

# ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

ACP-EU 3227/01/fin

## RESOLUTION<sup>1</sup>

### on the situation in the Sudan

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Brussels (Belgium) from 29 October to 1 November 2001,
  - having regard to the report of its delegation on its fact-finding mission to the Sudan from 26 June to 2 July 2001,
  - having regard to Resolution 2001/18 of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights of 20 April 2001,
  - having regard to the United Nations Security Council resolution 1372 (2001) of 28 September 2001 lifting the sanctions imposed on the Sudan,
- A. delighted that its fact-finding mission was granted every facility by the Government of the Sudan to travel where it wished and interview those it asked to,
- B. deeply concerned by the continuing civil war in the Sudan, with its attendant suffering and misery, and its adverse effect on the civilian population, in particular women and children, ,
- C. pointing out the urgent need for a just and durable peace settlement, and deeply regretting the failure of the numerous peace initiatives undertaken so far,
- D. deploring the occurrence, within the framework of the conflict in southern Sudan, of the use of children as soldiers and combatants, forced conscription by the Sudanese People's Liberation Army, forced displacement, arbitrary detention, torture and ill-treatment of civilians, and of still-unresolved cases of enforced or involuntary disappearances,
- E. deploring the abduction of women and children who are subjected to forced labour or similar conditions, carried out on an inter-tribal basis and mainly by the murahaleen militias , but welcoming the activities of the Committee for the Eradication of the Abduction of Women and Children (CEWAC) as a constructive response on the part of the Government of Sudan,
- F. deeply concerned by the use of civilian premises for military purposes and the indiscriminate aerial bombardment of such targets,

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<sup>1</sup> Adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on 1 November 2001 in Brussels (Belgium)

- G. welcoming the expressed commitment by the Government of the Sudan to respect and promote human rights and the rule of law and its expressed commitment to a process of democratisation with a view to establishing a representative and accountable government, reflecting the aspirations of the people of the Sudan,
- H. deeply concerned nevertheless by the continuing violations of human rights in the Sudan, in particular concerning religion, the security of the person, expression, association and peaceful assembly,
- I. considering the fact that most parties to the conflict accept the principle of the long-term status of the South Sudan being decided in a referendum,
- J. noting with disquiet the apparent slowdown and consequent lack of progress in the EU-Sudan political dialogue,
- K. aware of the currently destabilising effects of oil production but also of its extremely valuable potential contribution to the country's economic development,
- L. greatly alarmed at the growing food crisis in parts of the country, compounded by war operations and the increasing number of Internally Displaced Persons,
- M. horrified at the continuing depredations of the Lord's Resistance Army, including further abductions of children from northern Uganda and the use of thousands of children as soldiers and sex slaves and the consequent death of many of them,

## **Peace**

1. Calls on all parties to the conflict to refrain from any further aggressive action and to proceed immediately to serious negotiations with the aim of achieving a complete cease-fire in the very near future, a cease-fire which should be monitored by the United Nations or the African Union;
2. Calls on the parties to the conflict to respect the Geneva Conventions prohibiting attacks against civilians, and to refrain from locating military installations in civilian centres and indiscriminate aerial bombardment;
3. Regrets the refusal by the SPLM/A to respond positively to the call for a comprehensive general cease-fire by the Government of the Sudan (GoS), and condemns the continuing SPLA attacks and in particular the major offensive in Western Bahr el-Ghazal which was conducted at the very time of the 2 June 2001 summit of the IGAD Sub-Committee on the Sudan;
4. Considers that top priority should be given to the pursuit of the IGAD process which, being essentially neutral, covering the interests of all parties in the conflict and involving all states and other parties concerned, offers the best prospect for achieving a just and durable peace, but welcomes other peace initiatives which can reinforce and complement the IGAD peace process;

5. Regrets the fact that the IGAD peace process seems to have stalled recently and calls on the European Union and on those EU and ACP members which are part of the process to increase their political commitment to it;
6. Calls for the European Union to send a high-level troika in the near future to help revive the peace process and the EU-Sudan political dialogue;

