

AEC January 2010 report

Introduction

It is now eighteen months since publication by the Assessment and Evaluation Commission of its Mid-Term Evaluation report. Since then the Comprehensive Peace Agreement has remained resilient, despite difficulties and delays. Peace has held; the ceasefire has largely been honoured; political arrangements and institutions provided for in the CPA have been sustained; and oil wealth has been shared.

But the intervening period has not been problem free. Tensions with regard to some of the outstanding issues have increased as the final stage of the six year interim period set for CPA implementation approaches. The key transformational events envisaged in the Agreement – national elections, popular consultation in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile, the referendum in Abyei, the self determination referendum of the people of the South – are now imminent. Three months remain to the elections, a year precisely to the referenda. The groundwork for all of these events has to be laid now. Much remains to be done, including agreeing arrangements on both possible scenarios post-2011 – as yet uncharted waters but of vital importance to all in Sudan.

AEC discussions since the MTE report have been informed by this tightening timeline. The AEC is required to agree an annual report in January each year. These have typically focused on the work of the Commission – field visits, working group activity, support for other CPA bodies etc. Commission members however agreed at the 47th plenary session on 1 September 2009 that the present juncture, three quarters of the way through the interim period, merited a more substantive report.

This paper is submitted in the light of that decision. It is not intended to replace or to be as comprehensive as the MTE, which was a requirement laid on the AEC in the Machakos Protocol. The MTE underlined the need to implement all elements of the CPA. But it identified certain priority areas which were critical for success. The report looks at progress in these, focusing on key upcoming challenges and offering recommendations. It tracks the four main protocol areas, and draws on discussions in plenary and reviews undertaken in the four AEC working groups in recent months. It is also informed by the Points of Agreement initialed by the parties with US facilitation in August 2009. The final section looks at international support for CPA implementation.

The recommendations are, unless otherwise stated, addressed jointly to the parties. Many of them are also relevant for the international community, as are all of those in the final section. What was accomplished at Naivasha, and has been achieved since, is the result of partnership between the parties, but also

between them and the international community. Sustaining this partnership, and the goodwill needed to accommodate others' legitimate concerns, will be essential if the challenges of the final stage of CPA implementation are to be met.

Power Sharing

Introduction: progress since MTE and next steps

Forward movement on core CPA power sharing commitments has been intermittent for much of the period since the MTE was published. Existing power sharing arrangements have been sustained. The parties have engaged in sustained dialogue in the High Executive Political Committee in order to overcome differences and achieve progress. Consideration of modalities for the 2011 self determination referendum was protracted and difficult, but the necessary legislation has now been agreed. However the dispute over the use of the census results remains unresolved. Discussion between the parties on post referendum arrangements has yet to begin. Work on delimitation of the 1/1/56 North/South border remained stuck for many months.

Despite the problems, earlier in the period under review the Press and Media Law and the National Elections Act were adopted; the Political Parties Council and the National Election Commission (NEC) were established and operationalised; and the work of other CPA commissions, including the National Civil Service Commission and the Commission for the protection of the rights of non-Muslims in the National Capital, progressed to some degree. But there has been no substantive action on the programme of national reconciliation and healing, initiation of which was an MTE recommendation; nor has the Human Rights Commission been formed.

The coming, final, phase of the interim period will be critical in relation to this protocol in particular. Implementation of the outstanding power sharing commitments will have decisive consequences for long-term peace and stability in Sudan. The need to prioritise and move ahead expeditiously has become ever more pressing. It is recommended that efforts in the final 18 months of the interim period focus on the following key goals, achievement of which is necessary if the objectives of the CPA are to be met and a smooth transition made in 2011, whatever the result of the self determination referendum:

- Elections in April 2010 which represent a step change in democratic transformation
- A self determination referendum in January 2011 which meets the high standards set in the CPA
- Timely agreement on post-referendum arrangements
- An agreed North/South border, delimited and demarcated as a matter of urgency

Elections in April 2010: a step change in democratic transformation

The holding of national elections is a key element in the CPA and a major step in the democratic transformation it envisages. Preparations for the elections,

scheduled for April 2010, are now well advanced following passage of the National Electoral Law and establishment of the NEC and the State High Committees. The NEC has completed the constituency delimitation and voter registration processes: more than 16 million citizens have been registered. The lifting of pre-publication press censorship by the President is a welcome move towards freer political reporting and debate.

