

October 19, 2010

Professor Mohamed Ibrahim Khalil
Chairman
Southern Sudan Referendum Commission
Khartoum

Dear Professor Khalil:

As the international partners represented in the Policy Committee, we would like to affirm our continued support to the planning and conduct of the referendum. In particular, we would like to jointly reiterate the international community's earlier commitments to providing technical and in-kind support to the southern Sudan referendum process, and to aligning such assistance with the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission (SSRC) plans and priorities. We appreciate your leadership and that of your Commissioners and the Secretariat in the various coordination mechanisms with the international community and the early actions taken to negotiate and approve all relevant bilateral and multilateral assistance agreements and implementation protocols detailing support to the referendum.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our support for the SSRC's recent calls on the Government of National Unity to immediately transfer funds to the SSRC bank account. The international community also has a role in supporting the referendum. International partners have been responsive to the urgency of the SSRC's situation, and were able to rapidly deliver on SSRC identified priorities and cover direct operational costs including the rental of the SSRC and Southern Sudan Referendum Bureau offices; equipment and furniture for all levels of the referendum management bodies; and voter registration commodities. However, international donors cannot provide direct cash transfers to the SSRC, nor would they anticipate contributing to the running costs of the SSRC or the Southern Sudan Referendum Bureau.

We hope that this joint letter helps clarify the parameters of our strong partnership and serves to further inform our continued dialogue on how best to meet urgent operational needs of the SSRC. We thank you again for your excellent cooperation and look forward to our continued collaboration for the conduct of a successful referendum.

Sincerely,

Natalie Patenaude, Counsellor & Head of Aid
Embassy of Canada

Carlo De-Filippi, Ambassador
European Union

Norbert Braakhuis, Ambassador
Royal Embassy of the Netherlands

Sandra Pepera, Head
UK Department for International Development, Sudan

Susan Fine, Acting Mission Director
US Agency for International Development/Sudan

Cc: Haile Menkarios, UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General
Claudio Caldarone, Country Director, United Nations Development Program
Denis K. Kadima, Director, United Nations Integrated Referendum and Elections
Division
Haruka Yamazaki, Aid Coordination Officer, Embassy of Japan
Jerome Leyraud, Country Director, IFES
Jill Helke, Chief of Mission, IOM Sudan
Robin Heffernan, Donor Working Group Coordinator