of 1,071 development projects for Darfur, totalling 400 million Sudanese pounds — approximately \$82.5 million — in the areas of education, health and water. The funding is to be sourced from the Darfur Reconstruction and Development Fund.

With regard to the Darfur-based dialogue and consultations, which are designed to complement efforts to consolidate the peace process, I can report that a draft concept developed by UNAMID on the conduct of the dialogue and a communication strategy have been shared with other facilitators of the dialogue, namely, Qatar and the AU, and a meeting of the facilitators in November will agree on a schedule for its convening.

There has been some progress, albeit limited, on issues related to land ownership and the proportionate participation of Darfuris in the civil and judicial services. There has been no serious movement with regard to the implementation of the provisions of the permanent ceasefire and final security arrangements.

The realization of the agreement between the Government of the Sudan and the faction of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) formerly led by Mohammed Bashir, signed on 6 April 2013, has yet to gain traction. With logistic support by UNAMID, on 25 August, an advance delegation of the movement travelled from its base in Kornoi in North Darfur to Khartoum to commence the process. Only today, it has been published that the President of the Sudan has granted amnesty to members of the JEM-Bashir movement, in conformity with the provisions of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur.

I have remained engaged with the non-signatory movements in an attempt to find common ground for advancing the peace process in Darfur. I held preliminary consultations with the leaders of JEM-Gibril Ibrahim and the Minni Minawi faction of the Sudan Liberation Army from 22 to 27 August in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, with a view to developing a common understanding and appreciation of the situation in Darfur and discussing the practical ways it could be improved. The movements reiterated their commitment to peace and a negotiated political settlement in Darfur in the context of a holistic solution to the Sudan's problems.

Following the consultations in Arusha, various officials from the Government of the Sudan informed me that, while they welcomed my engagement, any dialogue between the Government and the movements should be based on the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur. They also indicated that they were open to the participation of the Darfur non-signatory movements in a national dialogue. In line with the understanding reached in Arusha, the Joint Mediators are exploring the possibility of holding a follow-up meeting in the near future, in the form of a workshop or seminar focused primarily on issues relating to a humanitarian cessation of hostilities and efforts to reach a comprehensive peace.

With regard to UNAMID operations, reductions in the mission's overall troop and police strengths are on track for completion by 31 January 2014, as part of the outcome of the review of UNAMID uniformed personnel. In August, a team from the Secretariat undertook a review of UNAMID civilian staffing requirements in line with General Assembly resolution 66/264, of 2012. The findings of the exercise will be reflected in the report on the comprehensive review of UNAMID requested by the Security Council.

In conclusion, I take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation to the Council for its continued support to UNAMID.

The President: I thank Mr. Chambas for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Mr. Ladsous.

Mr. Ladsous (*spoke in French*): Thank you, Mr. President, for giving me this opportunity to present the most recent report of the Secretary-General on the

African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) (S/2013/607). I will be brief.

In general, the report before the Council outlines the limited progress that has been made in the peace process, a very worrying security situation and the continuing need for substantial humanitarian aid in Darfur. It also describes a very disturbing resolution in violent attacks by armed assailants on UNAMID personnel and humanitarian workers. I would like to take this opportunity to express my condolences to the Governments and the families of the peacekeepers who were tragically killed in the most recent attacks. I would like to add my voice to all those who are appealing to the Government of the Sudan to speedily identify those responsible for the attacks and take the necessary action. Impunity for such reprehensible attacks must end. In that regard, I would like to commend the Peace and Security Council of the African Union's call, in a 17 October communiqué, on the Government of the Sudan to identify those responsible as quickly as possible and to bring them to justice. The Peace and Security Council's decision to follow up the investigation of the situation in a month and to request an update on measures taken is also encouraging.

(spoke in English)

At the same time, here at Headquarters we are working with troop- and police-contributing countries to ensure that uniformed personnel deployed to Darfur are properly equipped, trained and prepared to operate in a very challenging security environment. That includes engaging bilaterally with contributing countries to address equipment and serviceability shortfalls. In addition, we are working with countries preparing to deploy new units to Darfur to ensure that their contingents meet the operational standards and requirements. As Council members may be aware, that involves appropriate preparations for deploying three infantry battalions in order to replace units that have been or are soon to be withdrawn, as well as a utility helicopter unit.

In addition to presenting safety and security challenges for UNAMID and aid personnel, the intensification of conflict has increased the civilian population's need for protection and humanitarian assistance. Furthermore, support for the peace process and efforts to strengthen the rule of law and human rights in Darfur remain much needed. With a view to ensuring that the mission has the

resources, configuration and procedures needed to address those issues more effectively, we have begun, in close consultation with the African Union, a forward-looking and detailed review, as requested in resolution 2113 (2013). The review will consist of a conflict analysis and capability review phase, a senior assessment mission to Darfur to validate the analysis, the development of recommendations and options for improving the mission's effectiveness and, eventually, presentation of the findings to the Security Council. The analysis, which involves an updated assessment of the causes, actors and drivers of conflict in Darfur and of projected trends, as well as an examination of the mission's strategic and operation approach, is currently under way. The senior assessment mission will take place in late November and early December, and the presentation of the findings and recommendations is expected in February.

Despite very challenging circumstances, UNAMID remains resolute in its commitment to providing much-needed protection to civilians, facilitating the delivery of aid and supporting the peace process. We here at Headquarters will continue to work with the mission, the African Union and other partners to ensure that our peacekeepers in Darfur are able to carry out their mandate in a robust, effective and efficient way. In that connection, the Council's continued support for UNAMID's operations and efforts to reach an inclusive political settlement to the conflict remain very welcome.

