

LIMITED CIRCULATION

SUDAN TASK FORCE

REPORT FROM THE ROUNDTABLE "WHAT CAN CANADA DO TO HELP?"

March 14, 2000

Ottawa

The Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development organised a roundtable on Sudan on March 14, 2000, in Ottawa as an enlarged meeting of the Sudan Task Force. The roundtable brought together experts, academics, NGOs and government officials to examine how Canada might best contribute to the Peace Process(es) and to consider mechanisms and tools available to carry out these contributions. The discussion was a part of the ongoing work of the Task Force.

1. Framing the Discussion

The lack of a coherent framework mapping the conditions for reconciliation in Sudan was identified. A rigorous analysis of key actors and their interests was also said to be missing. As a result, a sketch of what such a framework could look like emerged in the course of the day's discussion. To gain a firm understanding of the conflict in Sudan and conditions necessary for peace to "break out" actors to the conflict should be identified, their interests laid bare and the mechanics/tools of reconciliation explored. There are three levels at which strategic action occurs: 1) state, 2) civil society/grass-roots, and 3) the space in between. The framework should also identify ways to deconstruct the structures of violence and construct the structures of peace.

The roundtable discussion followed roughly this outline and focussed on:

1. outside state actors key to the Sudan conflict and their interests
2. outside strategic action on the civil society/grass-roots level and its link to the state level processes
3. mechanisms and tools Canada could utilise to contribute to peace in Sudan.

2. Context: The Role and Interests of Outside Actors

The outside state actors involved in the Sudan peace process include:

- 1) *The Inter-governmental Authority on Development – IGAD*