



The Future of South Sudan

**MARCH 14, 2011
8:30 AM – 12:45 PM**

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

In January, the people of South Sudan clearly expressed a desire to part from the North with almost 99% voting for secession. Worst case scenarios underscoring a potential return to warfare between the North and the South if the referendum were delayed or mishandled have been averted. The South Sudan referendum went off smoothly and on time. It was a transparent process, and the results, officially announced in early February, have been accepted by the North. On July 9, after the six month post-referendum period stipulated by the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement has expired, South Sudan is scheduled to become an independent state. It would become the first new state established in Africa in nearly two decades.

While this is an exciting period for the people of South Sudan, the future presents them (and their neighbors in the North) with many difficult tasks and challenges. The status of Abyei and post-referendum issues between North and South – citizenship, oil sharing, border demarcation, currency, and others – remain to be resolved. In addition, the South faces significant statebuilding challenges, ranging from reforming the security sector and developing inclusive political institutions to strengthening public administration and enhancing public goods such as education and health care.

This roundtable discussion will bring together approximately 30-40 experts working on the Sudan from the UN Secretariat, member states, the African Union, and the NGO community for an interactive dialogue on the challenges of the post-referendum environment and statebuilding in South Sudan. In particular, the discussions will focus on strategies that the UN, its member states, other multilateral institutions, and NGOs can pursue to help all parties to resolve post-referendum issues and the Abyei impasse and to assist the people of South Sudan in building an effective and inclusive state. The discussion will be convened under the Chatham House rule of non-attribution.

Agenda:

8:30 – 9:00 AM **Breakfast**

9:00 – 9:15 AM **Welcome**

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

9:15 – 10:45 AM **Panel I: *Transitioning to Statehood***

What role can the UN system, member states, and regional and sub-regional organizations play in helping the parties to resolve the impasse in Abyei and negotiate key post-referendum issues related to border demarcation, remaining security issues, citizenship, oil sharing, assets, debts, and currency? What role

can external actors play in promoting reconciliation among various actors in the South (as well as between the North and the South)? How can the UN most effectively coordinate internally, as well as with other key stakeholders, in addressing these challenges? How will UNMIS be reconfigured moving forward and what will be its mandate in South Sudan?

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

Speakers: Ms. Margaret Carey, *Director, Africa I Division, Department of Peacekeeping Operations, United Nations*

Mr. Nicholas Haysom, *Director, Political, Peacekeeping and Humanitarian Affairs, Executive Office of the UN Secretary-General*

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

10:45 – 11:00 AM Coffee Break

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM **Panel II: *Building the New State***

What are the major state-building challenges facing South Sudan? What strategies can South Sudan employ to develop state capacity (eg: sequencing and prioritizing tasks)? More broadly, what role can the UN system, member states, regional and sub-regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, and international financial institutions play in helping South Sudan to develop effective state institutions responsive to the needs of the public? How can the UN most effectively coordinate internally, as well as with other key stakeholders, in supporting South Sudan's statebuilding efforts?

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

Speakers: H.E. Mr. Ezekiel Lol Gatkuoth, *Chief of Mission to the United States, Government of South Sudan*

Mr. João Honwana, *Director, Africa I Division, Department of Political Affairs, United Nations*

Mr. Jordan Ryan, *Director, Crisis Prevention and Recovery Unit and Assistant Administrator, United Nations Development Programme*

12:30 – 12:45 PM **Closing Remarks**

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