

U.S. Department of State (DOS)



Country and Department Background: The State Department leads the United States in its relationships with foreign governments, international organizations, and the people of other countries. It aims to promote the security, prosperity and interests of the American people around the world. It does so by creating American jobs through support for open markets for U.S. companies; by issuing passports and providing emergency assistance to U.S. citizens abroad; by negotiating treaties to reduce nuclear weapons and equipping countries to respond to their own security challenges; by helping countries with health, food and humanitarian crises; by promoting stability, peace and human rights; and by increasing understanding of American society and values.

Sudan has been a top foreign policy priority for the United States. The United States is determined to stop the killing in Darfur, and is the only country so far to call the killings “**Genocide**.” The United States is committed to working through the UN to end the crisis in Darfur. In September 2006, former President Bush appointed a Special Envoy to Darfur stating, “We believe the world has a responsibility to respond to what this government has called **Genocide**. The United Nations can play an important role in helping us achieve our objective, which is to end human suffering and deprivation.”

The United States is the largest single international aid donor to Sudan, providing more than 65% of the World Food Program aid to Sudan in 2006 and 2007. The U.S. provided over \$1 billion for humanitarian, development, and **peacekeeping** assistance for Sudan in 2007. The following year the United States provided an additional \$100 million to train and equip African **peacekeepers** going to Darfur as part of the United Nations African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID). The U.S. also provided over \$450 million in support for base camp construction, equipment, and training to the African Union Mission in Sudan, the predecessor to the current **peacekeeping** mission.

On May 29, 2007, the State Department imposed new economic sanctions on individual Sudanese and rebel leaders and on 30 companies owned or controlled by the government of Sudan. These were added to more than 100 other Sudanese companies currently sanctioned by the U.S.

In March 2009, President Obama appointed General Scott Gration as the new Special Envoy to Sudan. Gration made several trips to Sudan and the region and hosted an international conference to reinvigorate the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). U.S. officials are concerned about the regional impact of the violence in Darfur, especially in Chad and the Central African Republic.

Over ...

Connect with us online [#DiscoverDiplomacy](#)

Opening Position:

- You urge that the sanctions on rebel leaders tied to human rights violations and Sudanese state-owned businesses ought to remain in place until a political solution is implemented.
- You believe that China should join the United States in applying economic and political pressure on the Sudanese government and Sudanese state-owned businesses.
- You believe China should also encourage Darfur bilaterally (one to one) to reach a peace agreement, leveraging their strong trade relationship and China's political support for Sudan.
- You support the joint UN and AU **peacekeeping** presence in Darfur to ensure implementation of political agreements between the Sudanese government and rebel groups.
- The U.S. provided substantial support to UNAMID, including, through NATO, airlifting over 11,000 troops and providing training and equipment to **peacekeepers**
- You want the humanitarian aid to Darfur to continue unimpeded.
- You agree the rebel groups have a responsibility to participate in negotiations and should be more cooperative in the peace negotiation process.

Questions to Consider:

- What is the policy of the United States government on Darfur?
- What actions has the United States taken to date? What additional actions can it take?
- What is the level of U.S. aid for Darfur?
- In what ways have U.S. policy goals been frustrated?
- What are the limitations on further U.S. actions such as sanctions against Sudan?
- Why is it essential to include the UN, the AU, and the government of China in a solution to the Darfur crisis?
- Should the United States forcibly provide humanitarian aid if the government of Sudan refuses?
- How important is this aspect of the solution for the United States government?

Connect with us online [#DiscoverDiplomacy](#)