

20/02/05

H.E. Dr. John Garang de Mabior

Chairman and C-in-C of the SPLM/A

**Subject: Draft Constitution of Southern Sudan
Proposal of the Southern Sudan Civil Society**

Your Excellency,

On behalf of the Southern Sudanese Civil Society represented by its Networks namely FOSCO, NESI, SWAN, SINCC and NSCC, I have the pleasure and honour to present to you **Draft Constitution of Southern Sudan.**

Motivated and inspired by the historical signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) on January 9th, 2005, between the SPLA/M and GOS, the South Sudanese Civil Society held a consultation at Shalom House, Nairobi, between 10 –15 February 2005 entitled “Southern Sudan Governance: Civil Society Legal Experts Consultation. The agenda was “*Southern Sudan Civil Society perspective on governance and constitutional challenge*”.

The consultation noted with grave concern that since Sudan’s independence, Southern Sudanese felt alienated from the government and structures of authority. They felt neglected, victimized, persecuted and have no control over their destiny. The Constitution of Southern Sudan must emphatically redress these historical injustices. A consensus emerged among participants that good governance must be anchored in a democratic Southern Sudan Constitution that must guarantee equality in all spheres of life in Southern Sudan. The consultation ultimately opted for preparation of a ***draft Southern Sudan Constitution*** and adopted it as its resolutions.

We hereby humbly present the draft to your Excellency as a humble contribution from the Sudanese civil society with hope that the Southern Sudan Constitutional Drafting Committee (SSCDC) in its deliberations may consider it.



The consultation called upon the SPLM and the GOS to secure the participation of Southern Sudanese Civil Society in the process of constitutional making and on the manner in which they prefer to be governed

The participants further resolved to campaign for transparent process of constitutional dialogue and wider dissemination of the draft constitution of Southern Sudan among all the stakeholders. It further resolved to follow up its resolution on holding a South Sudanese Civil Society Constitutional Conference to discuss the Draft Constitution of Southern Sudan.

We take this opportunity to thank you and your colleagues for your tireless efforts for sustainable peace and a democratic Constitution for Southern Sudan. A democratic constitution that will entrench the values of transparency, legitimacy, representation and inclusiveness; while, at the same time, capturing the essence of the SPLM's and the peoples of South Sudan core values and aspirations in the interest of sustainable peace and development within South Sudan, Sudan and the region as a whole.

In the process of achieving these noble goals, we assure you of our unwavering commitment, cooperation and support.

Yours Sincerely,

Dong Samuel Lual
Secretary General
South Sudan Law Society
ON behalf of south Sudan Civil Society Networks

Copy:

1. H.E. CDR.Salva Kiir Mayardit
First Vice Chairman of the SPLM and
Chief of General Staff of the SPLM.
2. H.E.CDR. Riak Machar
Second Vice Chairman of the SPLM
3. H.E.CDR James Wani Igga
Third Vice Chairman of the SPLM
4. H.E.CDR Michael Makuei
Commissioner of Legal affairs and
Constitutional Development