



AFRICAN UNION



UNITED NATIONS

**First Meeting of the Sudan Consultative Forum
Khartoum, The Sudan
17 July 2010**

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1. The Sudan Consultative Forum established by the meeting that took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 8 May 2010, held its first meeting in Khartoum on 17 July 2010. The meeting was co-chaired by the AU Commissioner for Peace and Security, Ambassador Ramtane Lamamra, and the UN Under-Secretary General for Peacekeeping Operations, Mr. Alain Le Roy. The purpose of the Consultative Forum is to provide coordinated international support to the ongoing processes within Sudan, namely: democratic transformation of the country; the implementation of the remaining provisions of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA); and the search for an inclusive global political agreement to promote lasting peace, justice and reconciliation in Darfur.
2. In addition to the AU and the UN, the following states and organizations participated in the meeting: neighbouring countries of the Sudan, namely Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda; the representatives of the permanent members of the UN Security Council, namely China, France, Russia, United Kingdom and the United States of America; Norway and Qatar; the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) (Secretariat and Chair), the League of Arab States, the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the European Union (EU); and the Assessment and Evaluation Commission (AEC). Members of the international diplomatic corps in Khartoum were also invited.
3. The Forum received presentations, with appreciation, from the National Congress Party (NCP) and the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement (SPLM). These were followed by an interactive session, during which the representatives of the parties to the CPA provided additional information and clarification.
4. The Forum received reports on the ongoing processes in The Sudan, from the Joint AU-UN Special Representative for UNAMID, the Deputy Joint Chief Mediator, and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sudan. The Forum also received a briefing from the Chairperson of the AU High-Level Implementation Panel on the Sudan (AUHIP) on its efforts, both with respect to the implementation of the CPA and the promotion of peace, justice, reconciliation and healing in Darfur.
5. The Forum reiterated its call to the NCP and the SPLM to strengthen their partnership and to work closely with other key Sudanese stakeholders to address urgently and diligently the key challenges that Sudan faces as it enters the critical final phase of the interim period of the CPA, recognizing that the time remaining is very short and that the stability and future of the Sudan will depend upon the decisions taken during this period.
6. The Forum called upon the NCP, the SPLM and all other stakeholders in Sudan to continue to work for the democratic transformation of the country and to promote and protect political space. In particular, participants called upon the parties to ensure that lessons learned from the April elections, especially on the need to secure adequate

resources, make thorough preparations, facilitate comprehensive monitoring and voter and civic education, are applied during the preparations for the two referenda in South Sudan and Abyei, as well as for the popular consultations in Blue Nile State and South Kordofan. Participants underlined the necessity for the parties to guarantee that all groups are able to voice their aspirations freely in these processes.

7. Participants called upon the parties to treat with utmost urgency the imperative to reach agreement on the outstanding processes of the CPA, including putting in place the necessary structures for the full operationalization of the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission, the establishment of the Abyei Referendum Commission and a holistic resolution of the Abyei issue, in the context of the CPA and in a manner which will allow Abyei to act as a bridge between north and south, the popular consultations in Blue Nile and South Kordofan states, and the demarcation of the North-South border in accordance with the CPA obligations. In this regard, the Forum called on the NCP and the SPLM to display the political will and trust necessary to successfully complete the implementation of the CPA.

8. The Forum recognized that the success of the implementation of the CPA depends also on the provision of the required resources for reconstruction and the fulfillment of the pledges made by the international community in this regard.

9. The Forum welcomed the Mekelle Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) reached between the NCP and the SPLM on the basis of which negotiations on the post-referendum issues will be conducted with facilitation from the AUHIP, assisted by the UN, IGAD and the IGAD Partners' Forum (IPF). Participants stressed the need for the parties to maintain a clear vision of the objectives to be achieved in resolving this unique challenge, in a spirit of cooperation and mutual respect, and to strive to reach substantive agreement on all the key issues before the date of the referendum.

10. The participants renewed the commitment of the international community fully to support the efforts of the parties. They also renewed the commitment of their respective countries and organizations to respect the outcome of the referendum on the self-determination of South Sudan, and encouraged the parties to work towards a post-referendum relationship that will ensure sustainable peace, close cooperative relations between the north and south, and protect the rights of all Sudanese. The Forum also expressed concern at the delays in establishing processes for the conduct of the Abyei Referendum.

11. The Forum reiterated the need for an inclusive Darfur political process that would address all the key issues of concern to the people of Darfur including security, justice and reconciliation, social and economic issues and humanitarian concerns. The meeting commended the efforts of the Joint Chief Mediator and the Government of Qatar in overseeing negotiations in Doha and encouraged preparations to be expedited for an internal political process within Darfur through, notably, the convening of the Darfur-Darfur Conference, to complement the efforts in Doha, in accordance with the position adopted by

the Forum in Addis Ababa on 8 May 2010. Participants strongly emphasized that the peace talks between the government and the armed movements should be concluded as early as possible, and in any event before the referendum in South Sudan. The Forum called on the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and the Sudan Liberation Army/Abdul Wahid to join the process without delay.

12. The participants expressed deep concern at the deterioration of the security situation in Darfur since May 2010, which has led to a considerable loss of human life and new displacements. The meeting called upon the Government of Sudan and the armed movements to respect the terms of the ceasefire and stressed the need for urgent and concerted efforts to provide security to the Darfur population. The meeting deplored and condemned the attacks on peacekeepers in Darfur and further called upon the Government of Sudan to take all necessary steps to bring the perpetrators of these crimes to justice and, thereby, to send a clear message that such attacks will not be tolerated.

13. The Forum called upon the Government of Sudan to take all necessary steps, unilaterally as well as in close collaboration with UNAMID, the AUHIP and other partners, effectively to address the pressing issue of security in Darfur. The Forum also emphasized the need to pursue and intensify efforts towards the recovery and development of Darfur, including facilitating the safe and dignified return and resettlement of refugees and displaced persons, even while the political processes to resolve the conflict are ongoing. This process requires leadership from the Government of Sudan and the full support of the international community, which should provide the requisite resources. The participants underlined the necessity for the Government of Sudan to provide an enabling environment for UNAMID and humanitarian and development workers, to assist in realizing these goals.

14. The participants congratulated and commended the AUHIP, UNMIS, UNAMID and the JCM, for their diligent work in the execution of their respective mandates and especially for their cooperation in support of the Sudanese political processes. The Forum pledged to continue to provide coordinated support to the Sudanese parties as they confront the various challenges that they face in the remainder of the interim period, recognizing that these processes will profoundly shape the future of Sudan.

Khartoum, 17 July 2010