



FOURTH MEETING OF THE SUDAN/SOUTH SUDAN CONSULTATIVE FORUM

ADDIS ABABA, 22 JUNE 2012

COMMUNIQUÉ

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1. The Sudan/South Sudan Consultative Forum (SSSCF), initially established as the Sudan Consultative Forum on 8 May 2010, held its fourth meeting at the African Union (AU) Headquarters in Addis Ababa, on 22 June 2012. The meeting was co-chaired by the AU Commissioner for Peace and Security, Ramtane Lamamra, and the United Nations (UN) Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hervé Ladsous.

2. In addition to the AU and the UN, the following states and organizations participated in the meeting: (i) neighbouring countries of South Sudan and Sudan (Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda); (ii) the Republic of Congo, as chair of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the AU for the month of June 2012; (iii) the representatives of the permanent members of the UN Security Council—UNSC (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States of America), as well as South Africa and Togo, as AU members on the UNSC; (iv) Norway as member of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) Troika; as well as other bilateral partners, namely, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Germany, India, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal and Turkey; (v) the African Development Bank (AfDB), the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the League of Arab States (LAS), and the European Union (EU).

3. The meeting was convened to review progress made following the adoption of the AU Roadmap on 24 April 2012, which was subsequently endorsed by the UNSC under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, through resolution 2046 (2012). Inter alia, the Roadmap called for an immediate cessation of hostilities, the unconditional withdrawal of all armed forces to their own side of the border and the cessation of harbouring of, or support to, rebel groups against the other state. It also urged the Parties to activate the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism (JBVMM) and operationalize the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone (SDBZ), in line with the administrative and security map presented to the Parties by the AU High-Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP), in November 2011, it being understood that this map in no way prejudices the ongoing negotiations on the disputed areas and the demarcation of the border. The Roadmap also called for the unconditional resumption of negotiations on post-secession relations, in particular oil and associated payments, nationality and related issues, borders and Abyei. It gave the Parties three months to finalize negotiations on outstanding issues.

4. Participants heard presentations from the Permanent Representative to the AU of the Republic of Sudan, Mr. Abdel Rahman Sir al Khatim, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of South Sudan, Mr. Nhial Deng Nhial. These were followed by an interactive discussion. Participants also received presentations from the Chairperson of the AUHIP, former President Thabo Mbeki, and the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for Sudan and South Sudan, Mr. Haile Menkerios.

5. Participants welcomed the resumption of negotiations between Sudan and South Sudan under the auspices of the AUHIP. They welcomed the decrease in violence along the border between Sudan and South Sudan. Participants also welcomed the commitment by both Parties to implementing the AU Roadmap and UNSC resolution 2046 (2012), and noted that some

progress had been made in this regard during the last round of negotiations from 29 May to 7 June 2012.

6. Participants stressed, however, that they expected the Parties to abide by the deadlines as outlined in the AU Roadmap and UNSC resolution 2046 (2012), and voiced their concern over the slow pace of implementation of these obligations and of the negotiations. In this regard, they reminded the Parties that all provisions of the AU Roadmap and resolution 2046 (2012) had to be implemented without precondition, and that the Parties could neither choose from a list of provisions nor vary the obligations imposed upon them.

7. Participants underlined that the establishment of the SDBZ, the *ad-hoc* Committee and the JBVMM are of utmost importance to establish border security and to monitor and investigate allegations and counter-allegations from either side. In this context, Participants insisted that, if the Parties could not reach an agreed compromise within the current round of negotiations, the SDBZ must be established as stipulated in the AU Roadmap and UNSC resolution 2046 (2012), in accordance with the administrative and security map presented to the Parties by the AUHIP, in November 2011. Participants once again underscored that this map in no way prejudices ongoing negotiations on the disputed areas and demarcation of the border. Participants also welcomed the convening, by the AUHIP, of negotiations on the disputed areas of the border, and looked forward to a successful outcome within the deadlines stipulated in the AU Roadmap and UNSC resolution 2046 (2012).

8. Participants praised the AUHIP, which has worked tirelessly to facilitate resolution of the outstanding issues between the Parties. They also commended the work of the UN Special Envoy to Sudan and South Sudan and of all the peacekeeping missions (UNMISS, UNISFA and UNAMID). The work of UNISFA in Abyei was particularly praised. In this context, Participants welcomed the withdrawal of Sudanese Armed Forces and civilian police and South Sudan Police Service from Abyei, in accordance with the 20 June 2011 Agreement on Temporary Arrangements for Security in the Abyei Area. Participants also stressed the need for the Parties to address the issue of the oil infrastructure in a way that respects the provisions of the AU Roadmap and UNSC resolution 2046 (2012). They also underlined the need to implement the other outstanding provisions of the 20 June 2011 Agreement, and called upon the Parties to establish the Abyei Area Administration, Executive Council and Police, to enable the orderly and peaceful return of the displaced.

9. Participants voiced their increasing concern about the plight of the population in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States, and urged the Government of Sudan to fully accept the Tripartite UN-AU-LAS proposal to provide and deliver humanitarian assistance to war-affected civilians. Participants reiterated the need for a political solution to the conflict in these two states, and called upon the Government of Sudan and the SPLM-N to engage in dialogue and cooperate with the AUHIP towards a settlement, as stipulated in the AU Roadmap and UNSC resolution 2046 (2012).

10. Participants emphasised the urgent need for progress on security issues, in order to create a conducive environment for the resolution of other outstanding issues. Given the increasingly difficult economic situation in both states, progress is needed on economic issues,

including on the use of oil infrastructure and other related transitional financial arrangements. Rapid progress is also needed on the issues related to the rights of nationals of one state resident in the other, the final status of disputed border areas and on the final status of Abyei.

11. Participants stressed that Sudan and South Sudan stand at a crossroads, and that the leaders of the two countries face the choice between cooperating in pursuing the agreed goal of establishing two viable states, enjoying good neighbourly relations, or pursuing the path of conflict, with its attendant ills of instability, poverty and poor governance. Participants called upon the leaders of Sudan and South Sudan to take the opportunity provided by this current round of negotiations, which began on 21 June 2012, to demonstrate statesmanship. They underlined that the peoples of Sudan and South Sudan, who have suffered for too long from war and deprivation, legitimately expect their leaders to deliver peace, promote democracy and foster development.

12. Participants agreed that the co-chairs of the SSSCF will consult on the date and venue of its next session.