

الجمهورية الجزائرية الديمقراطية الشعبية

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البعثة الدائمة
لدى مكتب الأمم المتحدة
والمنظمات الدولية بسويسرا

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL 4TH ORDINARY SESSION

**Statement by H.E Idriss Jazaïry, Ambassador,
Permanent Representative of Algeria**

Human rights situation in Darfur

Geneva, 16 March 2007

We are assembled today to review the progress achieved in the implementation of decision S-4/101 on the situation of human rights in Darfur. My delegation is not commenting on the substance of doc.A/HRC/4/80 for the following reasons:

1. The report before the Council is a product by an assessment team, which did not reflect the mission as duly constituted by the Council according to decision S-4/101;
2. The assessment is incomplete because the Mission did not reach Darfur in order for them "to assess the human rights situation in Darfur and the needs of Sudan" as called for in the decision;
3. We noted with concern that the mission whose mandate was "to assess the human rights in Darfur and the need of the Sudan in this respect" determined of its own accord on 5 February 2007 that "the situation did not require a human rights fact-finding Mission". This position was taken before the visa issue became a problem. Yet the Mission was not mandated to draw up a desk-study about Darfur as the Council decided under its decision S-4/101 "to despatch a high level Mission to assess the human rights situation in Darfur" (art.4). If there were any doubt as to whether the Report requested was to be a desk-study or not, then the debate which took place at the Special Session which emphasized the necessity for the Council to assess the truth first hand in Darfur would have dispelled any misunderstanding.

This being said, the position of my country and many other countries in Africa have taken on this matter is to recognise the gravity of the situation in Darfur, including the humanitarian crisis, which is a source of concern for all of us. We therefore welcome the reiterated commitment of the Government of Sudan to cooperate with the international community to bring about a long lasting solution to the crisis in Darfur, as well as the cessation of violence and continuing to permit the delivery of humanitarian relief to those in need. We all appeal to the non-signatories of the Darfur Peace Agreement to join the peace process.

Mindful of the decision which established the mandate of the High Level Mission, this Council must address the situation in Darfur in good faith "through dialogue and cooperation", as mandated by GA

resolution 60/251. It is important that we get this right so as to avoid setting an ominous precedent at this formative stage in the establishment of the rules of engagement of the new Council.

There is a need to adopt a resolution that will restore confidence in the process and ensure transparency in order to take this issue forward. We look forward to the full cooperation of all parties in fulfilling the mandate of the Human Rights Council.

I echo therefore the appeal made by the Ambassador Steiner on behalf of the European Union in his concluding remarks.