



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Council conclusions on Sudan

*2961st EXTERNAL RELATIONS Council meeting
Brussels, 15 September 2009*

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

- “1. The Council reaffirms its support for the peaceful and democratic development in the whole of Sudan and reiterates the importance of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and the interim national constitution. It underlines that the developments in Sudan have implications for the region as a whole.

2. The Council welcomes recent progress made but expresses its concern regarding the delayed and uneven implementation of the CPA, the deteriorating situation in South Sudan and the continued absence of a cease-fire agreement as well as the slow progress on political negotiations in Darfur. It expresses its concern at the situation in the Eastern Sudan where the underlying problems of poverty and marginalisation have yet to be resolved. Furthermore, the Council regrets the Government of Sudan (GoS) decision of non-ratification of the revised Cotonou Agreement and is concerned about the adverse effects this will have on those in need in Sudan.

3. The Council welcomes the Points of Agreement concluded by the parties of the CPA on 19 August regarding the implementation of the CPA, and commends the strong engagement of the United States. It urges the parties to keep the deadlines laid out in the accord. The EU will continue to coordinate its actions and support for the CPA with the international community.

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4. It calls on the parties to urgently implement outstanding CPA commitments, including the North-South border demarcation, the Abyei Road Map and the decision by the Permanent Court of Arbitration on the Abyei border demarcation. The parties should make full use of and cooperate with the Assessment and Evaluation Commission (AEC) and the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS).
5. The Council urges the Government of National Unity (GoNU) to speed up preparations, including resolving the census issue, with regard to the nation-wide elections in April 2010, well ahead of the crucial voter registration phase in November 2009. It is imperative that the GoS, and the Government of South Sudan (GoSS) urgently establish a conducive environment for the election process and ensure full respect for human rights and democratic principles. The EU will support the electoral process and plans to send in the next few weeks an exploratory mission to Sudan to assess the conditions for a possible EU Electoral Observation Mission.
6. It calls on the parties to make all necessary preparations to allow for the 2011 referendum to be held according to the provisions of the CPA. It encourages all Sudanese stakeholders to engage in dialogue with regard to post-referendum arrangements. Active participation of women should be encouraged. The EU is committed to facilitate these endeavours, including by providing technical advice and assistance.
7. The Council expresses its concern at the frequent outbreaks of violence in the South Sudan. It calls upon the GoSS to make efforts to uphold the rule of law and to address insecurity. The Council emphasizes the need for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. It encourages the GoSS to implement the commitments of the Juba Compact, agreed on with EU and other development partners. Furthermore, it calls on the CPA parties to strengthen the capacity and integrity of the Joint Integrated Units in the Three Protocol Areas.
8. It urges the GoS and the Darfur rebel movements to urgently engage in the Darfur peace talks under the leadership of the UN/AU Chief Mediator, Djibril Bassolé. The Council welcomes the Mediator's efforts to encourage coherence among movements. The Council underlines the importance of ensuring opportunities for civil society in Darfur to contribute to conflict resolution and reconciliation. It underlines that the GoS has a responsibility to protect the civilian population and to facilitate the full and effective deployment of the AU-UN Mission in Darfur (UNAMID).
9. The Council calls on the GoS, local authorities and rebel movements in Darfur to facilitate humanitarian access and to respect international humanitarian law and humanitarian principles. It strongly condemns the continued violence against civilians and humanitarian actors, including the abduction of aid workers in Darfur.
10. A lasting peace in Darfur and the region requires normalisation of the relations between Sudan and Chad. The Council calls on the governments of Sudan and Chad to implement, without further delay, previous commitments and urges regional partners to intensify their assistance in this process.

11. The Council underlines that impunity for international crimes can never be accepted. It follows closely the work of the Mbeki panel on justice and reconciliation in Darfur. The Council reiterates its support for the International Criminal Court (ICC) and calls upon the GoS to cooperate fully with the ICC in accordance with its obligations under international law."
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