

Promoting Strategic Coordination and Leadership

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Main Points

1. Primary objective for the international community must be to ensure the parties' ownership as to implementation of the Peace Agreement. Not repeat mistakes from other post conflict operations where the parties have become excluded.
2. The reconstruction and development of Sudan represent a unique challenge with interests of two different parties to be handled and balanced all through the 6 years' interim period – with the possibility of ending up with two separate countries.
3. Main IPF focus now is support to the peace negotiations and mobilizing international funds and interest, while preparing for the pre-interim period. Humanitarian aid must be maintained, and the Quick Impact Programme prepared.
4. IDPs, refugees, demining and preparations for the DDR-process are the present top priorities.
5. Norway sees capacity building as key to establishing a civil administration in the South. Norway and US are already contributing funds to this.
6. Preparations for the International Donor Conference in Norway are started. The Core Consultative Group (members: GoS, SPLM, WB, UN, IGAD Secretariat plus Norway as chair on behalf of IPF) has monthly meetings in Naivasha, preparing for the Joint Assessment Missions (JAM). The preparatory phase of the JAM has started, and CCG secretariats are being set up in Khartoum and Nairobi. National counterpart teams are established and trained both on the SPLM and the GoS side. The World Bank and UN have received more than 130 nominations for experts to participate in the international teams. The full JAM will be launched as soon as the Comprehensive Peace Agreement is signed.
7. The JAM process will be implemented sequentially in the SPLM areas and the GOS areas, and centred around 8 cluster themes: Institutional development and capacity building; Governance and Rule of Law; Economic policy and management; Productive Sectors; Basic Social Services; Infrastructure; Livelihoods and social protection; Information.
8. The parties will meet together with the WB and the UN before the Oslo Conference to prepare as much as possible joint proposals for pledging. Three programs are foreseen for SPLM areas, GoS areas, and joint, cross border areas.
9. Two multi-donor trust funds will be established for the support to Sudan. In addition, a number of countries will allocate funds directly to the country through bilateral aid programs.

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10. In addition to the preparations for the Oslo conference, two other main processes are underway: the debt handling and the establishment of a UN Peace Monitoring Operation. Both processes will require huge international funding, and solutions are key to a sustainable peace in Sudan.
11. The main peace dividend to the people of Sudan will be peace itself, as one has witnessed in the Nuba Mountains since the ceasefire and the JMC was established early 2002. Free and safe movement is a precondition to social and economic development. Common people do also expect rapid improvement in educational and social services, and a Quick Impact Programme will be implemented.
12. NGOs will continue to be central for implementing programs and projects, particularly in the SPLM areas. However, they must respect the authorities' need for adherence to new, central policies and avoid competing with the public sector for trained personnel. Overbidding in terms of salaries and benefits should be avoided.
13. The Sudanese economy is vulnerable after years of war economy. The international community must therefore be careful not to plough too much money too fast into the country. The risk is high for creating corruption and destruction of local markets. In particular, the South – with its present mainly non-monetary economy, needs a phased investment policy geared to the capacity of the new civil administration.
14. Norway will, as co-chair of the IPF, try to mobilize as much international support for Sudan as possible. This includes contacts with non-western countries, like the Arab countries and some Asians countries. Both regions are heavily involved in the Sudanese economy today, and will continue to be so.
15. The issue of conditionality in aid is touchy. However, donor conditionality is likely to occur in Sudan as in other developing countries. Norway's support to Sudan is not likely to be conditional in the traditional sense, but we will certainly link it closely to the parties' adherence to the Peace Agreement. We envisage having a long term commitment to supporting the development of a peaceful Sudan, maintaining the Machakos' principle of giving Unity a chance – but certainly also defending the South's right to decide themselves after six years if they want to continue this Unity.
16. Norway will continue to support bridge building activities, both North-South and South-South. A sustainable peace in Sudan depends upon the country's ability to surpass political, religious and ethnic differences.
17. Finally two not-so-common issues: Firstly, the new Sudan is in need of a cultural policy which should not be forgotten when aid is discussed. Cultural activities are central in terms of nation building and reconciliation attempts. Secondly: Sudan has very fragile ecological systems, in particular the Nile Basin . Environmental Impact Assessments must therefore be undertaken whenever programs and projects may have negative environmental effects.