

**Sudan and Europe:
Prospects of Cooperation for Regional Peace and Development
Chairman's Summary**

Vienna, 10th October 2012

Upon an invitation by various Austrian institutions and in consolidation of efforts and activities undertaken by various MPs, politicians, academics, businessmen, media people and experts from institutions dedicating themselves with Sudan and South Sudan, a high-level conference on prospects of cooperation for regional peace and development was held in Vienna. The conference was jointly organized by the Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce, the Political Academy, the Austrian Institute for European and Security Policy, the Federal Chamber of Economy, UNDP, UNIDO, Bridges International, the Carter Center/Atlanta and the Embassy of the Republic of Sudan in Vienna. Participants from 17 countries from Europe, the Middle East and Africa attended the conference.

The conference is carried out in the framework of the Austrian engagement towards Sudan and South Sudan starting in the year 2008. As the awareness, research and engagement increased on both sides, in November 2010 the first conference of what is now internationally known as the „Vienna Series for sustainable peace in Sudan“ was organized and the importance of interdependences between Sudan and South Sudan were analyzed and highlighted. The series continued in Khartoum and Addis Ababa. The present conference held in October 2012 in Vienna already marks the fifth conference within this series.

In his opening remarks, the Austrian Vice-Chancellor and Minister for European and International Affairs, H.E. Dr. Michael Spindelegger, highlighted the importance of the three terms hope, development and peace for a sustainable future for both Sudan and South Sudan. He commended that the international community and Austria would be ready to assist in this process. He underlined the need for peace and stability as a pre-condition for foreign assistance and investment. H.E. Ali Ahmed Karti, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Sudan, expressed his gratitude towards the organizers for their efforts with regard to Sudan and South Sudan. He stressed the need for international cooperation and thus welcomed the initiative of launching a European network for sustainable peace and development. H.E. Prof. Elias Nyamlall Wakoson, Deputy Minister for International Cooperation at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of South Sudan, commended on the situation of the newly born state. He called for international assistance in order to further develop the country and to assure regional stability.

In three sessions on economic matters, successful foreign investments in Sudan and the banking and financing sector, the most pressing issues for securing foreign investment for Sudan were debated. The high potentials of Sudan in various sectors, such as agriculture, oil, mining etc. was illustrated by official representatives but also by representatives from the private sector. There was an agreement that peace and stability are indispensable preconditions for attracting foreign investment for Sudan. Thus, successful examples of foreign investments in Sudan were demonstrated in order to convince European and other foreign investors about the potentials to be lifted.

Thus, the conference agreed upon the necessity for further engagement with regard to Sudan and South Sudan. Therefore a European network for sustainable peace and development was launched to organize conferences, seminars and workshops in European countries and institutions in Sudan and South Sudan in order to broaden its activities and networking and thereby further increasing awareness of the needs for sustainable development.

In conclusion, the Austrian and European efforts towards bringing sustainable peace and development to Sudan and South Sudan will be continued in order to securing a prosperous future and stability for the whole region. As a first step, a delegation comprising the various institutions and countries attending the conference will be set up in order to visit Sudan and South Sudan early 2013. Such a visit will enhance the awareness of the potentials of both countries and thus facilitate the attraction also of foreign investment.