

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 26 December 2014 from the Permanent Representative
of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General**

With reference to your hasty and regrettable reaction, as stated by your spokesman yesterday, regarding the expulsion of the two United Nations staff members from the Sudan, I have the honour to transmit to you the statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Sudan which explains the reasons that prompted my Government to take that sovereign decision (see annex). The decision, apart from being a sovereign one, was in conformity with the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.

Having brought this information to your kind attention, I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Rahamtalla Mohamed Osman **Elnor**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 26 December 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

Communiqué from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Sudan regarding the expulsion from Khartoum of the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for the Sudan, Ali Al-Za'tari, and the United Nations Development Programme country director in the Sudan, Yvonne Helle

The Government of the Sudan regrets the haste with which the Secretary-General condemned the Government's decision to expel the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for the Sudan, Ali Al-Za'tari, and the United Nations Development Programme country director in the Sudan, Yvonne Helle, without first considering the real reasons that compelled the Sudanese Government to take those measures. In his press release, the Secretary-General refers to the sanctioning by the Sudan of United Nations officials working in the country. That reference is unfortunate and also unacceptable for the reasons provided below.

The Sudan does not target the United Nations. It is a faithful Member of the Organization that abides by the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and appreciates its efforts to achieve security and stability and promote development in the Sudan. In addition, the Sudan assiduously strives to develop that relationship in accordance with the Charter and the relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions. The Sudan therefore condemns the suggestion that the above-mentioned expulsions are a violation of the Charter. Article 2, paragraph 7, of the Charter, in fact prohibits the Secretary-General and United Nations staff and agencies from interfering in matters that are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any Member State.

The decision to expel the above-mentioned persons from Sudanese territory is a sovereign one that is based on the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, article 9, which provides that the receiving State may at any time and without having to explain its decision, notify the sending State that the head of the mission or any member of the diplomatic staff of the mission is *persona non grata*. The decision is also based on the relevant established diplomatic norms. The Sudan will not hesitate to expel any diplomat or international official who exceeds his established mandate or the professional parameters of his post.

The Sudanese Government decided to expel Mr. Al-Za'tari because he insulted the Sudanese people and its political leadership in a statement he made to a Norwegian newspaper, an action that was contrary to his duties as a senior United Nations official in the Sudan. He was asked to explain the matter and given ample time to produce the audio recording of the interview that was conducted by the Norwegian journalist. It was alleged that the newspaper distorted his words. However, he did not do that. Under both custom and law, it is well known that no international official may allow himself to evaluate and pass judgement on the

President of a State and insult an entire people. International officials are supposed to serve the peoples of the United Nations in an impartial and highly professional manner.

The Sudanese Government was also forced to expel Ms. Helle, United Nations Development Programme country director, for a number of reasons, including the Government's observation that the above-mentioned official is very biased against it and that she deals with Sudanese officials in an overbearing and arrogant manner. She furthermore decided, without consulting the Government, to stop financial and technical support for a number of strategic programmes and projects that bring important development, political and economic benefits to the Sudan. Such actions are contrary to her responsibilities and her role as the representative of the United Nations responsible for addressing development, reducing poverty, increasing growth and building and developing public institutions. Ms. Helle also violated the United Nations development assistance framework that was signed by the Government of the Sudan and the United Nations in July 2012. That framework sets out the strategic vision for cooperation between the Sudan and the United Nations during the period from 2013 to 2016. She also set out development priorities and interventions without consulting Government agencies and cancelled a number of successful programmes that are of developmental and institutional benefit to the Sudan.

The Sudanese Government calls upon the Secretary-General to reconsider his hasty condemnation of the decision to expel the above-mentioned persons. It further calls upon him to observe the provisions of the Charter, Article 2, paragraph 7, and the relevant international instruments, and to compel his staff and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system to respect the sovereignty of the States Members of the Organization. The Government of the Sudan shall exercise its sovereign right should any United Nations official exceed his mandate or the professional parameters of his post or interfere in matters that, under the Charter, are essentially relevant to the Government's sovereignty and internal authority.
