

Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, at the UN Security Council meeting on Sudan (ICC), on 15 December 2011

Thank you, Mr. President.

At the outset, I would like to thank the Prosecutor, Mr. Luis Moreno Ocampo, for his briefing today. We have taken note of his 14th report on the situation in the Sudan, submitted in pursuance of paragraph 8 of Resolution 1593 of 31 March 2005.

2. Mr. President, India is not a signatory to the Rome Statute and not a member of the International Criminal Court (ICC), for reasons that are well known, and I need not reiterate them.

3. India strongly believes that the right to life is one of the fundamental rights and foundation of any social order. It is the obligation of all States to take appropriate measures to protect the right to life of their citizens, while maintaining social order. We strongly condemn all acts of violence committed against civilians.

4. The continuing conflict in Darfur is one of serious concern. We support all efforts to bring this conflict to an end. We also support the activities of UNAMID aimed at protecting civilians and, in cooperation with the African Union's High-level Implementation Panel led by President Thabo Mbeki, to restore an enduring environment of peace and stability in Darfur. An inclusive political process to address the demands of all sections of Darfuri population will go a long way in resolving this conflict.

5. Mr President, all Sudanese parties have to accept that there is no military solution to the problem in Darfur. We call upon all the parties to join the political process without preconditions or any further delay. In this connection, it is necessary that this Council seriously consider measures against the armed groups which have so far refused to join the peace process.

6. In conclusion, Mr President, it is necessary that the proceedings in connection with the case concerning the attack on the AU mission in Darfur in 2007 be carried out on sound legal principles without political considerations and attempts to seek publicity. The goal of the international community should remain an early establishment of peace and security in Darfur so as to afford all sections of Darfuri population opportunities for economic development and peaceful co-existence.

Thank you.

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