



## **Building Consensus on Common Ground Issues: El Geneina, West Darfur Women**

**El Geneina, West Darfur  
August 30 - 31, 2009**

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## A. INTRODUCTION

In close collaboration with its partners, including the University Centers for Peace and Development Studies in Darfur and the United Nations–African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), the Darfur–Darfur Dialogue and Consultation (DDDC) is facilitating broad and inclusive consultations with key stakeholders to discuss and find solutions to the root causes of the conflict in Darfur.

In this regard, **Building Consensus on Common Ground Issues: El Geneina, West Darfur Women** was held at the UNAMID Substantive Camp in El Geneina, West Darfur State, on August 30 - 31, 2009.

During the two–day consultation, 80 women from West Darfur localities, representing internally displaced persons (IDP), non-governmental organizations (NGO), women leaders, teachers, businesswomen, pastoralists, and poets, gathered in El Geneina and discussed and built consensus around six common ground issues: land and natural resources, security, identity, recovery and development, administration and democracy, and reconciliation.

The participants were divided into four groups to discuss the common ground issues among themselves and then shared their recommendations with other groups. All of the participants met again to discuss points of agreement and disagreement to narrow differences and build wider consensus on recommendations by West Darfur women.

Key findings include:

- Providing adequate education opportunities for girls and women can assist in preventing a re-escalation of conflict due to land redistribution.
- Instituting “women police” units comprised of women that are trained to help protect women could improve security in IDP camps.
- If solving the Darfur crisis becomes an overall goal around which different conflicting groups focus all of their energy, the Darfur identity can emerge stronger than before the crisis.
- All Darfurians, particularly women and youth, should participate in the development of Darfur.
- A weakness of native administration is its long exclusion of women.
- The media can contribute to reconciliation by focusing on the role of women in the reconciliation process, which has thus far been overshadowed and ignored.

This report provides background on the DDDC, the consultation process, and common ground issues, and detailed findings from the **Building Consensus on Common Ground Issues: El Geneina, West Darfur Women** consultation.

The DDDC will work towards developing consensus around common ground issues during consultations throughout North, South, and West Darfur. Working closely with its partners and stakeholders, the DDDC will feed Darfurian views learned during these consultations into the Darfur peace process.

The DDDC would like to thank all consultation participants and is grateful for the collaboration and assistance received from the UNAMID El Geneina Civil Affairs Department, Child Protection Unit, the Gender Advisory Unit, the Humanitarian and Recovery Liaison Section, and Head of Office.

**Khartoum, Sudan  
October 28, 2009**

## **B. BACKGROUND**

### **THE DDDC**

Darfur is home to a multi-ethnic population that has long experienced severe social, economic, infrastructure, and environmental challenges, exacerbated by policies that have undermined the region's potential. This, in part, led to conflict over control of power, land and natural resources, and to the outbreak of war.

Massive displacement, destruction of infrastructure, loss of life, property, and livelihoods, blockage of nomadic roots, violence, and other war-related factors fractured the social structure of Darfur and weakened traditional peace and reconciliation mechanisms.

The Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA), which aimed to end the conflict in Darfur, did not secure consensus among all parties affected by the conflict. The DPA did, however, establish the DDDC, an autonomous, inclusive, non-partisan process mandated to enable Darfurians to voice their opinions and views to achieve sustainable peace and reconciliation in Darfur.

Tasked with helping Darfurians discuss and find solutions to the root causes of the conflict in Darfur, the DDDC developed a strategy to facilitate a broad and inclusive consultation process. Working closely with its partners and stakeholders, the DDDC will feed Darfurian views learned during consultations into the Darfur peace process.

Seeking peace and reconciliation through dialogue and mediation to resolve conflict within and between communities is a deeply rooted Darfurian tradition. By engaging conflicting groups, restoring confidence, building trust, and promoting open and transparent dialogue to overcome grievances and agree on common grounds to achieve sustainable peace, the DDDC is a continuation of this tradition.

### **CONSULTATION PROCESS**

During 2007, the DDDC engaged with Darfurians at the grassroots level to build trust among stakeholders connected to the Darfur conflict. These consultations yielded a number of results, including identifying stakeholder's priority issues and familiarizing them with the consultative process. From 2008 to date, the DDDC has expanded its outreach to include consulting with a wide variety of Darfurians underrepresented in the Darfur peace process, including tribal leaders, civil society organizations, Arabs, youth, women, IDP, and other groups.

