

United Nations (UN)



Organization Background: The United Nations (UN) is an association of sovereign states formed in 1945 after World War II to promote global peace and security. Starting with 51 members, the UN now has 191 member states – virtually every nation in the world. The goals of the UN, as stated in its 1945 charter, are to:

1. Maintain international peace and security;
2. Develop friendly relations among nations;
3. Promote cooperation among nations for the purpose of solving international, economic, social, cultural, and humanitarian problems, and to promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;
4. Serve as a center for harmonizing the actions of nations in attaining these common ends.

The International Commission of Inquiry on Darfur was established after United Nations Security Council Resolution 1564. In January 2005 the Commission submitted its findings, strongly recommending that the Security Council immediately refer the situation in Darfur to the **International Criminal Court (ICC)**. The Commission confirmed that serious violations of international human rights law and humanitarian law by all parties were continuing. The prosecution by the **ICC** of persons allegedly responsible for the most serious crimes in Darfur would contribute to the restoration of peace in the region. The Commission did not find that the Government of Sudan had pursued a policy of **Genocide**. While they found the attacks were intended to drive victims from their homes, they did not find intent to annihilate a specific group.

The UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS), established in March 2005, was a full-fledged UN peace support mission. It was tasked with working in southern Sudan at the end of the 21-year civil war in that region after the government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) signed the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). UNMIS responsibilities included ensuring that the CPA was implemented, assisting with the return of refugees and displaced persons to Darfur, and protecting human rights in Sudan. According to the UN Secretary-General, "a stable Sudan requires a peaceful Darfur."

UN Security Council Resolution 1706 (SCR 1706) expanded the UNMIS mandate to cover Darfur in western Sudan. It also authorized UNMIS to deploy up to 17,300 **peacekeepers** and 3,300 civilian police personnel to Darfur in addition to existing UNMIS operations. The resolution provided that UNMIS could use "all necessary means" to protect itself, prevent attacks against civilians, support the **Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA)** process, and seize illegal arms. However, Article 1 of UNSCR 1706 "invites the consent" of the Sudan government and the Sudanese government did not consent to the terms.

Over ...

Connect with us online [#DiscoverDiplomacy](#)

In May 2006, the **DPA** was signed. Only one major rebel group signed the **DPA** and implementation was threatened by the many rebel groups vying for power. Conflict continued in the region between the Sudanese Armed Forces and non-signatory rebel groups. Additionally, cross-border violence continued along the border between Chad and Darfur.

United Nations Security Council Resolution (**UNSCR 1769**) created a hybrid UN-AU **peacekeeping** mission. It authorized the deployment of 26,000 infantry troops and police officers to Darfur. However, the United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) struggled to be deployed. The mission lacked adequate troops and equipment, ranging from truck batteries to helicopters. Western countries have been slow to provide this vital equipment. The Sudanese government has also hindered the deployment. Visas for **peacekeepers** are not issued for months or at all, equipment is held in customs, and limits are placed on movement of **peacekeeping** forces. UNAMID is fast losing the confidence of the Darfuri people.

Opening Position:

- You want all parties in Sudan to cooperate with deploying and supporting UNAMID **peacekeeping** missions.
- You want the Sudanese government to authorize the safe return of refugees back to Darfur.
- You encourage the Sudanese government to cooperate with the **ICC** in handing over those indicted on human rights violations.
- You want the Sudanese government and all **militias** to continue negotiations to broker a political solution.
- You need to convince Sudan that the UN **peacekeeping** troops will provide security for all parties.
- You stress the importance of making incremental steps to build peace in Darfur.
- You want other countries, especially wealthy countries, to provide more assistance to UNAMID.
- You want contributing countries to not criticize UNAMID forces. In addition to lack of equipment, the **peacekeepers** face the challenge of assuming a mission that is not so truly **peacekeeping** as active conflict continues.

Questions to Consider:

- What has the UN accomplished in Sudan? What additional action can the UN take?
- How should the UN coordinate with the African Union in Sudan?
- How should the UN and Sudanese government interact in Sudan?
- What are the views of the UN Security Council on Darfur?
- Why is China expected to act on Sudan?
- How could action in Darfur be funded? Which countries might contribute troops?
- Specifically, representatives of which groups, people, government, or organizations should be involved in helping resolve the Darfur crisis?

Connect with us online [#DiscoverDiplomacy](#)