

## The 8<sup>th</sup> Governors' Forum: a dialogue among leaders

On 26<sup>th</sup> October the annual Governors' Forum convened at the Legislative Assembly in Juba. H.E. Vice President Dr. Riek Machar Teny formally opened the event and delivered President Salva Kiir's keynote speech in his absence, highlighting the importance of the Forum and thanking UNDP for their consistent support to the event.

The Vice President chaired many of the Forum discussions, ensuring a balanced dialogue between all parties. He made special mention of the need for peaceful dialogue in the lead-up to January's historic referendum, calling on the Forum to reach out to other Southern Sudanese political leaders and parties.

The Forum provides the opportunity for State Governors to report on activities in their state, and for presentations from key GoSS ministries on developments in crucial areas such as finance, health and education. It is a valuable opportunity for dialogue on matters of importance to each state, and also serves as a reporting mechanism back to GoSS, outlining successes and challenges in the states.

"It has been a very successful Forum," said Joe Feeney, Head of Office, UNDP Southern Sudan. "It shows the commitment of government leaders to building institutions that can deliver security and basic services for their people."

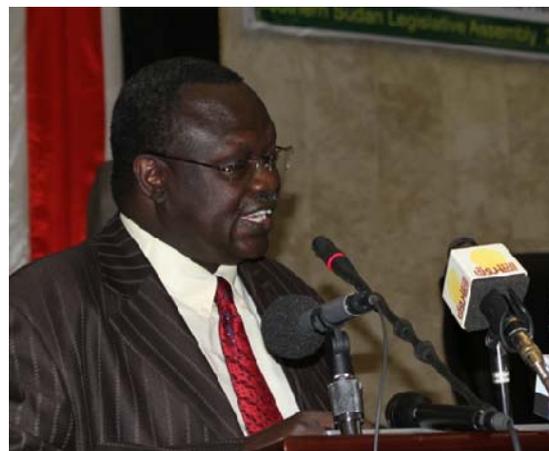
### Inside this issue:

8th Governors' Forum	1
High-level meeting on GoSS core functions	1
Terekeka peace and reconciliation talks	2
Rule of Law forums discuss access to justice	3
Community consultations focus on security	3
Knowledge Corner: the peace dialogue process	4

The presentations from State Governors were concerned with referendum arrangements as well as ensuring long-term service delivery in their respective states.

The main challenges shared by all the states were:

- Shortage of qualified personnel, such as teachers and health care workers, as well as government officials
- Inadequate infrastructure, especially roads, hospitals and schools
- Low agricultural production caused by a lack of tools and expertise; a high incidence of pests, disease and vulnerability to natural disasters like floods
- Insecurity caused by cattle theft, slow disarmament, disenfranchised youth and child abductions
- Insufficient budget to deliver services
- Need for services due to returnees



H.E. Dr. Riek Machar Teny, Vice President, formally opened the Eighth Governors' Forum

Although insecurity remains an issue in many states, it has clearly improved. At the last Forum, held in August 2009, it was the top issue of concern in many states.

This year, Governors placed a stronger emphasis on the shortage of trained and skilled civil servants at all levels of government, and a lack of infrastructure preventing them from delivering services.

### High-level meeting considers GoSS core functions strategy

In September, the Government of Southern Sudan outlined core governance functions which must be in place to ensure sustainable government before the end of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. A follow-up meeting was held on 17<sup>th</sup> November in Juba to enable the government to present its implementation plan. President Salva Kiir opened the meeting, highlighting the need for donor support for core governance initiatives.



UN Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General, Georg Charpentier

He was supported in this by comments from the UN's Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General, Georg Charpentier, who reminded development partners and the government of their mutual obligations under the plan. Finance Minister H.E. David Deng Athorbei outlined the way forward for Southern Sudan, listing detailed financial and technical requirements for implementation of the core functions. UNDP is working with GoSS in a number of core functions areas including Rule of Law, Fiduciary Management and Public Administration.

## UNDP supports county peace and reconciliation conference

The Ministry of Peace and CPA Implementation, in cooperation with UNDP, facilitated a peace and reconciliation conference between the Mundari communities and Aliab Dinka from 11-13 October in Terekeka. The objective of the conference was to discuss ways to end inter-county hostilities following incidents in 2009 that led to loss of lives, cattle and property, and the displacement of people.

The conference was held under the patronage of Central Equatoria State Governor, Clement Konga, and co-chaired by Terekeka County Commissioner, Clement Maring, and Awerial County Commissioner, David Mayom.

More than five hundred delegates from the two communities including dignitaries from the Peace Commission, state governments of Central Equatoria and Lakes, as well as parliamentarians from the two counties attended the historic event.

