

PRESS RELEASE

United Nations Development Programme



The National Elections Commission, the Ministry of International Cooperation and UNDP Sign the Elections Project Document

Khartoum – 28 May 2009 – The Chairman of the National Elections Commission, Mr. Abel Alier Kwai, representative of the Ministry of International Cooperation, State Minister Mr. Elias Nyamlell Wakoson, and the outgoing UNDP Country Director, Mr. Jerzy Skuratowicz, signed today the UNDP project document titled: Support to Elections and Democratic Processes. The project document lays the foundation for international support to the 2010 elections; which are critical to the implementation of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA).

Chairman Abel Alier remarked: “In this document, one is pleased at the spirit of cooperation between the Commission and international counterparts”. Chairman Alier also commended the efforts exerted by the international community, including UNDP, in support of the implementation of the CPA.

“The election project document is certainly one of the most important ones I have had the honor to sign in my three-year tenure as head of UNDP Sudan. This document promotes transparency, democratization, and cooperation; all what UNDP stands for”, said Mr. Skuratowicz at the signing ceremony.

The MIC State Minister, Professor Wakoson, highlighted the formidable task at hand to support election efforts which are critical to peace and stability in Sudan.

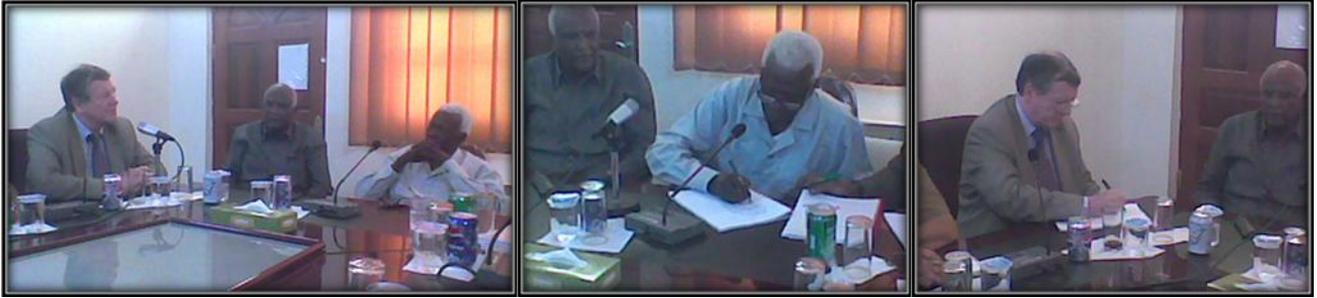
The Support to Elections and Democratic Processes project is an important platform for building up cooperation between Sudanese parties in North and South Sudan as well as in Darfur. It also allows closer collaboration between the National Elections Commission, the Ministry of International Cooperation and the international community led by the UN Mission in Sudan, UNDP, and the United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur.

The project contains an initial budget of 68.7 million USD to cover support to NEC, the Political Parties Affairs Council, civic and voter education, domestic observation, media training and monitoring and vital stakeholders such as women and youth.

The milestone event took place on the final day in office of the UNDP Sudan Country Director.

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UNDP Sudan Country Director Jerzy Skuratowicz and NEC Chairman Abel Alier signing the Elections Project Document in the presence of NEC Deputy Chair Abdalla Ahmed Abdalla.

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