

## **Oslo Donors' Conference on Sudan 2005 - Chair's Conclusions 12 April 2005**

Representatives of more than 60 countries and international organisations met in Oslo on 11 and 12 April 2005 as an expression of commitment to the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement that the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army signed on the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2005, and as called for by the UN Security Council in Resolution 1574 (2004).

The Conference gathered a number of high level representatives, including the Secretary General Kofi Annan of the United Nations, First Vice President Ali Osman Taha of the Republic of the Sudan, Chairman John Garang de Mabior of the SPLM, Secretary General Amr Mousa of the League of Arab States and Managing Director Shengman Zhang of the World Bank.

The parties to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement met for the first time in an international conference as one entity through the recently established Joint National Transition Team. The Joint National Transition Team presented their 6 year development plan, corresponding to the 6 year interim period of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, developed through the Joint Assessment Mission in partnership with the World Bank, the United Nations and donors. The total cost of the first phase (2005-2007) of the Development Plan is estimated at USD 7.9 billion, out of which the JNTT asked the international community to provide the external financing requirement of USD 2.6 billion

The United Nations presented the status to date of the funding of the UN and partners Work Plan for Sudan 2005. Out of a total requirement of USD 1.5 billion there is an estimated shortfall of USD 1 billion. Discussions in plenary and in a panel on urgent needs focused on the critical needs that must be addressed immediately in order to alleviate human suffering caused by conflict and drought, and to form a basis for recovery efforts. Briefings by the United Nations highlighted the critical importance and priority of supporting the return and reintegration of IDPs and refugees, particularly in Southern Sudan, and urged participants to provide adequate funding without any delay.

Out of a total need of USD 4.1 billion, not including financial needs of the AU Mission in Sudan, participants pledged more than USD 4.5 billion for 2005-2007, including contributions towards the needs of the AU Mission in Sudan. At least USD 2 billion is reported as development assistance in response to the needs documented in the JAM report. More than USD 500 million was committed to the Multi Donor Trust Funds (MDTF).

Participants welcomed the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between the GOS and the SPLM/A and congratulated the Parties on ending the longest running civil war in Africa. Moreover, participants complimented the Kenyan led IGAD Secretariat on Peace in the Sudan for guiding the parties toward the successful conclusion. While recognising that the peace agreement represents a new beginning for the Sudan, participants emphasized strongly the obligation of the parties to build on the Agreement to bring peace and stability to the entire country, including Darfur and in the East.

Participants welcomed concrete steps taken by the parties to implement the CPA in accordance with the implementation modalities and noted in particular the formation of the Joint National Transition Team and the arrival of SPLM advance teams in Khartoum and other cities. Participants encouraged the parties to include other political groups in the implementation of the peace agreement and to ensure that the whole population participates in the benefits of peace, as this will foster broader national ownership of the peace agreement itself. Specifically the Parties

were called on to urgently proceed on the completion of the National Constitutional Review Process as the National Interim Constitution must be in place before the Government of National Unity, and the Government of Southern Sudan, can be formed.

Participants expressed strong concern regarding the grave humanitarian and security situation in Darfur, as well as lack of progress in the peace talks in Abuja. More efforts are needed to ensure the security of the civilian population, in particular women and children. The AU lead in addressing the Darfur crisis was strongly appreciated by all participants. Donors were encouraged to contribute generously to the AU efforts in Darfur. Parties to the Darfur conflict were called upon to abide by all UN Security Resolutions on Darfur as well as resolutions by the AU Peace and Security Council, and to adhere to the N'Djamena Humanitarian Cease Fire Agreement and the Abuja Protocols.

Participants underlined the need to harmonise efforts, coordinate programmes and work together more efficiently in order to maximise results, recognising the particular importance of donor coordination in the Southern Sudan where existing institutional infrastructure is very weak. A number of countries agreed to finalise deliberations on the setting up of a joint donors office before the end of April. It was agreed that the JAM report provides a common framework for development assistance to the Sudan, and a number of countries suggested to use this as a basis to develop a joint assistance strategy. Participants recognised in particular the commitment of the League of Arab States to cooperate closely with the UN, World Bank and other partners in this regard. Participants welcomed the Netherlands' proposal to follow up the discussions by hosting, in the near future, an expert meeting to discuss in more technical detail the implications of sustained donor support for the reconstruction and development of the Sudan.

Donors were encouraged to channel development assistance through the Multi-Donor Trust Funds that have been set up in conformity with the CPA and that are administered by the World Bank. Due to the immense challenges in establishing a new civil administration, and the urgent need to deliver services, the SPLM as the precursor for the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) was encouraged to establish contractual relationships with NGOs and international organisations as well as with private companies and local community based organisations for service delivery on the ground. Participants underlined that capacity building is a key factor for the implementation of the CPA and of reconstruction programmes, and expressed commitment to support efforts in this regard.

Participants emphasised the importance of inclusiveness of civil society and Women's organisations in the political process and reconstruction of the Sudan, and welcomed the reports from the NGO Forum and the Gender Symposium that preceded the Conference.