To end uncertainty the parties need urgently to resolve differences over the impact of use of the census results. A new National Security Act has been passed. But application of this and other laws will need to be such as to assure candidates and the public of the freedom and fairness of the process. Continued freedom of access for domestic and international monitors will also be very important in ensuring that the elections are indeed seen to be a step change in democratic transformation.

A self determination referendum in January 2011 which meets international standards

The self determination referendum is a central element in the Machakos Protocol, the opening protocol of the CPA. It is designed to lay to rest once and for all the competing aspirations which have fed conflict for more than half a century. The referendum needs to be well prepared, and to convince those voting that it has been free and fair and that their choice –what ever it may be – will be treated as binding and respected by all.

The date of the referendum is firmly set in the CPA. The time remaining to prepare is now very short. Much effort, over many months, went into negotiating the law setting out the modalities of the referendum. The law is now agreed; the parties and the people of Sudan deserve to be congratulated on this important step forward. But implementation, including in particular a complex voter registration process, will be time consuming. Immediate establishment of the referendum commission to put administrative, logistical and funding mechanisms in place, even as parallel arrangements for the elections go forward, is now vital. Once it is in place, oversight mechanisms and arrangements for international monitoring which meet international standards will be essential to ensure the credibility and legitimacy of the process as envisaged in the CPA.

Timely agreement on Post Referendum Arrangements

The CPA provides no clear road map for what happens after the self determination referendum. In order to ensure that voters can make an informed choice, and to facilitate a smooth transition, it is vital that the parties agree post referendum arrangements covering relevant issues on both scenarios, unity or secession.

Whilst reaffirming the CPA aspiration to make unity attractive, the MTE noted the inevitable interdependence of North and South whatever the referendum outcome – an interdependence which is evident, for example, in the oil sector, and in the lives of people and communities in border areas and beyond. That would still seem a sound starting point for discussions.

Think tanks and informal gatherings have begun to look at the issues. But this is no substitute for face to face discussions between the parties. These will take time and the format for them should therefore be agreed, and negotiations begin, immediately. The objective should be to complete such discussions, and conclude texts embodying agreements on the key issues, before the referendum campaign begins so that the people of the South are clear what the consequences of their choice will be and to ensure clarity as to subsequent steps and the timescales on which implementing actions will proceed.

An agreed North/South border, delimited and demarcated as a matter of urgency

The ad hoc North/South Technical Border Committee has delimited over 80% of the border and is on the point of delivering its final report to the Presidency. Urgent action will then be needed at the political level to resolve outstanding questions so as to allow full demarcation of the border on the ground in 2010, before the referendum. Failure in this regard would carry with it the most obvious of risks.

To complete this task the parties may require support from the international community. Plans are underway for UNMIS to conduct an assessment to determine the time, budget and resources required to complete the border demarcation exercise, and to offer technical support. Others in a position to assist should stand ready to do so.

As demarcation moves forward, government and the international community are encouraged to continue to develop and implement projects aimed at strengthening cross-border relations. The parties can play a leadership role in assuring communities that the border will not become a barrier and that their homes, livelihoods and longstanding rights will remain unaffected. If implemented in this spirit, border demarcation and associated development should help bring stability to the border region and create an enabling environment for peace and reconciliation, whatever the outcome of the referendum.

