

UNAMID BULLETIN

Joint Commission Pledges Continued Commitment to Doha Document



UNAMID Joint Special Representative Mohamed Ibn Chambas chairs the Third Meeting of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur Joint Commission, held in Khartoum on 25 February. Photo by Hanmid Abdulsalam Hamid, UNAMID.

A continued commitment to the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD), particularly the Final Security Arrangements, was the focus of the Third Meeting of the DDPD Joint Commission, which was held in Khartoum on 25 February 2014.

The Commission, one of two ceasefire monitoring and operational mechanisms provided for in the DDPD, is chaired by Mohamed Ibn Chambas, the Joint Special Representative (JSR) of the African Union-United Mission in Darfur (UNAMID). Membership in the body includes

the three parties to the Doha Document—the Government of Sudan, the Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM) and the Justice and Equality Movement – Sudan (JEM-Sudan). It is also comprised of representatives of the State of Qatar, the League of Arab States and the European Union, as well as observers from Canada, China and Norway.

In his opening address, JSR Chambas welcomed positive developments which had taken place over the previous year, including the joining of JEM-Sudan to the DDPD and the signing of an agreement between the Government of

Sudan and LJM on the implementation of the final security arrangements.

The JSR noted that the Mission's task was to support the signatories. "UNAMID stands prepared to assist the parties in the line with the provisions of the DDPD. We are also ready to play an advocacy role to mobilize support for the processes that follow," he said.

The meeting considered a report on the status of the implementation of the Permanent Ceasefire and Final Security Arrangements from UNAMID's Force Commander, Lieutenant-General Paul Ignace Mellah, who chairs the Ceasefire Com-

mission (CFC). Most notably, the report included a formal communication from the Government of Sudan and LJM to the Chairperson of the Joint Commission confirming their decision to skip phases of the Final Security Arrangements; the number of LJM combatants for integration into the country's police and armed forces; the number of LJM combatants to undergo disarmament, demobilization and reintegration; funding availability for reintegration of ex-combatants; and, implementation of modalities for limited arms control.

It also discussed a report by JEM-Sudan on the progress on security arrangements with the Government of Sudan and urged the parties to work closely with the Ceasefire Commission on verification of movement's military dispositions. As a way forward, the Commission decided that the Government of Sudan and JEM-Sudan should commence a verification exercise.

The Commission concluded by recognizing the crucial role the international community can play in achieving durable peace in Darfur and encouraged those partners to provide continued support to the implementation of the DDPD. ■

UNAMID Enhances HIV/AIDS Response in West Darfur

Calling for a concerted effort in the fight against HIV/AIDS was the focus of a series of meetings held between UNAMID, United Nations agencies, the Sudanese State Ministry of Health, the Sudan National AIDS Program (SNAP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) and the Sudan Organization for Development and Humanitarian Work (SAWA).

The meetings, held on 24

and 25 February in El Geneina, West Darfur, came in line with the realization of the HIV/AIDS goal of Getting to Zero: Zero new HIV infection, Zero discrimination and Zero AIDS related deaths.

During the meetings, the head of UNAMID's HIV/AIDS Unit, Margaret Masenda-Simbi, stressed the importance of establishing close partnerships with non-governmental organizations due to their profound knowledge of the community in order

to convey messages on the disease and promoting community awareness. She further emphasized the Unit's willingness to strengthen capacity for SNAP and other AIDS support organizations, praising the efforts that had been exerted by HIV/AIDS partners.

The HIV/AIDS partners from their side praised the aspect of cooperation and coordination with UNAMID that had resulted in the success of quick impact projects and communi-

ty labor-intensive projects, as well as awareness campaigns on HIV/AIDS.

In an effort to assist with HIV/AIDS efforts in the region, UNAMID is establishing a Voluntary Counselling and Testing Centre on the premises of El-Geneina Teaching Hospital. In addition, UNAMID conducted an awareness session in Al Riyadh camp for internally displaced persons, as part of its outreach activities which attracted 70 participants, primarily consisting of women. ■

UNAMID Reaches Out to Midwives with HIV/AIDS Prevention Training in Central Darfur



Midwives at Zalingei Midwifery School at the conclusion session of an awareness training about HIV/AIDS, held on 20 February.

On 20 February 2014, UNAMID, the Sudan National AIDS Program, the Central Darfur Governor's office and the State's Ministry of Health, conducted an awareness training about HIV/AIDS and female genital mutilation or cutting (FGM/C) for 145 new midwives at the Zalingei Midwifery School.

Noting that FGM/C, a common practice in parts of the region, increases obstetric complications including fistula and post-partum hemorrhage which further accelerate the risk of HIV for midwives and care givers during delivery, UNAMID delivered the awareness session that emphasized upon the prevention of occupational exposure to HIV. After the session, the parties identified two projects—the construction of a training hall and the provision of seats to Zalingei Midwifery School—to be addressed as potential quick impact projects. ■

Native Administration Workshop on Gender Issues Concludes Work

On 24 February 2014, a two-day workshop on gender issues was conducted in El Geine, West Darfur for the Native Administration. The workshop, organized by the State Advisory on Women and Children's Affairs and UNAMID, brought together 30 leaders from the Native Administration.

Among the items discussed were the role of the Native Administration in promoting justice and women rights, United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security, in addition to HIV/AIDS issues and the role of women in social peace and reconciliation.

The workshop aimed at building the capacity of Native Administration leaders on gender issues and encouraging women participation in the Native Administration system to ensure gender balance.

In addressing the leaders, UNAMID Gender Advisory Unit official Gabriel Brenga-

lidor noted that the workshop was one of many designed by the Mission to increase community awareness on gender issues. He underlined the importance of the role of the Native Administration in the promotion of justice, women and children's rights and the role of women in social peace. He also stressed the importance of economic development, water, health and education services for developing women. ■

UNAMID Peacekeepers Remember Rwandan Genocide



UNAMID peacekeepers remember the Rwandan genocide during the launch of the Kwibuka20 campaign, held in El Fasher, North Darfur on 20 February. Photo by Albert Gonzalez Farran, UNAMID.

On 20 February 2014, 145 peacekeepers of the African Union-United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) remembered the Rwandan genocide with an event to launch in Sudan Kwibuka20, a global initiative to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the killing of more than one million people in 100 days.

During the event, the participants observed one minute of silence, heard from those who lived through the ordeal and lit candles to honour the victims.

African Union and United Nations Joint Special Repre-

sentative (JSR) for Darfur Mohammed Ibn Chambas stated that from the ashes of 1994, Rwanda has rebuilt a nation that is vibrant and contributes to causes of common good around the world. "The presence of so many Rwandans here today — is itself a clear testimony to the country's commitment to peace and stability in Africa," he remarked.

The JSR added that to avoid such incidents in the future could only be done through building strong institutions that promote citizen participation in governance, peaceful co-existence and democracy.

The Second Counselor and Acting Charge d'Affaires of the Rwandan Diplomatic Mission in Sudan, Ismail Kajugiro

Shyaka, said that studying how and why genocide occurs and raising public awareness can help prevent it from happening again. "Rwanda shows that reconciliation through shared human values is possible, and asks the world to do the same," he mentioned.

Mr. Shyaka noted that Rwanda is among the top six troop contributing countries to UN peacekeeping missions across the world. "We believe no country should suffer the same fate, and lives should not be lost due to indifference and inaction of global actors," he added. More than 3,000 military personnel currently serve in UNAMID, as well as 166 police advisers and a significant number of civilians. ■