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**Statement by Ambassador Abdou ABARRY,
Permanent Representative of Niger to the United Nations
On behalf of A3 and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines**

Security Council Briefing on the situation in Darfur

New York 08 December 2020

Mr. President,

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the A3+1, namely, Niger, South Africa, Tunisia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

The A3+1 thank the Secretary-General for his reports on the situation in Sudan regarding the establishment of the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS), and on the withdrawal of the United Nations and African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID).

We would also like to thank Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix, Ms. Rosemary Di-Carlo, and Mr. Atul Khare for their presentations and efforts in support of the ongoing peace process in Sudan.

Our statement is structured around three main points, the political and security situation, the socio-economic and humanitarian situation, and the issue of coordinating the transition from UNITAMS to UNAMID.

Mr. President,

On the political and security situation,

The A3+1 welcome the initiatives that led to the signing of the Juba peace agreement on October 3, 2020. Despite the challenges that are yet to be addressed, the signing of this agreement is a manifestation of the willingness of the parties to the conflict to work towards achieving a

lasting peace in Sudan, under the auspices of the Transitional Government. To this end, we call on all signatories and Sudan's partners to fulfill their obligations to ensure its effective and efficient implementation, which would consolidate achievements such as the promotion of gender equality, the protection of human rights and the promotion of the rule of law.

Furthermore, the ongoing peacebuilding process requires all parties to commit to the peace agreement and to work actively to clarify and address all outstanding issues. This would facilitate the mobilization of the trust fund that integrates the strategic, technical, and planning dimensions of activities in support of the peacebuilding process.

We welcome the collaboration of the African Union and the United Nations as well the important role played by Sub-regional bodies and neighboring countries, namely the Intergovernmental Agency for Development and South Soudan in the peace process.

In addition, the increase in inter-communal violence, as well as the clashes between the Government Forces and certain armed groups that have not yet signed the Agreement, attest to the need for continued efforts to address the root causes of the conflicts, particularly poverty and unemployment. In this regard, we call on the Abdel Wahid El Nur and to join the peace process as soon as possible, to give a chance to a comprehensive and inclusive peace in Sudan.

Mr. President,

On the socio-economic and humanitarian front,

The A3+1 welcome the economic and financial reforms undertaken, despite the difficulties related to the COVID-19 pandemic. We call on the Government and Sudan's partners to capitalize on the conclusions of the National Economic Conference held in Khartoum on September 26-28, 2020. We are pleased to note, in this regard, that the U.S. decision to remove Sudan from the list of state sponsors of terrorism will, as we have always emphasized, promote Sudan's economic and social development through access to international development finance institutions.

The humanitarian situation in Sudan is further aggravated by the economic crisis, food insecurity, the adverse effects of climate change, as illustrated by the worst floods the country has experienced since 1988, epidemics, intercommunal violence, and prolonged displacement of populations, in addition to the arrival of refugees from neighboring states. This situation, which affects a little over 9.6 million people, calls on us to show responsibility and solidarity with Sudan, with a view to mitigating the impact of the humanitarian situation on the current peace-building dynamics in the country. This demonstrates once again the interdependence between security and development.

Mr. President,

Concerning the coordination between the establishment of UNITAMS and the withdrawal of UNAMID,

The A3+1 commend the Transitional Government of Sudan for its collaboration and support to the UNITAMS planning team in facilitating a coordinated transition between the two missions.

We are of the view that the situation on the ground and the arrangements put in place by the Transitional Government to ensure stability and protection of persons and property in Dafur are conducive for UNAMID to begin its withdrawal process and hand over to UNITAMS as of 31 December, in accordance with Security Council Resolution 2525 (2020) (new paragraph for comments).

In conclusion, it should be noted that the recognition by the Juba peace agreement of concerns such as the ratification of international conventions on the protection and promotion of human rights, transitional justice, as well as the implementation by the government of a national plan for the protection of civilians, give hope for a coordinated transition between the two missions. In this regard, we call on all of Sudan's partners to accompany the country in its successful transition through the organization of democratic elections.

I thank you!