



**Building Consensus on Common Ground Issues:  
Tribal Leaders and Native Administrators  
Zalingie, West Darfur**

**Zalingie, West Darfur  
October 27 – 28, 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) Civil Affairs Department, 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.

On October 27 – 28, 2009, the DDDC and the Zalingie University Peace and Development Studies Center facilitated a common ground consultation with 50 tribal leaders and native administrators from West Darfur’s Zalingie localities. Sultan’s deputies, Amirs, Umdas, Sharties, and Sheikhs representing the different Zalingie tribes participated in the two–day consultation, which was the first of its kind ever held in Zalingie.

Zalingie University professors and lectures attended and participated in the consultation sessions. Representatives from various UNAMID departments also attended.

During the two–day consultation, the participants were divided into three groups to discuss the common ground issues: land and natural resources, security, identity, recovery and development, administration and democracy, and reconciliation, among themselves and then shared their recommendations with other groups. All of the participants met again to discuss points of agreement and disagreement, narrowed their differences and built wider consensus on their recommendations.

Key findings include:

- Settlers and pastoralists should have equal representation on conflict resolution committees, participate in peaceful coexistence programs, and help create a culture of peace.
- It is necessary to, in part, empower native administrations with the authority and required capacity to actively participate in helping maintain security in Darfur.
- It is necessary to adequately verify how new settlers who arrived to Darfur during the war received their current nationality status and identity documentation that they possess.
- Darfurian experts and specialists, with participation and input from local communities and national and international experts, should plan and implement development strategies for Darfur.
- If native administrations have true access to power and authority they are capable of managing their constituencies and solving problems within and between tribes and communities.
- It is imperative that all stakeholders have the desire and willingness to reconcile and that all reconciliation agreements are implemented and respected.

This report provides background on the DDDC, the consultation process, common ground issues, and detailed findings from the **Building Consensus on Common Ground Issues: Tribal Leaders and Native Administrators Zalingie, West Darfur** consultation.

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

The DDDC would like to express its gratitude to all consultation participants.

**Khartoum, Sudan  
January 8, 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, Internally Displaced Persons, 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 South Darfur civil society consultation, 51 civil society representatives from South Darfur’s 15 localities openly discussed and built consensus around the six common ground issues as follows:

### Land and Natural Resources

1. Negotiations between settlers (farmers) and pastoralists regarding land and pastoral routes should take place according to common customs and traditions supervised by native administrations. It is critical that the authority of native administrations is supported so that it can effectively impose its powers to help control illegal weapons, deal firmly with outlaws, etc., until peace prevails and peaceful coexistence is reached between concerned parties.
2. Reopen old nomadic routes with consent between settlers and pastoralists according to respected Darfur customs and traditions. Native administrations should actively supervise and physically monitor this process according to a fixed timetable for releasing animals, the movement of pastoralists and their animals in defined areas, and other related issues.
3. Nomadic groups that want to settle and adopt new livelihood strategies should:
  - Seek approval of the native administrations and proper authorities in proposed areas of settlement.
  - Inform the proper authorities about the place and time of proposed settlement.
  - Respect local customs and traditions.
4. Governmental authorities should provide and sustain basic services and develop the infrastructure, such as education, health water, etc., in areas of settlement. This will assist both settlers and pastoralists with integration.
5. Settlers and pastoralists should have equal representation on conflict resolution committees, participate in peaceful coexistence programs, help create a culture of peace, and promote religious awareness that encourages brotherhood, love, and good neighbourly relations.
6. New appropriate livelihood strategies that are environmental friendly and sustainable for Darfur include:
  - Improving agricultural techniques, including providing improved seeds, modern agricultural machinery, improving animal health to increase production, etc.
  - Modern water conservation techniques, including rainwater catchment systems, construction of dams and water barriers for vegetable and fruit production, and aquaculture.
  - The introduction and industrialization of food processing, leather tanneries.