To ensure that the consultation process is inclusive and Darfurian owned, the DDDC has partnered with University Centers for Peace and Development Studies in El Fasher, Nyala, El Geneina, and Zalingei. In addition, the DDDC has partnered with some Darfur-based NGOs and others that also help facilitate DDDC consultations. Including, for example, the Ajaweed Organization for Peace and Reconciliation.

The DDDC follows a standard format in conducting consultations. At the beginning of each consultation, participants are placed in four groups, in which all the stakeholders present are equally represented. The facilitators then present each of the six common ground issues prepared by the DDDC Secretariat. Each group then convenes separately to discuss the individual issues and prepare their outcomes, which they present to all the participants. The presentation of the findings of the four groups is followed by a discussion by the participants and with a minimum intervention by the facilitator. This sequence of steps is repeated for each of the six common ground issues. The deliberations of the individual groups and the larger meetings are fully documented.

The DDDC is currently conducting consultations on a statewide basis and in localities throughout Darfur. Security permitting, the DDDC will conduct consultations in all Darfur localities. Where security prohibits consultations, the DDDC will bring participants to respective Darfur State capitals. The DDDC will also conduct individual statewide consultations with specific stakeholder groups. The DDDC will then conduct one statewide consultation in each Darfur State. This exercise will culminate in a Darfur-wide consultation. In parallel with consultations, the DDDC has and will continue to conduct theme specific consultations and related peace and reconciliation activities.

## COMMON GROUND ISSUES

The DDDC, with the support of national and international partners, engaged Darfurian stakeholders in Darfur, Khartoum, and abroad to help identify “common ground” issues with the objective of working towards developing consensus around them. The common ground issues identified are:

- Land and Natural Resources
- Security
- Identity
- Recovery and development
- Administration and Democracy
- Reconciliation

## C. CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

During the two-day El Geneina, West Darfur Women’s consultation, 80 women from West Darfur localities openly discussed and built consensus around the six common ground issues as follows:

### Land and Natural Resources

1. Darfur’s nomadic and settled communities can increase cooperation and reduce competition to meet conflicting land and livelihood needs by:
  - In principle, both sedentary (farmers) and nomads (grazers) groups are able to establish dialogue in order to negotiate mainly on land and other natural resources that are linked to their livelihoods.
  - Forming committees comprised of different parties including, native administration, youth and women groups and individuals and entities with expertise and specialization in both statutory and customary land laws and traditional practices related to land use, acquisition and ownership in Darfur.
  - As the role of a committee is of high significance for establishing dialogue, which represents an option for peaceful settlement of conflicts over land and other resources, these committees should adopt the *Rakhuba* and *Judiya* systems, traditional mediation and reconciliation systems, on basis of full mutual respect, recognition and acceptance of others as bottom-line values governing such negotiation.
2. It is possible to ensure viable migratory routes for nomads so that they can remain sufficiently flexible to meet changing ecological circumstances that is not detrimental to the livelihoods of settled populations by:
  - Ensuring that the government demarcates clear and safe routes for nomad’s livestock in their seasonal movement. This is the responsibility of the government, which can achieve this by:
    - Forming separate, specialized and neutral committees for the purpose of establishing animal movement routes through sedentary areas.
    - Developing and enforcing rules and regulation managing animal movement.
    - Raising community awareness regarding nomads and sedentary issues of concern.
    - Activating the Crops Protection committees to help resolve conflicts.
    - Enacting and implementing laws and codes regulating farmer–nomad relationships and livelihoods.
    - Prohibiting destructive and damaging practices, including the fixation of *al-hawa* fences
    - Clearing and widening animal routes and roads for normal traffic through cultivation areas in a way that allows for smooth movement.
    - Delegating the authority of land distribution to the native administration, as it is an inherited role practiced through the sheikhs, who used to provide land to nomads and new arrivals.
3. Nomadic groups can settle and develop new livelihoods that will not result in new conflicts if:
  - Land is provided by the government per the following conditions:

