

# CONFERENCE REPORT

## Finding Peace in the Nuer Region of South Sudan through dialogue



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**Monash University, Melbourne, Australia**

**1-2/10/10**

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## 1.1 Acknowledgments

- Nuer Community Organization of Victoria: Mr Joseph Luak & Mr Deng Nguoth
- Professor Dean Rae Frances  
Faculty of Arts, Monash University
- School of Geography and Environmental Science  
Monash University, Dr. Craig Thorburn
- Arts Academic Language & Learning  
Unit, Monash University, Dr. Matthew Piscioneri
- Volunteers: Mr. Alberto Nicotra, Ms. Fabia Tilman, Charuni, Anter, Mr. Erik Beyersdorf, Ms. Sari Idayatni, Ms. Christine Samuel, Mido, Nyamakal, Ms. Juanita Rosello, Ms. Tessa Keane, Ms. Chih-Hua Mei, Nyathon, Nyadol
- Leadership Forum and People's Assembly Presenters, Monash University Club, Monash University Venues

## 1.2 Proposal, scoping and organization

The Conference developed out of discussions in the Faculty of Arts at Monash University in July 2010 between Mr Deng Puoch Nguoth, Dr. Craig Thorburn and Dr. Matthew Piscioneri. A visit to Melbourne by high ranking members of the Government of Southern Sudan [GoSS] as well as senior representatives of Upper Nile and Unity State Governments in October 2010 provided an opportunity to organize a conference that sought to achieve two main objectives:

1. To initiate and develop expert discussion around the following themes:
  - Peace & Conflict in the Nuer Region
  - Institutions for Promoting Inter & Intra Ethnic Dialogue
  - Peace & Reconciliation Strategies
  - Development potentials (including the role of international agencies)
  - Strategies for Attracting and Managing Foreign Direct Investment
  - Building Sustainable Institutions of Governance in Newly Independent States
  - The Nuer Diaspora
2. To provide a forum for the Southern Sudanese diaspora community in Melbourne to dialogue with the leadership delegation prior to the commencement of the Separation Referendum Registration period in December 2010 and in the lead up to the Separation Referendum Election in January 2011.

The Conference was conducted on Friday, 1 and Saturday, 2 October 2010 at Monash University's Clayton Campus. It comprised three main events:

- The Leadership Forum, Friday 1/10/10, 9am-6 pm  
Conference Centre, ['The Club'], Clayton Campus
- Official Conference Opening: Friday 1/10/10, 6.30-9.00 pm
- People's Assembly: Saturday 2/10/10, 10-4 pm, South Theatre, Monash University, Clayton Campus

## 1.3 Major participants

The Conference was intended to establish a dialogue between the visiting Southern Sudanese Delegation and Australia-based experts in a range of fields especially pertinent to post-conflict nation building processes. At very short notice, the organizers were able to secure the participation of a wide range of speakers. Acknowledgement of the extremely generous participation of all the speakers is noted in this Report.

### International Speakers:

Hon. Lt. General James Oth Mai  
Hon. Mr. John Khor Deiw  
Hon. Mr. Peter Lam Both  
Hon. Ms. Martha Nyamal Choat  
Hon. Ms. Sophia Pal Gai

### Australian Speakers/Experts:

Mr. Reymond Voutier (CEO, eNotus)  
Dr Craig Thorburn (Monash University)  
Dr. Libby Tudball (Monash University)  
Dr. Simon Musgrave (Monash University)  
Dr. John Hayek (Melbourne University)  
Ms. Rashita Purba (Monash University)  
Mr. Joseph Jock Luak (Nuer Community association of Victoria)  
Dr. Balthasar Kehi (Victoria University)  
Mr. Deng Nguoth (Nuer Community association of Victoria)  
Dr. Joanna Kyriakakis (Monash University)  
Dr. Patrick Kimunguyi (Monash University)  
Mr. Patrick Walsh (Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation, Timor-Leste)  
Dr. Finex Ndhlovu (Monash University)  
Dr. Jennifer Drysdale (Australian Federal Government)  
Dr. Jonathan Makuwira (RMIT University)  
Dr. Charles Mphande (Victoria University)

## 1.5 Funding

The Organizers of the “Finding Peace in the Nuer Region of Southern Sudan through Dialogue” Conference duly acknowledge the financial support of:

-  **The Faculty of Arts, Monash University**
-  **Victorian Multicultural Commission**

The Organizers also acknowledge the venue concession granted the Conference by Monash Venues.