- The development of heavy industry such as mining, oil exploration and production, etc.
  - Wildlife protection.
  - Tourism development.
7. To protect natural resources and reduce environmental degradation in Darfur it is necessary to:
- Raise the population's awareness of environmental preservation.
  - End illegal deforestation, including halting the practice of burning down forests for grazing and other destructive purposes.
  - Introduce reforestation programs, including education, and preservation of "green" areas.
  - Introduce specific environmental awareness and education programs for nomads in areas of resettlement.
  - Reactivate and enforce regulations addressing the protection of natural resources and form a specialized police force to ensure enforcement.
  - Introduce advanced and environmental friendly farming techniques to help prevent soil degradation.
  - Establish local factories in Darfur to produce cement, compressed bricks, and environmentally friendly building materials.
  - Use substitutes other than wood for building material and fuel, such as gas, petroleum products, animal and plant residue, solar power, etc.
8. Sustain the *Hakora* system, a traditional system of allocating land to tribes, and organize and approve current land tenures using existing documents and maps.
9. Laws and regulations relating to the allocation of and land use should comport with Darfur customs.
10. Familiarize Darfurians with national and local laws regarding land use in Darfur specifically and in Sudan in general.
11. The suitable way to resolve the large number of disputes and conflicts around land issues in Darfur is to refer the parties in conflict to traditional conflict resolution mechanisms, such as the *Jodiya* system, for arbitration.
12. It is necessary to complement the *Jodiya* system by:
- Establishing and maintaining security.
  - Imposing state sovereignty.
  - Activating native administrations and supporting its authority and administrative and legal legitimacy so that they are able to effectively conduct their work as intended.
13. To help encourage Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) and refugee voluntary repatriation and peaceful resettlement in their villages of origin or where they lived prior to the violence that caused them to flee, it is necessary to:
- Provide security in areas of return and impose state sovereignty.

- Individually and collectively compensate IDP and refugee returnees for their losses.
- Remove illegal settlers from IDP and refugee lands and return the land to the original and proper owners.
- Rebuild and rehabilitate basic infrastructure, homes, and other war-damaged property.
- Provide employment opportunities and other related income-generation assistance to returnees and war-affected Darfurians to help them resume their lives.
- Empower native administrations in war-affected areas and areas of return so that they are able to carry out their tasks of maintaining order and helping rejuvenate Darfur's social fabric.
- Help revive religious conscience, a culture of peace, and urge all parties in areas of return to reconcile and to start anew.

### **Security**

14. In order to provide security in Darfur, the following is required:

- Disarm of all groups except the national army, police, and legally established security organizations.
- Establish police stations in IDP and refugee areas of return and other war-affected areas.
- Empower native administrations with the authority and required capacity to actively participate in helping maintain security.
- Improve coordination and cooperation between the Government of Sudan, UNAMID, and native administrations to better protect IDP and refugee returnees.
- Impose state sovereignty and establish strong regulations to hold outlaws and lawbreakers accountable.
- Grant no guarantees to individuals or groups that are involved in war crimes.
- Revive and support the nomad mobile court system.
- Dissolve the archaic nomadic police system and transfer the responsibility of restoring security to the regular police forces.

15. To rebuild confidence and trust between security institutions and citizens, the following is necessary:

- Reform, organize, and nationalize security institutions so that they are neutral, transparent and effective.
- Refrain from tribalism, sectarianism, and politicization.
- Respect the law governing the recruitment of personnel for security institutions.
- Ensure that individuals with criminal records are forbidden from joining security institutions.

16. The role of the security forces and organizations is to indiscriminately enforce the law, protect citizens, pursue and capture criminals, and responsibly respond to complaints from the population in a manner that installs confidence.

17. It is possible to achieve successful disarmament in Darfur through the following:
- First, attain and sustain peace.
  - Involving all concerned parties in the disarmament process.
  - Involve native administrations in the arms collection process.
  - Reward those who voluntarily relinquish illegal arms.
  - Reactivate and enforce laws and regulations pertaining to weapons possession and hold violators accountable.
  - Intensify the monitoring of international borders to combat the smuggling and trade of weapons.
  - Activate the role of the community in disseminating a culture of peace and life without violence and in restoring and rejuvenating Darfur's social fabric.
18. To rebuild trust and confidence between armed groups it is necessary to urge them to find a way out of the current crisis through positive mediation, dialogue, and conferences supervised by native administrations and accepted by all tribal leaders. In order for this approach to succeed, effective follow-up mechanisms to ensure that agreements are honored are needed.
19. UNAMID has a role to play in protecting IDP and other citizens in Darfur, including:
- Proving through actions that it is capable of carrying out its responsibilities.
  - In coordination with native administrations, explain to the population its role, mandate, its means, and mechanisms that it depends on to implement its job in Darfur.
  - Visibly contribute to providing basic services, such as healthcare, water, education, transportation infrastructure rehabilitation, etc., to Darfurians.
  - Help better coordinate, with international agencies and the Government of Sudan, and provide humanitarian assistance to war-affected populations in Darfur.
  - Abide by the principals of neutrality, transparency, justice, and impartiality.