Wealth Sharing

Introduction: progress since MTE and next steps

There continues to be good implementation of most of the provisions of the Wealth Sharing Protocol, in particular those regarding the direct transfers of oil revenue to the GoSS. All agreed outstanding arrears in respect of oil have now been cleared, though overall transparency in the sector remains an issue of concern to the GoSS in particular, impacting mutual trust and confidence. There have been ongoing disputes concerning the operation of the dual banking system and management of foreign currency reserves, but these have been contained and have not affected implementation of other aspects of the protocol.

Though the parties have not yet acted upon most of the recommendations contained in the MTE – in particular those relating to consultation and participation of local communities – they have committed in the Points of Agreement to specific actions to increase the effectiveness of the wealth sharing arrangements. These should be implemented now.

It is recommended that efforts focus on achieving the following three priority objectives during the final 18 months of the interim period, all of which should help transition to the post 2011 situation, whatever the outcome of the self-determination referendum:

- a more transparent petroleum sector
- a better functioning dual banking system
- long term planning to ensure adequate human resource capacity in the hydrocarbons sector in the South

A more transparent petroleum sector

GoSS has expressed concern that the petroleum sector in Sudan is not sufficiently transparent or accountable and that this may affect production volumes and the amounts of oil revenue to be shared. To help address this concern, the parties have agreed that the National Petroleum Commission (NPC) should commission an audit of the oil sector to assure its transparency and accountability. This audit should be taken forward urgently in the NPC to allow its findings to be published in the first half of 2010.

Additional recommendations contained in the MTE which would help achieve this outcome are: strengthening of the NPC secretariat's policy development capacity, and better use of the NPC by the parties; provision of more regular and detailed production data to GoSS; secondment of more GoSS officials into the GoNU Ministry of Energy and Mines; and establishment of a separate ORSA for the GoSS. It is recommended that these actions also be taken forward without delay.

A better functioning dual banking system

During 2009, there were disputes between the parties regarding how to operationalise the dual banking system introduced by the CPA, particularly regarding the organization of the Central Bank of Sudan (CBoS) and management of the foreign reserve. To help resolve these disputes, the CBoS submitted a request on 14 September 2009 to the IMF to carry out a review of how the dual banking system should function in accordance with the CPA. This review will include such questions as how best to manage national reserves and internal foreign currency transfers within the single national monetary policy. It is further recommended that CBoS publish and implement the results of the IMF review when it is completed.

Long term planning to ensure adequate human resource capacity in the hydrocarbons sector in the South

The hydrocarbon sector is and will remain of paramount strategic importance to the Southern economy for the foreseeable future. However, the MTE recommendation to strengthen the South's human resource capacity in the sector at both the policy and the operational level has not been seriously addressed by either government to date. The GoSS' complete reliance on GoNU and international expertise for all critical management information unnecessarily raises suspicions and contributes to the low level of trust between the parties, especially with regard to the accuracy of production volumes.

Given the sector's strategic importance as well as the continuing need to build greater trust between the parties on wealth sharing, it is suggested that short term measures are taken to ensure that adequate experience is available to the GoSS and that long term plans are urgently put in place to develop and sustain a cadre of Southern engineers and managers, using the resources both of the GoNU and the international community.

The Three Areas – Abyei, Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile state

Abyei Protocol: progress since MTE and next steps

Implementation of the Abyei Protocol has moved slowly for much of the period since the MTE. But further violence and loss of life has largely been avoided. Important milestones have included the establishment of the Abyei Area Administration, and the decision of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in The Hague. The parties' immediate acceptance of this decision as final and binding was a significant step forward on their part, as – more recently – was passage of the Abyei referendum law.