## 2.1 The Leadership Forum: Friday 1/10/10

The Leadership Forum took place at the Monash Conference Centre, Clayton campus. An estimated 140 participants attended the event. Proceedings were broadcast live to the web via <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/international-symposium-2010-finding-peace-in-the-nuer-region-of-south-sudan-through-dialogue>

user name: Symposiumguest; password: Symposiumguest

## INTRODUCTION

The Nuer Organizing Committee, Australia is delighted to welcome you to the inaugural "Finding Peace in the Nuer Region of South Sudan through dialogue" at Monash University, Melbourne, Australia 1/10-3/10/10. The Organizing Committee thanks you for your willingness to participate in this singularly important event that will help to facilitate South Sudan's transition to independent nationhood. We are very confident that the dialogue from this communion will help produce *sustainable* outcomes that will engage the international community to fully support South Sudan's progress. We applaud your initiative to contribute to this very unique event. In peace we look forward to the future state of South Sudan that will provide an outstanding model of the possibilities a newly independent, democratic African state can share with the rest of the world.

Blessings Deng P, Nguoth. On behalf of the Nuer International Conference Team

*"Even when all scientific questions have been answered, the problems of our life have not been touched on at all." (Ludwig Wittgenstein)*

## 2.2 Program

### Friday 1/10 Program

Time	Event/Location	Speaker/s	Other
<b>AM</b> 8.15 – 9.00	Registration The Club Foyer, Monash University		
9.00-9.10	Welcome	Mr. Joseph Jock Luak Mr. Deng Nguoth Dr. Craig Thorburn	Welcome Format/Timetable Rationale
9.10-9.30	<b>Keynote Address:</b> "Timor-Leste: the post-referendum experience"	Dr. Balthasar Kehi	
9.30-9.50	"Achieving Peace <i>and</i> Action through Sharing in Professional Learning Communities"	Dr. Libby Tudball	Symposium method
9.50-11.10	<b>Theme 1: Conflict in the Nuer Region: Peace &amp; Reconciliation Strategies</b>	Hon. James Oth Mai Hon. John Khor Deiw Dr. Joanna Kyriakakis Dr. Patrick Kimunguyi Mr. Patrick Walsh	
11.10-11.30	<b>Panel Discussion</b>		
11.30-11.40	Morning tea		
<b>PM</b> 11.40-12.40 pm	<b>Theme 2: Establishing Sustainable Intra/Inter Ethnic Dialogue</b>	Dr. Simon Musgrave & Professor. John Hayek	
12.40-1.00	<b>Panel Discussion</b>	+ Dr. Finex Ndhlovu	
1-1.40 pm	Lunch (The Club)		
1.40-2pm	Guest speaker: "Mainstreaming Gender in processes of grassroots participatory politics in Indonesia"	Ms. Rasita Purba	

2-3.30 pm	<b>Theme 3: Building Sustainable Institutions of Governance in Newly Independent States (including Development, FDI &amp; the role of International Agencies)</b>	Hon. Peter Lam Both Mr. Reymond Voutier Dr. Jennifer Drysdale Dr. Craig Thorburn Dr. Jonathan Makuwira	
3.30-3.50	<b>Panel Discussion</b>		
3.50-4.00	Afternoon Tea		
4.00 -4.40	Panel Discussion		
4.45 – 5.30	Panel Discussion		
5.30-5.45	Close of Leaders’ Forum	Mr. Joseph Jock Luak Mr. Deng Nguoth Dr. Craig Thorburn	
5.45-6.15	Light dinner and refreshments		
6.15- 6.30	Transit to Official Conference Opening: S1_B64		

### 2.3 Presentation Abstracts and Presenters’ profiles

[See appendix 2 p10]

### 2.4 Outcomes: Draft Declaration (unratified)

[See appendix 5 p17]

### 3.1 Conference Opening Ceremony

Following the Leadership Forum an Official Opening was conducted in a larger venue [S1.B64] with a capacity of 400 people. Dr Charles Mphande (Victoria University) provided the keynote address that focused on Southern Sudan placing its move towards independence within a broader African context.

### 3.2 Program

**2/10/10, 6.30 - 9 pm South Theatre,  
Monash University, Clayton Campus**

TIME	EVENT	SPEAKER/S
6:45 pm	Official Welcome	Mr Joseph Luak/ Dr Craig Thorburn
7:00	Keynote Address (1)	Dr. Charles Mphande
7:30	Keynote Address (2)	
8:00-8:30	Cultural performances	
8:30-8:45	Closing Speeches	

## 4.1 Peoples' Assembly: Scope & Objectives

### MAIN THEMES:

- Integration and cultural differences
- Employment
- Youth and women's issues related to police

## 4.2 Program

The People's Assembly was organized to allow direct dialogue between the Southern Sudanese in Melbourne, in particular the Nuer Community, to discuss the December/January Referendum. It was also an opportunity to initiate discussion of diaspora issues (ie: domestic problems). To facilitate this, break out groups were organized and data collected to form the basis of the position statements in the Resolutions [Appendix 4 p15-16].