### **Identity**

20. Darfur consensus has various meanings, including:
- Belonging to the Darfur region with its inheritance, civilization, customs, and deeply rooted traditions.
  - Harmony, interaction, and the integration of Darfur tribes.
  - The unity of religion, consent, love, and peaceful coexistence.
  - Justice and equality among the population in the Darfur region in sharing wealth, power, and resources without discrimination and in keeping and being proud of Sudanese roots and patriotism.
  - Recognition of others and mutual respect for different groups and ethnicities.

21. A Darfur consensus after the conflict means overcoming grievances, reconciling for the sake of rejuvenating Darfur's social fabric, and peaceful coexistence among all Darfurians.
22. The Darfur conflict did not change the core identity of Darfurians. It remains an African–Arab identity and one with which the population is still grasping its customs, traditions, and shared culture. This identity is deeply rooted and fixed. It is not possible to reformulate it.
23. Being a Darfurian Sudanese means relating to the Darfur region, the land of the holy Quran, its ancient culture and generosity, and pride in living in the biggest Sudan state.
24. Darfur, with its mixed African–Arab culture, multicultural status, and as a region in harmony, is a good example of the idealism of the Sudanese identity. Consultation participants stressed that the DDDC is a suitable forum and mechanism for Darfurians to openly discuss their thoughts about their identity.
25. Two thirds of the consultation participants believe that new settlers in Darfur who migrated from Chad, Central African Republic, and other areas, during the Darfur conflict, and now have Sudanese nationality, are, according to Sudanese law and regulations, Sudanese. It is okay for these new settlers to remain in Darfur as long as they settle in coordination with the Government of Sudan and native administrations in their respective areas. All new settlers should abide by local customs and systems.
26. One third of the consultation participants believe that the best ways to address the issue of new settlers are as follows:
  - New settlers who arrived to Darfur prior to the war should receive positive treatment according to Darfurian customs and traditions.
  - It is necessary to adequately verify how new settlers who arrived to Darfur during the war received their current nationality status and identity documentation that they possess. It is important to investigate the conditions and circumstances under which each new settler received their documentation and deal with them fairly according to what is discovered.
  - The Government of Sudan should increase border monitoring with regards to illegal immigrants and become stricter when offering Sudanese nationality to new immigrants.

## **Recovery and Development**

27. The priorities for development in Darfur in the short–, medium–, and long–term are as follow:
  - Short–term priorities:
    - Provide security and impose state sovereignty to protect Darfur's population.
    - Disarmament.
    - Compensation for individuals and groups that suffered losses during the Darfur conflict.
    - Reconciliation.
    - Rehabilitation of villages and areas destroyed during the Darfur conflict.
    - Provision of food for the needy.
    - Provide the population with basic services, such as water, healthcare, education, and fire brigades.
    - Assistance with enhancing agricultural techniques and inputs.
    - Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) for secondary and university graduates and the unemployed.
    - Comprehensive skills training and human resource development programs.
  - Medium–term priorities:
    - Rehabilitate the local and state road network.
    - Rehabilitate the water, electricity, healthcare, education, and communication's infrastructure.
    - Construct dams, water basins, and water reservoirs.

