

## **Joint Statement Read by the Troika Special Envoys for Sudan**

*Ambassador Tom Vraalsen (Norway), Ambassador Michael Ryder (United Kingdom), and  
Ambassador Princeton Lyman (United States)*

We, the Troika Special Envoys for Sudan, have visited Khartoum and Juba, during which we met with officials from the Government of Sudan and Government of Southern Sudan. We will now travel to Addis Ababa, where we will meet with Ethiopian government and African Union officials. This visit was designed to demonstrate our governments' sustained commitment to the Sudanese peace process and our continued willingness to engage with major stakeholders and work toward lasting peace.

During all our meetings, we stressed the urgent need to reach agreement on post-CPA arrangements as well as mechanisms to solve unresolved issues after July 9, 2011. There has been progress in some areas, and a common understanding appears to be emerging on how a number of issues can be resolved. However, we remain greatly concerned that key issues such as the management of the petroleum sector, border arrangements, and citizenship are yet to be agreed. We are convinced that it is possible to reach pragmatic solutions that will lay the basis for two viable states with good relations. It is important at this critical juncture that dialogue continues at the highest level. We also reiterated our support for the ongoing efforts of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) led by Thabo Mbeki, former President of South Africa, and the role of regional organizations and countries.

We remain deeply concerned about the situation in Abyei and urged the Government of Sudan to remove all Sudanese Armed Forces from Abyei. We called upon both parties to agree immediately on security arrangements and to withdraw all unauthorized forces from Abyei as stipulated in the Kadugli Agreement. We remain extremely concerned about the humanitarian situation in Abyei and surrounding areas and urged all parties to allow UNMIS and humanitarian agencies unfettered access. We also encouraged the parties immediately to revitalize dialogue regarding the post-CPA status of Abyei and work towards a permanent solution.

We also discussed the security situation in Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan. We urged the parties to continue negotiations on security arrangements facilitated by the AUHIP. Neither party should take any unilateral action that may destabilize those areas.

We look forward to meetings in Addis Ababa with Ethiopian officials and Prime Minister Meles Zenawi. We commend the positive Ethiopian role in Sudan and greatly appreciate the Ethiopian offer to help improve the security situation in Abyei.

We are encouraged by the messages received from the Governments of Sudan and Southern Sudan that they are willing to engage constructively in order to ensure a smooth transition to two viable states. We expect this to be followed by immediate action, and call upon leaders from both sides to renew their commitments to peace and full implementation of the CPA.

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