There remains however much to be done in a shortening time period to create the conditions for a sustainable peace in the area, a vital ingredient for the success of the CPA. It is recommended that the parties focus on achieving the following priority objectives during the final 18 months of the interim period, all of which should also assist transition to the post 2011 situation, whatever the results of the self-determination referendum and the separate referendum in Abyei:

- full implementation of the PCA decision with the support of local communities
- an effective Abyei Area administration
- a safe and secure environment, including during the seasonal migration
- timely preparations for the Abyei referendum in January 2011

Full implementation of the PCA decision with the support of local communities

Both parties have publicly agreed to uphold and implement the PCA decision. However little has happened to put it into effect on the ground. Abyei border demarcation began but has been frustrated. It should proceed. To counter the fears of communities on the ground, the parties' readiness in the Points of Agreement to establish a Task Force to deliver joint messages should be acted upon. The Task Force might re-enforce the message that the arbitration decision is final and binding, offer reassurance to communities with regard to their rights, and undertake consultations with them on issues related to migration, disarmament and the delivery of basic services and development.

An effective Abyei Area Administration

A key success since the MTE has been the establishment of the Abyei Area Administration (AAA). But this was not followed by substantial returns of IDPs or improvements in the quality of life for residents. For this to happen it is critical

that its presence be felt on the ground, that its public servants be paid and that it be fully funded to carry out its basic functions effectively. Progress has recently been achieved on this, both in respect of salary payment and work on a budget for 2010 which would replace the previous system of ad hoc transfers. Opening of a local transmitter to facilitate Miraya FM broadcasts could also help in fulfilling this recommendation. It is hoped that the Unity Fund will continue to play an important role in promoting joint development in the Abyei area and border states.

A safe and secure environment, including during the seasonal migration

Despite the absence of major incidents, the security situation in the Abyei area remains volatile. The JIU and the police are not sufficiently well equipped or trained to guarantee security in the face of prospective resource conflicts emerging from seasonal migration flows or large-scale returns of IDPs, nor is there an agreed framework within which these movements can be managed.

The JIU has received assistance but it needs full and immediate support from the Joint Defense Board (JDB), including proper training and equipment and a clear and unequivocal security mandate. In addition a migration management framework, including a policy on arms control, should be developed and agreed as a matter of urgency with the Ngok Dinka and Misseriya communities. This could involve UN or AAA-supported reconciliation conferences, and some stepping up of DDR. If the decision is taken to consolidate the status of the Abyei police force, it should ensure that the balance between the communities is respected, and that the force receives the logistical and material support required to carry out its functions.

Timely preparations for the Abyei referendum in January 2011

A sound and credible referendum in January 2011 is the keystone to longer term resolution of the Abyei issue. Referendum modalities have now been enacted in the Abyei referendum law. Early establishment of an Abyei referendum commission to put in place administrative, logistical and funding mechanisms will be critical. The commission's most sensitive task will be to develop the residency criteria for eligibility to vote in the referendum, drawing on the protocol. It is recommended that the international community stand ready to provide expert assistance in helping to formulate such criteria should the Commission so request.

Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile Protocol: progress since MTE and next steps

There has been progress since the MTE in implementation of the protocol for Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile, particularly in the areas of overall functioning of government and the integration of former SPLA controlled areas and of the

police and civil service. But too little has happened by way of delivery of meaningful improvements in the everyday lives of the population. To ensure that gains made so far are locked in, and that peace is preserved, it is recommended that the focus be on achieving the following three priority objectives during the final 18 months of the interim period:

- increasing the pace of development and the spread of effective government
- further improvement in the overall security situation in the two states
- credible popular consultations before the end of the interim period

Increasing the pace of development and the spread of effective government

Reflecting their status as war-affected areas, Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile were designated by the GoNU and the international community as priorities to receive significant additional development funding during the interim period. Despite some welcome recent intensification of effort – especially in Southern Kordofan – this peace dividend has been slow to materialise. More needs to be done to deliver a tangible high impact peace dividend to local communities, especially away from the larger towns, in order to persuade them that peace is worth preserving. In parallel with this and with the finalisation of SPLA redeployment (on which see below), governance efforts need to focus on decentralisation, further integration in respect of the civil service but also other sectors, and harmonisation of the existing separate educational systems.