- Recommence and finish projects halted because of the war, including the Jabel Mara and Sag Elnaam projects.
  - Introduce small industry to Darfur.
  - Introduce transformative and light industries.
  - Provide ambulance services and training for midwives.
  - Construct hospitals with specialization units.
  - Construct modern faculties at the University of Zalingie, including medical, engineering, veterinary, and law schools.
  - Improve veterinary services and develop a cattle and cattle by products export market.
  - Establish technical institutions.
  - Complete construction of the Salvation Western Road.
- Long-term priorities:
- Establish large-scale agricultural projects to cover the food gap in Darfur.
  - Rehabilitate the railway connecting all Darfur States.
  - Construct modern airports and modernize the regions air transportation system.
  - Exploit Darfur's natural resources, such as petroleum, uranium, and minerals.
  - Dig a canal from the Nile River to North Darfur.
  - Use the water reserve in Wadi Hawar for farming and herding.
  - Connect Darfur to the national electricity grid and equally share revenues generated from modernized national projects, such as Marawi Dam.
  - Develop water distribution systems in remote herding areas.
28. Darfurian experts and specialists, with participation and input from local communities and national and international experts, should plan and implement development strategies for Darfur.
29. Development activities that can that can and should take place before a comprehensive peace agreement is reached include:
- Human resource development projects that focus on school dropouts, street children, unemployed youth, and women.
  - Income generation projects and QIPs.
  - Skills training and human resource development programs.
  - Enhancing agricultural, particularly introducing modern farming techniques, and providing modern agriculture inputs such as disease-resistant seeds, machines, and funds for producers in secure areas.
  - Rehabilitating Darfur's basic infrastructure systems, including water, healthcare, transportation in cities, IDP camps, and other relatively secure areas.
  - Invigorating and reemphasizing culture, sports, outdoor activities, religion, and spiritual awareness.
  - Disseminating a culture of peace.
  - Increasing radio and television transmission to reach populations in remote locations so that they can participate in and support peace efforts, reconciliation, and coexistence.
30. It is possible to change the perception and reality of marginalization experienced in Darfur by:
- Ensuring that Darfurians have equal representation and participation in wealth sharing and that wealth is distributed fairly to and throughout Darfur.
  - Ensuring the Darfurians are equally represented in executive institutions on the local, state, and national levels.

- A sincere commitment from those in power that promises and commitments regarding Darfur are honored on the state and national levels.
  - Holding accountable Members of Parliament and other officials at all levels.
  - Forming legislatures in West Darfur localities, as is done in other Sudan states.
  - Reenergizing the role of Khalwas and religious institutions to disseminate religious awareness among the population.
31. Peace is an important factor for the resumption of services, the flow of goods, and the creation of jobs, and development in all sectors in Darfur. Peace also brings stability, which in turn encourages investment and the flow of local, national, and international resources to implement a variety of development, revitalization and other projects, all of which can create much needed jobs.

### **Administration and Democracy**

32. Strengths of the native administration system include:
- Popular support.
  - Knowledge, experience, wisdom, and capacity to resolve disputes.
  - Credibility and just.
33. Weaknesses of the native administration system include:
- Politicization.
  - Lack of power and authority.
  - Poorly educated, limited training, and ability to efficiently adapt to and address new issues.
  - Appointed by the government and similarly influenced.
  - Unclear devotion.
34. If native administrations have true access to power and authority they are capable of managing their constituencies and solving problems within and between tribes and communities.
35. Strengths of elected local governments include:
- Mass support and backing from the electorate.
  - A good understanding of the areas in which they govern and the ability to address local problems and challenges.
36. Weaknesses of elected local governments include:
- Tribal and sectarian control and political polarization.
  - Lack of resources and training for the executive and administrative cadres.
  - Lack of effective mechanisms to legislate and monitor issues effecting the population.
  - Accountability.
37. Comprehensive studies and plans should guide the establishment of localities.

38. Tribalism, sectarianism, and politics have no place in establishing localities.
39. The results of economic, social, and comprehensive environmental studies should play central roles in the establishment of localities.
40. The norms and criteria to consider when establishing localities include:
  - Population density.
  - Geographical area.
  - Economic and human resources and basic infrastructure.
  - Security, stability, and agreement and peaceful coexistence among the areas population.
41. Current administrative bodies that are properly comprised of Sheikhs, IDP committees, and national and international organizations are responsible for the administration of IDP living in camps.
42. With regards to documentation and property issues, native administrations that managed the population before they were uprooted should handle such matters today.
43. Upon repatriation to their areas of origin, the administration of returnees is the responsibility of native administrations that managed the population before they were uprooted, and in coordination with the Government of Sudan.
44. The reform of government systems so that they are capable of effectively addressing urbanization, migration, reintegration, and related challenges requires the following:
  - Democratic elections.
  - The formation of constitutions, articles, laws and trusted customs that are followed to ensure legitimacy.
  - Transparency, honesty, and appropriate planning and implementation methodologies.
  - Subjection and openness to questioning, accountability, and accuracy.
  - Keen observation, putting to use experience and wisdom, and empowering native administrations.
  - Provide citizens the opportunity to participate in the decision making process of the government.
45. Free, fair, and democratic elections in Darfur are only possible if:
  - Security, stability, and state sovereignty.
  - A truly free population.
  - IDP voluntarily repatriation to their areas of origin.
  - Comprehensive, honest, and recognized population census.
  - Fairly drawn areas of representation.
  - The implementation of comprehensive voter education and awareness programs.
  - Neutral and honest electoral committees.

