

A Policy Agenda for the new Administration from Communities of Faith

PART II. AFRICA

1. Sudan: Two Crises, One Country. Bolstered U.S. Engagement Critical

Sudan has been plagued by internal conflict for more than fifty years. Since independence in 1956, a variety of complex factors including race, ethnicity, religion and economic disparities – exacerbated in part by the British colonial governance system – has empowered central governments in Khartoum to further marginalize the peripheries of the country politically and economically. This marginalization has resulted in two civil wars between the North and South (1955-1972 and 1983-2005) and the 2003 uprising of rebel forces and ongoing conflict in Darfur. Combined, these conflicts have claimed more than two million lives, displaced more than three million and left several million dependent on external aid for survival.

The next President should address Sudan holistically and address two distinct but related crises: the full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) governing North-South relations and a sustainable political resolution of the ongoing conflict in Darfur.

Specifically, we urge the next Administration to:

- **Increase U.S diplomatic efforts to secure sustainable political resolutions** that address root causes of conflict in Sudan. The full implementation of such agreements should be of highest priority for U.S. bilateral and multilateral efforts. An effective, sustainable diplomatic effort should include continued financial and political support for the U.S. Special Envoy to Sudan, including the deployment of two senior level deputies; one to monitor implementation of the CPA and one to focus attention on a Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA).
- **Increase funding and technical assistance for peacekeeping missions**, including U.N. and African Union (AU) efforts in South Sudan and Darfur. Effective peacekeeping operations are critical to ensuring the protection of innocent civilians and stable environments for the implementation of humanitarian relief.
- **Increase funding for humanitarian and development assistance** to help meet the needs of more than three million people of Darfur who are displaced and exclusively dependent on external aid for survival as well as the needs of the more than 400,000 Southern Sudanese refugees and internally displaced persons who are being resettled. The U.S. should leverage its generosity with other multilateral donors to secure more assistance from the international community.

*This is an excerpt from a longer document, jointly crafted by the Washington offices of 11 national faith communities and ecumenical institutions. The longer document offers in some detail a policy agenda for the new President on a U.S. response to global poverty and violent conflict in the world. Our communities advocate together for many, though not all, of the policy positions expressed here. Some of us do not have positions on all the issues covered. For this reason, this document does not carry endorsements, as does our accompanying consensus statement **A Policy Agenda for the New Administration from Communities of Faith**. We provide this more detailed document as a fuller picture of the issues that many of our offices address and of the policies we expect to advocate for with the new Administration and Congress. To view the full document, visit <http://www.elca.org/Our-Faith-In-Action/Justice/Advocacy/Issues.aspx> on the ELCA website.*