

Opening Statement of the Emergency Relief Coordinator at the launch of the 2008 Sudan Work Plan

I am pleased to welcome the donor representatives from the Member States of the UN, the Minister of International Cooperation from the Government of National Unity, the Acting Minister for Regional Cooperation from the Government of Southern Sudan, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, the Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator and Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, the Director of OCHA Geneva and the Secretary-General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, our host of today's launch.

The large representation today is a positive reminder of the continued interest and commitment of the international community to supporting Sudan. The CAP launch yesterday focused on the appeals for humanitarian crises at the global level. Over the last three years, the UN and Partners have developed a unique planning process for Sudan, which complements the CAP process, but is adapted to the complex needs and contexts in Sudan.

This planning process culminated in the development of the UN and Partners Work Plan for Sudan: an annual plan that outlines the priority needs and corresponding humanitarian and recovery programmes and activities of the UN and Partners. It is important to emphasise that it is not just the plan itself which is important, but the planning process - the prioritisation, the joint planning, the coordination and collaboration – that makes the Work Plan so unique.

This year, there has been a significant transition from humanitarian activities and into early recovery programming. This transition represents the shifting needs on the ground as Sudan moves further into the interim period. Reflecting this, the Work Plan is a national planning process, and looks at Sudan as a whole.

While we welcome this transition, it is important to note that there are still significant humanitarian needs in Sudan, representing 51% of the overall figure, or US \$1.18 billion in monetary terms. Balancing international attention and support between the large scale humanitarian needs of Darfur, and the need to consistently support the people in areas of Sudan that are emerging from conflict, not least as the CPA is implemented, is a constant challenge, both in terms of allocation of resources, and in terms of the type of funding mechanisms used to channel funds.

Humanitarian needs require quick funds early in the year to ensure lifesaving activities are timely and effective. Supporting the implementation of peace as it happens also requires a shift to early recovery and development activities when and where possible and the preparation of longer term and more predictable funding architecture to go with that. At the same time, the window of opportunity for the significant early recovery activities required in Southern Sudan is set by our ability to operate during the dry season, which starts in December and runs for about five months. We recognise that maintaining a balance in terms of supporting these two activities is a challenge. However, I urge you to encourage your capitals to think creatively in terms of funding mechanisms in order to ensure both categories of programming are equally supported as they need to be.

I have just returned from Darfur, and would like to pay tribute to the continued commitment of the humanitarian community, who are maintaining critical life-saving activities in a challenging environment. In addition, I would like to thank the Government of Sudan for

what they're doing to implement the Joint Communiqué, and encourage them to do more to facilitate the efforts of humanitarian actors on the ground. In this vein, we welcome the Government's assurances while I was there that the Communiqué, and the Moratorium on which it is based, will be extended beyond its current expiration of 31 January 2008, and we hope this can be finalized soon.

Whilst the ongoing Darfur peace talks are a welcome development, it will take a significant amount of time for eventual progress on the political front to filter down to positive changes on the ground. The large scale of humanitarian needs in Darfur will continue throughout 2008. As such, humanitarian activities represent 90% of the \$849 million in funds requested for Darfur in 2008, though there is also an element of early recovery needs already there too.

Thank you all for your funding efforts during 2007, without which the world's largest humanitarian operation would not have been possible. However, I urge you all to continue these commitments throughout 2008 in a timely manner. Sudan remains at the top of the international agenda, and we must ensure that we harness this attention into effective support for the beleaguered population, and for the achievement of sustainable peace throughout Sudan. The diversity of needs is challenging, but we have a unique opportunity, in close collaboration with the Government of Sudan, to make important steps forward in the creation of the right kind of framework for peace in Sudan. The Sudan Work Plan has this objective at its core.

Thank you everyone for your attendance today, and I'm sure I speak on behalf of those who have travelled from Sudan, both from the Government and from the UN, that we welcome your continued commitment to Sudan.