

There is an urgent need for the Canadian Government and general public to gain a better understanding of the situation in Sudan and to come up with viable channels for supporting the peace process. Canada's involvement and influence in the Sudan is significant (especially with the oil company activity), yet the needs and issues related to Sudan have seldom received the attention and focus which they deserve.

A symposium on the Sudan peace process will be held in two locations in Canada (Calgary and Ottawa), with a focus on Canadian - Sudanese issues which are directly connected to the economic and political influence of Canada in Sudan in the context of the peace process.

## **2 GOALS OF THE SYMPOSIUM**

2.1 To explore and highlight appropriate responses for the Canadian public and private sectors with respect to their conduct and activities in enhancing the peace process in Sudan by:

- Providing forums where the views and opinions of the Sudanese people can be heard with regard to Canadian involvement in Sudan, and;
- Discuss the effectiveness of existing activities and ideas for peace and development with invited non combatant representatives from Sudanese civil society.

2.2 To outline the role which civil society (both within Sudan and in the international community) can play in promoting peace in Sudan, including the integration of civil society counterparts into the IGAD process in conjunction with the IPF.

## **3 ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED**

Through a series of plenary presentations and discussion, followed by workshops, the Symposium will address issues related to the following three broad themes:

- The Peace Process
- Human Rights
- Civil Society Capacity Building

It is important to stress the interconnectedness of these themes and of the issues which will be discussed by panellists and participants at the Forum. For example, the question