



San Francisco Bay Area Darfur Coalition

THE COMPREHENSIVE PEACE AGREEMENT, *A Summary*

The official signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) on 9th January 2005 between the Government of the Republic of the Sudan (GoS) and the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) brought to an end 22 years of protracted and costly civil war that had caused tremendous loss of life, devastated the country's infrastructure (especially in the South) and destroyed livelihoods, trust and hope.

The CPA established the framework for a just and lasting peace in the Sudan, and along with the subsequent Interim National Constitution (INC) and the Interim Constitution of the Southern Sudan (ICSS), established a new political, military and economic system based on the values of justice, democracy, and human rights that gives a voice and role to all the people of Sudan. The agreed principles are:

- The unity of Sudan, based on the free will of its people and good democratic governance, is and shall always be the priority of the parties;
- The people of Southern Sudan shall control and govern the affairs of the South as well as participate equitably in the Government of National Unity (GNU);
- The people of the Sudan agree to work together to, among other things:
 - Establish a democratic system of governance by elections in 2009 (**delayed until April 2010**), providing an opportunity to remove the genocidal ruling National Congress Party (NCP);
 - Find a comprehensive solution to the economic and social deterioration of the Sudan;
 - Find a solution that replaces war with peace, but also with social and economic justice, fundamental freedoms and human rights;
 - Formulate a reconstruction and development plan for areas affected by war; and
 - Make the unity of Sudan an attractive option.

The CPA also established a process to determine borders between North and South, a semi-autonomous government in the South (GOSS), and provides for a referendum in 2011 for the South to separate if unity is not attractive. It provides a model for other marginalized areas or could be amended so that other marginalized areas are included within the terms.

CPA implementation is slower than the schedule anticipated when it was signed, but ensuring its implementation is critically important to maintain peace in regions currently not at war and to bring peace to Darfur. The genocide in Sudan will not end so long as the NCP is in power—the CPA gives all Sudanese the opportunity in **2010** to vote for a different government. Accordingly, it is paramount that we advocate for **world leaders' personal involvement in full implementation** of the CPA.

Visit <http://unmis.unmissions.org/Portals/UNMIS/Documents/General/cpa-en.pdf> for a complete copy of the CPA.