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IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 60/251 OF 15 MARCH 2006 ENTITLED “HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL”

**Written statement* submitted by the International Federation of Human Rights
Leagues (FIDH), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is
circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[28 February 2007]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the
submitting non-governmental organization(s).

Human Rights Situation in Darfur

The International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and the Sudan Organisation Against Torture (SOAT) call upon the Human Rights Council to adopt a resolution condemning the serious violations of human rights and humanitarian law, urging Sudan to accept the deployment of an international UA-UN peacekeeping mission in accordance with resolution 1706 of the United Nations Security Council, and recommending individual and targeted sanctions should the Government of Sudan repeatedly refuse the unimpeded access of the UN High level assessment mission established following the UNHRC 4th Special Session.

Ongoing humanitarian law and human rights violations in Darfur:

Nearly four years of fighting in Darfur between rebels and pro-government militias has led to the deaths of more than 200,000 people, and forced more than two million people to flee their homes.

The violence has been rising in Darfur in 2006 and 2007 despite the 5 May Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) reached in Nigeria between Khartoum and one Sudanese rebel group – the Sudan Liberation Movement, SLM. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) releasing on February 22, 2007 its latest overview of the situation in Darfur, reported *« that almost 50,000 more people were forced to flee violence in the region last month alone »*. *« New population displacements were registered weekly in January as attacks on villages, sexual violence and intimidation continued to force large numbers of people to move throughout Darfur. Generalized violence, attacks on humanitarian assets and bureaucratic impediments continued to affect humanitarian operations »*, the overview states. The attacks on aid workers, resulting in the withdrawal of international agencies, mean that access to basic human needs including, water, food, health care and shelter will be cut off for the millions whose lives are dependent on this aid;

The regionalisation of the conflict, including the movement of arms and militia across the Chad and Sudan border and the reports that fighting connected with the Darfur conflict and the unrest in Chad has also spread into the Central African Republic, results in an increase in human rights and humanitarian law violations in those countries;

In 2005 and 2006, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' rights adopted two resolutions condemning the serious human rights violations committed in the region, notably calling upon the Janjaweed supported by the Government of Sudan to *« cease with immediate effect all attacks against civilians and the grave violations of human rights, in particular the forced depopulation of entire areas in the region, rape and sexual violence against women and girls, abduction of women and children »*

Considering the ongoing serious humanitarian and human rights violations in Darfur and the neighbouring countries:

FIDH and SOAT express their disappointment at the refusal of the Sudanese Government to grant access of the U.N. High-Level assessment mission to Sudan. Our organisations remind that the Government of Sudan decided to bar the mission from visiting Darfur and

announced publicly its refusal to grant visas to the members of the mission, contradicting past agreements between the UNHRC and the Sudanese government.

FIDH and SOAT also condemn the repeated refusal by Sudanese Government of the deployment of an hybrid UN-AU peacekeeping force as recommended by the UN Security Council Resolution 1706 (2006). Our organisations consider that the African peacekeeping force stationed in Darfur has been unable to ensure the security of civilians and aid workers seeking to give assistance to the large numbers in need. During the AU Summit of Heads of State which was held in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) in January 2007, the UN Secretary General, Mr Ban Ki-moon, restated that he wants « *concrete commitments that Sudan will open the door to a joint UN-AU force, to replace the current overstretched AU troops* ».

FIDH and SOAT welcome the submission of evidence by the International Criminal Court Prosecutor on February 27, 2007 to the Court's Pre-Trial Chamber in connection with individuals suspected of having committed war crimes and crimes against humanity in Darfur. Our organisations request the government of Sudan to fully cooperate with the ICC, notably by transferring the suspects to the Court.

Consequently, FIDH and SOAT urge the Human Rights Council to adopt a resolution

- **condemning the serious violations of human rights and humanitarian law** committed by the belligerents in Darfur and the neighbouring countries;
- **condemning the Government's failure to protect** its own citizens;
- **urging the Sudanese authorities to :**
 - **put an end to the violations of human rights and international humanitarian law** against civilians, humanitarian workers and AMIS forces;
 - **respect the ceasefire agreements**, the DPA and all UN resolutions,
 - **disarm** its militias including the Janjawid;
 - **re-engage in a political dialogue** with the non signatories of the DPA;
 - **hold accountable perpetrators of international crimes** and serious violations of human rights and to fully cooperate with the ICC organs in accordance with UNSC Resolution 1593 referring the Darfur situation to the ICC;
 - **respect regional and international human rights instruments** ratified by Sudan;
- **deploring the Government's failure to accept the UNHRC High-Level assessment mission** and urging him to grant an unimpeded access to Sudan before the end of the current session;
- should the Government repeatedly refuse such access, recommending the adoption of individual and **targetted sanctions**;
- urging Sudan to **accept the deployment of an international UN-AU peacekeeping mission** in accordance with UNSC Resolution 1706 to enforce the DPA agreement, to protect civilians and to support all international agencies and humanitarian organisations in order to ensure immediate, full, safe and unhindered access to the affected people in Darfur in order to facilitate delivery of humanitarian assistance.
