



**PRESS STATEMENT ON THE ATTACK ON THE AMIS CAMP IN HASKANITA,
SOUTH DARFUR, AND THE KILLING OF 10 AMIS PERSONNEL**

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union, at its 94th meeting, held today, 2 October 2007, was briefed by the Commission on the unprovoked attack on the AMIS camp in Haskanita, South Darfur, which resulted in the death of 10, the wounding of another 10 and 3 other AMIS personnel missing.

Council expressed its outrage and condemned, in the strongest terms, this heinous and cowardly act perpetrated by unidentified elements who are bent on undermining the peace process and further complicate the situation in Darfur

Council expressed its condolences to the families of the brave men who lost their lives and paid tribute to their Member States whose troops and other personnel continue to carry out their mission notwithstanding the difficult circumstances.

Council encouraged the Commission to undertake, jointly with the United Nations, a thorough investigation of these incidents, with a view to identifying the culprits. Such an investigation should also cover earlier incidents of attacks against AMIS. Council requested that the result of such an investigation be brought to its attention to enable it take all necessary measures, including sanctions against the leaders of the groups that perpetrated the attack. In the meantime, Council further took note of indications provided by AMIS regarding the group which carried out the attacks.

Council stressed the urgent need to bring the culprits to international justice. Council also stressed the need for necessary lessons to be drawn from these incidents, including the strengthening of the peace keeping operation in Darfur, with a robust posture.

Council reiterated its support to the efforts being made under the auspices of the African Union and the United Nations to convene peace talks in Libya in order to broaden the support base of the DPA and bring about lasting peace and reconciliation in Darfur. In this regard, Council stressed that no group should expect that, by violating the ceasefire and committing other military acts that may compound the situation on the ground, would have an advantage at the renegotiating table.

Council encouraged the Troop Contributing Countries to meet at the appropriate level to review the situation before the end of October 2007.

Council also urged the Commission, working closely with the United Nations, to expedite the deployment of the African Union/United Nations Hybrid operation in Darfur (UNAMID), with enhanced capacity and strength in order to stabilize the security situation on the ground in Darfur.