TIME	LOCATION/EVENT	SPEAKER/S
10-10:05am	Opening with prayer	
10:05-10:10am	Welcoming	Mr. Joseph Luak
10:10-10:50am	Theme 1: Integration and cultural differences	Mr. Nicodimus Ruach Banak Dr. Charles Mphande
10:50-11:10	Theme 2: Employment	Mr. Bichok Wan Kot
11:10-11:30	Theme 3: Youth and women's issue related to police	Mr. Paleak Puot
11:30-11:50	Panel Discussion	Mr. Nicodimus Ruach Banak Mr. Bichok Wan Kot Mr. Paleak Puot
11.50-12:20	Music performances	Mr. Joseph Mayan Tot Mr. Lang Nyang Mr. Gatrupo
12:20-12:40	Break	
12:45-1:30	Guest speakers	Hon. Guest James Oth Mai Hon. Martha Nyamal Choat Hon. Sophia Pal Gai
1:30-2:00	Panel Discussion	Invited Guests as above
2:00	Close of the Official Conference	By Joseph Luak and his Team

## 4.4 Outcomes: Draft Resolutions (unratified) & Position Statements [Appendix 7 p21-23]; Break out group data [appendix 4, p15-16]

## Appendix 2: Abstracts & Speaker Profiles

### Speakers' List: Leadership Forum 1.10.10

#### Dr Jen Drysdale

**“Five principles for the wise management of natural resource revenue”**

Dr Jen Drysdale completed a doctorate about Timor-Leste's petroleum revenue management at the ANU in 2007 ([www.jenniferdrysdale.com](http://www.jenniferdrysdale.com)), and established the Timor-Leste Studies Association of Australia's e-list ([www.tlstudies.org](http://www.tlstudies.org)). Prior to her PhD, Jen worked for the United Nations Administration in East Timor, Australian Volunteers International and the Friends of Baucau. Jen is now a Research Analyst with the Productivity Commission.

#### Dr. Balthasar Kehi

**“Timor-Leste: the post-referendum experience”**

Dr. Balthasar Kehi lectures in ethics for aged care services at Victoria University. He has taught ethics, philosophy and psychology at universities in Jakarta, at Seminaries in Dili (Timor-Leste) and in Box Hill. He did his graduate studies in psychology, philosophy and education in Chicago, San Diego and New York City where he earned his PhD in philosophy and education from Columbia University. He wrote his PhD thesis on Communicative Participatory Democracy. During the 2006 violent conflict in Timor-Leste, he worked with AUSTCARE as a volunteer for peace education in Dili. He also worked in West Papua, Indonesia, for two years. His research interests are, among others, in dialogue, participatory democracy as well as in ethics.

#### Dr. Patrick Kimunguyi

**“The European Union: An Actor in Peace and Security in Africa”**

The European Union (EU) has been a privileged partner of African countries in the area of development cooperation for almost fifty years. In this period, the EU has assisted these countries in their long way towards economic and social development. However, the longstanding EU-Africa relations have been changing towards addressing the underlying causes of insecurity and instability on the continent. This has been prompted by the acknowledgement that sustainable development cannot be achieved in the absence of peace, security. This paper examines the role of the EU in supporting African efforts towards achieving peace and security. Firstly, it provides an outline of the evolving African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA). Secondly, it examines the EU's policy and the related financial, military and civilian support to peace and security in Africa. It argues that the development of robust peace and security capabilities remains a major challenge for Africa and is unlikely to be achieved without the determined commitment from both the African states and international community. Although the EU is not the only external actor in Africa, it has made significant contributions in peace and security.

Dr Patrick Kimunguyi is a Research Fellow at the Monash European and EU Centre and the Global Terrorism Research Centre. His research interests include EU Development Policy as well as Peace and Security.

#### Dr Joanna Kyriakakis

**“Economic Actors and Accountability in the Post Conflict Context”**

The discourse and institutions of transitional justice have traditionally marginalised the economic dimensions of conflict. This is at odds with the central role that economic agendas, economic crimes and economic actors play in many conflicts around the world today. There are a number of ways that the economic dimensions of war might be better integrated into transitional justice mechanisms and good reasons to consider doing so where appropriate. This paper suggests some ways in which the economic dimensions of conflict might be better incorporated into the post conflict justice framework and suggests some reasons as to why this is an important challenge to be addressed.

Dr Joanna Kyriakakis is a Lecturer of Law at Monash University. She recently completed her doctorate that looked at the relationship between the global mining industry and international crimes, particularly in conflict zones. It examined the direct application of international criminal law to corporations and the possibility of including corporations within the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court.

## **Dr. Jonathan Makuwira**

### **"Peace building and Reconciliation: The tension between theory and Practice".**

I have been engaged in peace building, at least in theory. My first academic career was in Peace Studies at University of New England where aside from teaching I also researched into peace building in post-conflict Bougainville. My research interests are very much into the linkage between peace building and development. In this presentation, I will try and engage theory and analyse how applicable it is in the context of African Conflicts.

## **Lt. General James Hoth Mai**

Lt General James Hoth Mai was born on November 30<sup>th</sup> 1959 in Ulang County Upper Nile State, joint Nasir West Primary School in 1968, Jonglei Junior Secondary School in Malakal in 1975, and Malakal boys' senior secondary school in 1977 where he obtained Sudan school certificate in 1980. He then applied to join military college in Khartoum he could not make it due to regime policies towards black people in Sudan, then worked briefly as a Hotel manager and part timer teacher in Malakal girls' senior secondary school.

