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**Press Release**

**AU Special Envoy arrives in the Sudan for  
consultations on Darfur**

The African Union Special Envoy for Darfur, Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim arrived in the Sudan for a week-long visit to further consult on the preparations for the upcoming negotiations on Darfur. The visit comes shortly after that of his United Nations counterpart, Mr. Jan Eliasson, and is a follow-up to the Arusha meeting of Non-Signatory Parties to the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA), held on 3-5 August, 2007.

The AU Special Envoy has already started consultations in Khartoum with senior Government of Sudan Officials, including the Foreign Minister, Dr. Lam Akol and the Director General of the National Intelligence and Security Services, Gen Sallah Gosh. He also held extensive consultations with the DPA signatories in Khartoum.

He is scheduled to meet with Women's groups in Khartoum before leaving for El Fasher on Sunday 26 August, where he will meet with senior AMIS officials, including Gen. Martin Luther Agwai, the Force Commander, at the Mission's Forward Headquarters in Darfur, as well as the Deputy Joint Special Representative of UNAMID, Gen. Henry Anyidoho. Dr. Salim will pay a courtesy call on the Wali (Governor) of North Darfur State, before travelling to Zallingei, where is scheduled to discuss the peace process with Darfurian leaders and civil society representatives.

On Monday, 27 August 2007, Dr. Salim will travel to the capital of West Darfur State, El Geneina, where he will meet with the Wali, representatives of Internally Displaced Darfurians, leaders of Civil Society organisations and traditional authorities. He will return to Khartoum on Tuesday, 28 August 2007, and brief the international community, including International Non-governmental Organisations (INGOs), on his consultations in Darfur.

Dr. Salim's visit will end with a press conference in Khartoum on Tuesday, 28 August 2007, during which the AU Special Envoy is expected to answer questions from local and international media on the political component of the Darfur peace process. This visit is in furtherance of the implementation of Phase II, the Pre-Negotiations Phase, of the Joint AU-UN Roadmap for Darfur Political Process.

**Khartoum, 22 August, 2007**