

**In the name of God the Merciful**

**Press Statement on the Tripartite Initiative to provide humanitarian assistance in South Kordofan and Blue Nile**

Through the meeting of the Coordination Committee between the Humanitarian Aid Commission and United Nations agencies that was held on Wednesday 27 June 2012 at the Commission, the Tripartite Joint Initiative of the Arab League, African Union and the United Nations to provide humanitarian assistance to the affected areas was mentioned.

It is worth mentioning that the proposed initiative has undergone studies and consultations between government bodies and then it was moved to consultative meetings between relevant government bodies and the three parties to the initiative. These meetings resulted in agreement on nine general principles geared to deal with the joint initiative, namely:

1. To strictly adhere to the sovereignty of Sudan and the obligation of the Government of Sudan to safeguard the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country as well as its right to maintain security and enforce the law in accordance with Article 3 of the Second Protocol of 1977 annexed to the four Geneva Conventions of 1949.
2. Guarantee the right of access to food and humanitarian aid to all those affected by the conflict, without discrimination.
3. The initiative will lend itself to immediately end the armed conflict through a comprehensive approach.
4. To acknowledge what the Government has provided in terms of humanitarian aid to affected areas in both States.
5. To affirm the sovereignty of the Government of Sudan in supervising humanitarian aid operations in all territories in Sudan.
6. To affirm the partnership between the Government and the (three) sponsoring parties in reviewing technical arrangements to resolve humanitarian problems in the affected areas.
7. The need to agree on a definite timeframe for humanitarian operations.
8. To endorse a joint work plan to provide humanitarian aid between the Government and the (three) sponsoring parties.
9. To endorse and implement, in both States, the laws, regulations and directives governing humanitarian work of the Government of Sudan.

Based on these principles, the government has put a specific action plan and agreed to implement the initiative with the three partners.

The Government of Sudan welcomes and confirms its agreement to the Tripartite Initiative in accordance with the agreed principles above.

With the value of the role of international partners, the government affirms its commitment to performing its original and leadership role in providing humanitarian assistance for all its citizens, particularly in areas of insecurity.

**Humanitarian Aid Commission**

**Khartoum: 27/6/2012**