Lt General James Hoth Mai joined the Sudan People's Liberation Movement and Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLM/SPLA) in 1983, as a young man in the SPLM/A he rose through different commands to a Lt General in what become now the guarantor of the CPA that was signed in Nairobi/Kenya in 2005 and the army of Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) that is Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

Lt General James Hoth Mai attended in 1984 War Study College and graduated in 1985 as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant and advance military training for Battalion and Brigade commander in Havana Cuba in 1986. Lt General James Hoth Mai as 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant was appointed deputy commander of Abu-shok battalion in 1985 promoted to the rank of Captain and appointed commander of Yuany battalion in 1986. After the agreement signed between Sudan People's Liberation Movement and Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLM/A) and Anya-nya II that culminated into integration of Any-nya II fighters into the SPLM/A in 1988 Lt General James Hoth Mai was posted as a chairman of Dimma refugees camp inhabited by 59000 person in 1988.

Lt General James Hoth Mai was then transferred to command commando forces in 1989 and 1993 was transferred to command Torit east then sent to Eastern Sudan in 1995 to establish what became known as new Sudan Brigade (NSB). Lt General James Hoth Mai was transferred back to southern Sudan to reopen Gambella front in 1996. He then transferred to command cobra Brigade in 1998, in 2000 Lt General James Hoth Mai was transferred to 5<sup>th</sup> front in Southern Blue Nile and to North eastern Upper Nile command (NUEN) in 2003. In 2004 Lt General Hoth Was posted as commander of 1<sup>st</sup> front Upper Nile Region and in 2005 after the signing of Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Nairobi/Kenya he was appointed deputy chief of general staff for logistics then shifted to deputy chief of general staff for operations in December 2007 then promoted to Lieutenant General and appointed chief of general staff of the SPLA in May 31 2009.

Lt General James Hoth Mai while fighting the Liberation War continues pursuing his education; he obtained a certificate in project planning and management, *Uganda Management Institute* and certificate in financial management and accounting for non financial managers in the same institute in 2003. Then he joined Fort Hare University in 1999 and obtained in 2009 a Master Degree of Public Administration in the School of Management and Commerce.

## **Hon. Peter Lam Both**

Peter Lam Both was born and raised in the county of Ulang, Upper Nile State, Southern Sudan. He joined the SPLM in 1986 as SPLA Red Army and lived in Ethiopia from 1986-1997. Peter managed to educate himself in Ethiopia and graduated with BA in Political Science and International Relations with the minor in Public Administration in 1996.

After he went to Canada in 1997, Peter graduated with Bachelor of Social work in 2002, Master of international social work in 2004 and is currently a PhD Candidate at the University of Calgary in Canada.

In terms of work experience, Peter worked on joint appointment of UNHCR and DICAC from 1996-1997 in Mizan Teferi as a Coordinator where he facilitated the UN activities for Sudanese refugees. When he arrived in Canada, he worked as community development officer from 1997-1998 and as a social planner from 2002-2006. While in working in the same capacity, Peter also took up projects with UNHCR in India (2003) and Jordan (2005) as Durable Solutions Officers assisting refugees to find new homes in different parts of the world. Peter was appointed as SPLM/GOSS Representative to Canada from 2006-2008 where he established the SPLM and GOSS Offices there as well as initiated cordial bilateral relations between southern Sudan and Canada. He was appointed Deputy National Secretary on External Relations from 2009-present. He authored the SPLM Foreign Policy, SPLM Diaspora Policy and various documents relating to the conduct of SPLM foreign policy. Peter is currently appointed as the Minister of Information and Communication in the SPLM-led Government of Upper Nile State in June 2010.

## **Dr. Simon Musgrave & Professor John Hajek**

### **“Languages in South Sudan: Challenges and opportunities”**

South Sudan is an area of great linguistic diversity. In the region there are languages spoken by only very small numbers of people, and also languages (like Nuer and Dinka) with quite substantial speaker populations. There are also several languages of wider communication, each of which has played different roles at different times in history. This complex situation means that any independent state in South Sudan will face difficult issues relating to language policy. In this presentation, we examine the context within which such issues must be considered, outlining the linguistic demography of the region and the history of language policy over previous decades.

**Dr Simon Musgrave** is a lecturer in the Linguistics Program at Monash University and Deputy Director of the Language and Society Centre. **Professor John Hajek** is Director of the Research Centre for Multilingualism and Cross Cultural Communication at The University of Melbourne, where he also teaches in the School of Languages. Together, Musgrave and Hajek have been studying minority languages in the Sudanese community in Melbourne for several years.

