

**Aide-Memoire for Ms Ameerah Haq, DSRSG
Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator**

UN Coordination of programs and projects for protection in Darfur

1. Under the new UNAMID peacekeeping mission for Darfur, the coordination of humanitarian activities, including programs and projects to promote the protection of civilians in Darfur, will continue to fall under the mandate of the Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC) and Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General of UNMIS¹.
2. With regard to the RC/HC's oversight and coordination of protection of civilians, the UNMIS Protection of Civilians section will provide the necessary support until the end of June 2008. However, from the beginning of July 2008 onward, the task of supporting the RC/HC in coordinating the UN's humanitarian protection programs in North and South Darfur will be transferred to UNHCR².
3. The decision that UNHCR should take over responsibility for protection coordination in North and South Darfur (as is already the case in West Darfur) is in line with the global framework established by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)³, as well as the UN Sudan Country Team's recommendation of 9 August 2007⁴. The technical core functions of this agency in support of the RC/HC include in particular:

Liaison and Coordination

- Keep the RC/HC informed and seized of the work of UN agencies and their partners that conduct protection programs and projects in Darfur. This will enable the RC/HC to maintain an informed dialogue on protection work in Darfur with Sudanese governmental and other counterparts.
- Coordinate UN agencies and their partners in their protection programming in Darfur (including through management of the Protection Working Groups). This concerns the inter-agency work planning processes as well as the coordinated implementation of programmes and projects in response to priority protection needs, including the voluntary return of refugees and IDPs⁵.
- Ensure utilization of participatory assessment and community based approaches in needs assessment, analysis, planning and programme implementation, and the mainstreaming of age, gender and diversity in such processes.
- Provide guidance on protection issues in Darfur to support UN agencies and their partners in their field-based work. This will facilitate consistent engagement and interaction with partners, including the Sudanese authorities, UNAMID, and others on the ground.
- Liaise with donor governments and the diplomatic community in the Sudan.

¹ Article 61, 5 June 2007 SG Report to the SC

² In principle the UNMIS mandate in Darfur ended on 31 December 2007; UNAMID does not have a mandate to coordinate the UN's humanitarian protection response.

³ Established under GA resolution 46/182 (1991)

⁴ UN Sudan Country Team Recommendations on Future Interaction with UNAMIS, 9 August 2007.

⁵ In relation to the IOM-GOS Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and the UNHCR-GOS Letter of Understanding (LOU).

Information Management

- Ensure adequate coordinated protection reporting and effective information sharing mechanisms are in place.
- Consolidate information and communicate with the concerned parties, under the auspices of the RC/HC, for preventive and/or remedial action. The concerned instances include Sudanese government counterparts, UN agencies and their partners, as well as the Joint Special Representative for UNAMID and the UN Secretary-General.

4. In order to guarantee the capacity to support the above functions, the RC/HC has requested UNHCR to provide the necessary resources, including additional staff, and to reinforce its presence throughout Darfur. The support and facilitation of the Government of the Sudan is essential in order to make the arrangement a success, and the RC/HC hopes that a dialogue with Sudanese government counterparts on future cooperation in matters of protection of civilians in Darfur can be further strengthened.

Khartoum
19 June 2008