

Committee: Triumvirate Council On The Issue of Sudan
Council of International Representatives
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MITMUNC 2011 Position Paper

Since the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), also known as the Navisha Agreement, which ended two decades of civil war between North and South Sudan, as well as the 2011 referendum, the region of North and South Sudan has experienced many issues and conflicts that prevent the two nations from reaching peace. Such issues range from religious and ethnic differences to border disputes and economic disputes (oil management).

The State of Eritrea would like to first congratulate the Republic of South Sudan on its recent independence. Eritrea has had a commitment to South Sudan since the 1994 PANAFA meeting in Kampala, where it was the only partner that advocated for the inalienable right of the people of southern Sudan. Our proud nation also has a deep appreciation for the solid role of SPLM and the Government of South Sudan (GOSS) and the heavy prices they paid for self determination, as Eritrea provide major military assistance to the faction in the 1990's. Eritrea currently is on extremely favorable terms with the Republic of Sudan as well: we are presently exchanging interests and boosting development between our two nations and are in the process of removing borders to increase the movement of people and goods across our lands. Also, let it be recognized that Eritrea was the first country to challenge Ocampo's International Criminal Court appeal. With that in mind, Eritrea is supportive of both nations.

As a member of the Council of International Representatives, Eritrea finds itself in a very peculiar situation, as it is on favorable terms and supports both the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan. However, it would be emphasized that Eritrea is committed to economic development and integration in the wider Horn of Africa and Red Sea regions, including the entirety of Sudan. Eritrea welcomes South Sudan, and wishes to work with both nations while encouraging the parties to reach an agreement. As our esteemed President Isaias Afwerki so kindly stated, Eritrea believes that "Sudanese are more knowledgeable and better able to resolve their problems, and we push for a Sudanese solution. Any role of the neighboring countries should have a supporting and secondary character." Nevertheless, our honorable nation is committed to be a broker for peace, and thus realizes the need for mutual cooperation, through the exchange of expertise and experience among North Sudan, South Sudan, and Eritrea. As one of the younger nations of Africa, Eritrea gained independence and self determination in 1993, our nation has the unique ability to be a model for the new nations. We share many similarities to the two factions of Sudan, especially South Sudan, as our independence was bitter and costly too, but our nation rose from ashes to become what it is today. However, Eritrea made many mistakes in our post-independence struggle -- we looked inwards when we most needed to look outwards to the world, as a result Eritrea faced more tribulations than needed. As a result, North and South Sudan can avoid making our same mistakes by following three principles: diminish the usefulness of revolutionary actors, realize the importance of rational diplomacy and international affairs (seek favor and assistance), and achieve reasoned development through the creation of intelligence and education sectors.

Nonetheless, many of the problems facing North and South Sudan are unique to their region and therefore must be dealt with through distinctive solutions. Although the religious conflicts, mainly between the Muslim North and the Animist South, were slightly solved with the passage of the 2011 referendum, border disputes, especially in Abyei, South Kordofan, and the Blue Nile, still remain a menace to the peace of the region. Ethnic conflicts (e.g between the Messiria and Ngok Dinka) and

economic conflicts, such as the concentration of natural resources (e.g. oil) impair the passage of productive resolutions. Eritrea views the fighting as well as the amount of refugees/ displaced persons in the three aforementioned regions quite regretful and holds the firm belief that in order to relieve tensions between North and South Sudan, the crises in Abyei, South Kordofan, and the Blue Nile need to be resolved. Therefore, Eritrea can recommend that a policy of enhancing both the international and United Nations representation in those regions, encouraging a method of informing inhabitants of the region of rulings, and a plan of efficient border demarcation be established. It is not simply recommended to divide up the regions, rather ethnic ties and placement of nomadic communities should be accounted for. In the end, Eritrea is in favor of any resolution passed by the North or South Sudanese Cabinets as long as war is avoided and both factions reach a just compromise.

One of the most pressing issues between the peace of the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan is oil management and the route of oil through the respective nations. With the secession of South Sudan, North Sudan lost more than half of its oil-producing capabilities, severely harming the economy of the nation. Since the only known route of oil transport in the region is through North Sudan, tensions have risen, as North Sudan seeks revenue and has taxed South Sudanese oil exports, angering South Sudan. Many possible solutions has sprouted, such as building infrastructure in South Sudan to offset costs, a creation of a joint energy industry, the construction of a pipeline, or enforcing the financial obligation of South Sudan to the North. Of these, Eritrea favors the construction of a pipeline as it would erase financial obligations to the North, as Eritrea is a supporter of self-sufficiency and that Eritrea firmly believes that each nation should be able to maximize its own resources without reliance on other nations. With that being said, fiscal elements are involved as funding for the construction would need to be financed, something Eritrea is willing to consider and hopes other interested nations will too. In the end, Eritrea believed that there is a need for negotiated agreement between the two factions for exportation of its oil through Sudan's pipelines.

Eritrea is committed to peace and the resolving of the issue of Sudan. As our admired President once rightfully said, "If Ethiopia is prosperous, I benefit. If Somalia is prosperous, I benefit. If Sudan is prosperous, I benefit."