

## **2 Summary of Recommendations of the Sudan Civil Society Symposium**

### **2.1 Enhancing the Role of Civil Society in the Sudan Peace Process**

1. Participants endorsed the People to People Peace Process and the use of traditional methods of peace building. It is further recommended that the New Sudan Council of Churches extend its peacebuilding initiatives from south to north, engaging grassroots communities in its process with emphasis on work in the south until that work is comprehensive, but with some initiatives between north and south. Given the extent of north-south mistrust in Sudan, it is recommended that efforts be made to open lines of communication and dialogue between civil society groups in both parts of the country.
2. Interested parties should contemplate ways to put the necessary civil administration into place in the south as part of the peacebuilding and rehabilitation effort. The barriers that exist to accessing funds for such activities in SLPA-held territory must be overcome in creative and innovative ways to help maintain the gains of the People to People Peace Process.
3. Given the absence of development assistance for Sudan, all agencies should seek ways to go beyond the provision of emergency assistance and provide inputs that contribute to long term development.
4. There is a need for NGOs from IPF (IGAD Partners Forum) countries and other countries to monitor and track the IPF process. This can be done through the establishment of a shadow NGO body to the IPF with the objective of feeding NGO and civil society views into the IPF. Care should be taken within the international NGO network to encourage all NGOs involved to refrain from taking away ownership of issues and processes in Sudan from Sudanese groups.
5. Given the successes of the People to People Peace Process, clear and firm steps should be taken to disseminate information on this initiative within the north and south of Sudan. Furthermore, SIARG and other interested parties elsewhere should endeavour to find resources to support the current peace initiatives of civil society groups and NGOs.
6. Given the size of the Sudan problem and also the limited prospects for peace, action should be taken to form an international network of external groups working in Sudan. Furthermore, a particular task of this network might be to conduct international monitoring of and action on the human rights crisis in Sudan.
7. Given the limited flow of information between Canadian NGOs and Sudanese groups in Canada, and recognizing the participation of Sudanese groups in Canada, ways should be found to improve the flow of information and the contact between Canadian NGOs and the Sudanese community groups in Canada. Furthermore, Sudanese groups in Canada should be invited to engage in the peace building process going on in Sudan and to undertake training or other activities within their own community related to the peace process underway within Sudan. Efforts should be made to support better co-ordination and communication among Sudanese groups in Canada.
8. Given the Canadian Government's response to the recommendations of the Harker Mission report, Canadians should press for support for enabling the voices of Sudan to speak to the peace process and tap into the international network.