



Press Release

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The Republic of Chad and the United Nations Mission in Central African Republic and Chad Sign a Status of Mission Agreement

N'Djamena, Chad – The United Nations Mission in Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) and Chadian authorities co-signed today, 21 March 2008, the Status of Mission Agreement (SOMA) establishing the legal principles which will guide the Mission's work in the country. The UN was represented at the signing ceremony by Mr. Victor Angelo, Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG), and on the Government side by Mr. Ahmat Allam-Mi, Minister of External Relations.

Immediately after the signing, Mr. Allam-Mi expressed his hope that the mission undertaken by MINURCAT and EUFOR will be a real success. For his part, Mr. Angelo said he was happy that the SOMA was finally signed, and expressed his gratitude for the progress made with the Chadian authorities. "I am so pleased that we have been able to sign the SOMA. We will work with you to tackle the issue of insecurity in Chad," Mr. Angelo said. "However, we will work strictly in the framework of the Security Council Resolution 1778 (2007) which limits our efforts to the refugee camps and internally displaced persons (IDP) in eastern Chad," he added.

The SRSG also expressed hope that any achievements by the Mission would be sustainable over time, as Chadians would build on such successes and make them their own. "Sustainability will be at the center of all our undertakings," Mr. Angelo told the Minister of External Affairs. The SRSG concluded by congratulating Chadian authorities for their "recent diplomatic success" in Dakar, where they agreed on a Pact of non-aggression with Sudan subsequently signed by Presidents Idriss Deby Itno and Omar el-Bashir respectively.

The signing ceremony ended with a press conference co-chaired by Mr. Angelo and the Special Representative of the President of the Republic for MINURCAT/EUFOR, Mr. Youssouf Saleh Abbas.

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