

# **Welcoming Remarks**

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## **Sudan 1<sup>st</sup> Oil Conference** **Juba, Southern Sudan**

1<sup>st</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2006

Your Excellency Dr. Riek Machar, the Vice-President of  
the Government Southern Sudan,  
Gen. (Rtd) Lazaro Sumbeiywo Former IGAD Envoy on  
Sudan Peace Talks, Honorable GNU and GoSS  
Members of Cabinet  
Honourable Members of Parliament  
Distinguished Delegates  
Ladies and Gentlemen

Kindly allow me, on behalf of this Conference's organizers, namely the New Sudanese Indigenous NGOs Network (NESI Network) and European Coalition on Oil in Sudan (ECOS)/Pax Christi to warmly welcome you to this historic 1<sup>st</sup> of its kind Oil Conference on Sudanese soil, in Juba today.

Your Excellency Dr. Riek Machar, the Vice-President of the Government Southern Sudan and distinguished delegates,

At this juncture, I would like to kindly request that we all observe a moment of silence in memory of our fallen Leader, the Late Dr. Garang de Mabior and all the heroes who have lost their dear souls in the quest for a just and lasting peace for the people of Sudan. (Moment of Silence). Thank you.

As I welcome you all to this historic Conference, I would like to share with you a very brief overview of the Oil Conference's goals and what we hope to contribute to:

- Joining hands through constructive dialogue for the greater realization and actualization of a just and lasting peace through the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) framework.
- Honest and constructive deliberations between some of the most important stakeholders/players in Sudan's oil; the government, the Sudanese communities, civil society, professional and expertise 'think tanks' and the private sector (local, regional and international) towards the formulation of guiding principles for the Sudan oil industry.
- Contributing towards making the oil management and its revenue utilization in the Sudan increasingly transparent and accountable to the people.
- To facilitate for the acceleration of peace dividends generated from oil revenue.
- To spell out mechanisms supported by oil revenue which will contribute towards the establishment of holistic and viable channels of dialogue, peace building, efficient, transparent and accountable systems of governance.

Once again, we welcome you to this Conference, we wish you most constructive and fruitful deliberations and resolutions.

Thank you.