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Statement by Jeffrey DeLaurentis, U.S. Advisor, on the report of the ICC prosecutor Mr. Luis Moreno-Ocampo on Sudan, December 5, 2007

The concerns of the United States about the Rome Statute and the International Criminal Court are well known and have not changed. In spite of these concerns, we appreciate the report of the Prosecutor of the ICC with respect to his work pursuant to UNSCR 1593.

The United States has consistently supported bringing to justice those responsible for crimes, human rights violations and atrocities in Darfur. The violence in Darfur must end, and those who have committed atrocities in Darfur must be brought to account.

We share the Prosecutor's assessment that the ongoing situation in Darfur is alarming, and that justice for crimes against the people of Darfur is needed to enhance security and send a warning to individuals who might resort to criminality as a way of achieving their aims.

The United States is particularly troubled by the Prosecutor's report that the Government of Sudan is still not cooperating and has taken no steps to arrest and surrender the two individuals that are subject to ICC arrest warrants: current Minister of State for Humanitarian Affairs Ahmad Muhammad Harun and the Janjaweed leader known as Ali Kushayb. We call on the Sudanese Government to cooperate fully with the ICC as required by resolution 1593.

As we noted following the Prosecutor's last briefing to the Council on Darfur, the United States has imposed targeted economic sanctions against certain individuals responsible for the violence, a transport company that has moved weapons to the Janjaweed militia and government forces, as well as against companies owned or controlled by the Government of Sudan.

We also share the Prosecutor's concern at the increasing number of attacks not only on displaced persons and other innocent civilians, but also on personnel of the African Union, the United Nations and international aid workers. Violence and criminality against those who came to help the suffering people of Darfur are intolerable, and impunity for such acts must end.

The United States continues to be deeply committed to peace, stability and the provision of humanitarian aid for the people of Sudan. Presidential Special Envoy Natsios and Deputy Secretary Negroponte have both visited Sudan in the past year to consult with all parties to stress our continued support for the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) and the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), and the deployment of the UN-AU hybrid peacekeeping force, UNAMID, as mandated by Resolution 1769. We also continue to urge those who have not signed the DPA or agreed to participate in the peace process led jointly by the UN and the AU to do so quickly so that efforts to rebuild Darfur may accelerate.

The United States believes strongly in the need for accountability for acts of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity committed in Darfur. We look forward to continuing to work with other members of the Council on constructive steps to achieve this important objective.