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Press Statement

UN Security Council decides to reduce UNAMID forces

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs welcomes the reduction of UNAMID's military and police constituents over a six months period. The Security Council's resolution 2363 (dated 29 June 2017) will reduce UNAMID by 44%. The military peacekeepers will become 11,395 while police peacekeepers will number 2,888 as a first stage, to be followed by a second stage on 31 January 2018.

This is a practical step that confirms the Security Council's acknowledgement that Darfur has transcended the era of conflict and is engaged in peace, reconstruction and development. The Foreign Ministry takes this opportunity to reiterate the Sudanese Government's continuous positive engagement and consultation with both the UN and AU within the common working group that is tasked with overseeing UNAMID withdrawal, with a view to ensuring UNAMID's gradual and trouble-free exit.

The Foreign Ministry welcomes the Security Council's clear confirmation of stability in Darfur's five states and acknowledgement of the presence of Sudanese armed forces and police. It also expressed concerns that rebel armed groups are now outside the Sudan.

The Foreign Ministry confirms the Sudanese Government's commitments to offer all necessary facilities to enable UNAMID to fulfill what is remaining of its remit. Meetings of the common panel for UNAMID's administration and logistical needs will be intensified in order to ensure immediate handling of what is required in the next state.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs takes this opportunity to renew its call to the armed rebels abroad to return home, turn their backs on violence and join the political process. The National Consensus document adopted by the National Dialogue offers these groups all guarantees to join unconditionally when they respond to reason, choose dialogue in the context of the DDPD (Doha Document for Peace in Darfur) and the Roadmap for peace which these groups signed on 18 August 2016. In this respect, the Foreign Ministry appreciates the tangible efforts undertaken by Mr. Thabo Mbeki, Head of the AU High Level Implementation Panel, together with AU and UN Special Envoy Ambassador Kingsley Mamabolo and all regional and international partners.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs lauds the Security Council's call to support Darfur's strategic development and calls upon UN agencies to double their efforts in supporting the Sudanese Government plans to resuscitate, reconstruct and ensures sustainable development, respond to the requirements of those displaced and those returning voluntarily to their regional areas to resume normal life and support Sudan's disarmament efforts and plans to consolidate peace.

Spokesperson, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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