

## PRESS RELEASE

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

9 February 2009

The High Level Committee, established by the Joint Communiqué on the facilitation of humanitarian activities in Darfur met for the tenth time today, 9 February, at the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs. The meeting was co-chaired by the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator. Attendees included representatives from the Humanitarian Aid Commission, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, representatives of the international community, NGOs and the UN.

The Committee welcomed progress made since the last HLC particularly the renewal of the extension of the Moratorium on Restrictions, the efforts of the federal TJTC team in drafting a standard Technical Agreement format, the work to improve harmonisation between policy at federal and state level. In addition the meeting appreciated all the work that has been conducted to revise the General Directory of Procedures. The endorsement by the Government of 2009 UN and Partners Work Plan for Sudan was commended.

All members agreed to jointly work towards a timely and efficient delivery of assistance particularly when an emergency occurs. It was noted that further efforts by all partners to continue to address some constraints directly impacting INGOs and their ability to timely deploy international staff to field locations.

The Committee commended the new Technical Agreement (TA) format. However, the delay in finalizing the TA format was highlighted as a matter of urgency. The Committee called for the national implementation of the TA and commended the decision to extend until the end of the existing Moratorium (31 January 2010) all procedures for core INGO staff.

All participants appreciated the commencement of the web based database that will monitor the implementation of the Joint Communiqué facilitating the government administrative procedures.

The partnership between INGOs and national NGOs was supported through dialogue, capacity building and joint planning. The need for commitment from all to build confidence and facilitate principled humanitarian assistance was also stressed.

The next High Level Meeting agreed that all future meetings would occur on the first Tuesday of every month.

