

**SUDAN CO-ORDINATION MEETING
THE NETHERLANDS; APRIL 1-3, 2003
CONCLUSIONS AND STEPS FOR FUTURE ACTION**

Introduction

The Sudan Co-ordination Meeting of donors and international institutions met in Noordwijk, the Netherlands, on 1-3 April 2003. The purpose of the meeting was to continue discussions on priority setting and principles for assistance after a peace agreement, in follow up to previous informal meetings, last held in Oslo in January. Of great importance was the participation of the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/

Army for the first time in this series of meetings. The meeting also benefited from the participation of the IGAD Secretariat for peace in Sudan, the Arab League, the international NGO community and Sudanese civil society. Participants would like to thank the Government of the Netherlands for their hard work and generous hospitality in organising the meeting.

Conclusions

Participants affirmed their commitment to the Sudan peace process and welcomed progress in recent months, especially the statement on 2. April by President Bashir and Dr. Garang expressing the hope that a final peace agreement will be reached by the end of June 2003. Preparing for peace is all the more urgent because of prospects for peace. Participants agreed that the full peace dividend will only occur with a just and comprehensive peace agreement. Participants urge the parties to maintain momentum at the peace talks, abide by existing agreements and push forward to a final and comprehensive agreement.

Participants reaffirmed their commitment to the principle that the peace agreement should be led and owned by all Sudanese; their authorities, Sudanese civil society and local populations. The Sudanese people should be informed about the prospects for peace and empowered to fully engage in preparing for and implementing the peace agreement.

Participants recognised the mutual benefit of capacity building for all levels of the authorities in Sudan, in order to prepare for peace, especially for the emerging civil administration in Southern Sudan. This is a major priority that should begin immediately.

Participants agreed to establish within the shortest possible time frame a quick impact programme for the pre-interim period to demonstrate to the people of Sudan the benefits of peace. The quick impact programme will aim to build public confidence in the ongoing process of political transition and provide tangible and gender sensitive benefits at the community level. The quick impact programme will be based on the foundation of existing humanitarian and development assistance and should prepare the ground for longer-term sustainable recovery, development, poverty reduction and respect for human rights. The quick impact programme should be based upon the principles of equity, accountability, transparency and impartiality while contributing to achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Participants also recognised that following a peace agreement, humanitarian needs will expand as access is gained to new areas.

Participants acknowledged the need to start preparing immediately for the quick start programme, longer term development in Sudan, and a new way of planning and co-ordinating assistance.

This process should be based on the framework agreed in the Machakos Protocol. Shared priorities of the Parties for the quick impact programme and beyond include:

- Capacity building at all levels, with special attention to the war affected areas;
- return and reintegration of displaced people and refugees;
- economic development, including development of small scale enterprises;
- development of infrastructure;
- Rehabilitation of basic services: health, education (including HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention), water and sanitation and food security;
- data collection and surveys for analysis and policy formulation.
- Governance.

Participants encourage the UN to continue its ongoing planning alongside the Sudanese and international stakeholders and agreed that donor co-ordination shall be carried out within the framework of the IGAD Partners Forum.

Participants agreed that the Sudanese civil society, including NGO's, should be fully empowered to engage in the quick impact programme and planning for longer term development.

Participants recognised that debt arrears clearance and debt relief will require exceptional international action but is necessary for financing from the international financial institutions to resume. Participants expect the pace of this action to be linked to progress on implementing the peace agreement and development of a sound Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper.

Participants highlighted the continued need for contributions to the monitoring efforts in Sudan (Joint Monitoring Commission, Verification and Monitoring Team, Civilians Protection and Monitoring Team) and welcome additional contributions from interested donors to these efforts.

Steps for future action

The two Parties agree to a follow-up technical meeting in Nairobi assisted by a number of international partners to discuss implementation modalities related to capacity building and priority areas for the pre-interim period.

Participants will support and engage in Sudanese-led consultations with local communities throughout Sudan to broaden the consensus for the peace process. Needs assessment, forward planning and implementation is an evolving and dynamic process. This exercise led by the Sudanese parties with the support of the international community can best be undertaken building on existing structures and knowledge. This should be based on regular in-depth interaction with all parties concerned.

Participants agreed that official bilateral and multilateral creditors and the International Financial Institutions will take forward preparatory work on Sudan's external debt in order to move towards arrears clearance and debt relief when there is peace.

Participants agreed to keep each other informed of progress in the planning work over the coming months, including through meetings in the region.

Shortly after the signing of a peace agreement, a pledging conference will be held under the auspices of the IGAD Partners Forum, in Oslo, Norway.