

**Statement by Ambassador Jan Sadek
Representing the Government of Sweden**

at

**The International Donors Conference for Reconstruction and
Development in Darfur**

Doha, 8 April 2013

Your excellency, Deputy Prime Minister Ahmed Al-Mahmoud,

Your excellency, DRA Chairman Tigani Sissi,

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me on behalf of the Government of Sweden to commend the Government of Qatar for its hosting of this conference and for its strong support in promoting a lasting peace in Darfur. The signing, almost two years ago, of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, is evidence of the consistent work of the Qatari Government, in a process supported by the International Community, including Sweden and the European Union. This is also an opportunity to appreciate the political will of the parties – the Government of Sudan and an increasing number of the Darfuri movements – without which there would be no peace.

The DDPD has already had positive results in the establishment of the Darfur Regional Authority, as well as the partial return of IDPs. However, efforts must continue, to consolidate the peace and further promote an environment conducive for the transition from humanitarian aid to recovery and development.

The security situation has to improve further, and Sweden urges the Sudanese Government and the non-signatory rebel movements to find a political solution within the DDPD and to reach a comprehensive ceasefire. The large number of IDPs in camps must be given hope for a better future – through return to places of origin or integration into urban environments. Recent news about tribal conflicts, resulting in tenths of thousands of displaced persons is deeply worrying.

The DRA institutions need to develop further, the financial commitment of the Government of Sudan must be met and the restrictions – access as well as permits – that are obstructing the work of humanitarian and development organisations must be lifted. Improving the human rights situation and putting an end to impunity is of crucial importance.

Sweden appreciates the opportunity this conference has given us to focus on Darfur and discuss the challenges ahead. Sweden welcomes the Darfur Development Strategy and commends the important work of the Darfur Joint Assessment Mission. We see the development initiatives in Darfur as an important arena for cooperation between traditional and non-traditional donors.

The Government – and not the least the people – of Sweden take a great interest in Sudan in general and Darfur in particular. We have a longstanding commitment to peace in Darfur. The former Swedish Foreign Minister, Jan Eliasson, was the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for Darfur in 2007 and 2008.

As one of the major humanitarian donors, Sweden will this year provide around 15 million Euros to Sudan. This amount is in line with our contributions in recent years, of which Darfur has always benefitted from the main part. Last year Sweden urgently contributed to the vaccination campaign against yellow fever.

Our development cooperation with Sudan has so far focused on issues like DDR, support to the elections and to women's political participation. In Darfur we are supporting the Darfur Community Peace and Stability Fund with 4 million Euros and educational projects implemented by Swedish Save the Children with 5 million Euros. Between 2008 and 2012, Sweden in total contributed to development and humanitarian aid in Sudan with more than 200 million Euros.

The Government of Sweden is currently assessing its future development cooperation with Sudan and will in due course inform the Government of Sudan and the DRA, as well as our partners, of the outcome of our deliberations.

In addition to our bilateral support, Sweden and our partners in the European Union are meeting 45 per cent of the costs of UNAMID. Sweden supports the pledge of the European Union at this conference, and we will also continue with our core funding to the UN system.

Excellencies, dear colleagues, Sudan has over the years seen far too much violence and suffering. After the peaceful separation of South Sudan, new conflicts have emerged in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile, and there are signs of new conflict patterns in Darfur. It is urgent to tackle the root causes of the conflicts. Sweden sees a need for an inclusive and country-wide political process, engaging all political parties, movements and the civil society, in order to repair the shattered Sudanese social fabric. The Doha Document for Peace in Darfur could be an inspiration for this process, but it needs to expand holistically into the nation-wide constitutional review process which should be owned by the Sudanese people themselves.

Let me again underline the responsibility of the Government of Sudan as well as of the regions in solving its conflicts through political dialogue and not through military action.

Lastly, we must remember that Darfur has changed. The result of the political process, which we are hoping will put the fragmented pieces of the Darfuri society together, will make Darfur into something different than it once was. With its enormous natural and human resources, there is a great potential in Darfur. Now it is time for it to be released!

Thank you.