

Mapping the Challenges to Peace Implementation

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Introduction

We have made clear that our policy is based on the success of three pillars:

- Achievement of a just and comprehensive peace settlement
- Unrestricted humanitarian access and respect for human rights in all areas
- Full cooperation against terrorism

Status of Talks

The Parties know that the time for an agreement is now. We have made substantial progress at the talks. The Parties are close but not at the final peace agreement. The main challenges include:

- Abyei is the principal challenge
- Significant power sharing agreements are unresolved
- Khartoum's inhumane policies in Darfur are casting a dim pallor over prospects for peace. Therefore, how can we believe they want peace if they continue what they are doing in Darfur?

The United States is fully engaged in the process from the highest levels, the President, the Secretary Powell and National Security Advisor Rice are involved. We have strengthened our presence at the talks. Both USAID Assistant Administrator Roger Winter and myself were at the talks last week.

In sum, progress reflects some improvements on the ground. This is a good start but still temporary.

Next Steps

The next days and weeks will prove decisive—

- If Parties agree on Abyei, they will move on to power-sharing issues. While the power-sharing issues are complex, both sides have told us that they do not expect major problems to resolve them. We intend to hold them to that.
- If outstanding issues are resolved by March 16, after a short break the Parties will reconvene to work out details of security arrangements, international guarantees, and modalities to implement peace accord.
- The US has a senior team standing by to assist with the security arrangements.

Darfur

I know that Darfur is on all of your minds as it is ours. The violence and suffering in Darfur have made it one of the worst humanitarian crises in Africa.

- The US has spoken out forcefully on Darfur
- Pressing Khartoum to rein the murderous Janjawiid and negotiate a humanitarian ceasefire and allow humanitarian relief to reach all needy populations.
- Khartoum has agreed to talks with the Darfur opposition on March 16 in Chad in order to discuss a humanitarian cease-fire. This is noteworthy, but I want to see how the GOS engages before I call this good or bad. I believe what I see, not what I'm told.
- The US will continue to press until the violence stops and the abuses end. This means taking it up in the UN Security Council in the upcoming UN Commission on Human Rights in Geneva.

Terrorism

Terrorism is in all our minds. I am pleased to report to you that we are making progress in our counter-terrorism dialogue with Khartoum. The Department's *Patterns of Global Terrorism* goes into detail on this issue.

- Our bottom-line: Khartoum has proactively responded to specific requests we have made, and is actively supporting the global war on terrorism.

The US's Current Efforts

1. On the talks:

- Pushing forward for resolution on the outstanding issues—this means supporting Sumbeiywo and keeping the parties on track.
- We are maintaining an extremely high level of engagement at the talks and from here in, Washington will support the process and re-emphasize to the Parties the importance of moving forward
- We can table our ideas if the parties are stalled.

2. Getting ready for peace:

- Preparing a full range of normalization activities, developed plans to support the implementation period.

3. On Darfur:

- Intensify actions by the international community.
- Considering a range of actions at the UN in New York and at the upcoming UNCHR session.
- It is clear that the situation in Darfur makes it impossible to fully implement the range of normalization options we had hoped to support during the peace period.