Time is now very short if an effect is to be felt before the end of the interim period. Delayed financial transfers from the government for reconstruction and development in the states need to be disbursed immediately, and the Unity Fund and donors should prioritise disbursement in support of high impact interventions.

Further improvement in the overall security situation in the two states

The security situation in both states remains volatile, with large numbers of combatants and ex-combatants remaining in close proximity to each other. As a priority action, it is recommended that redeployment of SPLA troops, especially out of Blue Nile state, be quickly completed and verified and decisions taken as to their future. This should be followed by consideration and decisions in the Presidency leading to downsizing, including through the DDR process.

It is also recommended that JIU integration advances, and that further material support is provided by the JDB and the international community to increase JIU effectiveness particularly in areas where JIUs are now uniquely responsible for security like Kurmuk.

Credible popular consultations before the end of the CPA interim period

Popular consultation in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile is a key element in the final stage of CPA implementation. As such it will be subject to scrutiny from interested parties inside Sudan and internationally and needs to be conducted in a credible manner which satisfies residents of the two states that they have been able to exercise their rights under the CPA to the fullest extent. Legislation has now been agreed, which is a major step forward. For popular consultation to be a success, however, it will be vital to raise awareness, and to gain a degree of acceptance, of the modalities among the general public. This awareness raising exercise should ideally happen prior to the election in April 2010, so that voters can be informed as to how the election of members of the state assembly will relate to the subsequent process of popular consultation, which will be conducted by the elected legislators.

It is recommended that the international community stand ready to provide any technical assistance needed by the states during this process.

Security Arrangements

Introduction: Progress since MTE and next steps

Since the MTE the ceasefire has continued to hold, with the exception of the fighting in Malakal in February 2009, and redeployment has progressed to some extent. The Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) programme has been successfully initiated. The JIUs have received greater attention and some donor support, but remain under resourced and unintegrated - a point which was highlighted by the Malakal incident. There has been a disturbing increase in insecurity in the South, where violent clashes between communities have resulted in the deaths of many civilians.

Recommendations

While there are some grounds for cautious optimism concerning the overall state of security arrangements under the CPA, it is important that efforts be redoubled to ensure that the provisions of the protocol are respected and implemented. Particular focus is recommended on achieving the following priority objectives during the final 18 months of the interim period:

- completion of redeployment
- strengthening and progressing the DDR programme to bring it closer to achieving its CPA mandated objectives by 2011
- a push for further integration of, and better tasking and support for, the JIUs
- a major effort to reduce insecurity in the South

Completion of redeployment

Redeployment is required by the CPA. The SAF is now fully redeployed north of the 1-1-56 border. SPLA redeployment has continued but the verified figure as reported by the Ceasefire Joint Military Committee (CJMC) stands at 26 per cent. It is clearly important that the SPLA also achieves verified full redeployment of its personnel in the coming, final, stage of the interim period. In order to fulfill this requirement it is accepted that there will need to be a complete reassessment of the base number of SPLA troops, and the UN will be need to be given unhindered access for verification purposes. Redeployment should open the way for mutually agreed proportional downsizing as provided for in the CPA.

Strengthening and progressing the DDR programme to bring it closer to achieving its CPA mandated objectives by 2011

The MTE stressed the importance of initiating and moving forward energetically with the much delayed DDR programme envisaged in the CPA. That has

happened over the past year in the Three Areas and in the South. The UN, the two DDR Commissions, governments and donors deserve credit for the progress achieved. The target of 180, 000 individuals passing through the programme nonetheless remains elusive and concerns have been raised about some of the procedures followed. It is to be hoped that the UN, the two DDR Commissions and donors will work together to move the programme forward effectively in the coming year.

