



Press Release

UNDP calls for the diaspora to help in rebuilding Sudan

Khartoum, 27 January 2005 – The United Nations Development Programme in Sudan has launched, in partnership with the Government of National Unity, its first project facilitating the transfer of diaspora expertise to Sudan. The project is part of UNDP global initiative Transfer of Knowledge Through Expatriate Nationals (TOKTEN) which encourages expatriate nationals to volunteer their expertise in the service of their homelands for short periods of time.

TOKTEN Sudan will encourage various Sudanese institutions to identify immediate capacity needs and bring interested expatriate Sudanese professionals to Sudan to share their skills and expertise for up to eight week periods. UNDP will cover the expatriates' travel expenses and provide a living allowance in Sudan. Through this project, UNDP aims to increase the participation of the Sudanese diaspora in the ongoing recovery and reconstruction efforts in Sudan, especially in war-affected areas.

"We are very pleased that Sudan has agreed to join the list of countries in which highly skilled expatriates have provided technical expertise, policy advice and research to governments, private and public sector enterprises, universities, and research centres in various fields", says Dr. Heba El-Kholy, UNDP Sudan Country Director. "We encourage expatriate Sudanese with lengthy experiences in their fields of specialization to engage in the rebuilding of their home-country".

TOKTEN was first implemented in Turkey in 1977, and has since been expanded to more than 25 countries including, India, Pakistan, China, the Philippines, Poland, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Vietnam, Lebanon, Syria, Senegal, and Nigeria.

The project is part of UNDP Sudan's Governance Programme that focuses on creating a conducive environment for sustainable human development and peace. Interested Sudanese professionals who are living abroad and have permanent residence or citizen status in another country are invited to apply to participate in this project. Information on eligibility and application forms for the institutions and participants are available online at www.sd.undp.org or at any UNDP Sudan office.

For more information, please contact:

Ganiyu A.Ipaye, TOKTEN Project Manager, UNDP Sudan; Tel: +249 18377 3121 (Ext: 410);
Fax: + 249 183 773128; Email: { [HYPERLINK "mailto:ganiyu.ipaye@undp.org"](mailto:ganiyu.ipaye@undp.org) } or { [HYPERLINK "mailto:tokten.sd@undp.org"](mailto:tokten.sd@undp.org) }
Aicha Elbasri; Communications Officer; UNDP Sudan; aicha.elbasri@undp.org

