

Cooperative Research Project
'Governance and Social Action in Sudan after the Peace Agreement of January 9,
2005: local, national and regional dimensions'

Call for Papers

for an International Conference

Towards the Referendum:

**Social Action and Economic and Political Changes in Sudan and the
Involvement of Sub-regional and International Powers after the CPA**

Sharjah Hall, Khartoum, Sudan, September 28-30, 2010
sponsored by Volkswagen Foundation, Germany

The Interim Period after concluding the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in Sudan is coming to an end. Looking back, there is evidence that this agreement has successfully ended the war between the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). On the other hand, the implementation of several issues stipulated in the CPA has been delayed, others are still unfulfilled. Nevertheless, both signatories, the representatives of the National Congress Party (NCP) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement / Army (SPLM/A) have shown commitment to implement the CPA fully. Despite disagreements, none of them has publicly indicated an intention to withdraw from the process. The Interim Period has provided numerous opportunities for the NCP and the SPLM/A to develop a culture of negotiation. The outcome has been mixed, at least there was no return to direct violence. Apparently the two parties try to stick to the letter at its minimum.

During the Interim Period, no movement towards an institutionalised process of reconciliation has taken place in Sudan, which would have been at the core of making unity attractive. Hence, the probability that the referendum in Southern Sudan will lead to separation of the country is very high. However, there are still a lot of unclear procedures about the referendum in Southern Sudan, the referendum in Abyei, the popular consultations in Southern Kordofan and Southern Blue Nile States, and the joint integrated military units of the SAF and the SPLA at the boundary between North and South. Moreover, there is not yet any agreement about a transitional period after the referendum. The procedures of oil distribution, the status of southerners in the North and northerners in the South, and of pastoralists crossing the north-south boundary during seasonal migration are not clear. The future economic and political relations between Northern and Southern Sudan in case of a vote for separation are still uncertain. Only recently NCP and SPLM/A leaders have started talks about the post-referendum period.

The Conference 'Towards the Referendum' intends to provide a forum to discuss the lessons learnt during the Interim Period and to develop assessments about the near future in 2011 and beyond. The main question to be addressed will be:

What will be the situation after the end of the Interim Period in January 2011?

In order to tackle this question systematically, the Conference will be structured as follows:

Part I: The Elections in Sudan and Implications for the Referenda and Popular Consultations in South Sudan and the Three Areas

This section should include perspectives from northern and southern Sudan and also analyse the security situation, in particular at the north-south boundary and in the areas with violent conflict.

Part II: Economic and Social Development in Sudan during the Interim Period and Prospects for the Post-referendum Era

Topics in this section should deal with economic planning and investment in different parts of Sudan, the development implications of the return of internally displaced people and refugees, and allocation of land and other resources.

Part III: The Role of Sub-regional and International Powers in Implementing the CPA, Sudan-Sub-regional Socio-economic Networks, and Post-referenda Requirements

The focus of this section should be on the external actors and their relationship with Sudanese actors in terms of bilateral and multilateral interaction, including state and non-state actors as well as military and militant forces.

During the last day of the conference, there will be some time to develop policy suggestions in working groups. These suggestions might be addressed to the Government of National Unity, the Government of Southern Sudan, or to the sub-regional and international governments and organisations involved in and affected by the peace process.

Abstracts should be sent to Dr Elke Grawert, grawert@uni-bremen.de, until August 25, 2010.

Because of the shortage of time, we invite in particular contributors who have already intensively worked on the topic. Those whose abstracts fit well in the above outline will be kindly requested to send the full papers (about 15 pages, written according to academic standards) until September 25, 2010. The papers can still be revised after the conference, but should be ready soon so that they can be included in a timely book publication.