

# STATEMENT

## Blue Nile Peoples' Forum

Al Damazin May 17-19, 2010

We - 120 participants from different counties of Blue Nile - Christians and Muslims, civil society organisations and native administration - assembled in the Peoples' Forum meeting in Al Damazin, Blue Nile, Naba Hall, from May 17-19, 2010 under the theme *"Peace-The Hope for the Future. Opportunities and challenges of the CPA implementation, with special attention on Popular Consultations"*.

Aware of our responsibility as leaders and citizens in Blue Nile, affirming our commitment to bring about justice, peace and reconciliation, we have spent three days of very valuable discussions, listening and in dialogue with one another and our distinguished guests, to assess the current situation in our state and to plan how we can respond to it in co-operation with our communities and government.

Being grateful to the Sudan Council of Churches (SCC), the Sudan Ecumenical Forum (SEF) and all our partners who helped organise this Forum; commending the Inter Church Committee (ICC) in Al Damazin, and the SCC and SEF staff who diligently and skilfully facilitated the Forum, we hereby state the following:

Having heard from the presentations by the facilitators, honourable guests and speakers, among them the Representative of the Government of Blue Nile, the Blue Nile chairman of the National Congress Party (NCP); a Blue Nile Representative of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Party (SPLM) and a Representative of UNMIS Civil Affairs:

We commend the achievements of the CPA in our State so far, namely the ceasefire, the freedom of movement, the National and State constitutions, the formation of the joint government and the peaceful conduction of the elections. We reaffirm our commitment to work to safeguard the full implementation of the CPA, which provides the basis for a just and sustainable peace in the Sudan.

We nevertheless recognize existing problems like prevailing and emerging political conflicts, the lack of mutual understanding between the two partners of the CPA in some areas, the disputed boarder demarcation, the lack of sufficient services such as health, water, education, roads and electricity.

We are especially concerned about the fact that many people within our communities remain poorly informed about the content of the CPA. We see an urgent need for its widespread dissemination and understanding, and enlightening our people on the process of the popular consultation, which shall form the basis for decisions on the future of our State.

Being more specific, we identified the following as issues, which **require immediate action**:

**The Popular Consultation:** We are aware that the people of Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan will

not participate in a Referendum to be held in 2011, but decide on their future through a process of Popular Consultation. We urge all leaders in the respective areas to speak with one united voice on this issue as they enlighten their people, as we affirm the right of every human being to decide his or her destiny. We are concerned that there are no independent commissions in place yet, and that the process of consultations has not yet started while time is running out and our people remain uninformed about even the process. We therefore urgently call on our government and parliament that structures for popular consultations be put in place immediately.

**Development:** Five years into the CPA, development in terms of infrastructure, access to clean drinking water, schools, and health facilities is still lacking in many places, especially those most affected by the war. We call for equal distribution in providing these facilities, starting with the most neglected rural areas. We also call for measures of capacity building on all levels, to enable our people to build their own future.

**Reconciliation and Trauma healing:** The wounds of the war, including deep traumata with many citizens have not been healed. We urgently call for a process of dialogue, reconciliation and trauma healing, and commit ourselves to work towards it.

As we close we hold the concerns of all our people in our hearts, and commit ourselves to work jointly to bring about reconciliation and a comprehensive dialogue among all our people, to work out a common vision for our State and the Nation.

Signed on behalf of the Blue Nile Peoples' Forum participants:

Al Damazin, May 19, 2010

Samir Bulus, Sudan Council of Churches (SCC)

Abdelrahman Ahmed Ali, Muslim Religious Leader

Philipp Tom Murke, Christian Religious Leader

Meck Yusif Hessain al Meck Hemada, Native Administration

Dau Deng Mayar, Youth

Samia Abdu Al Khalifa, Women

Signed copies of this text in Arabic and English are available at the SCC premises in Khartoum. Contact for any further information in Blue Nile, and for the committee, formed at the conference for follow up activities, consisting of the signatories: **Father Luciano, chair of the organising committee, Al Damazin, email: [lucianosayo@hotmail.com](mailto:lucianosayo@hotmail.com)**

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