

The Abyei Ngok Dinka Consultative Conference

Juba, Southern Sudan

November 15-16, 2010

Whereas the Protocol on the Resolution of the Abyei Conflict ("Abyei Protocol") of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement ("CPA") provides the members of the Ngok Dinka community and other Sudanese who reside in the Abyei Area with the right to vote in a referendum to decide whether to retain the Abyei Area's administrative status in the North or become part of the South.

Recalling that the Abyei Protocol further provides that the Abyei Referendum shall take place simultaneously with the Southern Sudan Referendum scheduled for January 9, 2011.

Observing that the Interim National Constitution of the Republic of Sudan (article 183) ("National Constitution") and article 176 of Southern Sudan Interim constitution also affirms the right of the people of Abyei to participate in their own referendum simultaneous with those of Southern Sudan.

Recognizing the delays but final adoption of the Abyei Area Referendum Act of 2009 affirms the provisions of the Abyei Protocol and Interim National Constitution and thereby guarantees in section 3 a free and fair referendum to the people of Abyei on January 9, 2011.

Acknowledging that international law also independently affirms the right of self-determination for the Ngok Dinka people to decide on the manner in which they wish to be governed.

Recalling the binding Award of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) which reaffirmed that the targeted community for the Abyei Area Referendum is the Ngok Dinka people.

Recalling further that the Abyei Area was defined by the binding decision of the Tribunal and is known to the CPA Parties regardless of the delays in the demarcation resulting from inaction by the Government of Sudan ("GoS").

Acknowledging that the Abyei Area was defined by the Protocol as the area of the Nine Ngok Dinka Chiefdoms transferred from Bahr el Ghazal to Kordofan in 1905, and is comprised of the traditional lands of the Ngok Dinka people.

Recalling that the two CPA Parties have agreed to respect and implement the Abyei Protocol, the Interim National Constitution, the Abyei Area Referendum Act, and the binding decision of the Tribunal (PCA).

Following closely the recent negotiation of the CPA Parties on Abyei and noting with disappointment the NCP's repeated attempts to advance positions that would lead to forced displacement, dilute the will of the Ngok Dinka people, violate existing promises to the people of Abyei, reject the rule of law, and risk a return to war.

Ever mindful of the decades of gross human rights violations against the Ngok Dinka committed by government sponsored militia forces.

Recognizing that the Ngok Dinka people have long permitted the Tuic Dinka, the Nuer, the Rek Dinka and the Misseryia Ajaira to seasonally traverse their lands in search of water and pasture, even during the war years when doing so subjected our people to great risks.

Remembering that our land and people were deemed "culturally and geographically" part of the South in the Addis Ababa Accord in 1972 and awarded a right to self-determination therein, which was abrogated by the Government of Sudan and followed by years of denials of freedom, violence and oppression.

We the Ngok Dinka of Abyei Area having deliberated in a Consultative Conference held in Juba, Southern Sudan in the period 15th – 16th November 2010 have hereby resolved the following:

1. Call upon the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) parties to comply with the Abyei Protocol, Interim National Constitution, Southern Sudan Interim Constitution and Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) Award of July 2009 and Abyei Referendum Act.
2. Demand an immediate establishment of the Abyei Referendum Commission, by the Presidency and to immediately commence the registration of the residents of Abyei not later than November 30th, 2010.
3. The Ngok Dinka reaffirm their commitment to peaceful relationship and coexistence with the neighboring communities.
4. Our commitment and respect to the rights of others who have historically traversed the Abyei Area shall hinge on their respect for our land rights and other rights as stipulated in the Abyei Protocol.
5. Appreciate and support the SPLM's request that the United Nations honour its mandate in monitoring throughout Abyei Area, including its northern most territories.
6. Should the two parties fail to take positive and timely action on the Abyei Referendum, we the Ngok people reserve our right to exercise self-determination as affirmed under the principles of International law, Sudan National Interim Constitution 2005, Southern Sudan Interim Constitution, The PCA Award and existing International best practices
7. Inform the NCP and the President of the Republic that their unconstitutional plan to forestall or abort the Abyei Referendum shall mean that the Misseriya nomads will not enjoy free access to pasture and water in Abyei Area as from this year's dry season

8. Applaud the unwavering commitment of the SPLM, the President of the Government of Southern Sudan and the people of Southern Sudan to the full implementation of the CPA, particularly the Abyei Protocol
9. Deplore the negative stance of the NCP vis a' vis the implementation of the Abyei Protocol and conduct of the Abyei Referendum
10. Hail the commencement of voter registration for the Southern Sudan Referendum which began on 15th November 2010 and applaud the role Southern Sudanese Civil Society Organization play in enlightening, educating and mobilizing the people.

THE AFOREMENTIONED IS RESOLVED on this 16th day of November, 2010 in Juba, Southern Sudan, by the following participants:

| *[add list and/or description of participants]*