- The land allocated is not already part of a land parcel held by farmers.
  - The land allocated is government owned, not tribe owned, as designated by the *Hawakeer* system, a traditional system of allocating land to tribes.
  - The government provides security in new settlements.
  - The social fabric damaged by the Darfur conflict is restored.
  - Nomads and farmers have equal access to resources in a manner that promotes integrated livelihoods.
4. Necessary measures to prevent further environmental degradation in North Darfur include:
- The government ensuring the availability of permanent construction materials at reasonable prices for war-affected Darfurians.
  - Providing fuel alternatives, such as solar energy, gas, and electricity, to help reduce the demand for firewood.
5. It is possible to clarify the relationship between statutory and customary land law by:
- Enacting new laws or amending current laws that specifically address land use, acquisition, and ownership conflicts in Darfur.
  - These newly enacted and amended laws should carefully protect inherited rights to land and rights in land use and acquisition to strengthen the establishment of peace. They should also account for cases regarding unregistered land issues in Darfur.
  - Participants agreed that prior to the conflict in Darfur, customary land rules and traditional practices were successful in resolving land conflicts, protecting community inherited rights to land, land distribution to nomads, and new arrivals for different purposes.
6. It is possible to reform and strengthen the *Hawakeer* system to ensure that the basic needs of all people in Darfur are met by:
- First addressing illegal land occupancy and forfeiture rights by taking the following actions:
    - Returning illegally occupied land to its rightful owner.
    - Provide government owned land to new arrivals and nomads who wish to settle.
    - Confiscating weapons held by the Arab militias that helped create massive displacement in Darfur.
    - During the arms collection process the government should regain control of illegally held areas by using the Sudan Army.
  - Incorporating measures that make the system capable of addressing land conflict resolution in post-conflict Darfur.
  - Incorporating measures that make the system flexible in terms of land use and distribution to meet the needs of different groups on the basis of justice, acceptance, and recognition of others.
  - Incorporating measures that address gender in land issue by bringing in the perspective of female access to land, acquisition, use, investment, and inherited rights to land. Unmistakably, such advocated gender rights are missing in the *Hawakeer* system, which currently guarantees such rights inclusively within the extended family affiliation where females are subordinate.
  - Including women in native administration and local community management structures for promoted access to rights based on fair and equal women representation in local structures and increased participation in decision-making process.
7. Appropriate ways to settle the high volume of land disputes in Darfur include:
- Activating the pre-existing community conflict resolution and coping mechanisms.

- Reforming native administration as follows:
    - Integrate, with fair representation, women and youth in native administration and local community management structures and in land conflict resolution committees.
    - Settle land conflict issues by using the “Tree Approach,” where by the conflict is portrayed as a tree in which the roots signify the deep-lying causes of the conflict, the soil represents the contributing factors, the stem signifies the conflict problem, and the branches signify the conflict consequences, to ensure that the root causes of the conflict are well addressed to avoid relapse into further conflicts.
  - Statutory land law should emphasize inherited rights to land and allow land registration in Darfur to occur in a similar manner to what which is being done in other areas of Sudan.
8. To prevent re-escalation of conflict due to land redistribution:
- Compensation IDP and refugees.
  - Compensation Darfurians for the human losses and material damages suffered during the conflict.
  - Return *Hawakeer* allocated land to its real owner, including IDP and refugees.
  - Provide government owned land to nomads who wish to settle and new arrivals.
  - Disarm militias.
  - Provide adequate education opportunities, for girls and women in particular.
  - Raise awareness about conflict resolution.
  - Provide security to help create an environment conducive for the establishment of peace.
  - Rehabilitate war-damaged villages by restoring social services to accommodate IDP and refugee repatriation.

## Security

9. To help ensure the security of IDP currently living in camps and during repatriation to their areas of origin:
- Establish an adequate number of police posts in IDP camps.
  - Establish police checkpoints on roads linking villages to improve security outside and on the outskirts of IDP camps.
  - Ensure government presence inside IDP camps to control criminal activity.
  - Organize mobile police posts in nomad areas to help keep migratory routes safe.
  - Address gender issues by instituting “women police” units comprised of women in the police force that are trained to help protect women.
  - Ban the carrying and movement of illegal weapons in IDP camps.
  - Establish regular interior and exterior IDP camp patrols reinforced by the military.
  - Alleviate the politicization of IDP and have them refrain from hosting rebels and insurgents within camps.

