



Coalition for the International Criminal Court
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MEDIA ADVISORY

18 December 2009

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**AFRICAN UNION PANEL ON DARFUR RECOGNIZES CENTRALITY OF
JUSTICE IN DARFUR**

*Global Coalition Says the African Union Should Support the ICC in its Fight to Bring
Justice to the Region*

WHAT: On 21st December 2009, former South African President Thabo Mbeki will address the United Nations Security Council at the UN Headquarters at 10 a.m.. Mr. Mbeki will present the report of the African Union High Level Panel on Darfur (AUPD) which outlines a set of recommendations aiming to achieve justice, peace and stability in Darfur, Sudan.

WHO: Former South African President, Thabo Mbeki, is the chair of the AUPD Panel which was established on 21 July 2008 by the African Union.

WHY: The AUPD Panel was established to consider and make recommendations on how to expedite and harmonize the processes of peace, reconciliation and justice in Darfur. The report covers a range of issues including the peace process and initiatives to achieve justice in Darfur.

On 29 October 2009, the African Union Peace and Security Council reviewed and endorsed the recommendations contained in the AUPD report. Mr. Mbeki will now present the report to the UN Security Council for consideration.

In its report, the AUPD Panel recognizes that justice and peace must go hand-in-hand and recommends the creation of a hybrid court “supported by dedicated prosecution, investigation and registry functions” – which would be consistent with the push for justice embodied in the Rome Statute, the ICC founding treaty.

In addition, the Panel acknowledges that the International Criminal Court “complements the national judicial systems” and emphasizes in its reports that “the role of international justice more generally should be on the agenda of the Global Political Agreement”.

COMMENTS AND BACKGROUND:

William R. Pace, Convenor of the Coalition for the ICC, stated “Justice is an indispensable component of peace and we insist that the Sudanese government demonstrates to the international community that it will hold perpetrators of war crimes and crimes against humanity in Darfur accountable.”

“The spirit of these recommendations strengthen the role of the ICC as a central one, compatible with article 4(h) of the Constitutive Act of the AU and part of a comprehensive solution for the situation in Darfur including national and regional efforts to end impunity and achieve peace and stability,” explained Stephen Lamony, Outreach Liaison for Africa and Situations Adviser at the Coalition for the ICC.

For more information on Darfur, Sudan, visit: www.iccnw.org/darfur

Background and information: Experts from human rights organizations are listed on the following page for interviews.

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Important notice: *The Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC) is a civil society network in 150 countries advocating for a fair, effective and independent ICC and improved access to justice for victims of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.. The Coalition as a whole, and its secretariat, does not endorse or promote specific investigations or prosecutions or take a position on situations before the ICC. However, individual CICC members may endorse referrals, provide legal and other support on investigations, or develop partnerships with local and other organizations in the course of their efforts.*

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