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PRESS RELEASE**UN Security Council Meeting on Sudan**

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An official UN Security Council meeting was held in New York on May 9 to consider the prospects for a political settlement in Sudan's province of Darfur in the light of the signing on May 5 in Abuja, Nigeria, of a comprehensive peace agreement between the Government of National Unity of Sudan and the largest rebel group - Sudan Liberation Movement. Sergey Lavrov and the Foreign Ministers of a number of SC member states took part in the meeting.

At the end of the meeting, an official UN Security Council Presidential Statement was adopted in support of the inter-Sudanese peace process in Darfur and of the activities of the African Union Mission there.

Lavrov in his remarks emphasized, in particular, that the progress in the talks had become possible thanks to the constructive position of the Sudanese leadership and that all the participants of the Abuja talks ought to use a historic chance and join the comprehensive peace agreement.

It was reiterated that the Russian Federation for its part would render allround assistance to consolidating the political settlement in Darfur in the interests of strengthening peace and security in the region, specifically through the participation of Russian peacekeepers in the United Nations Mission currently operating in Sudan.

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