



AUHIP Press Statement on its visit to Sudan

Khartoum: 22nd August 2014: The African Union High Level Implementation Panel (AUHP) for Sudan and South Sudan, chaired by the former President of South Africa, Thabo Mbeki, has completed its visit to Sudan, which began on 17th August 2014. The visit falls within its mandate, which requires the Panel to assist in the democratic transformation of Sudan.

The Panel was in Sudan to continue its consultations with Sudanese stakeholders on the National Dialogue announced by President Bashir on 27th January 2014 to discuss various issues of concern to the Sudanese people. This visit was a follow-up of the Panel's initial visit on this issue in May 2014.

During its visit, the Panel held consultations with the Government. The Panel also met with the Seven + Seven National Dialogue committee, which provided it with a Roadmap for the dialogue.

The AUHIP also carried out discussions with a broad spectrum of political parties and civil society groups, including prominent Sudanese, women, press, religious leaders and youth. This exercise enabled the Panel to receive numerous views on the national dialogue process. The Panel is encouraged by the unanimous view amongst all the players on the urgent need for an inclusive and genuine national dialogue, as the only way of addressing the serious challenges facing the country.

The AUHIP will urgently consider the views it has received during the visit in order to respond to all of the Sudanese stakeholders. It is for this reason that the Panel will return to Sudan, as soon as possible.