- Electoral monitoring carried out by transparent, honest, and unbiased local and international bodies.
  - Equal resources for competing parties to implement media, communications, propaganda, and mobilization efforts.
46. If the above conditions are not met, carrying out elections in Darfur in April 2010 will prove a fruitless undertaking that will not serve the interest of Darfurians.
  47. If elections take place in favorable conditions, the process is fair and transparent, and acknowledged as such by the population, the will of the people will have been realized and elections would help bring stability to Darfur.
  48. If elections are held in a manner that is not honest and the results are questioned, they may lead to outbreaks of conflict that will threaten peace and increase the population's suffering.
  49. Approximately 85 percent of the consultation participants prefer the current model of governing Sudan, where by three individual Darfur states are directly linked to a central system.
  50. Approximately 15 percent of the consultation participants prefer a system where by Darfur is governed as one region.
  51. Darfur representation in the Presidential Council should reflect the population density of the Darfur region. Taking into consideration its size, Darfur should also hold the position of vice president and the leadership of a proportionate number of prominent federal ministries.

## **Reconciliation**

52. The goals and objectives for reconciliation in Darfur are:
  - Eliminating revulsion, grievances in the hearts of Darfurians, and rejuvenating Darfur's social fabric.
  - Re-establishing confidence between individuals and groups and returning relations to where they were before the conflict.
  - Returning rights to citizens.
  - Safe repatriation of IDP and refugees to their villages and areas of origin.
  - Repairing damage caused by the war and in areas affected by the war with the goal of returning Darfur to its proud past.
53. The necessary suitable conditions required to commence reconciliation in Darfur include:
  - Security and state sovereignty.
  - A genuine desire from all parties to reconcile.
  - Compensation and resumption of rights.
  - Reenergizing the role of native administrations.
54. Approximately 30 percent of the participants agreed that reconciliation could start as soon as the interested parties have a genuine desire to reconcile and are ready to begin the process.
55. It is imperative that an environment that is conducive for reconciliation is present, that all stakeholders have the desire and willingness to reconcile, and that all reconciliation agreements are implemented and respected.

56. Principles that should guide reconciliation in Darfur include:

- The Islamic faith.
- Deeply rooted Darfurian customs and traditions.
- Transparency and neutrality.
- Admission of mistakes.
- Achieving justice.
- Careful documentation of agreements and adopting mechanisms to ensure implementation.
- Amnesty for those who want it.
- Reconciliation.

57. The roles individuals, groups, governments, and the international community should play in reconciliation in Darfur include:

- Positive mediation to bring together common points of view among conflicting groups and communities.
- Urging conflicting groups to negotiate and reconcile.
- Identifying root causes of the Darfur conflict and determining ways to overcome them.
- Encouraging the use of religious outlets and peace education to convince those in conflict to reconcile.
- Enforcing the implementation of reconciliation agreements.
- Putting appropriate pressure on parties to comprise to reach reconciliation.
- Remaining neutral and transparent.
- Closely monitoring the implementation of reconciliation agreements to ensure that each party honor their commitments.
- Supporting the rehabilitation of war-damaged areas.
- Reporting outlaws to the proper authorities.
- Financial and logistical support for reconciliation programs and efforts.

58. The media and local popular communication mechanisms, such as the Hakkamat, woman singers, Baramka, poetry reading and tea drinking groups, and poets, have an essential role to play in reconciliation in Darfur, including:

- Spreading a culture of peace, love, and the abandonment of tribal affiliations.
- Sharing the importance of reconciliation, highlighting the disadvantages of war, and encouraging the population to embrace peace and reconciliation.

