

**STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. H. S. PURI, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF INDIA, AT THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING ON THE SUDAN
ON JULY 13, 2011**

Thank you, Mr President.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome Vice President Dr Riek Machar and other members of his delegation to the Council on this historic occasion. I also wish to welcome the honourable ministers participating in today's session, yourself, Mr President, and those from Brazil, Bosnia-Herzegovina, South Africa, France, Portugal, Russian Federation and United Kingdom to the Security Council. Their presence in our midst today underlines the importance we all attach to this occasion. I would like to thank Under Secretary General and my distinguished colleague the Permanent Representative of the Sudan Mr Ali Osman for their statements.

2. Mr President, sixty-four years ago India's first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had declared, "at the stroke of the midnight hour, when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom. A moment comes, which comes but rarely in history, when we step out from the old to the new, when an age ends, and when the soul of a nation, long suppressed, finds utterance."

3. Today is one such moment of a tryst being kept with destiny when after a long struggle, the voice of the people of South Sudan has found expression. Let me, at the outset, convey the Government of India's warm welcome to the new state of South Sudan born on 9 July 2011, after a peaceful and transparent Referendum where the people of South Sudan voted to form a new State. Our Vice President H.E. Mr. Hameed Ansari participated in the joyous celebrations in Juba on 9 July.

4. Mr President, the Government of India commends the leadership of both the Sudan and South Sudan who have shown exemplary patience and maturity to see the fulfillment of this important CPA landmark, which India has supported from its very beginning in 2005. We, therefore, convey our congratulations to both the parties for successfully marching to this day.

5. India and Sudan share the most cordial of relations. We are deeply committed to the development and to the peace and prosperity of Sudan. It is in this context that India welcomes the developments over the past year in the Sudan which have brought

peace closer to this troubled land. In particular, we welcome the emergence of South Sudan as a new State and the newest member of the international community. As a member of the Security Council, it has been our great pleasure to be associated with adoption of a resolution today that will lead to the General Assembly accepting the Council's recommendation on South Sudan's application for UN membership. We look forward to South Sudan joining the United Nations as a full fledged member tomorrow.

6. Mr President, India and Sudan have deep-rooted ties. For over a hundred years, people of Indian origin have made Sudan their home. Nearly 10,000 persons of Indian origin live in Khartoum, Omdurman, Wad Madani and Port Sudan. The economic interaction between the two countries is substantial and our two-way trade is around US \$ 1 billion per annum. This is among the largest with the countries of Africa. India was one of the first Asian countries to open a consulate in Juba. This will soon be upgraded to an Embassy. We look forward to the continued growth and diversification of these relations as the two Sudans chart their independent destinies.

7. There have recently been exchanges of high level visits from both sides. These interactions have facilitated substantial exchange of views for chartering the course of action and future road map for intensifying our relations with both Khartoum and Juba. For India, the two entities of Sudan taken together remain a major force and partner in Africa. The recent India-Africa Forum Summit held in Addis Ababa testifies to our commitment to working together with our African friends for the collective development of Africa.

8. Mr President, India was witness to the Nivasha Agreement of January 2005 establishing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). We have watched the progress made in its implementation with keen interest and are happy to see an important CPA landmark achieved with South Sudan's independence. We are sure that outstanding CPA issues, like status of Abyei etc. will also be dealt with by both sides in the same spirit of cooperation and mutual accommodation. In this regard, we deeply appreciate the work done by the Special Representative of the Secretary General, Mr. Haile Menkerios in overseeing the implementation of the CPA and in maintaining peace in the region. We are happy to note that the agreement between both sides to demilitarize Abyei, which demonstrates the will of the two sides to jointly move ahead towards a negotiated settlement. In keeping with this spirit of seeing a peaceful and prosperous region, we also support all ongoing efforts at achieving peace in Sudan, including the Darfur issue. We would like this issue to be resolved soon. Our appreciation is due to the State of Qatar and the African Union High Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) on Sudan, led by Mr. Thabo Mbeki who has played a very significant role in this regard.

9. India has been one of the largest troop contributors to the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) in addition to the notable contribution of Indian Police officers to both UNMIS and the Government of South Sudan. We have recently pledged US\$ 5 million for development assistance to South Sudan as also other capacity building projects under our Aid to Africa and IAFS-II programme. Sudan is a major beneficiary under India's Technical and Economic Cooperation programme. To continue our engagement with South Sudan under this programme, 75 additional seats have recently been announced for South Sudan. The Pan-Africa E-Network Project undertaken by India in Africa has been a huge success. We are considering to extend the entire package of Pan-Africa E-Network, including its tele-medicine and tele-education components, to South Sudan. As already indicated by the Hon'ble Foreign Minister of Brazil, India also intends to work along with Brazil and South Africa as part of the IBSA group and within the IBSA Fund on projects that benefit the peoples of both the Sudan and South Sudan.

10. Mr President, we recognize that the Sudan and South Sudan will face enormous challenges in the years ahead as they chart their independent destinies. For its part, India is ready to assist this process, both on a bilateral basis and on the basis of its rapidly growing interaction with Africa. On behalf of the Government and the people of India, may I once again congratulate the leadership of both the Sudan and South Sudan for their statesmanship, their commitment to peace and to the welfare of their peoples. India stands ready to extend all possible assistance in their path to progress and prosperity.

Thank you.

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