

Statement by Ambassador Navtej Sarna, Additional Secretary at the Sudan-South Sudan Consultative Forum meeting at UN Headquarters in New York on September 27, 2012

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

At the outset, I would like to thank the Secretary General for hosting today's session of the Sudan-South Sudan Consultative Forum as well as for his statement. I also thank the representatives of Sudan and South Sudan for their valuable statements.

2. Mr. Chairman, India shares close relations with both Sudan and South Sudan. India has been a major troop contributor to the UN missions in Sudan and South Sudan, UNMIS and UNMISS respectively. India was also the first Asian country to establish its Consulate in Juba in 2007 after the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). We commend the leadership of Sudan and South Sudan for the implementation of the CPA, which has brought peace and security to the people of the two countries.

3. The continued economic viability of Sudan and South Sudan and their common destiny to live in peace and security require the expeditious resolution of the outstanding CPA issues. We have consistently called for these issues to be resolved through political negotiations between the two countries under the auspices of the African Union's High-level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) led by President Thabo Mbeki. We believe that the Panel has developed a comprehensive framework for the resolution of all outstanding issues.

4. We strongly commend President Bashir and President Salva Kiir for participating in direct negotiations over the last four days and for signing the agreement earlier today in Addis Ababa on a number of outstanding CPA issues. We also commend the AUHIP and its head, President Thabo Mbeki, for facilitating these strenuous and extended negotiations. We hope that the agreement signed today will usher the two countries into a new era of peace and cooperation. This will also build confidence between the parties and facilitate the resolution of the remaining issues.

5. Mr. Chairman, given the dependence of the two countries on oil exports, it is necessary to resume oil production at the earliest and implement the oil-related financial arrangements. Expeditious steps should also be taken to establish the Safe Border Demilitarized Zone (SDBZ), and operationalize the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism (JBVMM) as well as the ad hoc committee to investigate allegations of cross-border violations. These measures will facilitate cross-border trade and ease economic difficulties of a large number of the two people. We also

urge the Government of Sudan and the SPLM-North to urgently negotiate political and security issues concerning the Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states without preconditions.

6. Before I conclude, Mr. Chairman, let me reiterate our full support for the mediatory role of the AUHIP between Sudan and South Sudan. India will also continue its partnership with Sudan and South Sudan in the economic and capacity-building sectors, which will promote the long-term peace, security and prosperity in the region.

I thank you.

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