## **Ms. Rasita Purba**

### **“Mainstreaming Gender in processes of grassroots participatory politics in Indonesia”**

Rasita E. Purba is currently a Phd student at Monash University, Melbourne, Australia. Her research project is about Indonesia, investigating the impact of decentralisation on education policies at district level. She graduated from Gadjah Mada University and the University of Western Australia. Her professional experience in managing development project spans over 10 years with ACCESS-AusAID and Plan International. Her main interest is public policy, in particular such policies that promote the best interest of the poor and promoting gender perspective. Her papers have been presented at several conferences, for instance the Indonesian Council Open Conference (Canberra 2003), Asian Studies Association of Australia (Canberra 2004 and Adelaide 2010), and Global Social Work (Adelaide 2004).

## **Dr. Craig Thorburn**

### **“Lessons from the Aceh Peace Process”**

My current research interests centre on issues of governance and resiliency, and community involvement in natural resource management and processes of institutional and economic change, primarily in Indonesia and other Southeast Asian countries. I am still involved in consulting work both in Australia and abroad, primarily dealing with institutional capacity development to address poverty and environmental degradation. Experiences gained from my consulting work helps keep the IDEA program abreast of emerging trends and problems in the international development sector.

## **Dr Libby Tudball**

### **"Achieving Peace and Action through Sharing in Professional Learning Communities"**

In this participatory session, the presenter will explore the concept and structure of 'Professional Learning communities', and will ask participants to suggest how putting this theory into practice can support efforts to improve governance, action and community wellbeing.

Libby is a senior lecturer in the Faculty of Education, at Monash University, Clayton campus. She is the Director of Professional Placements and Partnerships, lecturer in charge of social and environmental education specialism and supervises higher education research students. Her doctoral research, completed in 2004, focused on the improvement of student learning in civics and citizenship education through professional learning communities. Libby is actively involved in programs and research related to teacher professional learning, civics and citizenship education, values education and the internationalisation of education. She is the immediate past President of the Social Educators' Association of Australia, and a life member and active participant in the Social Education Victoria.

## **Mr Reymond Voutier**

### **"Presenting the challenges and opportunities to the World: How to gain support for the causes of Nationhood"**

Founder – Global Commerce Network Inc.

Executive Chairman and acting Chief Executive Officer – eNotus Inc. [<http://enotus.com/>]

Mr. Voutier has, over more than three decades, gathered extensive international business and marketing experience. From a background in design, he organized and managed major international events including the Peter Druker Seminars, Women at Work International Symposium, and the International Congress of Human Relations. He also worked closely with Matsushita in Japan for several years to expand their international trading activities. This led to a period in Taiwan, in the early 1980s, and a friendship and partnership with leading businessman and entrepreneur the late Mr. James YC Tsai and his Universal Enterprises Group. Mr. Voutier was involved in establishing trade information services in the Republic of China and Japan during the 1980s, and was an associate of Mr. Leonard Dunning, founder of the highly regarded Hong Kong Trade Development Council.

He is a member of the Coordinating Committee of Business Interlocutors (CCBI), advising the World Summit on the Information Society on business matters. Mr. Voutier led the Global Commerce Network (GCN/RGS) team, establishing strategic relationships, with associate Dr Richard Stieglitz, to develop the eNotus and knowledge and transaction center projects. Since 2003, Mr. Voutier has been leading the management efforts for informational infrastructure and knowledge management initiatives in Africa and the Middle East including current work with the OECD, UNITAR, and other United Nations organizations to bring together the resources for a new International Trade & Development University in Abu Dhabi.

## **Mr. Patrick Walsh**

### **"Post-conflict reconciliation - the Timor-Leste experience"**

Timor-Leste, the world's newest nation, gained independence in 2002 after generations of colonialism and nearly 30 years of occupation, war, and human rights violations that divided families and communities and left a legacy of bitterness and trauma that threatened the viability of the new state. To head off a potential cycle of revenge, to promote healing and grassroots understanding and solidarity and to ensure a foundation of accountability and human rights in the new nation, the Timorese Resistance with international assistance created the Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation (CAVR), the region's first such institution. The Commission formally concluded its work at the end of 2005 but a follow-up process is still in train. The presentation will explain the origins, methodology, work and outcomes of the Commission and where the process stands at present. Pat Walsh helped establish the CAVR in 2001 and has served as one of its principal advisors for the last nine years.

## Appendix 3

# Leadership Forum

## Break out groups: Friday 1/10

**In the final session of the Symposium, we will ask participants to link up with other members of their groups to discuss the issues raised in the Symposium in order to assist in developing a range of position statements that will 'feed into' a Conference Communique as well as lay the basis for the agenda of the post-referendum Symposium planned for Juba, South Sudan in 2011. As a guideline only the following questions may help facilitate effective discussion and consensus statements/responses to the Key Issues addressed by contributions to the Symposium:**

1. In the domestic/national scene of a newly independent South Sudan, what are the priorities? Brainpower, capacity, task forces, institutions, etc?
2. In the region, east/north/African context, building the dialogues and collaboration in Africa. Experiences already learned in Africa? How to leverage what has been accomplished in other African countries
3. The international context – how to best engage with the international community and gain its support including the infrastructure issues and Chinese support for the North, turning this to an advantage in the South.

