



PREPARING FOR THE SUDAN REFERENDA AND BEYOND

SEPTEMBER 16, 2010

8:30 AM – 12:40 PM

**International Peace Institute's Trygve Lie Center
777 UN Plaza (corner of 44th Street and First Avenue), 12th Floor**

In January 2011, the Sudan is scheduled to hold two referenda in accordance with the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) that ended the twenty-two year civil war between North and South: one to determine whether South Sudan will become an independent state or remain part of a larger Sudan; another to determine whether Abyei is incorporated into the North (which administers it now) or becomes part of South Sudan. There are many complex challenges associated with planning for these referenda. In both cases, inadequate security, technical delays, limited resources, and lack of agreement between the parties on voter eligibility could present obstacles. Likewise, post-referenda arrangements on oil sharing, citizenship, banking, and foreign relations remain unresolved.

While there is still uncertainty regarding many of these issues, it is clear that the UN system has taken on significant responsibilities in facilitating preparations for the referenda. It is also likely to stay heavily engaged in South Sudan in the development, humanitarian and peacebuilding spheres in the aftermath of the referenda, regardless of their outcome. These efforts will build on the UN system's long-standing commitment to help the Sudan chart a course to a more stable and peaceful future, as demonstrated by its mediation and peacekeeping efforts in Darfur and South Sudan during the past several years.

This off-the-record roundtable discussion will bring together approximately 30-40 experts working on the Sudan from the UN Secretariat, Security Council members, the African Union, and the NGO community for an interactive dialogue on preparations for the referenda as well as the post-referenda environment. In particular, the discussions will focus on strategies that the UN system, working in collaboration with other bilateral and multi-lateral actors, can pursue to help ensure that the referenda help lay the foundation for a peaceful and prosperous future for the people of the Sudan. The conversation is intended to focus largely on process issues that relate to ensuring that the referenda are conducted effectively and that, where possible, the UN and other external actors play a useful role in helping the parties to manage effectively post-referenda arrangements. While they will be primarily of a technical nature, the discussions will likely touch on political issues that present challenges to facilitating successful referenda.

Agenda:

8:30 am – 9:00 am **Breakfast**

9:00 am – 9:10 am **Welcome**

Dr. Edward C. Luck, *Senior Vice President for Research and Programs,*
International Peace Institute (IPI)

9:10 am – 10:40 am **Panel I: Preparing for the Referenda: Challenges and Opportunities**

What are the primary obstacles to credible referenda on self-determination for the South and on Abyei? In both cases, what strategies can be employed by UNMIS and other UN entities to address issues such as voter registration, security, potential technical delays, and the sequencing of activities? How can enhanced conflict prevention strategies be developed and employed in the border regions? Given delays in demarcation and continued insecurity in the region, would it be possible to postpone the referendum on Abyei until after the one on independence for South Sudan? How can the UN most effectively coordinate internally -- as well as with the African Union, the governments of North and South Sudan, and other key stakeholders -- in preparing for the referenda?

Chair: Dr. Edward C. Luck, *Senior Vice President for Research and Programs, IPI*

Speakers: Mr. Jack Christofides, *Team Leader on Sudan, United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations*

Dr. Francis M. Deng, *Special Advisor to the UN Secretary-General for the Prevention of Genocide*

Dr. Alex de Waal, *Program Director, Social Science Research Council*

10:40 am – 11:00 am Coffee Break

11:00 am – 12:30 pm **Panel II: Beyond the Referenda: Preparing for the Future**

What role can the UN system, member states, and regional and sub-regional organizations play in helping the key parties negotiate post-referendum issues, such as citizenship, oil sharing, foreign relations, and banking and currency? Can strategies be developed that link the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and the Darfur peace process in ways that promote long-term stability and address the center/periphery issues at the heart of Sudan's conflicts? What role can the UN, member states, and key regional actors play in promoting national reconciliation? In case of a vote for secession in the South Sudan referendum, what would be the major obstacles to recognition? How can the UN most effectively coordinate internally, as well as with other key stakeholders, in addressing these issues?

Chair: Ambassador Adonia Ayebare, *Director, Africa Program, IPI*

Speakers: Dr. Vladimir Zhagora, *Senior Political Affairs Officer, Africa I Division, Department of Political Affairs, United Nations*

Dr. Suliman Baldo, *Africa Director, International Center for Transitional Justice*

Dr. Albaqir Mukhtar, *Director, KACE (al-Khatim Adlan Centre for Enlightenment and Human Development), Sudan*

12:30 pm – 12:40 pm **Closing Remarks**

Dr. Edward C. Luck, *Senior Vice President for Research and Programs, IPI*