STATEMENT

by the Spokesperson of EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the visit of Sudanese President Al-Bashir to the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The spokesperson of Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission, issued the following statement today:

"The High Representative is concerned by the visit of President Omar Al-Bashir to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a States Party to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), which itself already directly benefitted from ICC proceedings.

She firmly recalls the importance of all Member States of the United Nations abiding by and implementing the resolutions adopted by the Security Council under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, in this case, UNSCR 1593(2005). She urges the Democratic Republic of the Congo to respect its obligations under international law to arrest and surrender those under an arrest warrant by the ICC.

The European Union is a staunch supporter of the ICC to combat impunity for the most serious crimes of concern to the international community as a whole. Genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes must not go unpunished and their prosecution must be ensured at both domestic and international levels."

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