

Could this be the case in Sudan?

CIDA has initiated and supported some concrete initiatives for peace. It has provided financial and technical support to the Peace Secretariat in Nairobi which functions as an organised forum for peace talks. *It has also began to incorporate conflict resolution objectives into larger development projects.* Some ground-breaking work has been already done. Furthermore, CIDA supports the following initiatives and projects:

- initiatives by Project Ploughshares
- the Inter-Africa Group which functions as the IGAD resource group for consultations
- a project by Alternative conducting a survey of Sudanese civil society in the North and South and devising strategic initiatives that would involve civil society in the peace process (watch for an upcoming Conference in Ottawa)
- a symposium on Sudan in Ottawa (March 30 – April 1, 2000, with the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development)<sup>1</sup>
- the Southern Sudan Council of Churches
- a Dutch initiative on the role of women (watch for a Conference in April, Maastricht)
- ongoing negotiations at the Peace Secretariat in Nairobi
- ongoing work at CIDA on Sudan

*The peace process in Sudan, including Track I, Track II and Track I ½ is a "high risk venture" and it may very well fail. It is necessary to maintain a long-term vision and expect setbacks.* In this respect, the inflated expectations of the Canadian public have to be adjusted. The media play a big role in forming these unrealistic expectations about the effectiveness of foreign policy in Sudan as they tend to paint the picture in black and white. The complexity of the peace process, nature of the enmity, strategic interests of inside and outside actors, war as a "business" or survival decision, all have to be considered when addressing the conflict in Sudan.

Besides its humanitarian and peacebuilding activities, *Canada is looking at the possibility of putting a resolution on Sudan to the UN Security Council.* However, such a resolution could actually adversely impact the IGAD peace process and run into fierce resistance at the Security Council and the General Assembly. Would a UN resolution be helpful to IGAD and IPF or hinder/fracture the peace process? The potential of the UN resolution could be to speak to the overarching/interdependent desire to achieve peace and development in Sudan under the umbrella of Canada's human security objectives. The resolution would not have to be a bold statement. It could serve as a rallying point for others and a launching point for further Canadian initiatives.

Given the conflicting messages about the UN resolution from the Canadian government, it is difficult to ascertain now whether not having a resolution would irritate partners and the

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<sup>1</sup>Now postponed due to visa problems for participants.