



## THE UNITED NATIONS INTEGRATED REFERENDUM AND ELECTORAL DIVISION (UNIRED)

FACT SHEET

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### What is UNIRED?

Following the April 2010 elections in Sudan, the UN decided to merge into one team all UN election actors working in Sudan (UNMIS Electoral Assistance Division, UN Development Programme) in order to effectively support the upcoming Southern Sudan and Abyei referenda. The United Nations Integrated Referendum and Electoral Division (UNIRED) was thus established with a streamlined reporting and operational structure.

#### The mandate

UN Security Council Resolution 1590 (2005), UN Security Council Resolution 1870 (2009) and UN Security Council Resolution 1919 (2010) mandated UNMIS to:

- provide guidance and technical assistance to the parties to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in cooperation with other international actors.
- support the preparations for elections and referendums including an advisory task related to security arrangements.

#### The role of UNIRED

The Southern Sudan Referendum Commission (SSRC) is responsible for planning, organizing and conducting the referendum in Southern Sudan. Ownership of the whole process remains Sudanese and UNIRED's role is to provide advice and technical assistance to the SSRC and its subsidiary bodies throughout every phase of

the referendum processes. This includes the development of the necessary regulatory framework, operational planning, logistical arrangements, security, training of referendum staff, and public outreach and cooperation with external stakeholders, such as international and domestic observers, media and civil society.

#### Activities

UNIRED current activities include:

- Assisting the referendum authorities in the design of operational plans for conducting voter registration and polling.
- Assisting in preparing the procedures and training for voters registration, polling and counting.
- Procurement and transportation of referendum related materials and equipment.
- Security training for Southern Sudan and Sudan Police Forces Police Service officers.
- Advising in developing strategies for voter education, as well as public information materials.
- Support to accredit international and domestic observers.
- Coordination of international efforts in support to the referenda.

#### The field presence

The field structure of UNIRED is designed to enhance close and effective cooperation with the Sudanese referendum authorities.

UNIRED has offices and representatives in:

- Khartoum (where the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission HQ is situated).
- Juba (the seat of the Southern Sudan Referendum Bureau).
- Each of the 10 Southern Sudan states (liaising with the SSRC State High Committees).
- County level Referendum Support Bases (liaising with SSRC county subcommittees).
- Offices in: El Fasher, Khartoum, Kassala, Kadugli and Ed Damazin (supporting SSRC State Committees in the North).
- Abyei: a Regional Office to support the Abyei Area Referendum Commission once it is established.

### Partners

UNIRED's main partners are:

- The Southern Sudan Referendum Commission (SSRC)
- The Government of the Republic of Sudan
- The Government of Southern Sudan
- UN Agencies
- UN-AU Mission in Darfur

In addition, UNIRED, through a donor-supported UNDP Basket Fund, works with civil society organizations, domestic observers, the media, and the judiciary.

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