

Press Release

OUTCOMES OF THE EIGHTH HIGH LEVEL COMMITTEE MEETING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE ON THE FACILITATION OF HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES IN DARFUR

20 August 2008

The High Level Committee, established by the Joint Communiqué to monitor the facilitation of humanitarian activities in Darfur, met on 20 August at the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs. The meeting was co-chaired by the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator/ Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General and included the Director General of the Joint Procedures Centre (JPC), the Representative of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Representative of the European Union, Members of the Diplomatic community, the African Union, International and National NGOs and the UN.

The Tripartite Joint Technical Committee presented the Eighth Progress Report for the June to August period. The most notable achievement was the General Directory of Procedures training that took place in North and South Darfur in July. Participants included local authority and NGO AND INGO leaders. Co-facilitated by representatives of the Joint Procedure Centre and OCHA, a similar training is planned for early September in West Darfur. Recommendations from the sessions focused on continued open discussion and collaboration between participants. It was noted that participation by NGOs in the fast track monitoring system was important and could be improved.

The High Level Committee addressed a number of key issues facilitating the delivery of humanitarian services. The members of the committee appreciated recent efforts by the Humanitarian Affairs Commission to address restrictions on fuel supplies for water pumps in camps. This is timely as sanitation and access to clean water are critical issues during the rainy season when floods occur. It was noted there should be harmonization of Federal and State procedures related to the delivery of humanitarian services. It was noted that the release of nutrition surveys will be done at the local level. The committee members took note of the increase in the UN World Food Programme ration to 75% of the usual level in August.

The International and national Non-government Organisations were recognized for their tireless work promoting humanitarian principles with national partners, line ministries and beneficiaries. The High Level Committee expressed appreciation and support for this effort acknowledging that all humanitarian agencies operate under the principles of impartiality, neutrality, and independence. Members noted a shared responsibility to ensure the principles are respected.