What strategies and structures can be developed?

- Should external parties be invited to facilitate Peace & Reconciliation processes in South Sudan post-Referendum?
- Who will lead? How and when?
- What resources will be needed, and how will these be found and allocated?
- What blocks will there be to this process, and how can these obstacles be dealt with?

In the event that the referendum produces a YES vote in favour of an independent South Sudan:

- (1) What kind of South Sudan do they desire
- (2) What do they see as potential obstacles to the South Sudan they desire?
- (3) What can or will be done to overcome the potential obstacles?
- (4) How do they hope to deal with issues of linguistic and cultural diversity in their quest for building a harmonious and democratic South Sudan nation?

## Appendix 4

# People's Assembly:

### KEY DOMESTIC ISSUES AS IDENTIFIED BY PARTICIPATING GROUPS

#### 1. Youth & Women's Issues

- Management of money (between family)
- Youth need to be given a chance to contribute in family issues
- Youth identify the lack of education within the family as a cause of difference/dispute
- Conflict between family affects children
- Civilization brings problems in family structures
- Family structure change + administration
- Big gap in family relation children & parent
- Acknowledgment of education
- Too much freedom without responsibility
- Marriage (without?) + love + forced marriage and arranged marriages; expenses
- Leadership without youth + duties + culture from....
- Youth in prison
- Mediation + media (?) approach
- DV
- Employment – women
- Division in Nuer
- Family separation

#### 2. Education

- Primary education
- Vocational education
- Higher education
- Promoting Nuer languages
- Nuer dictionary
- Mature age education
- Child care
- Birth control and education
- Encouraging to education
- Establishing Institute for technical training
- Australian TAFE tailored packages
- Performance based education
- Nyuon Bany Institute ?

#### 3. Employment: Here/ Not Sudan

##### [Problems?]

- Language

- Lack of experience (work)
- (Lack of) Affordable housing/transport close to employment hubs
- Discrimination

### Solutions

- Training and courses – they have to be employable/marketable
- Look for jobs that we have the skills for – do some low jobs as that’s where you will develop experience – that will lead you to a better job tomorrow
- Support from Service providers – language support – more English classes
- Let’s use our own businesses – day care – businesses – and self employed skilled people

#### 4. Group A – Integration and Cultural

- Law
- Arts
- Behaviour
- Religion
- Cultural + individual
- Age care cultural
- Time management
- Language
- Local knowledge
- A dress code (?) + cloths
- Support for (?) Ladies
- Nuer language – to be taught[t] to our children
- Money issue + men control they (?) bank cards
- Sudanese making Australia home

# CONFERENCE COMMUNIQUE



**Outcome of the Conference and Leadership Forum on Peace in the South Sudan  
held at Monash University Clayton Campus  
October 1~2, 2010**

During and following the conference, discussions have taken place between senior representatives of the Nuer people of South Sudan, the conference organizers, Monash University and advisors. The discussion focused on what constructive steps are necessary to highlight the profile and potential of South Sudan as a new nation with the international community.

Within the context of an overall framework and based upon international community support and the UN process to conduct the separation referendum for South Sudan in January 2011 and in anticipation of the formation of a new nation the following essential steps have been agreed:

1. A concentrated effort will be undertaken within South Sudan by the Nuer and other ethnic groupings, state authorities and all involved stakeholders to determine a basis from which normal and peaceful relationships can be achieved and the government can seek constructive dialogue with the UN and other international organizations and donors to assist identify, and build human capacity for the new government to plan and implement economic development as a core requisite.
2. To assist the in-country process extensive relationships with the UN in New York is proposed alongside efforts to engage the African Union, the East African Community and other organizations and donors in the US, Japan, China and the MENA region and the EU. Initial contact has been made with the Director of the Office of the Special Advisor for Africa (OSAA), the Office of the UN Deputy Secretary-General, and the African Bureau of UNDP.
3. The above steps are to be taken to support the planning of a ministerial conference on governance, and development to be staged in conjunction with the African Union and UN tentatively in December 2011. The conference will seek to establish declarations and action plans on central issues, governance, capacity building, economic development, investment guidelines and charters for the highest priority programs.

# The Melbourne Declaration

**“Finding Peace in the Nuer Region of South Sudan through dialogue”**

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## The Framework for Peace and Development in the Nuer Region of the South Sudan

At this Conference in Melbourne, Australia (1-2/10/10) at Monash University, Senior Representatives of the Nuer People of South Sudan have agreed on the following framework to assist development and peace in the Nuer region and in South Sudan. They invite other parties engaged in nation building processes in South Sudan to contribute to the future dialogue that has been initiated at this Conference. Therefore, to continue the momentum generated at this event the Second Dialogue on Peace in the Nuer Region of South Sudan has been scheduled for February, 2011 in Fangak County, Jonglei State in Southern Sudan.