- Guarantee the presence of at least one International NGO (INGO) in each IDP camp to help monitor assaults and to provide the necessary assistance needed.
  - Disarm all groups. Only the Sudan Armed Forces, Government of Sudan, and Civilian Police should carry arms in Sudan.
  - Restrict the influx of arms into Sudan by implementing measures to stop arms smuggling activities.
  - Fuse all police forces into one force.
10. It is possible to reform and regulate the security sector in a way that ensures that it is genuinely representative, accountable, impartial, and trusted if the following arrangements are guaranteed:
- Darfurians are recruited to serve in security sector bodies.
  - Women are recruited and trained to serve in security sector bodies, focusing on combating gender based violence and addressing women related security concerns.
  - Different security sector bodies are coordination and consolidation, including voluntary efforts in support of security forces. Special attention is required so that volunteers, such as paralegals and community police, who are already vulnerable, are not further exposed to risks.
  - Enacting and enforcing retributive laws to try individuals who destabilized Darfur.
  - Ensuring that police open cases and actively investigate and pursue justice when victims report crimes, particularly gender based violence, such as rape.
  - Upgrade security sectors capabilities in terms of adopting and using updated technology and techniques in an effort to combat increasing crime.
  - Provide proper training and equipment to security sector bodies.
  - End the recruitment of child soldiers.
  - Recruit university graduates into security services.
11. The roles the police, army, and national security forces should play to enforce the law include:
- Facilitating opening cases and accurately reporting and documenting gender based violence, such as rape, and other crimes.
  - Abiding by regulations and enforcing the law with the highest respect to ethics and values.
  - Recruiting qualified personnel, including university graduates.
  - Providing security and protection to the civilians, particularly women's groups.
12. The main principles that should guide negotiations on disarmament and arms control in Darfur include:
- Holding the Government of Sudan responsible for implementing effective arms collection programs.
  - Illegal arms collection mechanisms that encourage volunteering in support of the Government of Sudan's efforts to monitor the collection process of illegal arms, including identification procedures and pursuing and arresting fugitives and confrontational gunmen.
  - Forming and deploying sub committees under the umbrella of the Arms Collection and Reintegration Commission to ensure that all areas of Sudan are covered and to provide assistance in the collection process.

- Implementing awareness-raising programs that address the risk of arms, mines, and explosives.
  - Involving all impacted parties in the arms collection process, including native administration, Arab umdas, sheikhs, tribal leaders, and leaders of militias and opposition groups.
  - Using the most effective means and techniques for arms collection.
  - Enforcing and applying strict penalties for those who illegally carry or possess arms.
  - Reviewing and verifying lists of all armed forces personnel in each of their respective units.
  - Establishing a special mechanism to integrate and fully support native administration in illegal arms collection programs.
13. It is possible to build confidence and cooperation between different armed actors by:
- Unify their goals, demands, and visions.
  - Demonstrating good will and forsaking the past.
  - Engaging armed actors in dialogue and negotiation to reach to most acceptable solutions.
14. UNAMID has many roles to play in peace in Darfur, including:
- Helping provide basic services to war-affected communities.
  - Timely intervening in emergency situations and security incidents, including transporting victims of crime who are in urgent need of medical assistance and disrupting criminal elements in IDP camps. Participants agreed that it is widely observed that UNAMID forces refrain from engaging in fighting criminals and remain stagnant in situations that require their intervention.
  - Intensifying security patrols.
  - Advocating among UN agencies and the INGO community for increased humanitarian support.
  - Internally and externally reporting the true needs of IDP.
  - Participating in disarmament programs.
  - Convening and consulting with different actors and supporting local peace initiatives.
  - Calling for and coordinating improved security and protection in Darfur.
  - Adopting proven civilian security and protection methods and strategies developed in countries that have experienced similar situations present in the Darfur conflict.
  - Conducting research activities to identify the root causes of the Darfur conflict in order to help create the appropriate responses within the Darfur peace process.
  - Playing a role in implementing development projects in Darfur that will contribute to the welfare and economic recovery of Darfurians.
  - Identifying self-reflective shortcomings attributed to the challenges of limited support provided by the international community.
  - In addition to reporting peace agreement violations, UNAMID should go beyond its mandate stipulated in the UN Charter Chapter 7, "Action with Respect to Threats to the Peace, Breaches of the Peace, and Acts of Aggression," and use force to provide security, including pursuing and arresting of criminals.

