

Sudan and South Sudan Conference
Hermannsburg, Germany, October 31-November 2, 2012

The opposite of well done is well intended (African proverb)

Mission accomplished, mission impossible - Or the wrong mission all together?

Advocacy Work: Topics, Needs and Tools, a good year after the separation of Sudan and South Sudan

Organised by Sudan Forum e.V. and Sudan/South Sudan Ecumenical Forum

Communique draft 1

A call for peace, reconciliation and good neighbourliness

We, around 120 participants of the Sudan and South Sudan Conference from 14 countries, representing Sudanese and South Sudanese civil society and political parties, faith based organisations from inside and outside the Sudan and South Sudan, International Non Governmental Organisations and Institutions, Governments and Government agencies, after lengthy and frank discussions of the current and possible future socio-economical situation in Sudan and South Sudan and particularly the situation in Abyei, in South Kordofan, Blue Nile, and in Darfur, as well as the role and interests of players from outside, are saddened that the 25th anniversary of Sudan Conferences in Hermannsburg, constituting also the first joint conference on Sudan and the new Republic of South Sudan, does provide less reasons to celebrate, as issues already discussed in the first conferences more than 20 years ago, including questions of identity and racial discrimination, still remain unresolved today, people still die in big numbers because of armed conflicts, diseases and poverty, and humanitarian access is denied to parts of the affected population.

Commenting the peaceful independence of the Republic of South Sudan, we are alarmed by the severe human rights violations, the humanitarian situation and suffering of people in many parts of the Sudan, but also in parts of the new Republic of South Sudan.

Concerned about the lack of a genuine democratic transformation processes, and conscious of the lessons to be learned from neighbouring countries, we commit ourselves and call upon all stakeholders, governments, political parties and civil society organisations in and outside the country, **to put the citizens, their rights and physical security at the centre of attention, and to step up efforts to genuinely reconcile and to safeguard a peaceful transition and future for all people in Sudan and South Sudan.**

We call upon the Government of Sudan to stop aerial bombardment and all forms of violence targeting civilians in **Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile** and to fully facilitate the work of humanitarian agencies. We ask the conflicting parties to respect human rights and international Humanitarian laws, to stop abducting people and endangering humanitarian workers and peacekeepers.

We highly welcome the readiness of SPLM/N for a ceasefire and negotiations, as reaffirmed by its General Secreatry during the conference.

We call upon the Government of Sudan and the armed groups in Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile to pursue a genuine peace dialogue and to obtain the support of the civil society through participation in the peace process. We urge the mediators to avoid repeating the mistakes of the non-inclusive peace process, by keeping absolute neutrality, to regain and maintain trust, and to refrain from working out separate agreements with the warring parties.

We comment the recent signing of the 9 agreements on outstanding serious issues between the governments of Sudan and South Sudan in Addis Ababa. However, we urge the partners to the CPA, to keep on working on the timely and full implementation of agreements signed, and call upon the parties to provide an open and transparent process, keeping the citizens informed.

To avoid new conflicts and ensure sustainable peace, natural resource management and equitable sharing of resources should be a top priority at all levels in society – starting from the bottom-up. Oil is a key element, but a sound economy needs to be built on diversified sources of income. A strategic approach for economic relations between Sudan and South Sudan, with a special focus on the border

areas, could help to safeguard peace and good neighbourliness. However, a prerequisite is to immediately address the needs of the people, and the end of armed conflicts.

We call for a process of permanent constitution making in both Sudan and South Sudan that should be democratic, involving all sections of society, in a people driven process leading to democratic transformations and fully safeguarding the rights of all people, fully respecting the diversity of ethnicity and faith.

We also note with concern the lack of **development and the worsening humanitarian situation** in many places in Sudan and South Sudan, which constitute a further obstacle to a peaceful future. We urge the Governments in Sudan and South Sudan as well as international and national NGOs, to regard the needs of the people with long term and flexible development programs, including follow up activities, in a co-ordinated effort, based on proper analysis of needs, human resources, the social context and with the full participation of local communities.

But all efforts will be in vain, if the people of Sudan and South Sudan will not be given the chance of genuine peace-building, reconciliation as well as trauma healing, and to define their own destiny. We call for the full support to enabling and conducting such processes, which may require long term processes to result in proper Nation building in peace and justice.

Signed on behalf of participants and organisers, Hermannsburg, Germany, November 2, 2012

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Marina Peter', written in a cursive style.

Marina Peter, Sudan Forum e.V., SEF/SFP-E, November 2, 2012