### Preamble

The search for peace in the Nuer region and in the South Sudan is guided by the following:

- God's Will - Good Will towards **all** men and women of the Nuer region and South Sudan
- Commitment to the value of open ended dialogue
- Inclusion of minorities: recognition, respect and celebration of difference and diversity
- Economic development as the basis for a sustainable peace

### Context

After more than 30 years of war, despite intensive human efforts, the Sudan, is only just beginning to enjoy the blessings of peace. The people of the Nuer Region, of South Sudan and of The Sudan yearn for peace so that the vast human and natural resources of the region can be turned to the pursuits of peace and so that this area can become a model for coexistence and cooperation among nations. The Separation Referendum for South Sudan that will take

place in January, 2011 is a landmark event in realizing the aspirations for freedom and self determination of the South Sudanese peoples.

## Conceptual Framing

Peace requires respect. Peace requires tolerance and understanding. Peace requires idealism *and* it requires realism. In particular, already established and dominant interests and parties must accept the need to embrace some form of power sharing. Peace and prosperity are two sides of the same coin. To achieve one, the other must also be present. Progress towards these goals can accelerate movement toward a new era of reconciliation in the Nuer Region, in South Sudan, in The Sudan and contribute to the peace and prosperity of East Africa. The Conference also recognizes that for peace to endure it must involve all those who have been most deeply affected by the conflict. Therefore, we agree that discussion of this framework must seek and must welcome the contributions of many. The Dialogue of Peace is based on the empowerment of many voices, and, perhaps, most significantly on the willingness of a few - and of the many - to **listen** to each other.

## Action Framework

On the basis of the consensus that emerges from this Communique, the next step is action. With the above listed objectives in mind, and as drawn from the dialogue of the *Leadership Forum*, 1<sup>st</sup> October 2010 at Monash University, Australia, the **Melbourne Declaration on Peace and Development in the Nuer Region of the South Sudan** identifies the following key outcomes and learnings from the dialogue:

### Reconciliation

Reconciliation will be marked by cooperation in promoting economic development, in maintaining stability and in assuring security. Security is enhanced by a relationship of peace and by cooperation between states and between tribes which enjoy normal relations. In addition, under the terms of peace treaties, the parties can, on the basis of reciprocity, agree to special security arrangements such as demilitarized zones, limited armaments areas, early warning stations, the presence of international forces, liaison, agreed measures for monitoring and other arrangements that they agree are useful.

- As speakers at the *Leadership Forum* emphasized, in a post-liberation setting, reprisals against civilian populations of opposing groups/ethnicities/belief systems **must** be avoided
- In a post-conflict context, the culpability of economic actors who have aided and/or made possible human rights abuses should not be ignored.
- As the lessons from Aceh indicate, inclusion of opposition/minor groups in mainstream political decision making processes is advantageous for the long term sustainability of peace processes and the wellbeing of social and cultural and economic development.
- Pre-emptive planning can reduce, even eliminate, the risk of 'cycles of revenge' in post-conflict/liberation contexts given the political will and effective leadership.

### Development

The Nuer Region of South Sudan, and a newly independent state of South Sudan, understands that to manage its transition to peace, to economic development, and even in relative terms a degree of prosperity, outside assistance will be required in terms of funds,

skills and, for an unspecified period, even security. Economic development aid from external donors, therefore, will be classified on the following bases:

1. "No strings attached" direct grants of money and/or materials and/or service credits the use of which is entirely under the management of the recipients.
2. Development loans to be treated as 'favourable' commercial arrangements that are to be repaid via a direct debit mechanism based on resource revenue. The uses to which these loans are put are entirely under the management of the recipients. The *Resource Management Fund* implemented in Timor-Leste might serve as a useful guide in the formulation of the detail of this position.
3. Specific purpose grants and loans that are utilized and evaluated according to negotiated terms and conditions between the donors and recipients.

Humanitarian aid will continue to be assessed on a case by case basis through liaison with NGOs, IGOs and external state donors.

In recognition of the inputs received during the *Leadership Forum* during the Melbourne Conference, in terms of the existential, social, political and cultural development of the Nuer Land and of South Sudan, this declaration also recognises:

