



# How to Get the UN/AU Hybrid Force Deployed to Darfur

## CURRENT SITUATION/BACKGROUND

The brutal and deplorable September 29th attack on African Union peacekeepers by Darfur’s fracturing rebel groups, the escalating insecurity for humanitarian workers, and the roadblocks thrown up by the Government of Sudan highlight the need to keep international attention and pressure on deploying the hybrid UN- AU peacekeeping force, or UNAMID. The UN Security Council authorized UNAMID on July 31, but the UN has had success in finding countries willing to contribute troops to the force, but has had difficulty obtaining the necessary logistical support and military equipment.

## KEY PLAYERS/DEBATE/ IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

**Government of Sudan**—Khartoum is systematically impeding UNAMID’s deployment by throwing up roadblocks such as: impeding the construction of new AU bases by refusing to lease land and provide access to resources; denying the UN full use of Darfur airports and limiting night flight; refusing to permit the UN to upgrade runways so cargo planes can land; delaying approval of visas for UN personnel; and insisting that non-African forces are not needed in Darfur.

“Now that the UN Security Council has authorized a UN/AU hybrid peacekeeping force for Darfur, problem solved, right? Not by a long shot.”

**African Union**—The African Union continues to equivocate over the deployment of non-African forces to Darfur and cooperation gaps between the AU and UN could impede full deployment of UNAMID.

**UNAMID**—The 26,000-strong force is to be the largest UN-led peacekeeping force ever deployed and



will need to protect themselves and Darfur’s civilians from an array of armed groups spread across nearly 200,000 square miles of challenging terrain.

**United States**—The U.S. called for the hybrid force, yet it is not offering enough equipment and logistical support or pressing hard enough for others to contribute.

## POLICY CHALLENGES

Serious obstacles threaten to derail the rapid deployment of UNAMID:

- Roadblocks thrown up by the Government of Sudan



## ENOUGH'S 3PS

**PEACEMAKING** While peacekeepers can help protect civilians and improve stability in the short-term, only a fair, workable and inclusive peace agreement can ultimately end the crisis. The international community must *simultaneously* push for fair peace talks in Libya on October 27th and more support for, and closer monitoring of, the deployment of the peacekeepers.

**PROTECTION** Through assertive diplomacy, cooperation and coordination from international donors, and the judicious use of targeted pressure, the U.S. and the international community can overcome the obstacles UNAMID's deployment faces.

**PUNISHMENT** Diplomacy must be given reasonable time to succeed, but the international community must also maintain the threat of even further targeted sanctions as leverage to compel the government and the rebels to agree to a ceasefire and participate in the peace talks.

- Insufficient equipment and logistical support from the most important donors, such as the U.S.
- Provide the necessary equipment and logistical force to the African Union
- Disagreements between the AU and UN over the composition of the force and the unequal capacities of the two organizations
- Use targeted pressures to overcome obstacles presented by the Government of Sudan

### POLICY RECS/ACTION ITEMS FOR CHANGE

To prevent UNAMID from failing even before it deploys, the international community must:

- Employ a full-court diplomatic press with the Government of Sudan to secure land, water, and Khartoum's full commitment to the speedy deployment of the force
- Ensure that Secretary General Ban Ki Moon makes use of the monthly reporting to the Security Council on the progress of implementation
- Work behind the scenes to cement agreement from the AU on the participation of non-African forces and affirmation of the UN's command and control role

## ACTIVIST AGENDA

1. Eliminate bureaucratic roadblocks to the peacekeeping operation in Darfur thrown up by the Sudanese government by publicly highlighting the government's delay tactics and moving to UN Security Council sanctions if they continue
2. Work through NATO to provide UNAMID with critical military equipment
3. Provide U.S. support for the peacekeeping operation by paying off the \$1 billion peacekeeping debt to the United Nations
4. Encourage the United Nations and Africa Union to work together by supporting United Nations leadership of UNAMID and building up the Africa Union's capacity for future missions