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**Office of the Spokesperson**

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The UN welcomes the launching of Darfur Assessment Mission in The Hague, Hails the event as concrete step towards the implementation of Darfur Peace Agreement

Khartoum on 21 June 2006 -- A United Nations team led by the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sudan, in charge of Humanitarian Affairs and Development, Mr. Manuel da Silva, is attending a meeting of a Core Coordinating Group (CCG) on Early Recovery and Development followed by a one-day Workshop to launch the Darfur Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) in The Hague. This follows a request by the parties to the Darfur Peace Agreement to the international community to provide early recovery and development support in support of peace efforts in the region. The meeting marks the beginning of the implementation of the wealth sharing provisions in the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA).

The purpose of the JAM is to identify and quantify the post-conflict economic recovery, development and poverty eradication needs of Darfur. As such, the JAM will play a critical role in securing political and security gains of the DPA. At the same time, the benefits of peace can only be felt when there is real improvement in the security situation on the ground, and once the people of Darfur begin to feel that they are participants in, rather than recipients of, peace. In this regard, the successful implementation of the JAM will substantially reinforce wider efforts to support the DPA.

A key priority, in which the UN will play a substantial supporting role to the parties to the DPA, will be to plan for and quickly implement recovery projects.

A donors conference is currently planned for September/October 2006. The government of the Netherlands has been invited by the parties at the Abuja peace talks to chair the Core Coordinating Group. It is meant to prepare and to host donors' conference.

The Hague meeting will be attended by senior delegations of the signatories of the DPA (GNU and SLM), as well as the UN, the African Development Bank (AfDB), World Bank, African Union, select civil society representatives, and key donors.

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