October 2009, the Panel presented its findings stating that the “problem of Darfur requires a political settlement,” and stressed the importance of a comprehensive negotiation process built on the values of power sharing, wealth sharing and national reconciliation countrywide.

In September 2008, four months after Bassolé’s appointment, a political dialogue was revived through the establishment of the Doha Process under the leadership of Bassolé and the Qatari Minister of Foreign Affairs Ahmed bin Abdullah al-Mahmoud.

**Doha Process**

In launching the Doha Process, the mediators aimed to reestablish trust between the various parties and to overcome the debilitating failures of Abuja and Sirte during a difficult period: JEM attacks on Khartoum in May 2008 posed a serious security challenge to the government and put into question the viability of peace talks; and in July the International Criminal Court indicted Sudanese President Al Bashir on counts of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, a move that some observers saw as further jeopardizing the Doha Process. Yet, working with Ahmed bin Abdullah al-Mahmoud, Joint Chief Mediator Bassolé secured a goodwill agreement between the GoS and JEM on 17 February 2009. This achievement marked the first stage of Doha, a process that was nevertheless to experience several set backs.

By mid March 2009, five factions – hitherto outside of the peace talks - agreed to join the Doha process by signing a “common ground agreement” in Libya forming, with a sixth faction, the “Tripoli Group.”2 A second coalition, the “Addis Ababa Group,” initially comprised of four additional factions, formed in August. Despite commitments by the newly formed alliances to reunite, efforts to synchronize their strategic platforms, and overcome their leadership differences became a serious challenge.

Meanwhile, the negotiations in Doha went ahead. In November 2009, consultations with Darfur civil society groups were held for the first time. The resulting “Doha Declaration” proposed several areas for negotiations and basic principles for

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**AU Liaison Offices in Sudan**

The AU’s Liaison Offices in Khartoum and Juba were established on 24 August 2007 by the AU Peace and Security Council to “take all necessary steps to fully support the implementation of the CPA.” Both offices took over most of the administrative assets of the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS) that was replaced by UNAMID in December 2007. Located in the former AMIS headquarters, the Khartoum office is headed by Ambassador Mahmoud Kane from Mauritania, while Ambassador Stanislas Nakaha from Burundi leads the Juba office. In addition to supporting the implementation of the CPA, the offices provide logistical and administrative support to the AU High-Level Implementation Panel chaired by Thabo Mbeki.

**EU Special Representative**

The EU Special Representative (EUSR) for Sudan, Rosalind Marsden, was appointed on 11 August 2010, with a mandate until 30 June 2012, to support EU policies in Sudan and South Sudan, including encouraging successful implementation of the CPA. In addition to North-South issues, where she provided support for the referendum on South Sudan and is mandated to support institution building in South Sudan, the EUSR also supports a political solution to Darfur, promotes justice, reconciliation and human rights throughout Sudan, including cooperation with the International Criminal Court and works to improve humanitarian access. While Marsden is based in Brussels, the EU delegation to Sudan maintains permanent offices in Khartoum and Juba.

As the Sirte debacle unraveled amid continued insecurity in Darfur, the AU and UN appointed Djibril Bassolé as the Joint Chief Mediator representing both the AU and UN on 30 June 2008 in an effort to revive momentum to resolve the conflict.

Three weeks later, the AU Peace and Security Council authorized the creation of the African Union High-Level Panel on Darfur, that was soon renamed the AU High-Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP), chaired by former South African President Thabo Mbeki. The Panel was mandated to examine the situation in Darfur and make recommendations on how best to foster accountability and reconciliation as well as combating impunity within a lasting and comprehensive peace.