Statement by the spokesperson of the High Representative on the attack against a UNAMID convoy in North Darfur, Sudan

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 strongly condemns the attack on a UNAMID convoy of peacekeepers in the Hashaba district of North Darfur on 17 October which caused the death of one South African peacekeeper and serious injuries to three others. The UNAMID convoy was on its way to Hashaba to investigate recent reports of violence, including a possible massacre of civilians, when it was ambushed by unidentified assailants 10 km from its destination.

The High Representative is deeply concerned about the deteriorating security situation in Darfur, including the increasing number of attacks against UNAMID. This is the second deadly attack on UNAMID peacekeepers in less than a month. A group of EU Ambassadors is currently visiting North Darfur to get a better understanding of the security situation.

The High Representative calls on the Government of Sudan to ensure that the perpetrators are brought to justice and that the culture of impunity in Darfur is brought to an end."