

On 31 August 2006, the Security Council passed **Resolution 1706** calling for the rapid deployment of UN peacekeepers in Sudan. The resolution makes explicit reference to the responsibility to protect by reaffirming the provisions of Resolution 1674 on the protection of civilians in armed conflict and the provisions of paragraph 138 and 139 of the 2005 United Nations World Summit outcome document, which affirm that states have the primary responsibility to protect their own populations and that the international community has a responsibility to act when these governments fail to protect the most vulnerable from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity.

The resolution calls for an increase of up to 17300 troops for UNMIS, along with 3300 civilian police officers, to replace or absorb the 7000 member African Union force in Darfur. Deployment would not occur unless the government of Khartoum consents to the deployment. The sponsors of the bill, the United States and Britain, are hopeful that the resolution will encourage Khartoum to accept UN peacekeepers.

For Security Council Resolution 1706, [click here](#) .