



UNAMID

The United Nations Africa Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) is a joint African Union/United Nations operation in Darfur. It has been authorised by the United Nations Security Council under Resolution 1769 since mid-2007.

UNAMID's main purpose is to protect civilians, and also to contribute to security for humanitarian assistance, ensure agreements are being carried out, support a fair political system, contribute to the promotion of human rights and the law, and watch the situation along Sudan's borders with Chad and the Central African Republic (CAR).

1. WHO BELONGS IN UNAMID?

UNAMID is authorised to consist of up to 19,555 military staff, including 360 military observers and liaison officers (mediators), and up to 6,432 police staff. When it is fully established, it will consist of about 26,000 uniformed troops in Darfur, with another 5,000 or so civilian support personnel.

UNAMID is the first-ever hybrid mission between the United Nations and the African Union. Troops will be mainly African, but other countries will contribute if Africa is unable to meet the force requirements.

At full strength, UNAMID will be the largest mission ever deployed by the United Nations and will cost an estimated \$2.6 billion per year, as well as the start-up cost. This will be paid for by members of the UN.

2. WHAT WILL UNAMID DO?

UNAMID has been created by the UN in order to:

- Help restore security for humanitarian assistance and promote full humanitarian access;
- Help protect civilians who are threatened with physical violence, and prevent attacks against civilians;
- Ensure ceasefire agreements are upheld;
- Help put the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) into action;
- Make sure the political system is fair and inclusive;
- Help create a more secure environment for economic development and the return of displaced people, including refugees, to their homes;
- Help promote human rights and the law in Darfur; and,
- Observe and report on the security situation at Sudan's borders with Chad and the Central African Republic.

To achieve this, its tasks will include:

- Providing security, including patrolling;

- Working with the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) to ensure that both of their purposes are being fulfilled;
- Stopping violations of the DPA, and making sure other peace agreements are also respected;
- Helping to create disarmament, demobilisation, and reintegration programs so that people can leave military groups;
- Promoting Janjaweed disarmament;
- Ensuring that women participate in the peace process and protecting them against gender-based violence; and,
- Helping all people involved in the Darfur conflict, especially in efforts to transfer federal resources to Darfur and put reconstruction, land use and compensation plans into action.

Chapter VII of the UN Charter says that UNAMID is authorised to take action to protect UN staff, facilities and equipment, ensure the security and freedom of movement of UN and humanitarian staff, support the fulfilment of the DPA and protect civilians.

3. WHAT DOES UNAMID CURRENTLY LOOK LIKE?

Only a third of the total force promised to UNAMID has been brought into service; that is, only 9,563 peacekeepers, including 7,605 troops, 154 military observers, and 1,804 police officers, supported by 446 international civilian personnel, 741 local civilian staff and 148 United Nations Volunteers. More than 7,000 of these were already in Darfur before UNAMID was created, as part of the AU force.

Since the beginning of this year, only about 300 additional peacekeepers have deployed to Darfur.

Members of the UN haven't yet contributed crucial equipment, including dozens of heavy transport trucks, 22 helicopters and other vital resources.

The Sudanese military attacked a UNAMID convoy less than two weeks after its commencement. The UNAMID convoy did not return fire. UNAMID has also been attacked on other occasions.

The Sudanese government is delaying deployment of the force by refusing to approve the list of countries contributing troops provided by the UN and AU, restricting UNAMID flights, delaying the release of UNAMID equipment from the ports and not providing sufficient land for bases in Darfur.

Although the UNAMID was intended to be a powerful and productive mission, the transition from the African Union peace keepers has so far been something of a formality. The people of Darfur are still waiting for protection after five years of death, displacement, rape and broken promises.