



**PRESS STATEMENT**

**The Hague/N'djamena, 16 February 2013**

**Members of the Chadian Parliament, Hon Saleh Kebzabo, President of the UNDR and Hon. Saleh Makki, President of the PUR and PGA member condemn the visit of President Al Bashir to Chad and call the Chadian authorities to fulfil their obligations to cooperate with the International Criminal Court (ICC) under the Rome Statute of the ICC**

Hosting Mr. Bashir of Sudan in Chad runs contrary to Chad's legal obligation as a State Party to the International Criminal Court to execute the pending arrest warrant issued by the ICC against the President of Sudan for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity allegedly committed against thousands of defenceless civilians in Darfur.

If this obligation would be fulfilled, Chad would demonstrate that it respects human rights, the Rule of Law and international law, which does not recognize any immunity for heads of states if they are accused before a competent international tribunal of the most serious crimes of concern to the international community. Chad distinguished itself in this sense, in July 2009, when it was the first African State to make a reservation against the decision of the Summit of the African Union (AU) calling on African States Parties to the Rome Statute to avoid cooperating with the ICC in cases concerning important African personalities. Chad should therefore maintain this position, especially as the political decision of the African Union does not prevail over the formal legal requirement that Chad, as a State Party to the Rome Statute of the ICC, cooperates fully with the ICC.

If political or geostrategic reasons impede the execution of an arrest warrant against a sitting head of state such as Mr. Bashir, the only way to ensure that our state would respect international law is to avoid any contact with such individuals.

On behalf of Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), we therefore join with others to call on my government to comply with its obligations under international law and towards the international community, to arrest Mr. Bashir and to surrender him to the International Criminal Court in The Hague.

**Hon. Saleh Kebzabo**  
President of the UNDR  
Member of Parliament  
Chad

**Hon. Mahamat Saleh Makki**  
President of the PUR  
Member of Parliament  
Chad