

# UNAMID BULLETIN

## Burkina Faso Supports Peace Efforts in Darfur



On 24 December 2012, Burkina Faso Prime Minister Luc-Adolphe Tiao meets with UNAMID Officer in Charge Mohamed Yonis and other senior staff at Mission headquarters in El Fasher, North Darfur. Photo by Sojoud Elgarrai, UNAMID.

An official delegation of Burkina Faso, led by Prime Minister Luc-Adolphe Tiao, began on 24 December a two-day visit to Darfur to assess the situation on the ground and to explore ways to enhance Burkina Faso's support to UNAMID. The delegation, which started its tour in the North

Darfur capital of El Fasher, met with Mission officials to discuss UNAMID's efforts to advance peace and stability in the region.

During the meetings, the Mission's Officer in Charge, Mohamed Yonis, outlined Burkina Faso's contribution to the peace process in Darfur and

commended the work of the country's peacekeepers. "The troops have proved their professionalism and dedication, and have played a pivotal role in implementing our mandate," said Mr. Yonis.

In an interview with UNAMID Radio, the Prime Minister spoke about the situation in

Darfur and noted that, despite an overall improvement, the situation remains complex due to a surge in the number of attacks.

"The international community should put more effort in working with the authorities of the country to collaborate with the Darfuri communities and encourage negotiations to continue with the rebel movements," said Mr. Tiao, who emphasized the importance of the armed movements joining the peace process. "Without them joining in, it will be difficult to stabilize Darfur," he said. "There is the need for other countries to cooperate and contribute to the effort to solve this conflict so that Sudan can go back to peace."

Burkina Faso has been contributing to the peace efforts in Darfur since 2008, with more than 800 troops on the ground, operating in three locations in West and Central Darfur. ■

## Mohamed Ibn Chambas Appointed as New UNAMID Head



On 20 December 2012, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and AU Commission Chairperson Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma announce the appointment of Mr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas of Ghana as their UNAMID Joint Special Representative and African Union-United Nations Joint Chief Mediator.

On 20 December, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and African Union Commis-

sion Chairperson Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma announced the appointment of Mr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas of Ghana as

their UNAMID Joint Special Representative and African Union-United Nations Joint Chief Mediator.

Mr. Chambas replaces Mr. Ibrahim Gambari of Nigeria. In a statement, the Secretary-General and the African Union Commission Chairperson reiterated their deep appreciation to Mr. Gambari for his dedicated service during his tenure with UNAMID.

Mr. Chambas brings to the position a career in both international and governmental fora, most recently serving as the Secretary General of the African, Caribbean, Pacific Group of States (ACP). Prior to this, Mr. Chambas was the President of the Economic Community of West African

States (ECOWAS) from 2006 to 2009 and the Executive Secretary of ECOWAS from 2002 to 2005.

Mr. Chambas was a Member of Parliament and notably served in 1987 as Deputy Foreign Secretary of Ghana. He has also served as the Deputy Minister of Education in charge of Tertiary Education from 1997 to 2000. Prior to that, he was involved in the mediation efforts in Liberia, between 1991 and 1996.

Born in Ghana in 1950, Mr. Chambas holds a Bachelor's in Political Science from the University of Ghana, a Master's and PhD from Cornell University and a law degree from Case Western Reserve University. ■

## UN Agencies, UNAMID Hold Dialogue on Protection for Women



On 19 December 2012, women from the Zam Zam camp for internally displaced people work on a project during a forum organized to raise awareness on issues related to gender-based violence. Photo by Sojoud Elgarrai, UNAMID.

On 19 December in the Zam-Zam camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in North Darfur, UNAMID and UN agencies organized a workshop to raise awareness on issues related to gender-based violence and to help

protect women from abuses in their communities.

The forum, which was attended by hundreds of IDPs and representatives of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the UN Population Fund and UNAMID, provided a platform for interactive discussion on issues affecting displaced women.

Speaking at the event, a UNAMID representative, Silvester Kuhudzai, said that the event was designed to respond to the specific needs of the residents of the camp, especially the women and children, and to draw up recommendations to enhance UNAMID's protection mechanisms.

Among the recommenda-

tions, the participants proposed additional UNAMID protection patrols, the enhancement of rule of law in the camp, the increase of health facilities for women and children and the provision of training for midwives.

Guided by UN Security Council resolutions, UNAMID is mandated to work on issues related to women, peace and security, to protect and promote women's rights, to create an enabling environment in Darfur for the promotion of gender justice, to respond to and mitigate gender-based violence and to enhance women's participation in the peace process and decision-making. ■

## UNAMID Works to Mitigate Friction in North Darfur

UNAMID has undertaken a series of intercommunity workshops to mitigate tension between farmers and herders in several localities in North Darfur, including Kabkabiya, Shangil Tobaya, Saraf Umra, Al Serief, Mellit and Kutum.

The sessions, which began on 5 December and concluded on 27 December, were designed to provide a platform for open communication and constructive dialogue between farmers and herders, mostly nomadic communities, and to allow neutral third-party mediation between community leaders. The forums were set up to promote tolerance and enhance conflict prevention and resolution mechanisms.

As one example of the workshops held during this period, the 13 December workshop in the North Darfur locality of Kutum

drew representatives from civil society, native administration, national nongovernmental organizations, internally displaced people, youth associations and women's groups.

During the session, representatives from the Al-waha and Kutum localities exchanged views on some of the root causes of the conflict between the two groups, as well as on ways to engender peaceful coexistence and to promote a culture of peace at the community level. The recommendations outlined during the workshop included disarming civilians and empowering civil administration and local mechanisms for conflict resolution.

UNAMID is supporting the development and implementation of local mediation in the five Darfur states as part of its mandate to support local conflict resolution at the grass-roots level. ■

## Projects to Reduce Youth Violence



On 17 December 2012, in the North Darfur locality of Matbaa, a woman from the area celebrates the opening of a health centre, built through UNAMID's CLIPS programme. Photo by Sojoud Elgarrai, UNAMID.

On 17 December, UNAMID handed over a health centre to the State Ministry of Health in North Darfur locality of Matbaa, located approximately 35 kilometres east of El Fasher. The centre was built by local youth, who participated in one of the Mission's community-based, labour-intensive projects (CLIPS).

The facility, which consists of two examination rooms, a pharmacy and toilets, is the first such centre to provide health services in the area. It is expected to benefit six villages around Matbaa.

UNAMID's CLIPS are designed to reduce violence in strategic locations across Dar-

fur by engaging at-risk youth and other vulnerable groups in rebuilding their fragile communities. The projects provide an opportunity for the young people to learn vocational skills and improve their employability and social integration while improving their communities in the process.

To date, the Mission, in collaboration with the nongovernmental organization Plan Sudan, has implemented six CLIPS in several North Darfur localities, including Althoura Shemal, Lowabeid, Umrahik, Tawila and Matbaa. Nearly 500 young people have participated in these projects. ■