

Political Accommodation in the Republic of South Sudan

Overview

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

The target audience for the technical options being developed includes: the Government of the Republic of South Sudan; the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (SPLM); other political parties/actors in South Sudan; civil society constituencies; international/regional organizations; and supporting States. This work relates closely to, and complements, the constitutional review process and other processes for considering the future systems of governance in the Republic of South Sudan.

This initiative aims to convey technical options in an impartial manner to the Government of the new Republic, national authorities, political parties, civil society constituencies and international supporting organizations. The technical options being developed address political accommodation at the national level and the state and local levels of government. It also links to Conflict Dynamics’ other strands of work on options for political accommodation *between the Sudan and South Sudan* following the CPA Interim Period and political accommodation *within the Republic of the Sudan*.

Context

On 9 July 2011, the Republic of South Sudan became an independent State following the Southern Sudan referendum on self-determination in early 2011. Far from being the final act of the new State’s creation, independence initiated a period of great transition and opportunity for the people of South Sudan to determine their future. 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 in the Republic of South Sudan. 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 solidifying peace and stability in the Republic of South Sudan through exploration and provision of technical options for political accommodation during and following the post-independence transition period.

In pursuit of this overarching purpose the specific project objectives are:

PO1 – To conduct policy-orientated research and solicit perspectives from the Government of the Republic of South Sudan, civil society constituencies, international actors, and other key interlocutors on prospects and potential options for political accommodation

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

PO3 – To generate and further refine options for political accommodation within the Republic of South Sudan in the transitional period and beyond

PO4 – To ‘feed in’ technical options directly to the Government, national authorities, other political parties/actors in the Republic of South Sudan; civil society constituencies; and supporting States/organizations

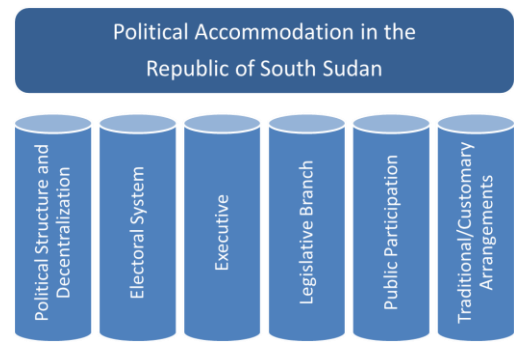
PO5 – To contribute to a targeted dialogue among key constituencies on prospects for political accommodation in the Republic of South Sudan

Political accommodation

Political accommodation encompasses the objectives, processes or outcome 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 Republic of 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. These indicators include, for example, equity of political representation and equity of decision-making influence, especially within central-level institutions.

Project architecture and methodology

Conflict Dynamics is undertaking a staged approach to development of options for political accommodation in the Republic of South Sudan: (1) identification of opportunities for political accommodation and analysis of accommodation in the aftermath of independence; (2) targeted consultations with partners and stakeholders on those opportunities; (3) extensive research, case study analysis and development of options; (4) consultation and presentation of the options with further refinement.

The project is part of Conflict Dynamics' wider initiative, *Political Accommodation in the Sudan and South Sudan*, which consists of three interconnected strands: **Strand I** – Political accommodation *between* the Sudan and South Sudan; **Strand II** – Political accommodation *within* the Republic of Sudan; and **Strand III** – Political accommodation *within* the Republic of South Sudan.

Project 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 and other assistance in conjunction with ongoing processes in the Republic of South Sudan including the permanent constitutional review process.

Three Briefing Papers have been produced under Conflict Dynamics' former Political Accommodation in the Sudan initiative: *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).

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