

Mr. Wang Guangya (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): China would like to thank Under-Secretary-General Guéhenno and Special Envoy Eliasson for their briefings on the deployment of the peacekeeping Operation in Darfur and the latest developments in the political process.

Last July, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1769 (2007), which crystallized the achievements of the international community to date in its efforts to promote the settlement of the question of Darfur. The Chinese Government pays great attention to the issue of Darfur. We firmly support the appropriate track strategy that promotes the political process and the deployment of the peacekeeping Operation in a balanced manner and seeks a resolution of the issue through dialogue and cooperation in a progressive and prudent manner.

Thanks to the enormous efforts of all parties, some progress has been made in the deployment of the peacekeeping Operation. This year, the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) formally took over responsibility for peacekeeping in Darfur from the African Union (AU) Mission. Recently, the Secretariat, the African Union and the Government of the Sudan also held fruitful talks on some technical issues. China would like to express its appreciation to the Secretariat, the African Union and the Government of the Sudan for those efforts.

Facts prove that, so long as the parties can sit down to negotiate patiently and in good faith and a spirit of equal consultation, all issues can be settled. Of course, the Hybrid Operation has not proceeded as we expected. The number of troops deployed on the ground is far short of the target. The security environment is worsening. Equipment is yet to be fully delivered. Conditions are harsh. China hopes that all the parties concerned will demonstrate goodwill, build up mutual trust and pay particular attention to improving communications and coordination.

The problems that have occurred should be addressed through consultations. Recrimination should be avoided. The tripartite mechanism should be used as the main channel and should play an effective role in order to consolidate the progress made and facilitate a solution to the problems that have arisen.

It has to be pointed out that the implementation of resolution 1769 (2007) is not the exclusive responsibility of the Secretariat, the African Union or the Government of the Sudan. The international community must share that responsibility by providing the necessary resources, equipment and personnel, in particular the badly needed air and transportation assets. Only the joint efforts of the international community as a whole can enable the deployment of the Hybrid force on the ground without hindrance and its ability to play an effective role.

There is consensus among the entire international community as regards the need for the prompt deployment of the hybrid force. Its deployment is also eagerly awaited by the people of Darfur. All the parties concerned in Darfur, including the rebel groups, have an obligation to ensure the safety and security of all the peacekeepers. Threats of any kind are unacceptable. The hybrid force should also effectively strengthen security measures in order to ease the concerns of troop contributors.

The final outcome of the situation in Darfur will depend upon the success of the political process. The political process and the deployment of the peacekeeping Operation feed into one another. In the absence of a political peace agreement as a basis, there will be no peace to keep in Darfur. The peacekeeping Operation would lose all relevance.

China would like to express its gratitude to Special Envoys Eliasson and Salim for their efforts to promote the political process in Darfur. China supports the talks launched last October in Sirte.

Regrettably, however, the political process in Darfur lags far behind the deployment of the peacekeeping Operation. Major rebel groups continue to be intransigent and are boycotting the negotiating process. China is deeply worried. We solemnly call upon those groups to put the overall interests of national stability and the well-being of the people of Darfur above everything else, to respond positively to the just cause of the international community and to make the right choice at an early date. The Security Council should also invest more energy in its efforts to facilitate the political process in Darfur. China also hopes that the country concerned will be able to exert greater influence to call upon the rebel groups to change their positions and take part in the negotiations.

Poverty and backwardness are the root causes of the issue of Darfur. By its very nature, this is a question of development. As Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon pointed out just a few days ago when addressing the General Assembly, disputes over water resources are a major cause of the conflict in Darfur. In its efforts to facilitate the resolution of the issue of Darfur, the international community should address both symptoms and root causes. It should attach importance to social and economic development and provide humanitarian and development assistance. At the same time, however, only improving people's lives on the ground will fundamentally remove the cause of the conflict and improve the security environment.

As a responsible member of the international community, China has made a series of determined efforts to find a proper resolution of the question of Darfur. China will continue to work with the parties concerned through various channels in order to build up trust among them and narrow their differences.

In response to the appeal by the Secretariat, China sent troops to Darfur, and they were among the earliest to arrive on the ground. Most of the humanitarian assistance that China has provided to Darfur, totalling 80 million yuan renminbi, has been delivered and distributed. The Government of China has also provided support to the Chinese companies engaged in building schools, drilling wells and delivering water projects.

China will continue to join the international community in contributing to an early settlement of the Darfur issue and to the achievement of peace, stability and development in Darfur.