

## **Assessment and Evaluation Commission: Annual Report**

The Assessment and Evaluation Commission is required to submit an annual report at the end of each year, pursuant to article 30 of the AEC's Rules of Procedure. Such reports are factual, addressing - as required by the Rules of Procedure – the activities of the Commission during the year. They may also include broader observations. This time last year the AEC agreed a report – the “January 2010 Report” - which included substantive observations and recommendations in priority areas and which was subsequently published. That report, which came at the three quarters point in the interim period, also served to update the Mid Term Evaluation which the AEC published in 2008.

The present juncture is a crucial one in CPA implementation, on the eve of the self determination referendum of the people of Southern Sudan and with little more than six months remaining to the end of the interim period. Negotiations are in train between the parties, with African Union facilitation, on outstanding CPA issues and on post referendum arrangements on both possible scenarios, unity or secession. It would not be appropriate in the AEC's annual report to anticipate or prejudge issues under discussion in the negotiations - still less the outcome of the referendum. The report that follows therefore focuses factually on the activities of the AEC during the year 2010; a financial report is, as in the past, being submitted separately.

It may however be appropriate to offer one or two observations on the context. The first is to note once again the extent of the achievement represented by the CPA, and its resilience over the six years of the interim period to date. The parties, and specifically their leaders – the President of the Republic, President Omar al Bashir, and the First Vice President and the President of the Government of Southern Sudan, General Salva Kiir Mayardit – deserve praise for what has been accomplished, and support and encouragement as CPA implementation enters the critical final stage.

Major developments over the past year have included the peaceful conduct of elections at all levels of government in Sudan in April and accelerating preparations for the self determination referendum, including the completion in December of voter registration. Work on popular consultation has proceeded though it is behind schedule, in Southern Kordofan in particular. Border demarcation has advanced little, and progress in discussions on post referendum arrangements was for some months patchy. Differences over Abyei have given rise to great concern, and contributed to an increase in tension. Against this background, the recent intensification of negotiations between the parties has been a welcome, and necessary, development.

Throughout the year the AEC has continued to bring the parties and the CPA witnesses together to review developments and encourage progress on the key challenges identified in the previous paragraph, as well as other aspects of CPA

implementation. Eleven plenary meetings have been held, mostly in Khartoum but also in Juba. The high level plenary in Khartoum in May, following the elections, issued a statement which addressed upcoming challenges in CPA implementation.

In addition to the monthly meetings, two special sessions were held during the year - one in July, with the participation of leaders from the states concerned, on popular consultation; and the other – at the initiative of Italy as Coordinator of the Power Sharing Working Group - in October with the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission on preparations for the self determination referendum.

The Three Areas Working Group, led by the Netherlands, and the Security Affairs Working Group, led by Norway, have held regular meetings during the year. They conducted eight field visits - including to Abyei, Blue Nile, Southern Kordofan, Unity State and Upper Nile - to monitor developments on the ground. The visits resulted in agreed recommendations for action, as well as contributing to better understanding of support needed - whether from government, or the UN, or donors.

In relation to the Wealth Sharing Protocol, the AEC has continued to follow transparency issues, working closely with the Ministry of Petroleum and chairing two seminars in Khartoum with officials from the Government of National Unity and the Government of Southern Sudan and representatives of the oil companies and NGOs. The first, on 18 August, agreed specific recommendations; the second, which addressed engagement with the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, took place on 4 December.

The AEC Chair and staff have followed up the discussions and activities described in the previous paragraphs with the parties and with government officials, and in outreach in support of the CPA to civil society and others. The AEC participated in the “tamazuj” border states conferences which took place in Kadugli in February and Aweil in July, reflecting the Commission’s stated commitment to the interdependence of North and South in Sudan whatever the result of the self determination referendum. The Chair addressed a meeting with the Speaker and members in the National Assembly in August on CPA implementation. The Chair also briefed meetings of the international organisations which participate in the AEC - including the extraordinary IGAD summits in Nairobi and Addis Ababa in March and November respectively - and Commission staff have provided a resource for detailed information on CPA implementation in a range of national and international fora.

Egypt became a full participant in the work of the AEC in November 2010. The Government of Kenya appointed Ambassador Peter Ogego as full time Deputy Chair of the Commission in October. Reflecting the increasing demands of CPA implementation in the final stage of the interim period, the AEC’s expert staff in

Khartoum and Juba have also been strengthened over the past year, including by the appointment of an economic expert in Khartoum and a political expert to assist the head of office in Juba.

The Memorandum of Understanding which was agreed in Mekelle, Ethiopia, in June 2010 ascribed to the AEC staff, in liaison with the Joint Technical Secretariat established by the parties, a support role for the negotiations on post referendum arrangements being facilitated by the AU. Member states led by the United Kingdom have generously made available to the AEC additional funds to enable it to carry out this role. The AEC Chair and staff have worked closely with the AU High Level Implementation Panel and the parties since. On 29 November a Memorandum of Understanding was signed in Khartoum to formalise this relationship. AEC members, notably IGAD, the United States and Norway, have also given strong support directly in different ways to the negotiations.

AEC members, including the parties, have repeatedly stressed their commitment to the timely conduct of the referendum and respect for its outcome. AEC staff as well as delegations from AEC members and observers will be among those observing the polling, as they have earlier stages of the referendum process. The historic importance of the referendum is self evident. But much will still need to be done in the interim period after it, whatever the result, to ensure a smooth transition. Dialogue and engagement between the parties and the witnesses to the Agreement has been at the heart of the AEC's work to date and that will not change in the months remaining to July 2011. Nor indeed will the need for engagement be any the less after that date. Sudan - whether as one state, or two working closely together – will be an increasingly important partner for the international community in the years to come. Its peace, stability and prosperity will remain a priority for the governments and organisations which had the privilege to witness the signature of the CPA six years ago and have worked with the parties since in the AEC.