

Political and Economic Cooperation between Sudan and South Sudan

Overview Conflict Dynamics is undertaking an initiative to support political and economic cooperation between the Sudan and South Sudan as routes to mutual conciliation and economic viability. The initiative explores and generates technical options for political and economic interaction and conveys them in an impartial manner to key constituencies in the two republics. In addition, the initiative actively seeks to build a process of dialogue on potential models for bilateral and regional cooperation.

This initiative forms part of Conflict Dynamics' programs on political accommodation **within the Republic of the Sudan** and **within the Republic of South Sudan**.

Context In July 2011, the Republic of the Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan emerged as two sovereign States in an environment of uncertainty about their future relationship. The two republics agreed a set of cooperation arrangements covering a range of economic and security issues in September 2012, but they continue to face challenges to their mutual viability and prosperity, including:

- Recent hostilities and military operations linked to unresolved border issues
- The absence of agreement on key post-secession issues (including oil and the status of Abyei)
- Ongoing violent conflict within both the Sudan (Darfur, South Kordofan, and Blue Nile) and South Sudan (particularly following the December 2013 political crisis)
- Economic challenges in both States, exacerbated by border insecurity and the oil shut-off
- The imperative for each State to meet the needs of its citizens in an environment where the Sudan and South Sudan are economically and politically interdependent

Frameworks for political and economic cooperation are critical to managing these challenges.

Objectives The overarching goal of this initiative is **an effective long-term partnership between the Republic of the Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan in which both prosper as viable sovereign States**. Toward this goal, the intended impact of this initiative is mutual conciliation and economic viability between the two States through political and economic cooperation.

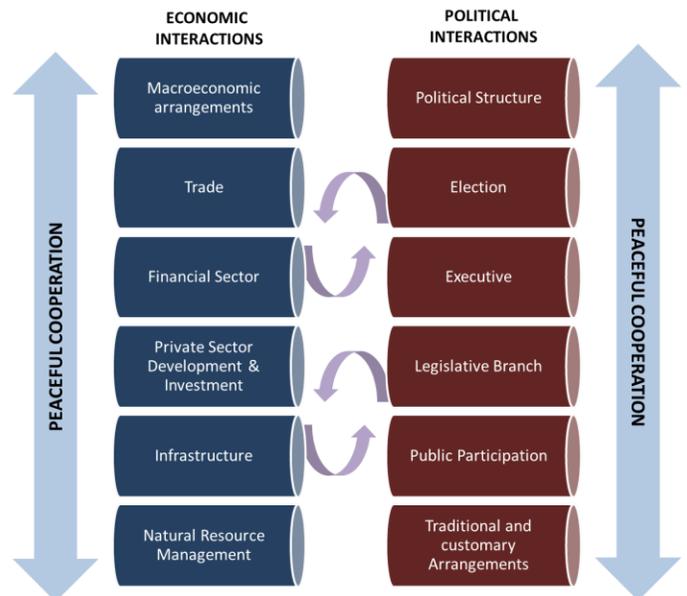
Audience The target audiences for the technical options and dialogues include the Government of the Sudan and the Government of South Sudan; the National Congress Party (NCP), Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), and other political parties in the two countries; international facilitators and mediators; international organizations; civil society constituencies; prominent business leaders from within Africa and the Gulf Region; and supporting States.

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Project methodology

Conflict Dynamics uses an inclusive methodology of iterative consultations to develop technical options that involves:

- Identification of opportunities for political and economic cooperation
- Targeted consultations with partners and stakeholders on those opportunities
- Extensive research, case study analysis, and development of options
- Appraisal of options with key interlocutors, leading to further refinement



To explore the potential for political accommodation, or mutual conciliation of competing interests through options for political and economic cooperation, Conflict Dynamics has developed a framework of six political and six economic focal areas. Interactions across these focal areas occur at four levels: macro-direct, meso-direct, micro-direct, and macro-indirect.

- Activities**
- Conducting policy-oriented research while soliciting perspectives from a broad range of constituencies on frameworks for political and economic cooperation
 - Generating and refining options for political and economic cooperation between the two States
 - ‘Feeding in’ technical options directly to ongoing and evolving political dialogue processes
 - Convening policy dialogues between key figures in the two republics on approaches to political and economic partnerships

Outputs The initiative’s primary outputs are technical inputs and options pertaining to political and economic cooperation. These options are presented in the briefing paper “Shaping the Future: Prospects for Economic and Political Cooperation between South Sudan and the Sudan” (August 2013).

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