

Draft

Communique for IGAD Summit on Sudan

Addis Ababa, 23 November 2010

1. On 23 November, the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development convened a Special Summit on the Sudan, attended by the Heads of State and Government of the Member States.
2. The Summit meeting comes at a critical juncture in Sudan's history as a nation, just 47 days before the Referendum on self-determination for the people of southern Sudan, and ten days after the start of registration of voters for that Referendum. This represents the culmination of the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between the Government of Sudan and the SPLM, negotiated and agreed under the auspices of IGAD in January 2005.
3. The leaders of IGAD Member States affirm their continuing support for the implementation of the CPA and express confidence in the leadership of President Omar Hassan al Bashir and First Vice President Salva Kiir Mayardit to lead Sudan into a new era of peace, whether the people of southern Sudan choose unity or secession.
4. The Summit endorsed the efforts of the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel, headed by President Thabo Mbeki and including President Abdulsalami Abubaker and President Pierre Buyoya, in facilitating the Parties' agreement on the implementation of outstanding issues in the CPA and Post-Referendum Arrangements.
5. In particular the Summit recognized the commitment of the Sudanese Parties to the timely and credible conduct of the Referendum and the respect for its

outcome. The IGAD Heads of State and Government expressed their support for the UN Secretary General's Panel for the Referendum, headed by President Benjamin Mkapa.

6. The Summit welcomed the progress made towards reaching a Framework Agreement and urged the Parties, under the facilitation of the AUHIP, to resolve the remaining differences on the issue of Abyei.
7. The leaders of IGAD commended the Parties for their commitment to never return to war and instead to seek a peaceful resolution of all issues that may divide them. They noted the Parties' successful maintenance of the ceasefire over the last six years and urged them to implement faithfully their commitments to security contained in the CPA. They further supported the activities of the AUHIP, in partnership with UNMIS, to further develop the modalities of these security commitments.
8. The Summit urged the Parties to expedite the demarcation of those parts of the north-south border that are agreed, in all sectors, and to reach agreement on those border areas whose status is yet to be ascertained.
9. The Summit noted the steps underway to hold the Popular Consultation in Blue Nile State expeditiously, and to prepare for elections in South Kordofan State so that the Popular Consultation in that state can be completed before the end of the CPA Interim Period.
10. The Summit welcomed the Sudanese Parties' commitment to achieving, in the event of the secession of southern Sudan, two viable states, living as peaceful and cooperative neighbours. The leaders present urged the Parties to accelerate their negotiations on Post-Referendum Arrangements, facilitated by the AUHIP so as to achieve that objective. In this regard, the Summit noted the special importance of ensuring that, in the event of secession, the rights of Sudanese living in all parts of the country are upheld. In addition, the Summit underlined the mutual benefits to northern and southern Sudan, as well as the

region as a whole, of economic cooperation and the maintenance of a “soft border” between north and south that causes minimal disruption to the livelihoods of people. The leaders also emphasized the importance of a common commitment to security and ongoing cooperation between the Parties in maintaining the common security of both northern and southern Sudan.

11. The Heads of State and Government of IGAD reiterated their longstanding friendship and solidarity with the Sudan and its people, as manifest in the CPA as well as other policies and activities in support of peace, stability and democracy in Sudan. The Summit resolved to continue to support the Sudanese Parties in their full and faithful implementation of the CPA, in particular through the efforts of the AUHIP, and to continue to act in the same spirit into the post-CPA period.