Statement by the Spokesperson of the EU High Representative on the talks between Sudan and South Sudan

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

«The High Representative calls on Sudan and South Sudan to redouble their efforts to find a negotiated solution to all outstanding post-secession issues, in particular oil, citizenship, borders and Abyei, in the current round of talks being facilitated by the AU High Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) in Addis Ababa. The unilateral steps taken by both sides have made it more difficult to reach a negotiated solution.

She is seriously concerned about the escalation of violence and continued cross-border military activity including military operations, support for proxy militias and aerial bombing. She calls on the sides to refrain from violence and adhere to their previous commitments, including the Memorandum of Understanding on Non-Aggression and Cooperation, signed in Addis on 10 February 2012.

The EU deplores the ongoing conflict in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile and calls for a cessation of hostilities and a resumption of political dialogue. An end to the conflict is essential to achieve peace both within Sudan and between Sudan and South Sudan.

The High Representative urges the Government of Sudan to accept the proposal by the UN, AU and LAS on allowing humanitarian access for international humanitarian agencies to all civilian populations in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile.

She reaffirms the EU’s wish to see the peoples of Sudan and South Sudan coexisting peacefully in two viable states based on democracy, rule of law and respect for human rights. »