

Civil Society Dialogue Network Geographic Meeting

‘Peacebuilding in Sudan and South Sudan: The Role of the EU’

Thursday 6 October 2011, Brussels

Key Recommendations

This document gathers all of the key recommendations which were made by participants in the CSDN meeting ‘Peacebuilding in Sudan and South Sudan: the Role of the EU’ which took place on Thursday 6 October 2011 in Brussels.

The meeting was held under the Chatham House Rule; the following recommendations, which were collated by meeting *rapporteur* Laura Davis, may not be attributed to any participating individual or institution, nor do they necessarily represent the views of the organisers.

A full report of the meeting will follow soon.

Session 1: The EU and the Sudans: A Comprehensive Approach

Participants recommended that the EU:

- Monitors the delivery and impact of the Comprehensive Approach (CA) on the ground
- Consults closely with civil society in the Sudans and involves civil society in the implementation and monitoring of the CA
- Supports and works with civil society from the Sudans
- Examines carefully how the political, security and trade components of the CA impact each other
- Avoids that aid reaches only the ‘easier’ states of South Sudan
- Engages with the regional actors (African Union (AU), regional economic communities etc.) and supports them to take over from the EU in the future where relevant
- Works with the Arab League, Gulf States and African countries to influence the Government of Sudan
- Continues to keep international attention on the Sudans and international pressure on the Government of Sudan
- Supports the development of civil society in the Sudans, including at the grassroots level, and helps to create political space for civil society to engage within Sudan, between Sudan and South Sudan, with the international community, and regionally
- Supports women’s participation in peacebuilding processes and prioritises support for civilian peacekeeping / civilian protection by civil society organisations (CSOs), particularly in the border regions
- Integrates peacebuilding objectives into development aid, including seizing opportunities for community relationship-building

On the following specific issues, participants recommended that the EU:

- Continues to take a clear position on Abyei, Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile, insisting particularly on access for international humanitarian agencies
- Works with the Government of Sudan (GoS) and the Government of South Sudan (GoSS) to find an arrangement between the two central banks to allow financial transfers between the Sudans
- Helps the GoSS to address land ownership in a systematic way
- Encourages freedom of movement between the Sudans.
- Pays close attention to how the question of citizenship unfolds
- Works to address tribal conflict through strengthening the rule of law, including traditional justice and law enforcement (policing)
- Examines past experience of disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR) and learns from that experience to inform and improve future DDR efforts
- Addresses the problem of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), including through identifying its supporters and putting pressure on the regional governments (i.e. Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Central African Republic) to find a lasting solution to the problems which it has created
- Implements United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325, including by bringing women to the negotiating table and appointing women in mediation support teams
- Appoints women to positions within its own institutions, including having more women representing the EU in the Sudans
- Builds the capacity of an independent Peace Commission in South Sudan

Session 2: Border Regions: Conflict risks and mitigation strategies

Participants recommended that the EU:

- Applies political pressure on the parties to resolve the outstanding issues from the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and to implement the Abyei Protocol and the Joint Political and Security Mechanism, and – together with other parts of the international community, reacts when CPA and other provisions are not implemented
- Supports civilian peacebuilding, including through civil society, to reduce the likelihood of military confrontation
- Attempts to delink local causes of conflict from national politics, including by addressing the administrations at the state- and local levels as well as the capitals, and working with civil society to reach indigenous organisations, especially in areas such as Abyei where the UN has no access
- Builds the capacity of local administrations on early warning, early response and non-violent conflict management
- Supports community-level dialogues and avoids “dialogue fatigue” by providing a development package which empowers communities to implement agreements and meet their needs
- Supports women’s participation in Darfur peace processes and learns from this experience to strengthen women’s participation as stakeholders in other dialogue processes
- Resists the assumption that decentralisation will automatically lead to better service provision
- Recognises that internal borders and the creation of “ethnic fiefdoms” at the county- and *payam* levels are causes of tension in South Sudan
- Moves fast to diffuse the tension around the trade embargo by commissioning studies and running workshops in Khartoum and Juba to find a mechanism to build markets
- Prioritises demobilisation and links it with job creation, working with universities to establish vocational training centres and provide microfinance to those with vocational training to set up businesses
- Supports efforts to reduce the numbers of small arms in circulation
- Does not wait for a negotiated settlement before supporting community reintegration efforts in Darfur
- Strengthens the rule of law and law enforcement at the local level.

