

In order to consolidate these positive trends, NSCC deployed a team of mobilisers and an elaborate network of consultations were set up. Although Wunlit recommended that the next major conference be in the land of the Nuer, the organisers failed to obtain agreement on a suitable site where security would be sufficiently guaranteed. This regrettable situation was a disappointment to all, and finally, Liliir was agreed as an alternative.

Organisation of the Conference

The host community prepared the conference facilities and NSCC provided facilitation and technical support. An additional water point was secured with assistance from the NGO community. Security was provided by the SPLA. Because of the relative distances between the groups, airlifts had to be conducted for the visiting delegates. A number of observers also attended, including elders from the diaspora (and other parts of Sudan), church leaders, international representatives and the media.

The occasion commenced with the traditional sacrifice of a white bull and the conference followed a now proven procedure. Firstly, beginning with the hosts, the delegates faced each other and told their story of transgressions, hostility and violence against their people. A period was then offered for rebuttal, comments and observations. This dialogue continued for three days and produced a catalogue of sensitive but key issues upon which a peace agreement would be fashioned. In response, 9 working groups were established to address the topics in more detail:

1. PROPOSED MECHANISMS FOR: I) THE IDENTIFICATION OF MISSING PERSONS; II) THE RETURN OF ABDUCTEES; AND III) THE RECOGNITION OF MARRIAGES
2. PROPOSED MECHANISMS: TO ENSURE THE FREE MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE & THEIR ANIMALS, AND THE PROVISION OF ACCESS TO ANIMAL WATER POINTS AND GRAZING AREAS
3. PROPOSED MECHANISMS FOR: THE IDENTIFICATION OF COMMON BORDERS & THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BORDER CHIEFS, POLICE, COURTS AND PATROLS
4. PROPOSED MECHANISM FOR: MONITORING THE PEACE AGREEMENT GENERALLY
5. PROPOSED MECHANISMS: TO ENCOURAGE THE RESOLUTION OF INTERNAL NUER CONFLICTS IN THE FUTURE
6. PROPOSED MECHANISMS: TO CONSOLIDATE AND DEVELOP THE RECONCILIATIONS BETWEEN THE (GAWAAR) NUER AND PADANG & BOR DINKA
7. PROPOSED MECHANISMS: TO RESOLVE THE TENSIONS BETWEEN THE LOU NUER AND THE ANYUAK IN AKOBO
8. PROPOSED MEASURES: TO BRING ABOUT DIALOGUE WITH THE PIBOR MURLE
9. PROPOSED MECHANISMS: TO SAFEGUARD THE PEACE PROCESS FROM POLITICAL OPPORTUNISM AND TO ENCOURAGE THE PARTICIPATION OF THE REMAINING UPPER NILE GROUPS, TO JOIN THE PROCESS