Thank you.

I do appreciate this opportunity that you have given us to reflect

on the optimism surrounding the Darfur Peace Agreement, but, as

our Ranking Member said, we need to consider the reality on the

ground.

As we have seen the recent news accounts, the cease-fire is not

being felt on the ground in Darfur; and I personally have deep concerns

and look forward to hearing from our distinguished witnesses

about how we are putting the provisions for disarming the

Janjaweed. The security of the people of Darfur will remain in the

hands of the people who are their oppressors, having integrated

many of these people into the Sudanese army.

I have a personal bias that I am hopeful we will be able to deploy

a well-trained, well-armed international force with a strong mandate

for active civilian protection, instead of regular UN Chapter

6 peacekeepers. I am hopeful that we can hear what we can do to

try to change the nature and character of the Sudanese regime.

Our policies of holding the International Criminal Court at arms

level troubles me, because I would like to see the highest levels of

accountability in the Sudanese Government before the International

Criminal Court.

And last but not least, I share in my colleagues’ words of praise

for Ambassador Zoellick, who has injected himself personally in

ways when you talk to him you see that this goes beyond his job.

But we have seen peacekeeping accords and agreements before

in Rwanda, and I am interested in getting a sense of how this is

different. I hope that we will be able to continue, Mr. Chairman

and Ranking Member, to focus on ways that our Committee can

continue to be an effective ally in capitalizing on the promise of

this agreement.

Thank you very much.