

**AMIS Donor's Conference**  
**Brussels, Belgium**  
**18 July 2006**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson and Mr. Secretary General for this opportunity to address the African Union and its friends and partners on behalf of the Government of Canada. I would also like to thank the European Union and both co-chairs for organizing this important conference which has brought the Government of Sudan, the African Union, the United Nations and international partners together to discuss how we can strengthen the current African Union Mission in Sudan and plan for the next steps in securing peace and stability for the people of Darfur – that is, a transition to a UN mission.

I would like to begin by recognizing and commending the African Union for their tireless efforts and dedicated leadership in Darfur – on the ground with AMIS, throughout the peace process in Abuja, and now in the all-important implementation phase of the Darfur Peace Agreement.

I would also like to extend, on behalf of Canada, sincere thanks both to the Governments which have contributed troops to AMIS for their unwavering support and, indeed, to the troops themselves for the dedicated and professional manner in which they are carrying out their duties. We also offer our condolences to the families of those troops who have lost their lives in the service of the mission.

AMIS has achieved a great deal under exceptionally challenging circumstances and the African Union and its membership should be proud of what they have accomplished with this mission.

Finally, I congratulate the Government of Sudan and the Sudan Liberation Movement faction led by Minni Minawi on the signing of the Darfur Peace Agreement – this agreement is an essential step towards the realization of a lasting peace for the people of Darfur and is a major achievement that marks the successful conclusion to a very complex process. However, Canada, as a signatory witness to the DPA, is disappointed that the letter and spirit of the agreement and that historic day in Abuja have yet to translate to an improvement of the situation on the ground in Darfur and encourages non-signatories to participate in the DPA.

The events of the past few weeks are particularly troubling, as the situation deteriorates to dangerous levels of instability. Violence and insecurity continue to plague the people of Darfur, including those seeking safety in IDP camps, as well as the refugees in eastern Chad. The continuation of violence is unacceptable. In keeping with resolutions by the UN Security Council and recent AU Peace and Security Council communiqués – those that violate the DPA must be held accountable and the impunity in Darfur must end.

As people continue to live their lives in constant fear, or worse still, lose their lives, it is difficult to see who is representing the interests of the people of Darfur. These people have suffered for too long and are losing hope. As I stand before you today I implore the signatories of the DPA to live up to their commitments and give meaning to the agreement and I call upon all parties to the conflict to allow the people they claim to represent the chance to live in peace.

Canada welcomes the request from the African Union to the United Nations to transition from AMIS to a UN-led mission for Darfur. With the signing of the DPA, the time is right for a new phase in international engagement in Darfur – a fact that was recently reaffirmed by the AU Peace and Security Council at the Banjul Summit. Canada strongly urges the Government of Sudan to spare no effort to reach an agreement with the AU and UN on transition. Canada firmly believes that an early and effective transition to the UN is the best possible solution for all parties and indeed is in the best interest of the Government of Sudan and the people of Darfur. In this regard, we welcome the proposal of the UN Under-Secretary General for a unified plan for transition. This unprecedented approach would see UN staff fully dedicated to providing support to an African Union mission.

International partners have been, and continue to be, generous in their support of the African Union, as evidenced here today. However, AMIS continues

to face challenges and we need to move forward. There are significant efficiencies to be gained by transitioning the force in Darfur allowing for a UN presence throughout Sudan. Drawing upon a broader pool of material and human resources, the UN brings stable funding and decades of experience. With the UN already on the ground in the south of Sudan and coordinating humanitarian efforts in Darfur, transition in Darfur will provide benefits of economies of scale, a unified command and control structure. Therefore, Canada calls upon the UN and the AU to continue to work together to plan for a transition at the earliest possible moment. We remain hopeful that agreement on the way forward will be forthcoming in the very near future.

In the interim, Canada remains a steadfast supporter of AMIS and strongly believes that the international community must continue to support the mission and strengthen its capacity to implement the DPA. We look forward to continuing to work with the AU in ensuring the most robust and effective use of available resources, and welcome short and long-term plans of the UN to strengthen AMIS in preparation for transition and the implementation of the DPA.

Canada is proud of the role we are playing in Darfur, particularly as one of AMIS's principal donors. We have provided helicopter and fixed-wing air support, armoured personnel carriers, fuel and equipment such as helmets and flak jackets. Additionally, at the request of the AU, Canada is providing valuable training and military and civilian police expertise. Since 2004 we have committed

\$190 million to AMIS, including our most recent announcement of \$20 million to strengthen AMIS's ability to implement the DPA during the transition to a UN mission. Canada has earmarked these new funds to enhance our assistance in the areas of helicopter and fixed-wing support and aviation fuel – including the provision of an additional fixed wing aircraft. We are also considering options that include renewing our contribution to the construction of civilian police base camps throughout the region. A portion of this \$20 million will be held in reserve to be used responsively and in consultation with the AU to address needs as they arise throughout the transition process. Additionally, Canada has recently extended the provision of the 105 armoured personnel carriers. Canada looks forward to working with the AU and UN to look at more detailed ways in which we can help implement the unified transition plan.

In closing, Canada looks forward to continuing our partnership with the African Union, the United Nations, the Government of Sudan, and the international community to ensure an end to the suffering of the people of Darfur. Helping to achieve a lasting peace throughout Sudan continues to be a major foreign policy priority for Canada.