



Sudan's Oil Industry After the Referendum, Conference

DECLARATION



On 7-8 December, the conference "*Sudan's Oil Industry After the Referendum*" was held in Juba. The conference was attended by well over 100 representatives of the Government of Southern Sudan, Corps Diplomatique, representatives of the Governments of Unity State and Upper Nile State, members of the National Legislative Assembly, the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Assemblies of Unity State and Upper Nile State, the SPLA, the Chinese National Petroleum Company, Total S.A. the Churches, civil society organisations, the academic community, and the media.

Many serious concerns were expressed about the impact of the oil industry on people and nature, as a result of inadequate regulation and enforcement. Among the most pressing issues reported were:

1. Environmental degradation, damage to wildlife, pollution, and hydrological disturbances
2. Absence of tangible local development
3. Inadequate compensation for injustices and damages suffered by the local communities
4. Lack of transparency and absence of accountability
5. Insecurity
6. Disrespectful relationships between companies, communities and authorities
7. Inadequate clean-up, remediation and rehabilitation of operating sites.

The conference noted that the obligation established by the CPA and Interim National Constitution to implement the 'best known practices' in the oil industry, has not been respected, and concluded that Sudan is in urgent need of adequate regulation of the oil industry in all its aspects, in accordance with the highest international standards. Furthermore, participants to the conference welcomed the decision by the GOSS to take into account social and environmental impact of the oil industry when finalising its future Petroleum Policy.

The conference noted with great interest the existence of international standards like:

- ✓ IFC Performance Criteria
- ✓ Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI)
- ✓ Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights (VPSHR)
- ✓ The Natural Resource Charter

and noted the recommendations to integrate these in the GOSS Petroleum Policy, with a purpose of including them in the GOSS' future mandatory regulatory framework.



The conference further noted an **urgent need** for:


- Compensation for past and current injustices, in accordance with the CPA, as part of a reconciliation process
- A full fledged audit of the oil industry's economic, environmental, social and security impact
- State-of-the-art environmental practices and remediation, including an independent Strategic Impact Assessment and consequent Environmental Management Plan
- Respect for local cultural traditions
- Coordinated and properly institutionalised security arrangements that ensure the safety of both industry and communities in accordance with the principles of international human rights law
- A master plan for sustainable local economic development
- Adequate popular consultation
- Individual and collective grievance mechanisms

These matters are too urgent to be deferred until after the finalisation of legislative and regulatory arrangements and require **immediate and decisive action** by the Government of Southern Sudan.

Realising that the GOSS is yet to develop an adequate capacity to enact, monitor and enforce adequate measures, appreciation was expressed about the efforts by members of the international community to assist in the implementation of the CPA, among whom Norway deserves special recognition.

On behalf of the Participants to the Conference,
Juba, 8 December 2010

European Coalition on Oil in Sudan



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Sudan Council of Churches

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A full conference report becomes available shortly at www.ecosonline.org
For further information, please contact info@ecosonline.org