The Committee will come to order,

and good morning to everyone.

Following 3 long years of death and destruction, the deployment

of more than 7,000 African Union peacekeepers, the passage of 10

Security Council resolutions, and the conduct of seven rounds of

peace talks in Abuja, Nigeria, the Government of Sudan and the

Sudanese Liberation Army finally signed a peace agreement on

May 5th, 2006. The Darfur Peace Agreement, modeled after the

Comprehensive Peace Agreement, which ostensibly ended the over

20 years of war in southern Sudan, addresses such critical matters

as security arrangements, power sharing, and wealth sharing. It

has been hailed as an important opportunity for peace in Darfur.

Let me just say very clearly and unambiguously that the Administration

of President Bush—and Jendayi Frazer obviously will be

speaking to this momentarily—deserves to be commended for its tenacious

efforts to help broker this agreement and to ease the suffering

of those most affected by the genocide in Darfur. The African

Union obviously played a central role, as well as a number of nongovernment

organizations, various agencies of the UN and the multitude

of activists around the globe who have worked tirelessly to

help bring an end to this heinous conflict.

But while we celebrate this important development, we must remind

ourselves that the hardest part is yet to come. Experience

shows that the real challenge lies not in getting the peace agreement

signed, although that has been extremely difficult, they are

even getting the remaining holdouts to embrace an agreement they

have rejected. We know there is a deadline of the 31st of May, and

hopefully all players will sign, but the real challenge lies in implementation.

The war in southern Sudan began immediately following independence

in 1956 and lasted until the Addis agreement of 1972.

That peace held for a decade but was never fully implemented, so

the South rebelled again in 1983. The war continued until 2005,

and at that time, an estimated 21⁄2 million men, women and children

died, while 4 million others were displaced.

Greg Simpkins and I visited Kalma and Mukjar camps in south

and west Darfur last year; and we spoke to dozens, really hundreds

of people during those visits whose lives had been utterly devastated.

I would just say parenthetically that we heard so many expressions

of gratitude to the international community, and to the

United States especially, and USAID, because so much of the food

and the medicines were provided directly from United States’ taxpayers.

And I was struck, as was Greg, as to how healthy, relatively

speaking, obviously, despite being traumatized by the Janjaweed,

so many of these people were. They were stabilized. But they knew

if they took one step outside of that camp, the Janjaweed was there

waiting with AK–47s, waiting to rape and to kill and to maul. So

security, obviously, was another issue as well, but they were stabilized,

and they were in a relatively safe haven.

Let me point out that this agreement will be welcomed by those

people—those very people that we met and countless others who

are in those IDP camps and refugee camps in Chad if it is genuinely

implemented. They want and need to return home in peace.

That is what we heard over and over again, and I know our two

distinguished witnesses have heard that as well from the people

themselves. They want to go back, but they want to go back under

circumstance where they will not be attacked and abused.

Part of the responsibility for making the agreement work comes

from the Administration’s ability to work with our allies, to make

it happen.

The other responsibility falls on this body, the House and our colleagues

in the Senate. Congress must now complete its reconciliation

of the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act and provide the

funding necessary for the AU mission until the United Nations

takes over.

The Darfur rebellion began just 3 years ago, as we all know. But

already hundreds of thousands have perished, and more than 2

million others have been displaced as a result.

Both the southern rebellion and the Darfur rebellion have now

perhaps ended, and we have the signed peace agreements to prove

it. We are grateful for this glimmer of hope and opportunity, but

Sudan’s history of strife and failed peace agreements cannot help

but make us cautious in our optimism.

In a half century of independent nationhood, Sudan has endured

40 years of civil war. One must ask what is the character of a government,

a society and nation that has lived four-fifths of its independent

existence engaged in civil war; and what will it take, assuming

there is all of the international good will and support in the

world, to fundamentally change a place so accustomed to strife?

I am anxious to hear from our distinguished witnesses today,

who will no doubt inform us on what has been accomplished and

the many significant tasks that lay ahead in an effort to promote

a truly comprehensive and lasting peace in Sudan.

With that, I turn to my good friend and colleague, the distinguished

Ranking Democrat Member Tom Lantos, for his opening

remarks.

Mr. Lantos, thank you for your eloquence

but, more importantly, for your commitment to human

rights and humanitarian issues in Darfur and around the world.

Thank you for your leadership.

As all of my colleagues know, we may be fractured on budget priorities,

tax policy, but when it comes to human rights and especially

to Darfur there is absolutely no division between Democrat

and Republican; and that is how it should be. Thank you, Mr. Lantos.

Mr. Tancredo?

Mr. Payne, Ranking Member of the Africa, Global Human Rights

and International Operations Subcommittee.

Without objection, so ordered.

Thank you very much.

Before going to my remaining colleagues, in consultation with

Mr. Lantos, we would ask that Members—if we could keep their

opening comments to about a minute or so it would be helpful. We

do have votes scheduled for 11:30, and we do want to get to our

witnesses.

Mr. Wilson.

Thank you very much, Mr. Wilson.

Chair recognizes Mr. Blumenauer.

Thank you.

Mr. Issa.

Okay. Ms. Lee.

Chairman Royce.

Mr. Delahunt.

Thank you, Mr. Delahunt.

