

24 March 2006

Letter (UN archives); *African Union*

Excellency,

I am writing to express my particular gratitude for your personal efforts leading to the adoption by the African Union Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the communiqué on 10 March on the situation in Darfur. The decisions contained in the communiqué are very positive and constructive, clearly outlining the priorities for the international community in the coming months.

We must now collectively and urgently focus on translating the decisions into action. As was stressed by the PSC, everything should be done to ensure the successful and early conclusion of the Inter-Sudanese Peace Talks in Abuja. At the same time, the international community will have to lend its full support to strengthening the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS), enabling it to augment its capacity and pave the way for a seamless transition to a possible United Nations operation. Needless to say, the continued close partnership of the African Union and the United Nations will be crucial in the weeks and months ahead. I am renewing my effort to convene the donor's conference in support of AMIS.

As you are aware, the Government of Sudan continues to express some concerns about the prospect of a possible transition from AMIS to a United Nations operation, as foreseen in the PSC communiqué. Since the Government's full cooperation will be essential in this process, including for planning on the ground, I count on your strong support in addressing any misgivings it may have. In this connection, I welcome the PSC's recommendation to establish a Committee of Heads of State and Government.

I sincerely hope that, through our concerted efforts, the international community shall succeed in ending the tragic crisis in Darfur.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.