- Maps the migration routes, examines the context of each and prioritises unblocking the most important
- Supports the GoSS' efforts to reintegrate South Sudanese returnees from Sudan
- Supports freedom of the media in South Sudan and the free flow of information
- Supports forums to bring media and civil society together to discuss the border regions, how journalists are covering the news from these regions and what they can do to alleviate tensions
- Examines the potential of the Border Governors Forum (*Tamazuj*) and supports civil society initiatives to raise awareness of demarcation efforts and the importance of soft borders and to manage border communities' disappointment with border delimitation
- Addresses issues connected to natural resources including water, fertile land, minerals including oil and gold, and environmental degradation; and examines the scope for (poor) natural resource management to generate conflict or to provide opportunities for co-operation
- Adheres to the principle of 'Do No Harm' by continuously analysing both the positive and negative impact of its activities. For example, there is a risk that increased aid to South Sudan could be a source of conflict with Sudan; and an emphasis on borders could legitimise territorial approaches to land and borders (both between Sudan and South Sudan, and internally in South Sudan)

Session 3: Governance challenges and inclusive constitutional review in Sudan and South Sudan

Participants made the following recommendations regarding the EU's role in overcoming governance challenges in Sudan and South Sudan:

- The EU should use its leverage, influence and engagement with the GoS to promote good governance and, in particular, an inclusive constitutional review process; where necessary, it should take a strong role and use conditions and benchmarks in order to make progress
- The EU needs to raise the issue of the International Criminal Court (ICC) as highly as possible, including by reaching out to the USA to support the ICC in Sudan. It should also reconsider its diplomatic relationships with the GoS if it allows crimes against humanity and systematic human rights abuse to continue; the EU should support an international commission of inquiry into human rights abuses and the humanitarian situation in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile
- The UN should clearly define its role as supporting the reform of and not replacing institutions; its role is not to provide governance. In this context, the EU should use its power as a major donor to the UN
- Anti-corruption, including in the management of natural resources, and ending the monopolisation of the economy by individuals in government should be high priorities for the EU
- Demilitarisation of the political space in South Sudan is a priority; the EU should support a census as the basis for fair elections and should engage early with the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) to support its transition from liberation movement to democratic political party with democratic internal processes. It should support opening up of the political space and the development of democratic political parties in both Sudan and South Sudan
- The EU should support women's participation in institutions at state-level as well as at national level
- The EU should support the creation of free, independent media, and civic education

Participants suggested that in order to assist efforts for inclusive, nationwide constitutional review processes in Sudan and South Sudan which involve as many people as possible, the EU should:

- Support civil society activities aimed at connecting the population to both processes
- Support the creation of political space in Sudan for CSOs to engage with and influence the process, and resist the move towards an exclusive identity based on faith and ethnicity
- Support the engagement of women beyond Khartoum as stakeholders in the process rather than viewing them as victims of violence
- Engage with media organisations to see how they are covering the processes and how they are engaging the views of different parts of the population (e.g. women)

Session 4: Peacebuilding and institution-building in South Sudan

Participants recommended that the EU:

- Understands the dynamics of regional organisations and their future importance for stability and development, such as the AU (for early warning); the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) (for managing regional relationships), and the East African Community (EAC) (for economic integration)
- Supports strategies which encourage foreign investment and create jobs locally without being hostile to immigration
- Avoids the assumption that more policing means more security, focuses on how policing is carried out, considers the role that non-state actors (NSAs) can play in providing security where the state is not present or is not trusted, and ensures that support to the security system includes robust measures to improve accountability and to end impunity within the system
- Provides assistance in developing effective financial management within public institutions
- Supports peace committees to coordinate international interventions and to provide platforms which engage local authorities (state, county, *payam*), civil society and international NGOs and other actors and to ensure that local capacities are strengthened by external actors. For example, the EU and other actors should examine the example of the Peace Commission in Southern Kordofan and see what learning is applicable more generally for peace committees, or similar mechanisms, in South Sudan
- Coordinates its interventions with other international actors and does not overburden ministers and ministries with numerous bilateral engagements
- Supports the integration of peace education across all aspects of the education curriculum, and the training of government officials and communities in non-violent conflict management
- Recognises the tension between a desire for leaner government and the reality that the government is the only employer by supporting job creation as well as reform
- Examines ways in which the Sudanese diaspora resident in the EU can be encouraged to return to South Sudan and contribute to development

Civil Society Dialogue Network

The Civil Society Dialogue Network (CSDN) is a three-year project funded by the European Commission aimed at facilitating dialogue on peacebuilding issues between civil society and EU policy makers. It is managed by the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO). For more information please visit the [EPLO website](#).