#### **The EU-Sudan political dialogue**

7. Welcomes the progress achieved by the EU-Sudan political dialogue, particularly the improved relations between the Sudan and its neighbours and the removal of any suspicion that the country is supporting international terrorism; welcomes the Sudan's current support for the international fight against terrorism;
8. Notes that while some improvement has been made in the areas currently covered by the political dialogue - notably human rights, democracy, the rule of law and good governance, and the peace process - the situation regarding all of these remains unsatisfactory and requires further efforts by all concerned;
9. Considers that the identification by the European Union of benchmarks, specific guidelines and various conditions and steps which could lead to the re-establishment of normal relations could help contribute to progress;
10. Calls on the GoS to expedite its efforts to address problems relating to religion, the security of the person, expression, association and peaceful assembly, and to take more effective action against torture, discrimination against Christians and abductions (which particularly affect women and children);
11. Considers that it could be useful for the European Union to directly link progress made under these various headings in the political dialogue to specific development programmes, extending its rather limited projects in the field of human rights and planning projects to improve education;
12. Calls for the EU to develop stronger links with the SPLM/A, ideally involving also other groups engaged in conflict in the South, and to try to engage in a process parallel with the political dialogue being conducted with the Government of the Sudan;
13. Considers it important that the EU Heads of Mission based in Khartoum increase their coverage of all areas of the Sudan, covering political issues as well as humanitarian aid and sustainable support and human rights;
14. Calls on the Commission to significantly increase the staff in the EU Delegation in Khartoum, in the light of the implementation of existing projects now under way and in view of the additional EU action called for in this resolution;

#### **The oil issue**

15. Believes that oil production has increased the stakes in the civil war;

16. Calls on the GoS to publish a clear statement of all of its revenues and expenditures which would show the purposes to which oil money was being put;
17. Considers that the GoS would improve its own position, and increase the chances of a durable peace in the whole country, were it to ensure that oil revenues were used to a greater extent to alleviate hardship and strengthen the economy;
18. Feels it important that those oil companies operating in the Sudan should increase their employment of people from the oilfields region and expand their involvement in providing health services and basic education, as well as developing in-house training programmes;

#### **Humanitarian aid - relief and development**

19. Is seriously alarmed by the growing food crisis in Northern and Western Darfur, as well as elsewhere in the Northern Sudan Climatic Transition Zone, and calls on the GoS to attach a high priority to dealing with drought and hardship in these areas;
20. Calls on the EU, its Member States and other donors or potential donors to maintain and expand supplies of food and medicines to the distressed population in these areas;
21. Considers it vital for the existing early warning systems to be continued and for such systems to be extended to cover the whole Northern Sudan Climatic Transition Zone;
22. Calls on the GoS to establish means of providing humanitarian aid to all affected populations under its control, in particular in the Nuba Mountains and the southern Blue Nile regions;
23. Welcomes the decision to implement the Humanitarian Plus programme and the open attitude of the GoS to accept the arrangements making this programme possible; would welcome the supplementing of this programme with other projects subject to the successful progress of current projects and advances in the EU-Sudan political dialogue;
24. Believes that the SPLM/A should not seek formal control over any EU funding, which would allow for a resumption of humanitarian assistance, to be implemented by NGOs, churches and UN agencies;
25. Calls on the EU to examine ways of supporting civil society in both north and south, and also to significantly improve basic education;

#### **The Lord's Resistance Army**

26. Welcomes the cessation of GoS military support for the LRA, but asks it to consider how essential food and medical supplies could be provided to the abducted children held by them;
27. Calls on the GoS and the SPLM/A to refrain from direct attacks on LRA positions in consideration of the danger for the lives and safety of the abducted children;
28. Welcomes the fact that channels for the reception and repatriation of those abducted children who escape or are captured have been established both by the GoS and the SPLM;

considers that these should be expanded and improved, as should liaison with the Ugandan authorities, with the EU making funds available to meet any identified need;

29. Asks all parties to fully support the efforts of the Carter Center to bring about an acceptable resolution of the LRA issue, and considers that any supplementary efforts should be closely coordinated with them;
30. Welcomes the fact that the Government of Uganda and the Government of the Sudan have re-established diplomatic relations and appreciates the joint effort of the two governments, through the Carter Center and other possible avenues, to create dialogue with Joseph Kony for the purpose of the dissolution of the LRA and the release of the abducted children;
31. Calls on EU Member States to ensure that all legal means are used to counter the provision of any active support for the criminal activities of the LRA from their territories;
32. Asks that the EU consider appointing a special representative to assist the peace efforts being made and underline the political importance it attaches to them, with such a person monitoring the situation of children affected by armed conflict in this region and ensuring that EU declarations and European Parliament resolutions are followed up with the requisite action;
33. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council, the Commission, the UN and African Union Secretaries-General, the Government of the Sudan, the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement and to the Government of Uganda.