## Identity

15. "Darfur consensus" and "Darfur identity" have many shapes and forms, including:
  - Darfur consensus means Arabs and non-Arabs in full agreement on all issues of joint concern in their life.
  - The Darfur consensus is missing in the Darfur conflict, which has eroded cohesion and allowed factionalism and disagreement to prevail.
  - It is possible that the Darfur consensus could return by bringing conflicting tribes together, uniting under one umbrella of Darfur with the slogan of "Darfur can accommodate all."
  - The Darfur consensus could mean that all Darfur people unifying their goals and jointly denouncing discrimination whether based on tribe, color, or language through encouraging intermarriage toward affinity and a restored social fabric.
  - The Darfur consensus is broken in the aftermath of the conflict due to disagreements over visions and goals, damaged inter-tribal bonds, provoked ethnical hatreds, and the destruction of clans.
  - It is possible to reshape Darfur identity at all levels by reviving and adhering to Darfur traditions and customs, as well as accommodating change in attitudes and behavior.
  - The Darfur identity is easily re-established if the needs of all groups are recognized and superiority is no longer deemed as a privilege to a certain group over other groups.
  - Before the conflict, Darfur identity was represented in a collective life where Darfurians shared resources such as water, pastures, and land and adhered to the same customs and traditions. Despite the damaged social fabric created by the conflict, Darfur traditions and customs managed to survive and remain a unifying factor absent a Darfur identity.
  - If Darfur becomes an overall goal around which different conflicting groups focus all of their goals, the Darfur identity can emerge stronger than before the crisis.
  - As diversity is a characteristic of Darfur identity, due to coexistence with different ethnic groups such as Arabs, non-Arabs, migrants from the neighboring countries, such as Chad and Central African Republic, it has become difficult to create appropriate identification procedures, which usually require witnesses, supporting official documents, and involves prolonged investigation. This has complicated the issues of citizenship and conflict over resources, including land.
  
16. There is no single definition that captures what it means to be Darfurian and Sudanese. Being Darfurian and Sudanese includes:
  - Being attached to a distinguished set of traditions, customs and cultures deeply rooted in the Darfur community that is characterized by ethnical, language, and cultural within the greater Sudan society.
  - Being born in Darfur, having lived for a long time in Darfur, and bearing a Sudanese nationality card or certificate.
  - Being born, raised, and educated in Darfur means you are Sudanese as long as Darfur is considered a part of Sudan.
  - In the past different people were identified by the type of activity they engaged in, such as "*Abbala* for camel grazers, "*Jannama*" for shepherds, "*Baggara*" for the cattle grazers and "*Muzarein*" for farmers. This is not based ethnicity and is not discriminatory.

- IDP are facing real difficulty in obtaining nationality cards as no consideration is paid to their circumstances, including the fact that their identification cards were lost or damaged during the conflict or that they do not have the financial means to obtain replacement cards.
17. Darfur can contribute to the resolution of the challenge of the African / Arab Sudanese national identity by:
- Adopting authentic deeply rooted Sudanese traditions and customs, which blend both African and Arab cultures.
  - Harmonizing different components found in Sudan culture and strengthening coexistence among different ethnic groups.
18. There are numerous ways for Darfurians to accommodate recent immigrants from Chad, Central African Republic, and other areas in Africa, including.
- New arrivals and migrants should not automatically receive nationality cards.
  - Sudan is open to neighbors due to its vast borders with nine countries. Thus, migrants and new arrivals could receive temporary residence permits or a “second level citizenship” while in the process of applying for full citizenship.
  - New arrivals and migrants should not participate in the resolution of Darfur conflict.
  - Deport to their country of origin, migrants and new arrivals that illegally obtained nationality cards.
  - It is the responsibility of the Government of Sudan to provide new arrivals and migrants land that is not part of tribal land, as this would deprive Sudanese of their historical rights to their land.
  - Migration and population movement to Sudan should be subject for profound debate to determine, among other matters, the motives behind movements, why individuals are given Sudanese nationality cards, etc.
  - Categorize new arrivals as nomads and handle their cases in the same manner regarding distribution of land.

## **Recovery and Development**

The priorities for development in Darfur in the short–, medium–, and long–term are as follow:

### 19. Short–term priorities:

- Provide security.
- Provide basic social services.
- Implement economic, agriculture, and technological development projects for women.
- Support education programs specifically for women and children.

### 20. Medium–term priorities:

- Plan and implement sustainable development programs based on scientific studies.
- Transportation infrastructure rehabilitation, including paving roads and building bridges.

### 21. Long–term priorities:

- Establish factories and industrial corporations, and promote investment opportunities.

