Mr. President, I am

deeply troubled that violence in Darfur

continues. It is disheartening to learn

that the Government of Sudan continues

to serve as an obstacle to the deployment

of U.N. peacekeeping forces

that could bolster the African Union

Mission in Sudan, AMIS. While AMIS

has conducted its mission to the best of

its ability, it is clear that it has neither

the resources nor the mandate to

stop the violence that is affecting the

lives of millions of innocent people. It

remains critical that an international

peacekeeping force be allowed to deploy

to Darfur to augment the African

Union Mission in Sudan and to establish

a lasting and sustainable peace.

Peace in Darfur has been elusive, but

it is not unattainable. The Government

of Sudan must be a willing partner for

peace; it must work with the international

community to find an acceptable

and expedient plan to introduce

peacekeeping forces to that region.

Until a more robust peacekeeping force

can deploy to Darfur, it is important

that the international community support

continuing AMIS efforts there. Finally,

parties to the conflict in Darfur

must also abide by the recently agreed

upon Darfur Peace Agreement, DPA,

although it is apparent that this peace

agreement is showing signs of strain.

Peace in Darfur is critical for establishing

a lasting and comprehensive

peace throughout Sudan and the region.

That said, we must not ignore the

continuing need to press for progress

on the North-South Comprehensive

Peace Agreement, CPA. The U.S. Government,

with the international community

and the United Nations, must

continue to press for progress in implementing

the CPA between the north

and the south of Sudan. Unfortunately,

well over a year from the signing of the

CPA, it has become painfully clear that

various important elements of the

agreement have yet to be implemented,

let alone completed. Key issues concerning

land tenure rights, critical border

agreements, oil revenue sharing,

and armed militias in southern Sudan

have yet to be settled or addressed

fully.

While much of the lack of progress

relating to the CPA relates to the complexity

of the peace agreement, much

of it relates to the limited capacity of

the Government of Southern Sudan,

GOSS, to provide effective governance,

services, and protection of its citizens.

There remain serious obstacles to the

establishment of a viable and strong

GOSS, including a continuing lack of

sufficient infrastructure throughout

the south and sporadic violence that

disrupts various parts of the region.

The international community must

continue its support of Sudan’s CPA,

which means addressing the capacity

that parties to the agreement have to

implement the agreement.

The U.S. Government and the international

community need to be sustained,

coordinated, and comprehensive.

We cannot dismiss the significance

of the linkages and impact that

each of these agreements have on one

another, nor their significance for developing

a solid foundation for addressing

conflict throughout the region.

Successful implementation of both the

CPA and DPA will provide significant

benefits to all communities in Sudan

and will set the stage for a new era of

peace for the entire country and region.