Commissioner Maring said, "This is a historic day marking the beginning of understanding between Mundari communities of Central Equatoria State and Aliab Dinka of Lakes State. This understanding brought communities of the two states together as one people to determine their destiny."

Protracted years of civil war in Southern Sudan have resulted in the illicit

and uncontrolled acquisition of arms by local communities. In his key note address to the two communities, Governor Clement noted that collection of unauthorized arms is vital to ensuring peace and stability. He also warned that inter-county hostilities could adversely affect the conduct of the January 2011 referendum on self-determination. "How can we have a successful referendum if our communities are at war with one another?" the Governor exclaimed.

The Government of Southern Sudan has created a special Bureau to deal with community security and small arms control. UNDP works closely and collaboratively with the Bureau, supporting inter-county peace dialogue initiatives in troubled counties. These initiatives include the reactivation of the role of traditional chiefs in early warning and conflict prevention.

Coming together for open and transparent talks, the two communities admitted that proliferation of illicit arms, cattle rustling and stealing, a shortage of grazing lands and disregard of tradi-

tional boundaries are the primary issues currently fuelling conflict.

"Now we all know that in order for us to live peacefully in a stable neighborhood, all unauthorized arms in the possession of our communities must be collected and police forces must be deployed in all key areas to maintain



Terekeka County Commissioner Clement Maring and Awerial County Commissioner David Mayom celebrate the closing of the peace talks.

law and order," said Commissioner Mayom in closing the conference. He commended UNDP and UNMIS for supporting community security initiatives and peaceful coexistence in the two counties.

"We thank UNDP for the immense support for peace and reconciliation. Without peace among communities there will be no stability in Southern Sudan," the Commissioner underlined.

At the close of the conference, the two communities agreed on a number of key resolutions. They pledged to end cattle raiding and forgive each other for past crimes and injustices, encouraged peaceful return of displaced people to their traditional homes, and set up joint special courts and a peace committee to follow up the implementation of the resolutions and recommendations.

### Southern Sudan Referendum Registration Underway

Voter registration got underway on November 15 for the upcoming referendum. Scheduled for 9 January 2011, the referendum gives Southern Sudanese the choice to either remain united with Sudan, or to secede, as agreed in the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement that brought an end to the country's civil war. UNDP and the UN peacekeeping mission in Sudan (UNMIS), through a joint structure - the UN Integrated Referendum and Electoral Division (UNIRED) - are supporting the work of the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission. Specifically, UNDP is managing a US\$63 million donor Basket Fund, with major donors including Australia, Canada, Denmark, the EU, France, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, the United Kingdom and Sweden.

Through the Basket Fund, UNIRED is providing technical and logistical support to the Referendum Commission and its subsidiaries in the South. This includes the development of the necessary regulatory framework, operational planning and logistical arrangements, security, training of referendum staff, public outreach and cooperation with external stakeholders, such as international and domestic observers, media and civil society.

## Rule of Law forums discuss security and access to justice

UNDP through the 'Access to Justice' project has been spearheading capacity development of key rule of law institutions and actors at the state level throughout the ten states. To consolidate the efforts of this institutional capacity development, monthly rule of law forums were established at the state level.

The rule of law forums are platforms where all stakeholders within the rule of law sector meet on a monthly basis to dialogue on

a broad range of issues affecting the sector at the state level. These forums have been instrumental in enlightening sector players on issues of rule of law, access to justice and human rights.

"Rule of law is the foundation for a strong, stable society," said Joe Feeney, Head of Office for UNDP Southern Sudan. "Building effective

rule of law institutions is vital for the future of Southern Sudan."

The forums ensure that leaders can identify challenges facing the security sector at the state level, and also find innovative solutions to those chal-



Participants at the 37th Upper Nile Rule of Law Forum Meeting.

lenges through collaboration. Through the participatory approach adopted in the forums, there has been a marked increase in the involvement of women in the forums. The event offers women a platform to articulate their concerns which are then addressed by the policy makers. At the GoSS level, the forums can be used to inform policy formulation through the

involvement of the sector players from the states.

On Monday 18 October 2010, UNDP Malakal successfully staged the 37<sup>th</sup> Upper Nile Rule of Law Forum Meeting at the Court of Appeal Greater Upper Nile Circuit/Judiciary Headquarters in Malakal. The Forum Meeting was chaired by Justice Kuc John Akot, assisted by Justice Ali Said of the Makal County Court. UNDP provided the co chair, technical and logistical support. Attending were thirty-five participants including the Upper Nile State Deputy Governor H.E. Andre Maya.

