

## Open Letter to NATO Regarding Cooperation with the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS)

May 25, 2005

Via Facsimile and E-mail

To: NATO Secretary-General, H.E. Mr. Jaap de Hoop Scheffer  
CC: United Nations Secretary-General, H.E. Mr. Kofi Annan  
Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union, H.E. Mr. Alpha Oumar Konare  
Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union and High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, H.E. Mr. Javier Solana  
NATO Member States  
African Union Peace and Security Council

Your Excellencies,

We are writing on behalf of the World Federalist Movement-Institute for Global Policy (WFM-IGP), an international citizens' movement working for justice, peace and sustainable prosperity, and the Responsibility to Protect-Engaging Civil Society project.<sup>i</sup> We are writing in response to the meeting between NATO, the African Union and the European Union regarding assistance to the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS). While we commend you for your positive response to the African Union's request for logistical assistance, we believe that more action is urgently needed, particularly in terms of the number of troops, the rate of deployment and cooperation from governments.

Evidence compiled by the African Union, the UN and humanitarian agencies demonstrates that bloodshed and insecurity continue in Darfur as all parties to the conflict continue to violate the N'djamena Ceasefire Agreement of 8 April 2004. According to the AU Peace and Security Council Chairperson's recent report, the Government of Sudan (GoS) has failed to assume its responsibility to protect civilians by disarming Janjaweed and other pro-government militias and securing a safe environment.<sup>ii</sup> Clashes between pro-government and rebel forces and attacks against civilians persist, violence in and around internally displaced persons' camps is intensifying, and civilians continue to die from malnourishment and lack of access to medical care.

The current AMIS force is not strong enough to put an end to these violations; and WFM-IGP commends all participants of the NATO-sponsored meeting on May 17<sup>th</sup> for focusing on strategies that address these issues. We support NATO's pledges to offer support to AMIS in terms of training police, offering strategic airlift and air observation support, and providing other forms of logistical support. We also commend NATO for recognizing the urgency of the situation in tasking the Alliance's military authorities to provide advice on specific measures of possible assistance to AMIS.

While the African Union's second phase target of 6,171 military personnel and 1,560 civilian police by the end of September 2005<sup>iii</sup> is undoubtedly an improvement from the current situation, the urgent human security crisis demands a deployment of at least twice that amount, and at a much faster rate.

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At the AU meeting in Addis Ababa on May 26, WFM-IGP urges NATO to strongly encourage African states to immediately contribute the approximately 10,000 forces that are still needed. We encourage NATO to continue cooperating with other international and regional organizations, specifically the UN and the European Union, to offer all necessary logistical and monetary support to facilitate this deployment as quickly and effectively as possible.

WFM-IGP recognizes that the African Union and NATO have agreed that the African Union “has prime responsibility,” and the African Union has expressed an unwillingness to accept non-African troops. However, in light of continuing atrocities and tragedy in Darfur, if the African Union is unable to deploy enough troops in a sufficient amount of time, WFM-IGP urges NATO to collaborate with the UN and the European Union to encourage the African Union to seek and accept troop contributions from non-African states.

WFM-IGP commends NATO for its response to the African Union’s request, and for its willingness to promptly engage in decision-making processes. Civilians continue to face unacceptable risk in Darfur. We encourage you to undertake the above recommendations with the urgency that the crisis merits.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William R. Pace". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

William R. Pace  
Executive Director  
World Federalist Movement-Institute for Global Policy

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<sup>i</sup> The Responsibility to Protect-Engaging Civil Society (R2P-CS) project seeks to build a network of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that support the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) principles, and subsequently seek their adoption by governments and regional and international organizations. The R2P principles assert that the state has primary responsibility to protect its citizens, but when the state is unwilling or unable, the responsibility falls on the international community.

<sup>ii</sup> Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the Situation in the Darfur Region of the Sudan, April 28, 2005, PSC/PR/2 (XXVIII), paragraph 105.

<sup>iii</sup> Ibid, par. 114.