- Rehabilitate the industrial sector to absorb the large number unemployed Darfurians.
  - Construct roads to link the Darfur states with each and the Darfur regions with other parts of Sudan.
22. A Darfur development strategy should consider the following factors:
- To achieve comprehensive development in Darfur it is necessary to accept technical support provided by the international community in the form of training, education, capacity and skills building programs that focus particularly on women and young adults.
  - All Darfurians, particularly women and youth, should participate in the development of Darfur.
  - Darfurian specialists should design development strategies for Darfur that accurately incorporate the needs and ambitions of Darfurians at the grassroots.
23. Development and peace-oriented activities that can take place before the signing of a comprehensive ceasefire agreement include:
- Support for education and health programs.
  - Support to the agricultural sector in the form of farming tools, machinery, and seeds.
  - Support to the animal husbandry sector in the form of veterinary care, enhanced breeding, pasture rehabilitation, and animal–fodder farming.
  - Road construction.
  - Training programs to empower women.
  - Disseminating a culture of peace through forums, lectures, seminars, and religious events conducted by religious leaders.
24. Factors that can help change the perception and reality of marginalization experienced in Darfur:
- Holding the Government of Sudan responsible for the implementation of comprehensive development in Darfur.
  - The adoption of a “Ten year development plan” with an overall goal of achieving development in all Darfur states.
  - Implementing a development plan that can realistically meet the immediate needs of Darfurians.
25. The implementation of a real peace agreement in Darfur could help initiate improving Darfurians access to services, resources, and employment opportunities.
26. Meaningful peace in Darfur could help attract investment to aid the recovery of Darfur.

### **Administration and Democracy**

27. The strengths of the native administration include:
- Its capability of resolving tribal conflicts based on experience and wisdom.
  - The vital role it can play in managing problems by using traditional reconciliation and mediation mechanisms to bring together conflicting parties to resolve problems.
  - Its ability to manage tribal affairs and having control over tribesmen.

28. The weaknesses of the native administration include:
- It is influenced by politics and a political agenda, which surpasses its traditional informal role and has undermined its ability to gain followers or groups to respect it.
  - The government has converted it into a formal institution that implements policies of the ruling regime.
  - It has been deprived of its responsibilities and authority.
  - It is no longer qualified to resolve problems because it is not longer neutral.
  - Its long exclusion of women.
29. The strengths and weakness of elected local governments include:
- Elected local governments help rehabilitate the localities infrastructure by focusing on implementing relatively supportive development projects, including support from the national government.
  - Elected local governments provide favorable opportunities to receive national government funding to support locality level projects.
  - Being selected by a ballot gives elected local officials the support of the people they represent.
  - A major weakness of the local elected government is selected officials are often weak, disqualified, indecisive, and fail to effectively carry out their responsibilities.
30. A federal system, comprised of officials interested in implementing real democracy and willing and capable of addressing the grievances of the population, is the preferred type of ruling system / government suitable for Darfur.
31. Government systems that are reformed to reflect a geography based approach to organizing and demarcating localities to accommodate ethnic diversity, composition, and development trends as expressed by the population, are capable of effectively addressing the challenges of urbanization, migration, and reintegration in Darfur.
32. Free, fair, and democratic elections in Darfur are only possible if:
- Security is prevalent.
  - Funds are available to cover costs of election propaganda, mobilization, transportation, voter registration, voter identification cards, etc.
  - Voter education and awareness programs addressing democratic elections are implemented.
  - Candidates for office are truly from the communities they wish to represent.
  - "Tribalism" is removed from the candidate selection process. Qualifications, experience, education, and community acceptance should drive candidate selection.
33. If ideal conditions are not realized, is it still possible to hold free and fair elections in Darfur if:
- The participation of different community groups, women and eligible youth in particular is guaranteed.
  - The rights of all the parties in the race are respected.
  - All parties receive equal and fair funding.

- All parties have equal access to the media and adhere to a clean and impartial approach in propaganda.

34. The electoral process can contribute to peace, reconciliation and stability in Darfur if:

- Security is provided.
- Peaceful conflict resolution approaches are adopted on the basis of impartiality and comprehensiveness.
- Women and youth are well engaged and fully participate.
- Participants agreed that elections could not succeed unless impartiality is guaranteed.

