



Switzerland's commitment

Nuba Mountains Ceasefire Agreement in 2002

A ceasefire agreement that brought an end to the hostilities in the Nuba Mountains region was signed in 2002. It was negotiated and signed at the Bürgenstock resort near Lucerne in Switzerland with the support of Switzerland, the USA, and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). This event was a milestone in the peace negotiations in Naivasha, Kenya, at which a Swiss national provided valuable mediation services. These negotiations led to the signing in 2005 of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) between the North and the South of Sudan in which it is stipulated that the South would be permitted to hold a referendum on 9 January 2011 to decide on the question of secession from the North. The referendum duly took place on 9-15 January 2011. An overwhelming majority voted in favour of secession. One long- and two short-term observers from Switzerland took part in the EU referendum observation mission.

Implementation of the 2005 peace agreement

The process of implementing the CPA, that was signed on 9 January 2005 between the National Congress Party (NCP) from the North and Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) from the South, was supervised by the Assessment and Evaluation Commission (AEC). The AEC runs offices in Khartoum and Juba. The office in Juba is headed by an expert seconded by the Swiss Expert Pool for Civilian Peacebuilding (SEP).

Expertise in constitutional questions, monetary policy and state assets

Towards the end of 2009, at the request of the Government of Sudan, Swiss experts supported the Sudanese Constitutional Revision Commission in drafting a referendum law. Later, the same expert supported the trilateral talks between the NCP, SPLM and the USA on ensuring the timely implementation of the CPA.

At the beginning of November 2010, the South and the North of Sudan asked Switzerland to supply technical assistance and expertise in comparative

law to support the ongoing post-referendum negotiations in the areas of assets and liabilities as well as in banking and monetary matters. The requested expertise was first delivered to both negotiating parties in Juba and Khartoum at the beginning of November. In addition, the FDFA organised on 28 and 29 November 2010 a technical follow-up workshop in Bern, at which negotiators from both the North and the South took part. The five themes that were dealt with at the workshop were:

1. Monetary and central bank policy
2. The division and reduction of debt
3. The division of state assets
4. Trade policy and co-operation
5. The division of state archives

This expertise was provided by various external experts and specialists from the Swiss National Bank, the Federal Archives and other areas of the federal administration.

Shortly later, Switzerland was asked for a third time to provide expertise in the fields of the division and reduction of debt, and, in the event of Sudan splitting as a result of the current referendum, establishing a new central bank and introducing a new currency in Southern Sudan. This expertise was placed at the disposal of the two negotiating partners in Khartoum from 18-21 December 2010.

Switzerland continues to provide expertise in 2011. In this context, a workshop was held in Zurich on 15-17 February 2011 on the subject of banking and finance for 14 South Sudanese decision-makers. As a newly created independent state, Southern Sudan will establish a central bank and its own currency.

For peace and respect for human rights in Darfur

Since 2007, the FDFA has been supporting the African Union-United Nations mediation process to promote peace in Darfur. The Office of the Special Envoy for the Sudan and the Horn of Africa within Political Affairs Division IV maintains close contacts with the Government of Sudan, the different rebel groups in Darfur, such as the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) and its sub-groups, the Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM), the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), as well as representatives of civil society. It also provides its good offices in

areas such as capacity building, expertise, facilitation, mediation. Since October 2009, Switzerland has been a member of the AU-UN Mediation steering committee and has been supporting the current peace process in Doha.

In addition, since the end of 2007, the FDFA has financed the project "Strengthening Human Rights Capacity in Sudan, in particular in Darfur" of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). This project has its origins in the special session on Darfur of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) in 2006, in which Sudan was called upon to step up its efforts to improve the human rights situation in the country. For this purpose the OHCHR was mandated to provide technical support to Sudan to be financed by donor countries. During the 6th session of the HRC, Switzerland declared its willingness to follow up this recommendation and to support Sudan - via OHCHR - in its efforts.

The financing of local peace initiatives via the "Darfur Community Peace and Stability Fund (DCPSF)" is being monitored by the FDFA in addition to the official peace talks in Doha. The DCPSF supports peace initiatives for the people of Darfur in the following areas:

1. Promoting peace at the local level
2. Developing basic social services
3. Improving the basic living conditions of the people
4. Strengthening governance and the rule of law

Establishing federal structures in Southern Sudan

During the period of joint British-Egyptian rule (1899-1955), traditional institutions were an integral part of the colonial administration in Sudan. After Sudan gained independence however their influence declined as a result of subsequent wars and the lack of support of successive national governments. This led to the destruction of parts of the social structures of a number of the different societies making up Southern Sudan.

