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## Security Council

Sixty-third year

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[Extract]

### *Reports of the Secretary General on the Sudan*

**Mr. Ambassador Ricardo Alberto Arias**

Permanent Representative of Panama to the United Nations

**The President** (*spoke in Spanish*): I now will make a statement in my capacity as the representative of Panama.

I would like to begin by thanking Ambassador Jan Eliasson and Under-Secretary-General Jean-Marie Guéhenno, for their detailed briefings on advances in the political process and the deployment of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID). We draw attention to the endeavours of Ambassador Eliasson and his counterpart in the African Union, Ambassador Salim Salim, in establishing dialogue between the parties to the conflict and the individuals affected. We welcome the decision by the Secretary-General to extend the mandate of Special Envoy Eliasson. We take this opportunity to assure him of Panama's fullest support in his discharge of this mandate.

On 31 July 2007, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1769 (2007) through which it authorized the deployment of UNAMID. This historic decision emphasizes the political determination of two organizations to share responsibilities in achieving a common objective. In addition to confirming our unswerving commitment to Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations regarding cooperation with regional organizations in the pacific settlement of

conflicts, it underpins Panama's stated position to deal with different conflicts with different measures, in keeping with the characteristics and particularities of the conflict. This innovative spirit could be employed in resolving other conflicts. We emphasize that the deployment of the Hybrid Operation and political negotiations are parallel processes. The political process, as the lynchpin of peace, security and stability in Darfur, calls for an unswerving commitment to a cessation of hostilities that can only be achieved in a secure environment for dialogue, which should be obtained through the Hybrid Operation.

Since this operation was authorized, we have encountered numerous difficulties. However, we welcome the information provided by the Secretary- General regarding the imminent signature of the status of forces agreement and that the Sudanese Government has shown new flexibility in its position regarding the origin of contingents that make up the Hybrid Operation.

Still, many matters remain pending, particularly the generation of aviation and transport units. In this regard, we welcome the efforts of the Government of the United Kingdom in obtaining offers for these units. We note that the most recent trip by the Special Envoys to the region has produced significant advances in the political process. The greater consistency in the positions of a number of rebel groups and signs of flexibility constitute progress. We share the concern of many delegations regarding the slow pace of the process. However, we do acknowledge that this conflict is the product of decades of discontent affected by the creation of borders that do not reflect the social reality on the ground and that we cannot erase with our desires to adhere to pre-established timelines. We repeat our urgent pleas to the countries able to influence the leaders of some of the rebel groups to step up their efforts to encourage them to join this process.

Moreover, Panama echoes the sentiments expressed by States regarding their serious concerns regarding the lack of protection by the Government of Sudan of the human rights of its citizens and its lack of respect for the authorities of the International Criminal Court.

Lastly, we cannot ignore the critical situation that exists in Chad and the potential impact of this situation on refugees from Darfur and on internally displaced persons. This crisis may compound tensions between the Sudan and Chad and therefore may have an impact on the political process in Darfur. Similarly, it undermines regional endeavours to settle the conflict in Darfur where Chad's participation is fundamental. We therefore appeal to both countries to adhere to the commitments entered into under the various agreements with a view to normalizing their relations.