

Notes for Session 2, Summit Meeting of Political Parties, Southern Sudan

Commitment to Democracy in Southern Sudan

The Panel believes that free, fair and inclusive elections are essential for the people of southern Sudan. The Government of Southern Sudan is committed to the process of democratization and we welcome that, and we are here to contribute as best we can to ensure that this process is successful.

Let me begin this session by posing some questions to the parties and candidates assembled here.

- How do you see the current elections in southern Sudan and in the country as a whole? What are your hopes and concerns?
- What are the roles and responsibilities, of the parties and candidates, individually and collectively, to help make this election as free, fair and inclusive as possible?
- What are the roles and responsibilities of the GoSS to make this election as free, fair and inclusive as possible?
- What should be the roles of external observers and monitors?

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3: Commitment to the CPA and Resolution of Darfur

The original mandate of the African Union Panel was to seek a comprehensive solution to the conflict in Darfur. In October, the AU Peace and Security Council gave us a new mandate, to ensure that our recommendations for Darfur were implemented, and to oversee the implementation of the CPA. This session is devoted to the wider issues of Sudan over the coming year.

- How can we make sure that the current election contributes to the successful completion of the CPA?

- How can political parties and elected leaders contribute to the resolution of other issues in Sudan, including for example the conflict in Darfur, and the challenges of South Kordofan, Blue Nile and eastern Sudan?

- The CPA was based on the two concepts of “making unity attractive” and the right to self-determination in southern Sudan. The referendum in January 2011 is based upon having a fair and informed choice among the two options of unity and secession. What can political parties and candidates do to make sure that voters are properly informed about the choice they are facing?