Already before the signing of the CPA, traditional institutions were given greater recognition and support. The first national assembly in 1994 strengthened their role as local bodies. Traditional authority is enshrined in the Interim Constitution of Southern Sudan (Art. 174) as an integral part of the governmental structure. In view of the increasing number of inter- and intra-ethnic conflicts in Southern Sudan however, which according to UN sources claimed the lives of more than 2,500 people in 2009 alone, the current government concluded that the traditional structures must be further strengthened and their important function recognised and institutionalised especially in the areas of conflict prevention, resolution and mediation. A milestone in this development was set with the adoption of the Local Government Act in April 2009, which determines municipal, regional and central

governmental structures, and introduced an integrated approach to local government (executive, legislative and judicial) that incorporated traditional institutions. In the context of the implementation of the Act, on 2 October 2009, the Local Government Board (LGB) of the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) and the Swiss Government signed a memorandum of understanding defining the three focal areas of Swiss engagement as follows:

- 1.) Support for the ten member states of Southern Sudan in developing the legislative foundations of the Councils of Traditional Authority Leaders (COTAL)
- 2.) Support for establishing the COTALs both at member state and at GoSS level;
- 3.) Training for COTAL members, in particular in the area of conflict resolution.

Since October 2009, delegations comprising traditional tribal leaders, paramount chiefs (regional leaders), envoys from kingdoms, representatives of the justice authorities and of the member state governments, directors of traditional affairs and representatives of the GoSS, in co-operation with the LGB and with the support of the Swiss Peace Building Advisers (PBA) based in Juba have collaborated in the drafting of a consolidated draft law on setting up a COTAL in every state. According to the draft laws, the COTALs are to act as intermediaries between traditional societies and modern state structures, as forums for civil society, and as advisory bodies on questions concerning customs and ways of life, wellbeing and peaceful co-existence between the communities they represent.

Between July and October 2010, consultations were carried out concerning these draft laws with the actors concerned in each member state. Following consultations with civil society and government authorities the draft texts were submitted to the ministerial councils of the respective member states that subsequently forwarded them to their parliaments for ratification. In some states, the draft laws have already been presented to parliament although so far none have been ratified. In view of the above-mentioned referendum on secession held in Southern Sudan and as a result of the different situations prevailing in each member state, it is difficult at this point in time to estimate when the parliaments will approve the bills.

The laws will come into force in each state separately once they have been signed by the respective State Governor. Elections for the COTALs will then proceed, followed by training, and finally the creation of the eleventh COTAL that will represent the ten councils at

GoSS level. This Swiss PBA in Juba supports the authorities in the planning and implementation of the legislative process, provides technical support and sets up the necessary platforms for dialogue between the actors concerned. In this process the central role of the traditional institutions in African societies remains, as before, unquestioned.

[Politische Abteilung IV](#)

[Engagement des EDA im Bereich Frieden und Sicherheit](#)

[Engagement der DEZA im Sudan](#)

Reform des Sicherheitssektors im Südsudan

Since March 2008, Switzerland has been present in Southern Sudan, providing training in the field of security-sector reform (SSR). The Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport (DDPS), in close collaboration with the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) and the FDFA, has seconded a team of experts to support the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in establishing the Dr. John Garang Memorial Military Academy (DGMMA) near Juba. This is the first commitment of the Swiss Armed Forces to SSR in Africa. The DGMMA focuses on core areas of SSR such as promoting and implementing norms and putting into practice the principles of democratic control of armed forces, promoting human rights and international humanitarian law in close cooperation with the ICRC, as well as other aspects to consolidate the reliability of the armed forces and strengthen compliance with the rule of law.

In addition, Switzerland is supporting the activities of the Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD) in Juba which in turn is assisting the Sudan Integrated Mine Action Service (SIMAS) in the following areas:

1. Training in mine-clearance
2. Technical assistance
3. Supplying equipment. It is planned that SIMAS will take over the function of the state mine-clearance authorities in the medium term.

Humanitarian aid

In the field of humanitarian aid, since 1994, Switzerland has mainly been supporting the activities of the UN and NGOs. With the outbreak of violent conflict in Darfur, Switzerland reinforced its commitment in the region in 2003 in the form of emergency relief and assistance to refugees and internally displaced persons in returning to their homes. In addition, it is working to ensure access to food and drinking water, the provision of health-care and the protection of civilians in Darfur, the Nuba Mountains and in the member state of Bahr al-Ghazal in Southern Sudan.

The activities are co-ordinated by the SDC Cooperation Office in Khartoum and its representation in Juba.