### **Reconciliation**

35. The goals and objectives of reconciliation in Darfur include:

- Enabling all people to live together in peace and security.
- Creating peaceful coexistence among all groups as was the case before the conflict.
- Creating a peaceful and stabilized living environment.
- Restoring the social fabric and reunifying social cohesion.
- Reinforcing feelings of security to enable the population to return to normal life.
- Forgetting past trauma.
- Stopping of bloodshed.
- Resolving disputes and ending the conflict.
- Helping provide basic social services, including health, education, and clean water.
- Ensuring that sustainable peace is established and to avoid future conflict.

36. It could become possible and appropriate for a process of reconciliation to begin in Darfur after:

- Participants agreed that the reconciliation process should have already started.
- All parties and groups, including international actors, sit at the negotiation table.
- Militias are disarmed, security is provided, and the issue of land occupancy by nomads and new arrivals is resolved, i.e., "villages are liberated."
- Group and individual compensation payments are made to IDP and the refugees for lost property, material damages, human casualties, and other conflict-related losses.
- Mass compensation is made to begin the process of reconstructing damaged villages and rehabilitating destroyed infrastructure, including schools, hospitals, health clinics, roads, and water systems.
- Confidence is built and good will is demonstrated among all groups.
- Provisions of security are in place to ensure stability.

37. Credibility, confidence building, honoring past agreements, payment of individual, group, and mass compensation, equal justice, punishment for perpetrators of crimes, forgiveness, traditional and religious conflict resolution mechanisms, and commitment should guide reconciliation in Darfur.
38. The roles individuals, groups, governments, and international community should play in reconciliation include:
- Providing expertise, support, and advice to move parties toward reconciliation.
  - Raising awareness about the benefits of reconciliation and the impact failing to reconcile will have on Darfur.
  - Emphasizing the role of women.
  - Unifying different groups to present inclusive visions towards achieving reconciliation.
  - Engaging youth, particularly in IDP camps, to participate in peace negotiations and work with elders.
  - Explaining the difference between reconciliation and negotiation.
  - Helping broaden participation of all parties in the peace process.
39. The media can contribute to reconciliation by:
- Focusing on the role of women in the reconciliation process, which has thus far been overshadowed and ignored.
  - Bringing to the attention of the population reconciliation efforts that are currently being undertaken.
  - Communicate with all of the population by reporting in an easily understood manner and producing print, radio, and television programs in local dialects.
  - Disseminating accurate and reliable information and disclosing and refuting rumors and unfounded information.
  - Offering a liberal, fair, and neutral forum for expression of idea, opinions, and viewpoints.
  - Utilizing artistic outlets, such as drama, music, and poetry to convey messages of peace and reconciliation.
40. The best mechanisms for reconciliation in Darfur are:
- Traditional mediation, such as *Ajaweed*.
  - Native administration.
  - Justice and confidence building.
  - Customary laws.
41. The role of compensation and repatriation in reconciliation include:
- Helping facilitate reconciliation.
  - Providing a feeling of satisfaction to IDP and refugees who repatriate.
  - Addressing grievances.

- Helping create satisfaction.
- Building confidence.
- Contributing to the community economic recovery process.
- Participants agreed that compensation payments should be made on the basis of equality and justice and without discrimination.

42. Amnesty and prosecution for crimes relate to reconciliation in different ways, including:

- Prosecuting criminals helps the grieving process and strengthens confidence.
- Fair trials for criminals will help bring justice.
- The burden of evidence gathering against perpetrators of crimes in Darfur is a major challenge in the process of establishing fair trials.
- Trails for top government officials, who have the ultimate responsibility for the widespread human rights violations and assaults in Darfur, are appropriate.
- While some participants believe that prosecution is mandatory, some participants believe that forgiveness is a better option if it helps stop the current conflict and helps prevent future conflicts.
- Forgiveness is only appropriate in the case of minor criminal acts. Prosecution is the only method for perpetrators of major crimes, such as rape and murder.

43. The role the international community should play in reconciliation include:

- Provision of security.
- Funding development projects.
- Supporting the post conflict reconstruction process, including rebuilding war-damaged villages and infrastructure rehabilitation.
- Supporting reconciliation efforts based on common ground issues to enable all parties to agree on final solutions to address the root causes of the Darfur conflict.
- Urging all parties involved in the conflict to reach and accept satisfactory solutions based on mutual respect to and recognition of the needs and demands of all.
- Assisting with IDP and refugee voluntary repatriation, including conducting assessments to determine the necessary amount of support required.

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For more information about this report, email the DDDC, [info@dddc.org](mailto:info@dddc.org)

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