

Political Accommodation in the Sudan and South Sudan

POLITICAL ACCOMMODATION
IN THE SUDAN AND SOUTH SUDAN

Introduction

Conflict Dynamics is undertaking an **initiative to explore, generate and ‘feed in’ technical options to accommodate political interests and perspectives** in the Sudan and South Sudan.

The technical options being developed address political accommodation in the context of relations *between the Sudan and South Sudan*; political accommodation *within the Republic of the Sudan* (including political arrangements concerning Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States, and the Darfur Political Process), and *within the Republic of South Sudan*.

These three inter-woven strands are designed to address political accommodation in a comprehensive manner, taking into account political interests, historical legacies, and ongoing political processes.

The **target audience** for the technical options being developed includes: the Government of the Republic of the Sudan and the Government of the Republic of South Sudan; the National Congress Party (NCP), the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (SPLM) and other political parties/actors in the two countries; agreed international facilitators or mediators; international organizations; civil society constituencies; and supporting States. This initiative aims to convey technical options in an **impartial manner** to these constituencies.

Context

The formal secession of South Sudan following the Referendum on self-determination has initiated unprecedented political transformations in the two sovereign States.

There are several factors that pose challenges for political stability during this transition including: (a) recent hostilities, military operations in several areas of the Sudan, including the Abyei Area, Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile; (b) the absence of agreement on some key post-secession issues (including oil and the final status of Abyei Area) between the Sudan and South Sudan; (c) growing economic challenges in both States; and (d) meeting the governance expectations and needs of the people in a changing national, regional and global environment.

Critical to maintaining political stability and preventing potentially-violent disputes is the ability to achieve **mutual conciliation or accommodation** of oft-competing political views and interests. That objective, and the associated processes, arrangements or outcomes are collectively referred to here as *political accommodation*.

Objectives

The primary objective of this initiative is to enhance the prospects for peace and stability between and within the Sudan and South Sudan through exploration and provision of technical options for political accommodation.

In pursuit of this overarching goal, the specific objectives are:

PO1 – To conduct policy-oriented research and solicit perspectives from a broad range of constituencies/interlocutors on prospects for political accommodation

PO2 – To continue to promote a new vocabulary, centered on political accommodation, in political discourse within the Sudan and South Sudan

PO3 – To continue to generate and refine options for political accommodation between the Sudan and South Sudan, as well as within the Republic of the Sudan and within the Republic of South Sudan.

PO4 – To ‘feed in’ technical options directly to ongoing and evolving political /dialogue processes

PO5 – To contribute to a targeted dialogue among key constituencies on prospects for political accommodation following the Referendum

Political accommodation

Political accommodation encompasses the objectives, processes or outcomes of mutual conciliation around competing political views and interests.

Conflict Dynamics has developed a typology of six focal areas for political accommodation which is being used to explore technical options for the Sudan and South Sudan:

- ➔ Political structure and decentralization
- ➔ Electoral system(s)
- ➔ Executive
- ➔ Legislative branch
- ➔ Public participation
- ➔ Traditional and customary arrangements

Indicators of the degree of political accommodation are used to assess the various technical options developed, with a view to achieving equity of political representation, equity of decision-making influence (especially within central-level institutions), and effective participation in political affairs.

Project architecture and methodology

Conflict Dynamics’ activities under this initiative are undertaken across three interconnected areas: **I** – Political accommodation *between* the Sudan and South Sudan; **II** – Political accommodation *within* the Republic of the Sudan; and **III** – Political accommodation *within* the Republic of South Sudan.



Work on each of the strands is undertaken with the goal of producing options that are compatible and mutually reinforcing. The methodology consists of several components: (A) ongoing literature and data review; (B) extensive consultations; (C) development of technical options for political accommodation; (D) targeted presentation of technical options to key constituencies; and (E) consultations, outreach and dissemination to ensure uptake of options.

Outputs

The primary deliverables/products developed under this project are technical inputs and options pertaining to political accommodation. These options are presented in targeted briefing papers in Arabic and English.

Three Briefing Papers have been produced under Conflict Dynamics’ initiative to date:

- ◆ *Envisioning the Future: Options for political accommodation between North and South Sudan following the referendum* (September 2010)
- ◆ *National Elections and Political Accommodation in the Sudan* (June 2009); and
- ◆ *Electoral Reform in Sudan and Prospects for Peace in Darfur* (October 2008).

Contact

Conflict Dynamics International
111 Rice Street
Cambridge, MA 02140, USA

Phone: +1 617 661-1066
Phone: +249 92 2661010
info@cdint.org | www.cdint.org