- Documenting and disseminating the reconciliation processes and recommendations and accordingly offering guidance.
  - Correcting the negative images reflected by the media during the war.
  - Remaining neutral and transparent.
  - Giving equal opportunities to all ethnicities to openly voice their opinion.
  - Refrain from discrimination and bias.
59. The preferred mechanisms for reconciliation in Darfur are:
- Traditional mechanisms, such as the *Jodiya* and reconciliation conferences.
  - Legal justice through courts.
  - Religious leaders and native administration.
  - Neutral reconciliation committees accepted by all parties.
  - Active follow-up committees to hold parties accountable to agreements made.
  - Formal and popular programs to prepare the environment for peace and reconciliation.
60. The role of compensation in achieving reconciliation includes:
- Washing away grievances and forgetting the hard times of the past.
  - Helping enable IDP and refugee returnees and affected communities to forget the past and start their lives over.
  - Enforcing and deepening the concept of justice.
  - Resuming confidence in the hearts of affected communities.
61. Comprehensive reconciliation is reached and justice is achieved when voluntary repatriation occurs. It is then that everybody is ready to open a new page under the umbrella of a just and durable peace.
62. The enforcement of justice and reconciliation are related in that those who committed crimes during the Darfur conflict should admit their mistakes and undergo a trial. When the courts render their decisions, it is then incumbent upon the victim to accept the decision and forgive. If this process is followed, reconciliation is achieved.
63. The role the international community can play in reconciliation includes:
- Transparent and neutral mediation.
  - Bridging gaps on divergent points of views.
  - Placing appropriate pressure on parties to reach reconciliation and a genuine peace agreement.
  - Supporting reconciliation and compensation.
  - Monitoring signed peace agreements, their implementation, and holding all parties accountable.

- Participating in rehabilitating war-affected areas.
- Helping disseminate a culture of peace throughout Darfur.
- Training programs to prepare Darfurians and others to lead rehabilitation and development operations in targeted areas.
- Helping the Government of Sudan and native administration efficiently and effectively coordinate resources, services, security, efforts, etc.

#### **D. CONSULTATION EVALUATION**

Upon conclusion of the consultation, participants were asked to complete an evaluation form. Analysis of the evaluations indicated:

64. The participants praised the general organization and administration of the consultation. They agreed on the importance of the subjects discussed and that they are a priority for the majority of Darfurians. They reaffirmed that the DDDC is an effective tool for consultation and dialogue and that the format encourages close interaction, which is required to put in place the foundation to agree on common grounds and a shared understandings that can lead to comprehensive, just, and durable peace.
65. Participants recommended that it is critical that the DDDC deliver their voices and recommendations to negotiators, conflicting parties, and institutions in charge of achieving peace and reconciliation.
66. Participants reaffirmed the importance of such consultations other population sectors in West Darfur, including civil society organizations, youth and women's groups, etc., to achieve stronger consensus on common grounds and encourage further dialogue.
67. Participants recommended that UNAMID should play a more effective, essential, and tangible role in achieving peace and reconciliation and in protecting civilians in Darfur. They asked UNAMID for more transparency and to shoulder more responsibility in building its capacity and institutions.
68. Some participants demanded justice from UNAMID regarding giving equal employment and training opportunities to Darfurian girls and boys. They requested that this is done without discrimination or tribal bias so that this assistance will not become a source of a sense of injustice or bitterness, which may lead to conflict between tribes or between tribes and UNAMID.
69. Participants recommended conducting more meetings and gatherings to discuss results and recommendations of DDDC consultations with other partners and stakeholders.
70. Participants welcomed more media coverage of the consultations.
71. Participants thanked the DDDC Secretariat and the University of Zalingie for the invitation to participate in the consultation and promised to enlighten their colleague and communities about the experience and to share the recommendations reached by the group.

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**The University of Nyala Center for Peace and Development Studies**

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**The African Union Panel on Darfur**

**The UK Department for International Development**



**The World Bank**



**Concordis International**



**The Government of Japan**



**The Government of Sweden**



**The European Union**



**The Darfur Community Peace and Stability Fund**



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