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Juba, Southern Sudan

Press Release

Juba, 17 October 2010: Twenty three political parties, including the two ruling parties, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement and the National Congress Party, have adopted a Common Code of Conduct ahead of the 9th January 2011 referenda in Sudan.

The parties were in Juba to attend the All-Southern Sudanese Political Parties Conference, convened by the Government of Southern Sudan, at which the parties committed themselves to promote, together, a free, fair and transparent referendum process for Southern Sudan and Abyei.

The code, which was developed by the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel on Sudan (AUHIP), will govern the conduct of the parties in the two referenda, and is also be applicable to the Abyei referendum and the popular consultations in Blue Nile and South Kordofan states.

Signatories of the code re-commit themselves to promoting credible referenda and the popular consultations. They also pledge to promote tolerance and respect for the right of others to hold and express different opinions on the choices to be made in those processes.

The Panel is convinced that despite the challenges ahead, the mechanisms and values adopted in this code will contribute positively to democratic referenda and popular consultations, whose outcomes would thereby command public respect.

Following the initial signatures in Juba, the AUHIP will continue to encourage other political parties, and civic and media organisations across Sudan to adopt

the Common Code of Conduct.

The AUHIP was established by the African Union Peace and Security Council in October 2009 to, inter alia, assist the parties in the implementation of the CPA. It is chaired by former South African President, Thabo Mbeki. General Abdulsalami Abubakar, former Nigerian Head of State and Pierre Buyoya, former President of Burundi, are the its other members.

For more information

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