

SUDAN ECUMENICAL FORUM ASSEMBLY

**“Making every effort to keep the unity of the spirit through the bond of Peace”
Ephesians 4:3**

HERON CAMPSITE, JUBA

10th-12th September 2007

COMMUNIQUE

The Sudan Ecumenical Forum (SEF), which brings together the Sudanese church with its international ecumenical partners under the auspices of the World Council of Churches, held its Assembly in Juba from 10th-12th September 2007 with the theme of “Building a spirit of unity, forgiveness and healing”. More than 50 delegates from many different denominations, from sixteen nations on four continents, including representatives from the All Africa Conference of Churches and other regional ecumenical bodies, discussed issues relating to advocacy and peace.

The SEF Assembly noted with concern the challenges to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), particularly the delays in resolving border issues and the Abyei Protocol, the ongoing conflict in Darfur, and the tensions in other parts of the country which could lead to armed conflict. In the light of the speech of H E Gen Salva Kiir Mayardit at the opening of the new session of the Southern Sudan Assembly on 10th September 2007 in which he warned of the danger of a return to war, and following its own assessment of the situation in Sudan, the SEF Assembly:

- Appreciates the progress made so far in implementing the CPA
- Notes the escalating tensions between the two signatories to the CPA
- Expresses concern at the failure to implement parts of the CPA
- Expresses dismay at the reported mobilisation of armed forces at the borders between southern and northern Sudan and strongly affirms that a return to war is unacceptable
- Calls on the National Congress Party and the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement to accelerate the full implementation of the CPA, and to be accountable for the agreement that they have signed
- Calls on the international community to intensify its efforts to support the implementation of the CPA and to hold the two parties accountable
- Pledges to redouble its own efforts to work for peace

The SEF Assembly prioritised three areas for its advocacy work as well as the work of the churches and international ecumenical partners on the ground in Sudan, namely:

- Support for the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement
- Addressing the conflicts in Darfur and also in other areas of Sudan
- Reconciliation at all levels and in all arenas

The SEF Assembly urges governments and inter-governmental bodies, including the UN, AU and IGAD, to have a more coherent and balanced approach to all the inter-connected conflicts and peace processes in Sudan, recognising the importance of the successful implementation of the CPA for the stability of the entire country.

The SEF Assembly also pledged to encourage the international community to honour its financial commitments to Sudan, and to support humanitarian relief, rehabilitation and

development programmes. The Assembly expressed particular concern over the situation of returnees, including demobilised soldiers.

Capacity-building of churches and other Sudanese institutions, and creating space and fora for people and institutions to connect with each other, will be amongst the major approaches used by SEF.

Signed

Rev Musa Kodi
Chair, Sudan Council of Churches (SCC)

Rev Ornulf Steen
Chair, SEF Core Group

Rev Peter Tibi
Secretary-General, SCC

12th September 2007
Juba, Sudan