A push for further integration and better tasking and support for the JIUs

The MTE highlighted shortcomings in support for the JIUs. Since it was agreed they have, as already noted, taken on heavier responsibilities in the Three Areas. Several JIU contingents have received training from UNMIS, and a number of donors have made support available. Formal dialogue between the JIU command, UNMIS and donors has progressed. But shortcomings in provision for the JIUs remain; they are still unintegrated; and for the most part they have little by way of useful tasking. Renewed effort is needed to address these problems. Action to complete de-escalation in Malakal, including relocation and rotation of the JIU, remains a priority. Finally, thought needs to be given now to the longer term - and the fate of the JIUs and their components post 2011.

A major effort to reduce insecurity in the South

Inter-communal violence and insecurity have increased disturbingly in a number of states in the South since the time of the MTE. The reasons are various and have been examined in a recent AEC working group visit report, which also offers recommendations to the GoSS (which bears responsibility for security in the South), the parties, the UN and the international community, as to appropriate responses. For the purpose of this report it may be sufficient to say that containing and overcoming the problem is critical if the benefits of the CPA are to be enjoyed and key CPA processes such as elections are not to be impacted in affected areas. There is a common interest in peace and security across the South, and a major effort, including an enhanced police presence and strong support from UNMIS, is clearly required in the coming period to ensure that the rise in violence is checked and reversed and the rule of law respected.

International support for the Comprehensive Peace Agreement

Progress following MTE and proposed next steps

At the Third Consortium meeting in Oslo in 2008 donors pledged some 4.8 billion dollars. The context was support for the CPA but the total included humanitarian assistance in Darfur. Delays in disbursement have also impacted delivery of CPA related programmes. With only 18 months of the interim period remaining, implementation of CPA related programmes is in many cases far behind schedule. Since the MTE was published, Sudan has also been badly affected by the fall in the oil price. Donors agreed a Compact with the GoSS, which had been particularly hard hit, and in some cases brought forward disbursement. They have since made substantial support available for the national elections due to take place in April 2010. An emerging priority is donor support for the referendum.

UNMIS remains the most visible practical expression of the international community's support for CPA implementation. The UN's role on the ground evolves as new challenges emerge, most recently with regard first to elections and now to the self determination referendum. It has sought specific support from donors for key programmes, including DDR and stabilisation in areas of insecurity in the South.

While the parties have shown their ability to tackle many difficult political issues on a bilateral basis, they have remained willing to engage in good faith with the CPA witnesses, both multilaterally (including of course in the AEC) and in a trilateral framework with the United States. Such positive engagement resulted in the first high level CPA supporters' conference in Washington in June 2009 and in the subsequent Points of Agreement document. As the final stage in CPA implementation approaches regional players such as the AU have intensified their engagement in support of the Agreement.

The AEC over the past year has continued to address pressing issues in CPA implementation in monthly plenary and regular working group meetings, and helped to seek ways forward. It has drawn formal conclusions by consensus with regard to Abyei and border demarcation and has undertaken monitoring visits to Abyei, Blue Nile, Upper Nile and Jonglei. The Commission has assisted other CPA Commissions, specifically the Commission on the Rights of Non Muslims in the National Capital and the National Election Commission. The Chair has endeavored to promote understanding in support of CPA implementation, both with the parties and in outreach within Sudan and internationally. The Commission has received generous financial support from governments, notably Italy and the United States. In addition to national staff, it now has six international experts and active offices in both Khartoum and Juba.

The final stage of CPA implementation will require greatly enhanced effort from the international community as well as the parties. This implies the enhancement both of donor assistance and of political and technical support to ensure that the objectives of the CPA are met and a smooth transition achieved in 2011, whatever the outcome of the referendum. Specifically we recommend that the following priority objectives are pursued:

- accelerated support for quick impact development projects in the war-affected areas and along the border
- generous, frontloaded, donor support for the organisation of the self-determination referendum
- continued UN review of responses to emerging requirements
- greater use by the parties of the AEC and its staff
- the holding of a further CPA supporters conference or conferences at appropriate points to draw together the strands of international support and help the parties address challenges

Accelerated support for quick impact development projects in the war-affected areas and along the border

International donors have been generous in their support for humanitarian assistance and development in Sudan since the signing of the CPA. But there were from the outset serious delays in translating pledges of support into results on the ground.

