

Committee: Triumvirate Council On The Issue of Sudan  
Position: North Sudan Minister of Foreign Trade  
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In context of a 20% population loss, 75% decrease in oil production, nearly 20% unemployment rate, and nearly \$36 billion debt, the time for foreign trade and investment for Sudan has never been more pressing. Sudan stands at a crossroads in a time of great crisis for itself and for the world as a whole. It is now that we must establish ourselves as a major player in the global and African economy, and by doing so we will be able to grow as a people and as a country through development of infrastructure, increasing GDP per capita, as well as higher literacy and employment rates.

Our primary focus in Foreign Trade should be with the new nation of South Sudan. Despite our separation we are undoubtedly tied to them for crude oil and they are linked to us for refinement and transportation. As long as South Sudan is using our refineries and our pipelines we should be justly compensated, possibly above the 50% share agreed to in 2005. However, we cannot lose the valuable 500,000 barrels of oil, and we especially cannot sacrifice the accompanying \$7.8 billion. To this ends, I believe that securing an oil deal with South Sudan, specifically one that reopens exports through our pipelines, should be a top priority, as it will give us crucial funds to help our country and will create unity between the two regions.

On the subject of oil it is also necessary to maximize the efficiency of any reserves we have left, and to protect or attempt to secure those in the Heglig region. The more oil we have the more we can export and the more important we will become to others. We should also look into other industries that are in need of growth. With agriculture employing roughly 80% of our population, increasing its production and value to the outside would have potential to reap great benefits. Strong trade relationships already exist between us and our neighbors such as Egypt and Saudi Arabia for goods such as cotton, gum, grain, wheat, and livestock. Increasing agricultural production will help increase our trade surplus, create food for our own people, stimulate job growth, and provide close ties to our Islamic brothers.

However, it is also necessary to move beyond our established markets. If we are to succeed in this 21st century economy, we must prepare for a world that is more advanced than simply crop and oil production. Our irrigation systems need work, we only have one railroad, our cities are in ruin, and our communications networks are in desperate need of modernization. While these conditions remain, we will never be able to attract enough foreign trade or business, so we must find partners willing to invest in Sudan to make us great.

Historically, our trade with other Islamic nations has brought us the greatest benefit, from Egyptian food trade to weapons and military deals with Iran and Russia. These countries supported our attempts for unification of the Sudanese state and have stood by us in times of crisis. President al-Bashir said it best when he stated: "From the first day, our policy was clear: To look eastward, toward China, Malaysia, India, Indonesia, Russia, and even Korea and Japan, even if the Western influence upon some [of these] countries is strong." I agree with his belief that we must look to Eastern countries

to prove Sudan with a strong incentive to improve, the ties that will allow us to develop new sectors of the economy, and trade relations that will be mutually beneficial.

In addition, I recommend that while the US has been rather harsh with us in recent years, we make sure that our actions and trade relations do not anger them enough to renew total sanctions or to work against us in the UN.

In order for trade to resume we must settle the border disputes peacefully. Violence can bring no good to trade, as it scares off potential partners and disrupts the profitable flow of oil. Trade will only survive if all parties are mutually benefitted and if Sudan is able to progress. We must stabilize ourselves and improve ourselves internally in order to look outwards and even have a product to offer. In addition, we must make use of historically strong trading partners and look for new ones in emerging Eastern markets so that we will be able to reassert our position in the world.