

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR MANJEEV SINGH PURI, DEPUTY
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE AT THE BRIEFING OF THE UN
SECURITY COUNCIL ON THE SUDAN ON FEBRUARY 9, 2011**

Thank you, Madam President.

2. I would also like to thank SRSG Haile Menkerios and President Benjamin Mkapa for their comprehensive and useful briefings on the current situation in the Sudan. I also thank the Representatives of the African Union, the Sudan and the Government of Southern Sudan for sharing their perspectives on the situation with us.

3. Madam President, as my other colleagues have mentioned, we are witnessing events which have far-reaching significance not only for the people of the Sudan, but also for the region and, indeed, for the entire African continent. A very large number of eligible voters, 97.58 per cent, participated in the referendum and an overwhelming number, 98.83 per cent, expressed their voice in favour of separation. For the organisation of a fair and transparent referendum, our thanks are due to the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission (SSRC) and also to the international organisations, the UN, EU, AU, IGAD and others, who partnered the SSRC. Most importantly, the leadership shown by President Bashir and First Vice President Salva Kiir is to be complimented because without their political will and cooperation the process could not have run as smoothly and peacefully as it did. We are glad that President Bashir has welcomed the results on 7 February as the will of the southern Sudanese people. We also welcome First Vice President Salva Kiir's statement that the referendum was not the end of the road and he would cooperate with Khartoum to build strong relations.

4. The conclusion of the referendum process is, Madam President, only a milestone, albeit an important one, on the road to full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in the Sudan. Enormous challenges lay ahead. The issues of citizenship, status of Abyei, popular consultations in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile provinces, border delineation and demarcation, division of resources, security arrangements, etc remain to be resolved. In this context, we are encouraged by the meeting held in Khartoum on 27th January between President Bashir and First Vice President Salva Kiir along with President Thabo Mbeki. Their agreement to promote sustainable peace and stability between the north and the south, to let the CPA institutions continue their work till the end of transition period,

to continue with the work of the technical committee on border demarcation, and to resolve the status of Abyei are most welcome.

5. Madam President, the efforts of the Sudanese parties need to be supported by the international community. We should look beyond the referendum and assist the parties in their nation building exercise. Sustainable peace and stability can be firmly established only when the developmental needs of all the peoples of the Sudan are met. The fragility of the situation there was yet again demonstrated during the past week; more than 50 persons, including a UN staff member, were killed in clashes between the southern and northern soldiers from the joint integrated unit in Malakal in Upper Nile state. There are also several fault lines in Southern Sudan. Indeed, even as we deliberate here, we have received news of the killing of Minister Jimmy Lemi Milla of Southern Sudan. Even though this reportedly has a personal motive, it does highlight the security challenges in the region. We, therefore, think that unless the pending issues are resolved expeditiously and the process of building institutions of governance and economic development is accelerated, conflicts along those fault lines remain a real danger.

6. India, Madam President, has some 3,000 troops in the UNMIS and contributed six MI-17 helicopters. The Sudan is the largest recipient of Lines of Credit from India, with projects totalling nearly US\$ 1 billion. India is the second largest investor in the Sudan. For capacity building in civilian sectors, India offers every year over 150 slots under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme and 20 scholarships for post-graduate and doctoral studies to the Sudan, both North and South. In July last year, we offered fellowships in Indian agriculture universities for 4 PhD and 6 M.Sc courses to the Sudan under the India-Africa Action Plan.

7. India stands ready to further enhance its assistance to the Sudan, as may be required by the governments of the Sudan and Southern Sudan. We urge the international community to increase its support to the Sudan in the areas of debt relief and economic investment and assistance so that the Sudanese leaders have material resources as well as public support for dealing with and surmounting the challenges facing them.

8. Madam President, last but not the least, the ground situation in Darfur is not much better than the last time this Council discussed the issue. While there have been some encouraging news about the two rebel groups deciding to send their teams to Doha, we are yet to see a breakthrough. The Council should, therefore, reiterate its demand that all the armed groups should agree to an immediate ceasefire and participate in the Doha peace process without delay or conditions so that the process can reach its successful conclusion. We commend the Government of Qatar for its sustained efforts for success of the Doha peace process. For the sustainable peace in Darfur, which includes all sections of the society, we welcome the initiatives of the government of the Sudan to start a Darfur-based Political Process which would build on the outcome of the Doha peace process. In this

context, we commend the efforts of its High-level Implementation Panel led by President Mbeki and welcome the declaration of the African Union on 31 January for complete normalisation of relations between the international community and the Sudan.

Thank you, Madam President.

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