The President: I thank Mr. Ladsous for his statement.

I now give the floor to the representative of the Sudan.

Mr. Osman (Sudan) *(spoke in Arabic)*: I would first like to congratulate you, Mr. President, on the way you have guided the Council this month. During your Security Council membership, which ends in a little more than two months, you have demonstrated your ability to contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security, thanks to your objective approach.

The abductions and massacres committed by the rebel movements in Darfur against the civilian population and peacekeeping troops are a major concern for the Government of the Sudan, and far more so than for the other parties involved. We hope that all the efforts being made in this area can be coordinated to support those of the Sudan to end the conflict in

Darfur, so as to re-establish peace and stability and, as a result, prosperity for the people of Darfur.

As I begin my statement, I would also like to reiterate the Government of the Sudan's condemnation of the incident in which one Zambian and three Senegalese peacekeepers died, and to once again express the condolences of the Government of the Sudan to the Governments of Zambia and Senegal.

I would also like to underscore the fact that the Sudanese Armed Forces have clashed with the perpetrators of those incidents in which peacekeepers and two members of the militias were killed, and a vehicle was recovered after it had been intercepted by the assailants. In addition, a soldier from the Sudanese Armed Forces died and another was injured in that incident. The latter is currently in the hospital. The incident demonstrates with all certainty the commitment of the Sudanese Government to dealing with the acts perpetrated by the armed movements.

We also expect the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) to fully shoulder its role, in particular because UNAMID is made up of peacekeepers and military personnel. The military personnel should carry out their duties and deal with the assailants, first and foremost to defend themselves, and then to carry out their mission to maintain peace in Darfur. In other words, the inability of the UNAMID military personnel to defend and protect themselves against attack, as well as the Mission's inability to shoulder other tasks, raises many questions. How can UNAMID personnel remain sitting on their hands when they are the targets of attack, with the Sudanese Armed Forces having to intervene to protect them?

We have just heard the briefing by Mr. Chambas, which focused on his efforts to persuade those movements that refuse to join the peace process to do so. We highly appreciate his efforts. I would urge the Security Council to ensure that Mr. Chambas' efforts are successful by seeing to it that influential countries encourage the parties to come to the negotiating table and re-establish peace in Darfur.

Mr. Chambas talked of the obstacles that hamper the work of UNAMID. In that regard, I would like to say that cooperation between the Sudanese Government and UNAMID has made considerable progress in terms of granting visas. Mr. Ladsous acknowledged that fact when he met with the Sudanese Minister of the

Interior during his visit to New York last month; he also mentioned it in his meeting with the Sudanese Minister for Justice, who is from Darfur, specifically from the Zaghawa tribe. Those two Sudanese leaders met with senior officials of the United Nations, including the Secretary-General, and confirmed the Sudan's cooperation and its determination to help UNAMID carry out its role in the most effective manner. I can confirm today that the Sudanese Government is absolutely determined to continue its work along the lines set forth heretofore, both here in New York, within the Secretariat, and in the Sudan as well, in order to facilitate UNAMID's mission.

We have also heard the positive news regarding the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur and its implementation. Priority is currently being given to the implementation of the development strategy in Darfur that was approved at the donor conference that took place in Doha in April 2013. The report presented to us today (S/2013/607) discusses in great detail the measures taken in that regard in coordination with UNAMID and the United Nations Development Programme. Thus, and given the progress that has been made in terms of implementing the Doha Document, we strongly urge the international community, in particular, the Security Council, to support that progress. It is extremely important, as I have already said, to exert the necessary pressure on the rebel movements that refuse to join the peace process to do so swiftly and without any preconditions.

The report before the Council today (S/2013/607) confirms in paragraph 7 that the Special Prosecutor for Darfur informed UNAMID that he had, since being appointed in June 2012, brought to trial nine cases of serious crimes resulting in 42 convictions, and that he was investigating another 57 cases. In that regard, we reaffirm his assertion that the Sudanese justice system is qualified and capable of meting out justice and making rulings in cases.

I would like to underscore that during his visit to New York last month, the Sudanese Minister of Justice — who, as I said earlier, is from the Zaghawa tribe of Darfur — met with the Secretary-General. In that meeting, the Secretary-General praised the Minister's efforts to combat impunity and to lift the immunity enjoyed by certain indictees. I wish to confirm that we are going to continue along that path in order to convict all perpetrators of those crimes. The Government of the Sudan is also pursuing its efforts

and investigations to bring to justice all those people involved in attacks against UNAMID.

In conclusion, I would like to underscore that the report before us today states in paragraph 13 that intercommunal fighting over land and other natural resources poses a serious threat of physical violence to civilians.

Furthermore, paragraph 41 of the report underscores that intercommunal fighting in East Darfur was responsible for the humanitarian situation. I can confirm to the Council that such attacks and intercommunal fighting have now been contained and that, in that regard, we are cooperating with all parties of influence at the regional level in order to promote reconciliation between the tribes. The events of the past month have been contained, and fighting has now ceased between the tribes.

Paragraphs 47, 48 and 49 of the report reflect a decrease in cases of violations of the right to life, of violations of the right to physical integrity, and of sexual and gender-based violence — all as a result of the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur.

In conclusion, I would urge all Council members to exert firm pressure to achieve the aims we all seek and to convince those movements that have not yet joined the peace process to do so as soon as possible in order to restore peace and security.

The President: There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers. I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 10.45 a.m.