Discussion at the forum highlighted the need for more work towards resolving land disputes and for greater de-mining of land during the dry season. Other emerging issues and action points included the need to expedite the deployment of a new County Judge to Nassir County, and the community's desire to see greater follow-up on legal cases involving children and youths. The new UNDP Rule of Law Officer, Abdirahim Abikar, was also introduced to forum members.

### Community consultations lead to funding of regional security priorities

The Sudan Recovery Fund (SRF) has recently supported Eastern Equatoria and Warrap State governments in hosting successful meetings with the State Security Committees to determine urgent funding priorities for regions suffering from chronic insecurity. These meetings were chaired by the Governor and co-chaired by the UN Deputy Humanitarian and Resident Coordinator, Lise Grande. Previous meetings to determine stabilisation priorities have also been held in Jonglei and Lakes States.

The meetings are the second part of a two-stage participatory planning process linking stakeholder consultations at the county level to decision-making at the state level. Using the methodology developed by UNDP's Community Security and Arms Control Project (CSAC), consultations with a wide spectrum of stakeholders (men, women, traditional authorities, youth, and elders) were initially conducted across the States' counties to determine the steps needed to improve security and address the root causes of conflict. The process was led by the Southern Sudan Bureau for Community Security and Small Arms Control and supported by UNDP. Their findings were presented at the State Security Committee meetings in the four states.

The State Security Committee meetings in each state were followed by immediate consultations with the State Planning and Development Committees for endorsement. This has resulted in major commitments of funding from the SRF, with approximately US \$17m committed to stabilization projects in each state. These projects include road construction and the building of rule of law infrastructure, a radio station and haffirs. UNDP serves as the Administrative Agent for the SRF and the Management Agent/Lead Agency for several components of the Fund.

# Knowledge Corner: Guiding principles for Peace

A report from 2005 by the UN Division for Social Policy and Development (UNDESA), *Peace Dialogue in the Social Integration Process: An Alternative to Violence and Silence* presents a useful analysis of the peace dialogue process. The report uses a case study from Mali to illustrate a range of approaches to peace building which may be relevant to those working in development in post-conflict environments.

The researchers looked at the process of helping societies to transition from conflict to peace, and identified some key stages in the process that are commonly found when working in post-conflict situations.

Each stage requires a different approach to peace-building, ranging from military peacekeeping, community-based integration of displaced people, 'town hall' meetings and media and arts strategies. Dialogue is central to the transformation from one stage to another.

In applying this analysis to the Mali peace process of the 1990s, though oversimplified, it appears that instability in Mali arose from exclusion, with some northern peoples isolated from the development that was occurring in the metropolitan centre. A series of droughts in the 1970s and 1980s destroyed livelihood sources and drove many into exile.

Exiled youth gained employment in foreign armies returning later to Mali with military skills that they pitted against the Mali government. The government responded by convening a meeting with just one stakeholder. The stakeholders who were excluded from this meeting grew resentful and suspicious. Fighting resumed and spread.

The government fell and nation-wide fragmentation ensued. The turning point came with a new government that was open to all the parties. It was given impetus by one elder's peace dialogues that, when successful, were

replicated in neighbouring communities.

In a short time, a broader regional (and even national) peace movement emerged. Government, traditional leaders, women and civil society groups joined in peace dialogues.

International donors lent support. Inclusive development strategies were agreed. In 1996, in a public square in Timbuktu, three thousand firearms were burned in a symbolic Flame of Peace.

In subsequent years, nomads commemorated the event. Later the commemoration grew into national gatherings and, since 2001, the international music event *Festivals in the Desert*.

A range of social integration stakeholders were involved in the Mali peace process in different roles. Dialogue was central to the entire process, and it occurred across three domains: **sociopolitical dialogue** was evident in conflict resolution, whilst **civic dialogue** aimed at reducing tensions. This laid the groundwork for **socio-economic** dialogue to take place, focusing on livelihoods and inclusion of the northern peoples in national development plans.

## The key stages of the conflict and peace-building process are:

- Fragmentation – when inner/outer peace is shattered; survival is threatened.
- Exclusion – groups are disempowered and made invisible
- Polarization – competing groups clash in a quest for recognition and equality
- Co-existence – People tolerate diversity
- Collaboration – People participate in socio-economic planning for social justice
- Cohesion – People share meaning / values

Source: taken from a longer report by UNDESA October 2005.



**UNDP** is the UN's global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. UNDP is on the ground in 166 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges.



### Jobs at UNDP

We are now advertising for both national and international positions. You can access information on these positions by visiting the UNDP website at <http://jobs.undp.org> or <http://www.sudanjob.net>.

Sudan

United Nations Development Programme: UNDP Compound, P.O. Box 410  
Juba, Southern Sudan  
[infopss@undp.org](mailto:infopss@undp.org)