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**Press Statement**

**An Exit Strategy to promote Peace and Security in Darfur**

The UN Security Council has today adopted a resolution to extend UNAMID's mandate for another year. The Security Council has noted its report No. 2173, dated 27th August 2014 to the Secretary General asking for recommendations about the future mandate, formation, set up and exit strategy for UNAMID. The resolution has likewise noted the Government of the Sudan's call for UNAMID to prepare an exit strategy as expressed in its letter to the UN Secretary General dated 15th December 2014.

The Security Council noted the consultations that took place between the Government of the Sudan, the UN and the African Union, within the tripartite team's attempts to work out an exit strategy for UNAMID, and urged the immediate resumption of the tripartite working group's consultations in this respect.

The Foreign Minister, Prof. Ibrahim Ghandour, said: "The call for immediate resumption of tripartite consultations confirms what the Sudan has maintained, that the team has carried out an important task concerning assessment of the situation and the conclusion it reached, about withdrawal from West Darfur State, then from Tulus, Um Kaddada and Malha and exploring withdrawal from other sites after an objective assessment of security and humanitarian conditions."

H.E. the Minister added: "UNAMID exit strategy is necessary to streamline future relations with UNAMID, including channeling some financial resources for development."

On the other hand, the Security Council's resolution reiterated its support for the Doha Document as the framework for the peace process in Darfur and called for accelerating its implementation.

The Security Council has also criticised and condemned the armed groups that obstruct the peace process by continuing to resort to violence. The Security Council condemned the activities of any armed group that aims at using force to achieve regime change. The Security Council's Resolution confirmed the importance of local mechanisms for conflict resolution and their role in ending inter-communal conflicts including those linked to natural resources.

H.E. the Foreign Minister Prof. Ibrahim Ghandour went on to say: "We sincerely hope that the armed groups would choose the option of peace in order to protect the lives of civilians and facilitate a return of those displaced to their areas in order to resume their usual lives and get their share of development.

Referring to the security situation, the Foreign Minister added: "There are no open military confrontations with the armed groups in Darfur. There are only some limited anti-government skirmishes that are carried out in isolated pockets. West Darfur state, for example, didn't witness any military confrontation for more than two years, a fact that confirms the immediate implementation of the first phase of UNAMID's exit strategy."

H.E. the Foreign Minister added: "The fact that elections have taken place in all five states of Darfur, underlines the stable security and the citizens practicing of the right to take part in all levels of governance.

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Khartoum**

**29th June 2015**