

for engagement. This framework falls short of the Declaration of Principles. It avoids the tough issues of religion and self-determination and addresses "softer" questions like the need to reduce levels of propaganda fuelling the conflict. The monetary leverage of Libya's government ensures Sudan's participation in such initiatives. However, the framework for negotiations is set by Sudan and the reconciliation initiatives of Egypt and Libya are often frustrated. The government of Sudan perceives the Egyptian initiatives as aimed at reconciliation of the North, while IGAD is increasingly seen as having a Southern focus.

3) IGAD Partners Forum - IPF

The IPF is a group of Western/Northern countries who desire to provide support for the IGAD peace process. The U.S., Canada, Norway, Great Britain, Italy, Netherlands, and the EU constitute the key IPF countries. The U.S. is the most influential. Factors playing into the U.S. position on Sudan include: the Christian black caucus; relationship with China (Taiwan), the Middle East, Egypt and Islamic relations in general; the activities of WTO and IPO (Intellectual Property Organisation); the fear of terrorism and proliferation of small arms, commercial interests (Coca Cola and oil in particular); as well as humanitarian concerns about the plight of Sudanese. It would appear that the U.S. has made up its mind to support the SPLM/A. The U.S. government encourages the international community to support the IGAD process (perceived to be effectively stalled by the Sudanese government's unwillingness to allow secularisation). It sees the self-determination issue as important and does not endorse the Egypt/Libya initiatives. It feels that Canada could be helpful but multiple initiatives should be avoided.

4) The United Nations Security Council

3. Civil Society, Track II and Track I ½ Initiatives

The issues taken up during the discussion of civil society and Track II initiatives included:

1. the link between NGOs and the civil society in general to the official negotiating process
2. the importance of engaging civil society in the peace process
3. Track I ½ initiatives
4. the need for a diversified and incremental approach to negotiations

The link between Track I (formal negotiations conducted by government officials) and Track II (NGOs and civil society) initiatives in Sudan remains fragile. The NGOs are anxious because their concerns and interests are not represented in the official peace process. Sudanese communities are suspicious of their leadership "cutting deals" with former arch enemies while ignoring pressing social and other concerns. *Therefore, trust must be build among the diverse Sudanese groups and bridges built between communities and their leadership.*

The engagement of Sudanese civil society in the peace process was seen as imperative.