

**His Excellency President Thabo Mbeki, Chairperson of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel for Sudan and South Sudan (AUHIP)**

**Honorable Presidents and Members of the AUHIP**

**Honorable Representative of the United Nations**

**Honorable Representative of the IGAD**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

**Best wishes and greetings**

**We salute you in the name of the Government of Sudan and we are grateful to your extended efforts, time and support to resolve issues of the two areas of South Kordofan and Blue Nile. We affirm to your Excellency that we have come, as always, expressing interests of the entire Sudanese people and those of the peoples of the two areas in peace. As we have reiterated in the previous round, peace is a goal to which we are committed and determined to achieve.**

**Mr. President and dear all,**

**We came to this beautiful African city in April last year, full of hope to achieve peace in Sudan. However, the inflexibility shown by the other party during that round, which was held between 24-26 April, 2013, was the very reason which have prevented us to achieve peace which our people are looking for and aspire, until in the very**

**next day of the end of that round, a military offensive was launched against the two towns of Um-rwaba and Abu-karshola, where hundreds of innocent people were killed and the bodies of some were deformed. Killings were carried out on the basis of tribal and partisan identities; a matter which was denounced by the United Nations, the African Union, the League of Arab States, the Organization of Islamic Conference, the European Union and all noble and peace-loving peoples across the world.**

**Despite what had occurred on the 27<sup>th</sup> and the 28<sup>th</sup> of April 2013, we have reaffirmed the readiness of the Government of Sudan to continue negotiations as it is the only means of achieving peace, since peace is an end which must not be subject to tactics and cunning ways. The same has been reiterated by His Excellency President Omar Al-Bashir in his address to the Sudanese Nation on January 27, 2014, this is essentially because peace is a priority among four pillars including political practice and issues of freedom, the constitution, elections, economy, poverty alleviation and the discussion on the Sudanese identity, just to name a few. In affirmation to the responsibility of the state towards security and safety of all its citizens, the address of the president has also called for a Grand National dialogue among all Sudanese stakeholders on these four pillars, without even excluding those who carry arms against the state.**

**Mr. President honorable audience**

**We have come to this round of negotiations full of hope that we shall have dialogue with the other party who carry arms in the two areas of South Kordofan and the Blue Nile to achieve peace that would rescue our people from the plights of war and destruction, and pave the way for sustainable development that respects the dignity of human beings and provide them, as much as possible, with the deserved services such as health, education and decent life. We are here today to negotiate on the basis of the three African Union Peace and Security Council's resolutions in 2012 and 2013 along with the UNSC resolution (2046), reemphasizing that the negotiations will only be confined to the three issues of the two areas, security, political and humanitarian. We reiterate that agreement on peace will support the national dialogue process among all Sudanese political stakeholders which have, without exception, underscored their agreement on dialogue in response to the call of His Excellency the President of the Republic. We affirm that the negotiations should focus on the three issues of security, political and humanitarian aspects concurrently and as one package. Efforts should be exerted to the most in order to benefit from the given time and resources so as to remedy the root causes of the disease rather than try to treat its symptoms. Meanwhile, we would like to affirm also that the government of Sudan is committed to the previous tripartite humanitarian agreement signed on the 5<sup>th</sup> of August 2012, to ease the sufferings of our people. We would like to refer to the declaration of the Government**

**of Sudan on the previous cease-fire, in response to the request of the United Nations in November 2013 to enable international partners to vaccinate Sudanese children in the two areas against poliomyelitis, an agreement which was rejected by the other party, thus risking a precious opportunity to protect Sudanese children in the two areas against the danger of polio, a disease which Sudan managed to eradicate long time ago.**

**Dear Chairperson**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

**We do not want to further elaborate, and we will submit our detailed proposal for this round along with our commitment to the documents which we submitted on the 25<sup>th</sup> and the 26<sup>th</sup> of April 2013 responding to the AUHIP's document and its proposal on the two areas on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September 2012. We will proceed with the same seriousness, determination until peace is achieved, in our beloved country.**

**Thank you for your attention!**

***Wa Assalamu Alikum wa Rahmatu Allahi wa Barakatu***

**Prof./ Ibrahim Ahmed Ghandour**

**Head of GoS Negotiation Team**