

AU PSC Remarks for October 24, 2012

DIPLOMATIC PROTOCOLS (USAU, Please insert)

With the agreements signed in Addis Ababa last month, Sudan and South Sudan demonstrated publicly their commitment, at the highest levels of government, to move forward to advance peace, stability, and prosperity.

The United States applauds the efforts of the African Union, the African Union High-level Implementation Panel (AUHIP), and the PSC in bringing this to fruition. The close coordination between the PSC and AUHIP has been critical in maintaining the focused and coordinated international engagement on Sudan and South Sudan we have seen in recent months. The AU Roadmap helped to forge a unity of purpose in the international community, eliciting strong support through UNSC Resolution 2046.

We believe that these agreements have much to offer both states, and we are pleased to see that the respective legislatures of Sudan and South Sudan have ratified them and begun to work on implementation. Together, we must continue to encourage the parties to implement fully and immediately those agreements they have reached, and to address those issues outstanding from the AUPSC roadmap, which I will discuss in a moment. We strongly encourage members of this body to support these agreements and to explain publicly the many benefits that the agreements offer the people of both countries.

On the security side, a meeting of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism (JPSM) is urgently required to implement fully the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone and make operational the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism. This Council's Roadmap was necessary precisely because the parties were heading down the road to renewed conflict and only the immediate holding of the JPSM as soon as possible and swift implementation of the security agreement can ensure this does not happen again. We urge the parties to do the technical work necessary prior to the JPSM so that their respective delegations can quickly take the urgent decisions needed to facilitate rapid implementation. Sudan and South Sudan still have forces deployed at close proximity to each other in several areas, and with the rainy season coming to an end, the establishment of these interim security measures is vitally important.

We welcome the announcement that the border between the two countries will soon be open for trade. This will have immediate, positive impacts on the lives of the people living along both sides of the border. We believe that the resumption of oil production and the opening of the border to facilitate trade will provide economic benefits to both countries and should be prioritized. The United States will remain committed to supporting all aspects of the agreements and will support the parties' efforts to stand-up committees on trade, border management, and issues related to nationality, amongst other priorities highlighted in the agreements.

Still, some critical issues from the PSC roadmap are outstanding. The PSC must remain focused on deteriorating humanitarian conditions in the Two Areas and ongoing human rights violations. We are

alarmed by the escalation in violence and continue to condemn the aerial bombardment by the Government of Sudan in civilian areas of Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states. We also condemn the Sudan People's Liberation Movement – North's recent attacks on civilian targets in Kadugli. We are disappointed that, amid the positive news from Addis, proximity talks facilitated by the AUHIP with the Government of Sudan and the SPLM-North did not yield significant progress..

We remain deeply concerned about the continued delays in implementation of the tripartite agreement, and urge this Council to do all it can to push for immediate humanitarian access. Stopping the violence through a cessation of hostilities and allowing immediate and unhindered international humanitarian access in the Two Areas now must be a priority of the PSC. It remains urgent that the Government of Sudan and the SPLM-North meet to define and agree on a cessation of hostilities that will facilitate unhindered delivery of humanitarian aid and create space for direct talks on political and security issues. As per this Council's Roadmap and UNSCR 2046, we strongly believe that the June 28, 2011 Framework Agreement on Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan should provide the basis for a negotiated solution and this should be reiterated again by the PSC. The PSC leadership on this question has been essential to moving the tripartite proposal forward and should continue, and we would welcome the AUHIP's recommendations for getting the political dialogue between the Government of Sudan and the SPLM-North back on track.

My government supports the proposal on Abyei originally put forward to the parties on September 21st and included in AUHIP Chair Mbeki's report today. We note, however, that when this proposal was presented to the parties last month, rancorous discussions between the negotiators and the Presidents did not yield any progress. The AUHIP proposal comes as a result of years of unsuccessful efforts by the parties to resolve the issue. The United States feels strongly that only an internationally approved process endorsed by the PSC can advance the issue. Such a process is provided for in the AUHIP's September 21st proposal, and we strongly urge the PSC to formally endorse it as the basis for a lasting solution. This proposal provides for protection of the rights of both communities whatever the outcome of the proposed referendum and would when implemented cement the relationship of the migratory peoples with those of South Sudan for the future. Failure to act swiftly on Abyei could however unravel the progress achieved in the negotiations concluded September 27.

The United States stands ready to support the PSC's recommendations at the United Nations Security Council, with a full endorsement, as we did following the AU Roadmap earlier this year.

We also urge the parties to convene the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee as soon as possible. This body, along with the as-yet established Abyei Area Administration, Police Service, and Legislative Council, is needed to enable the area's local administration to meet the needs of all communities that it serves.

On disputed border and claimed areas, the United States calls on the PSC to endorse the AUHIP proposal on a process to resolve the border, and for the mandate for the AU Panel of Experts to include both claimed and disputed areas. We also call for the AUHIP to convene talks between the two governments as soon as possible to address the Panel of Experts' mandate for Kaka and the sequencing of disputed

and claimed areas. We believe that the parties' differences can be overcome, and a time-bound process put in place to resolve disputed border and claimed areas. Communities on both sides will benefit greatly when the border issue is settled.

Looking ahead, we believe that the PSC and the AUHIP must continue to play a central role in monitoring and evaluating the parties' progress on implementation, with the full support of the international community.

The parties have a long road ahead to implement the complex Addis agreements, and the role of the AU will be critical for success. We look forward to the PSC's review of the issues that remain outstanding and the AU plan for monitoring the implementation of the agreements already signed in Addis.