



PRESS RELEASE

Sudan Liberation Movement and Justice Equality Movement commit to engage the Government of Sudan on the substantive issues

Addis Ababa, 23 November 2018: The African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security, Ambassador Smail Chergui and the Joint Special Representative and Joint Chief Mediator for Darfur, Ambassador Kingsley Mamabolo, convened a meeting on the 22-23 November 2018 with the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM), led by Mr. Minni Minawi and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) led by Dr. Gibril Ibrahim, at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The meeting discussed ways of re-energizing peace talks, with a view of breaking the current stalemate.

The Movements were also received by the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Mr Faki Musa Mahamat, who recalled the protracted nature of Darfur political process and called upon all the parties to find a speedy a solution to the conflict. He equally observed that the prolonged conflict has brought untold pain and suffering on the people of Darfur and that the urgency of a quick and sustainable solution cannot be overstated.

During its deliberation, the meeting took into consideration the impacts of recent developments in the region and internationally on Darfur, and particularly the status of UNAMID's reconfiguration and draw-down. In this context, the JEM and the SLM expressed their readiness to enter into negotiations with the Government of Sudan on substantive issues with the view of reaching an agreement that paves the way for sustainable peace and development. The basis for these negotiations will be a framework agreement.

At the end of the meeting and as a demonstration of their political will and intent, SLM and JEM initialed the proposed pre-negotiation draft document that will form the basis of an agreement. The meeting called on the Peace and Security Council of the AU and the leadership of UNAMID to relentlessly pursue all avenues to ensure that the Movements and the Government reach an agreement that would usher in lasting peace in Darfur, in accordance with all the relevant communiqués of the African Union Peace and Security Council and the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council.