Ambassador Watson.

Thank you, Ambassador.

Eliot Engel.

She will get to your question.

Thank you, Mr. Engel.

The Committee is very fortunate to have two very distinguished

Administration witnesses with us today. In her current capacity as

Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Dr. Jendayi Frazer

has played an indispensable role in advancing United States efforts

to find a just and lasting peace not just in Sudan but across the

African continent. She is tough and resourceful, and is truly making

a difference.

Prior to assuming her current position, Dr. Frazer worked as

United States Ambassador to South Africa and as Special Assistant

to the President and Senior Director of African Affairs at the National

Security Council. She has enjoyed an auspicious career in

both policy and academia, and we are pleased to have her here

today.

Also joining us is the Honorable Lloyd Pierson, who currently

serves as Assistant Administrator for Africa in the United States

Agency for International Development and as the government representative

on the Board of Directors of the African Development

Foundation. In his capacity as Assistant Administrator, Mr. Pierson

oversees USAID’s largest and most complex operation in sub-

Saharan Africa.

Prior to joining USAID, Mr. Pierson served as Chief of Staff and

Chief of Operations at the Peace Corps and as Director of the Africa

Division at the International Republican Institute. He, too, has

enjoyed a long and highly distinguished career.

We are fortunate to have both of you here with us today.

Dr. Frazer, if you can begin.

Without objection, so ordered.

Thank you, Dr. Frazer.

Mr. Pierson.

Without objection, your full statement

will be made a part of the record.

Thank you very much, Mr. Pierson.

Let me begin the questioning.

First, on the African Union mandate—because, obviously, there

will be a gap before the mission is blue-helmeted. We all remember

the terrible outcomes of UNPROFOR in the Balkans when the

mandate was insufficient, did not have a protection component to

it.

Interestingly enough, when Greg and I met with African Union

troops, one of those troops, Colonel Ojumbo, actually served in Sarajevo;

and it was interesting that his mandate that he had was

not unlike the mandate that UNPROFOR had during the Balkan

crisis.

So my first question deals with will the blue-helmeted mission

and will the AU mission as it exists—because it will have to deal

with a gap here before the blue helmets arrive or before this mission

is blue-helmeted itself—have an enhanced mandate to protect?

That is the number one issue we heard over and over again, that

the individuals, the civilians be protected.

Secondly, on the issue of food, Mr. Pierson, you just mentioned

by this summer that $48 million worth of foodstuffs—we are all

aware that WFP said on April 13th that they had reduced their

food rations by 46 percent of normal levels beginning in May,

which is obviously now. Will there be a gap there between when

the food arrives as the U.S. Government contemplates so that people

do not become sicker and more malnourished in the interim?

And, finally, on the issue of trafficking, you know Mr. Payne and

I have held in our Subcommittee a number of hearings on peacekeepers

who engage in sexual exploitation and trafficking in the

Congo. We know it is a problem worldwide. We know it is a problem

with every military on the face of the Earth.

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act requires, as you know, the

Secretary of State, in the annual TIP report, to include a report on

measures taken by international organizations in which the U.S.

participates, and that includes the AU, to prevent the involvement

of their personnel in trafficking and sexual exploitation.

We also included in that law what steps a deployment—peacekeeping

deployment plans on taking protections for the women and

children so that we don’t have a repeat of the atrocities that were

committed against Congolese children.

My question is, especially in light of the allegations in Refugee

International on April the 7th that put out a statement, an allegation

of exploitation by African Union peacekeepers, and they, you

know, say they are gravely concerned but not surprised to hear of

reports of exploitation and abuse by African Union peacekeepers.

Now I don’t know if those allegations are true or false. I don’t

know if they have been investigated. But what has been our response

to those allegations when we met and continue to meet over

the course of the last year with AU leaders?

I asked them every time what steps are being taken to mitigate

and hopefully end any kind of exploitation by the peacekeepers so

that they do not engage in exploitation of the local population,

which obviously hurts them—they being the individuals that are

exploited—but also does grave and maybe irreparable damage to a

peacekeeping mission.

You can—if you can answer those three.

Thank you.

Mr. Lantos?

Mr. Tancredo.

Mr. Payne.

Barbara Lee.

Yes. And then Ms. McCollum.

Ms. McCollum.

If I could, before you answer, Dr.

Frazer, we have four Members who have not had an opportunity

to ask a question. There are three votes pending on the Floor. I understand

you have to leave by 12 o’clock.

I would ask if we could just go through all of the Members—Mr.

Delahunt, Ms. Watson, Mr. Payne, and Ms. Jackson Lee—if you

could succinctly pose whatever questions you have, and then we

will shut down and then whatever has not been answered, if you

could provide a written answer for Mr. Delahunt.

Okay, sure. It is usually added at the

end of the record. But Mr. Delahunt——

Ambassador Watson?

One word answer: Yes.

Mr. Engel.

Ms. Jackson Lee.

Without objection, so ordered.

And we have a minute or 2. You

might want to begin with Ms. McCollum or any questions that

have been asked.

Dr. Frazer, thank you. I hate to say

this, but we are out of time.

Without objection, a statement submitted for the record by Refugees

International will be made a part of record.

Again, thank you so much. The hearing

is adjourned.