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## **Media Statement**

### **Third session of Strategic Dialogue initiated**

On the morning of 29 March 2017 Khartoum hosted the third session of the Strategic Dialogue between Sudan and the UK. The Sudanese side was led by HE Ambassador Abd Elghani Elnaim Awad Elkarim Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs while the British side was headed by HE Ambassador Neil Wigan, Director for Africa at the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

The meetings discussed a range of issues of mutual interest including promotion of bilateral relations in trade, culture and investment in addition to issues covering the peace process, human rights, migration and human trafficking and combating terrorism and violent extremism.

The third round of talks represents a new phase in this Strategic Dialogue as a number of institutions and ministries from both sides participated adding a further momentum to this process.

During the talks, the United Kingdom welcomed the recent directives issued by Sudan's Humanitarian Aid Commission to improve humanitarian access to Darfur and the Two Areas, and emphasized the importance placed by the International Community on the issue. The UK further welcomed the decision of the Government of Sudan to open a second humanitarian corridor into South Sudan, affirming its support to Sudan's efforts in hosting South Sudanese refugees

At the end of the meetings a press conference was held in which the heads of the two sides affirmed the success of the session and appreciated the spirit of goodwill that permeated the deliberations. They confirmed the

commitments of the two sides to implement what they agreed upon and strive to consolidate bilateral relations and elevate them to a partnership. They also reiterated determination to develop bilateral relations and cooperation in all fields that contribute to improving and promoting the historical ties between the two countries.

The next round of the Strategic Dialogue will be held in London in six months' time as agreed in the meetings.

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