As already noted this lack of delivery has been particularly marked in some of those areas where provision of a “peace dividend” might be thought to be most urgent i.e. war-affected areas such as those in and around Abyei and along the North/South border. Clearly delivery requires effective cooperation between government, state authorities and donors. In some areas – Southern Kordofan for example – a major effort has been made recently to enhance such cooperation. It is hoped that priority programmes which seek to defuse community tensions, increase security or deliver tangible benefits in such areas can now be accelerated with a view to ensuring a real peace dividend during the final 18 months of the interim period. Similarly assistance to support stabilisation in new areas of insecurity in Southern Sudan should be a priority at this point. UNDP’s recent initiative in this regard is welcome.

Generous, front loaded, donor support for the organisation of the self-determination referendum

The self-determination referendum is a key benchmark in CPA implementation, and will require heavy logistic and administrative support. The time available to put arrangements in place is extremely limited. As already suggested the referendum commission now needs to be established and become operational without delay. To achieve this will require significant donor funds being made

available to it (and to a lesser degree to the Abyei referendum commission) very early in 2010 .This may prove an administrative challenge for some donors.

It is recommended therefore that donors either fast-track or find other ways to accelerate internal approval and release processes so that sufficient funds are available to the commission at the earliest possible point in time following its establishment.

Continued UN review of responses to emerging requirements

Since the MTE UNMIS has responded energetically to new requirements such as election support. Similar requirements will exist with respect to the referendum. Increased insecurity in parts of Southern Sudan have brought into play its mandate to assist in the protection of civilians, and to that end it has expanded its footprint in affected areas, and may need to do more in this regard in the coming period.

The Commission wishes to take the opportunity to stress again the importance it attaches to the parties working in the closest possible way with UNMIS, and to underline the extent to which restrictions on its freedom of movement are self-defeating in terms of the parties' interest in preserving the peace. It also notes once more the positive impact UNMIS assistance with community and local infrastructure can have, and takes this opportunity again to commend and encourage such assistance.

Whatever the result of the self determination referendum, war affected areas will continue to require assistance, and the South in particular is likely to continue to need broad-ranging security and logistic support from the UN as well as humanitarian and development assistance. Post 2011 planning will need to reflect this.

Greater use by the parties of the AEC and its staff

As the MTE noted, the AEC is unique in that it is mandated in the CPA and brings together the parties on a regular basis with governments from the region and beyond with a long standing record of support for, and experience, of the peace process. Its monitoring and support role will remain important through the final stage of the interim period .With the parties' continuing active support and engagement it can be a powerful advocate for the CPA.

The AEC staff provide independent support to the Commission. The parties are about to embark upon a complex – and potentially very significant - set of discussions concerning the arrangements that will pertain after the self-determination referendum. It is essential that these discussions be carried out in a well supported way which leads to swift, fair and mutually beneficial outcomes before the referendum. The parties have demonstrated courage and ability

during the interim period to resolve outstanding issues in CPA implementation bilaterally. But some international support to the upcoming discussions is likely to be needed. The AEC and its staff have expertise, resources and organisational capacity which could be used to help facilitate this, and could if requested perform some underpinning secretariat functions including through the timely procurement of relevant experts and case studies from the international community.

The holding of a further CPA supporters' conference or conferences at appropriate points to draw together the strands of international support and help the parties address challenges

The need for international support for CPA implementation in the final phase will go beyond the AEC membership and donors. Regional organizations such as the African Union, the Arab League and IGAD, have a particular role to play. The Washington CPA supporters' conference was welcome recognition both of the importance of high level international engagement and of the need for the broadest possible international support. More such meetings have been envisaged. They could, at appropriate points, assist significantly in providing positive momentum in the final stages of the interim period.