

# **STRATEGIC LINKAGES II: KISUMU, KENYA, JUNE 16-23, 2001**

## **KISUMU DECLARATION**

The participants of the Kisumu Conference affirm that:

1. Liberation is the common and prime agenda for people of southern Sudan (including Abyei), Nuba Mountains, and South Blue Nile and that it is the people who are at the centre of the liberation struggle.
2. Self-determination is the central objective of the people's liberation struggle.
  - a. This inalienable right of self-determination should be exercised through internationally supervised referendums for all marginalized areas struggling for liberation as mentioned above.
  - b. There should be an extensive program of civic education in preparation for the referendum
  - c. Common commitment to self-determination should be a unifying factor for everyone involved in the struggle for liberation.

The participants of the Kisumu Conference resolve that:

3. All movements should:
  - a. Immediately cease hostilities amongst themselves and commit to open dialogue to resolve political differences.
  - b. Establish peace desks in collaboration with civil society organizations, coordinate and share information amongst themselves, and maintain close contact with the NSCC
4. The SPLM should:
  - a. Clarify its position particularly in blocking participation of civilian participants to this conference vis-a-vis the National Convention (1994), Civil Society Conference (1996) and the SPLM/A-Church Dialogue (1997), and the democratic positions espoused in these documents concerning freedom of movement and assembly.

- b. Take appropriate actions to prevent those Nuer who join SPLM/A from attacking their own people
- 5. The Nuer community should:
  - a. With facilitation of NSCC, bring together leaders of SSLM and SPDF to establish a framework for unity and peace.
- 6. The NSCC should:
  - a. Continue and strengthen dialogue with SPLM in a timely manner to bring it and the people in the areas under its control back into the people-to-people peace process.
  - b. Organize individual meetings with all the movement leaders to establish the foundation for another inclusive meeting on the peace process. This process should begin with SPLM and SPDF, but they should not prevent progress with all other movements.
  - c. Fully involve all elements of civil society in the process of reconciliation and unification.
    - i. Ensure that women are empowered and have an active voice at all levels of the people-to-people peace process in acknowledgement of their importance in the formation of values and historical exclusion.
    - ii. Ensure that youth are wholly represented in the process.
  - d. Encourage grass-root dialogue, forming community peace committees that should be morally supported by the various political movements. The grassroots process should remain independent from the movements.
  - e. Review the talks held in 1991-92 to reconcile the split between the Torit and Nasir factions, to ascertain whether the reasons for failure of negotiations are still valid.
  - f. Develop conceptual framework for southern unity in dialogue with the movements.
  - g. Ensure that Equatoria is encouraged and facilitated to participate fully in the people-to-people peace process.

- h. Maintain and protect its neutrality, independence from political interference, and spiritual growth and strengthen its capacity to lead the process and manage complex issues.
  - i. Engage more fully regional churches and church councils, including FECCLAHA, in the peace process.
  - j. Ensure that all participants in the people-to-people peace process should have an accurate written record with consistent high quality translations so that all groups are able to present an accurate, detailed, and unified message to their constituencies.
  - k. Assume responsibility for all levels of people to people process through:
    - i. Improved field-based monitoring, reporting and evaluation
    - ii. Establishment of early warning mechanisms
    - iii. Sensitization of local populations
    - iv. Establishment of mechanisms to sustain peace (including common services at borders)
  - l. In collaboration with the donor community, international organizations on the ground, and other elements of civil society, fully implement the recommendations and resolutions of previous conferences.
  - m. Immediately implement the planned Nuer-Nuer peace conferences and actively support the Nuer Peace Committee.
  - n. Provide in conjunction with others organizations appropriate peace and conflict management training.
  - o. Expand and strengthen Radio Voice of Hope to support the people-to-people peace process, and encompass civic messages and education.
7. The International community should:
- a. Respond to the humanitarian tragedy in all parts of southern Sudan, the Nuba Mountains, and South Blue Nile.

- b. Establish an internationally supervised military no-fly zone covering southern Sudan, the Nuba Mountains, and Southern Blue Nile to prevent aerial bombardment of civilians.
- c. Continue support for the IGAD-facilitated peace negotiations, which should be expanded to include other opposition forces fighting for the right of self-determination and voices from civil society, and remain based on the declaration of principles (DOP), which affirms the right of self-determination.
- d. Continue to support the NSCC in the implementation of the people-to-people peace process through continued funding of activities and capacity development support.
- e. Bring pressure to bear on international oil companies to cease oil exploration and exploitation until there is a comprehensive and just peace agreement.
- f. Provide support to start the campaign against HIV/AIDS.

The conference participants believe firmly that:

- 8. All elements of southern Sudanese society must recognize the dire threat that HIV/AIDS poses and must take measures to prevent it.
- 9. The practice of enslavement and trade in human beings must be condemned and halted by all elements of Sudanese society and the international community.
- 10. This conference wishes to extend its thanks to the Kenya government and the people of Kisumu.

## **Strategic Linkages 2**

**Kisumu, Kenya, 16<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> June 2001**

### **NSCC Statement**

Unity of purpose, unity of effort, unity of ideals; these words sum up the spirit of Strategic Linkages 2. This conference, held in Kisumu, Kenya from 16<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2001 at the request of Sudanese traditional leaders, was part of the people-to-people peace and reconciliation process facilitated by the New Sudan Council of Churches (NSCC). It brought together more than 200 traditional leaders, elders and women from Sudan with representatives of civil society, politicians from the diaspora and members of southern political movements.

The purpose and objectives of this conference were to provide a forum for all actors in the Sudan to convene and for all their voices to be heard, to promote dialogue and look for consensus for a way forward, and to consolidate the achievements of the people-to-people peace process.

There were participants from a broad range of backgrounds, regions, and organisations in Sudan and the diaspora including more than 50 traditional chiefs, elders and women from southern Sudan. Embassies, donor partners and other international organisations attended the entire conference as observers and witnessed the Kisumu Declaration.

NSCC invited all southern political movements to this important meeting. The SPLM/A declined our invitation and physically blocked participation of citizens – including traditional and church leaders – in areas under SPLM/A control. We regret their non-cooperation but look forward to working constructively with all factions, movements and political leaders, including the SPLM/A, to forward justice and peace in southern Sudan. We suggest that any questions on the involvement or non-involvement of any factions or movements be addressed directly to them.

The **Kisumu Declaration**, containing the resolutions of the conference, is attached.

An immediate outcome of the conference was a request for a one-day meeting for the Nuer participants to explore and resolve their internal differences. This was implemented without delay in Kisumu on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2001, with more than 70 participants from 12 Nuer ethnic groups. Their resolutions are also attached.

NSCC

26<sup>th</sup> June 2001

Contact: Telar Deng, NSCC, [peacedesk@swiftkenya.com](mailto:peacedesk@swiftkenya.com)