

Political Accommodation in the Republic of Sudan

Overview Conflict Dynamics' program in Sudan contributes to peacebuilding by supporting Sudanese approaches to developing and implementing inclusive political processes and governance arrangements that can effectively accommodate diverse political interests.

Context Sudan is in a defining moment. Repeated patterns of exclusion from political, economic, and social life helped drive years of conflict in the west and south, unrest in Khartoum, and economic crisis. Because governance arrangements have not offered people genuine opportunities to express their interests, people have manifested their interests through violent conflict.

The transition period offers an opportunity to break those cycles and for Sudan to steer a new course. A wide range of actors agree that the upcoming transition is critical for delivering peace and stability in Sudan's future. The peace process, constitution-building process, and elections process are the backbone for a peaceful and just Sudan, and the sequencing and linkages of these political processes is significant for a successful political transition. Moreover, politically accommodating processes are the only guarantee for inclusive future arrangements. These challenges highlight the need for effective support to Sudanese to develop, agree upon, and implement political dialogue processes and governance arrangements that can accommodate their political interests.

Objectives Conflict Dynamics' initiative in Sudan contributes toward the long-term goal of **preventing conflict and enhancing political stability in Sudan**. Toward this goal, the intended impact of this initiative is for **effective arrangements for political accommodation to be developed, agreed, and in the process of implementation in Sudan**.

Audience The audience for this initiative includes: the transitional government of Sudan, including the Sovereign Council, Council of Ministers, and Legislative Council; political parties and alliances; armed opposition groups; civil society constituencies, including youth groups and women's organizations; and academics and public intellectuals. The initiative also involves close collaboration with supporting international bodies, facilitators, and mediators.

Political Accommodation When discussing the future governance of Sudan, it is important for people to freely express, take into account, reflect upon and reconcile their different political interests. One way Sudanese can work toward reconciling their interests is by using the concept of **political accommodation**.

The term *political accommodation* means the objectives, arrangements, processes, or outcomes of mutual conciliation of people's competing political interests and perspectives. Mutual conciliation is a process where **parties with competing interests take each other's interests into account without compromising their own core interests**.

The political accommodation methodology is a package of tools to translate people's interests into practical options of policies and action points for making and building peace.

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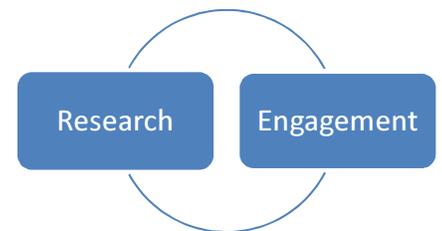
The methodology consists of three core components:

- A framework for analyzing and developing options for **governance arrangements**
- A framework for analyzing and developing options for **political dialogue processes**
- A **series of steps** to develop options for governance and political dialogue processes

Activities Conflict Dynamics is committed to the process of developing and facilitating the adoption of governance options that enhance the prospects of political stability, political participation, and peacebuilding. The organization's work in Sudan divides into two symbiotic activity areas: research and engagement. Conflict Dynamics pursues both activities simultaneously, with each feeding into and building on the other.

Research includes a process of extensive and ongoing consultation with key national stakeholders and is conducted in a manner that (a) ensures a rigorous understanding of the specific context and challenges and (b) leads to the development of options that are discerning, relevant, and practicable.

Engagement is not undertaken to promote a specific set of recommendations. It is undertaken to create awareness of the possible benefits of the concept of political accommodation, build trust and understanding, present options, facilitate dialogue between relevant stakeholders, and support them in designing options to enhance the prospects for political stability, political participation, and peacebuilding.



Outputs The primary deliverables developed under this project are technical inputs and options pertaining to political accommodation in Sudan. Conflict Dynamics presents these inputs and options through briefing papers, briefing notes, case studies, online tools, and other materials. In addition, Conflict Dynamics presents inputs and options through a series of seminars and workshops with stakeholders at the national and subnational levels within Sudan, as well as at the regional and international levels.

Publications

- *Options for Selecting Members of Transitional Bodies in Sudan*, June 2019
- *Options for Overcoming Impasses: Negotiations in the Transitional Sovereign Council*, May 2019
- *Exploring Options for the Design, Linkages, and Sequencing of Continued Political Dialogue Processes in the Sudan*, January 2018, updated December 2018
- *Decentralization in Sudan: Challenges and Opportunities*, October 2018

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