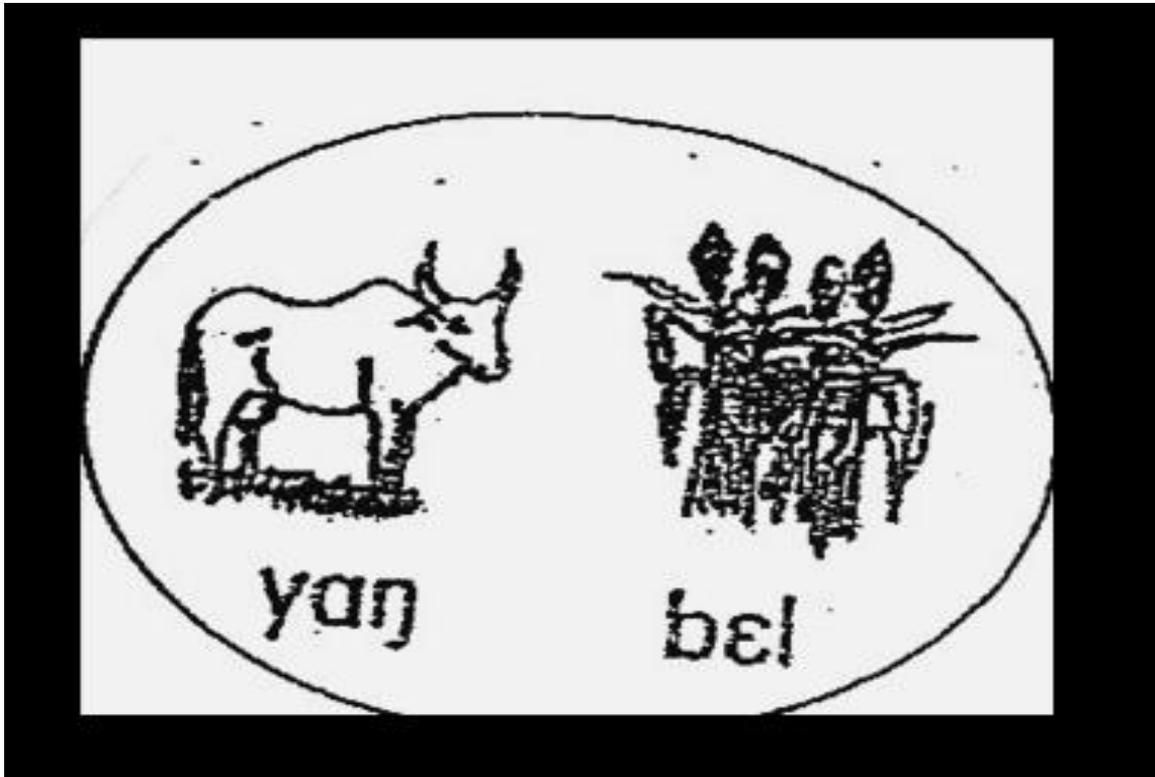
- Special priority be given to building the educational resources of the Nuer Land and South Sudan from K-12 to the tertiary and vocational sectors.
- Particular care needs to be exercised in relation to the gender and linguistic issues that are present in enhancing the educational capacity of the Nuer Land and South Sudan
- Economic development must be environmentally sustainable
- Grassroots and regional development initiatives should initially take priority before broader, national infrastructure projects, in part to avoid the de-population of the countryside and the promotion of 'urban drift' as has happened in many other developing countries in Africa and elsewhere.
- Broad based participatory political processes should be trialled and evaluated before mass implementation.
- Strict controls be quickly established to regulate foreign (i.e: non-citizen) ownership of land/property in the Nuer Region and in South Sudan.

## Appendix 7: Draft Resolutions People's Assembly (unratified)

### RESOLUTIONS THE PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY

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#### Finding Peace in the Nuer Region of South Sudan through dialogue



Hosted by the  
**NUER COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION OF VICTORIA**  
Saturday 2/10/10, 10-4 pm  
South Theatre, Monash University, Clayton Campus

#### Introduction

The "Finding Peace in the Nuer Region of South Sudan through dialogue" has been an initiative of the *Nuer Community Organization of Victoria* and the *Masters of International Development and Environmental Analysis* program, Monash University. As a result of the dialogue initiated at the Leadership Forum on Friday 1/10 and the discussions held at the People's Assembly Saturday 2/10, we are very pleased to present the provisional Resolutions from the Conference. The Resolutions are understood as provisional, as a 'work-in-progress'. Perhaps most importantly they are understood as RESOLUTIONS. An ACTION AGENDA is the next step.

The resolutions are categorized on the basis of,

- **Post-Conference Planning Strategy Issues**
- **Nuer Land Issues**
- **Nuer in Australia Issues**

## 1. Post-Conference Planning Strategy Issues

The Conference resolves:

To maintain the momentum generated by the dialogue generated at the Leadership Forum and the People's Assembly.

To collate all of the findings from the discussion groups and make them immediately available online for further discussion.

To produce a comprehensive record of the proceedings of both events (DVD, online resources) and disseminate these materials broadly.

To establish the ***Nuer-Australian Solidarity Group*** and initially seek the commitment of the contributors and participants from this Conference to another meeting in Melbourne before the Separation Referendum in January 2011.

To solicit funds to support the work of the group to fund the projects of the group in Southern Sudan and Australia in liaison with a wide range of experts, NGOs, business and government departments and agencies, both in Southern Sudan, internationally and within Australia

## 2. Nuer Land Issues

The Conference resolves to:

To support the objectives of Unity, Development & Peace in the Nuer Land of Southern Sudan by establishing an *Inter-Ethnic Dialogue Commission* to facilitate these objectives in cooperation with other tribes in the Sudan.

To support the objectives of Unity, Development & Peace in the Nuer Land of Southern Sudan by establishing an *Intra-Ethnic Dialogue Commission* that works within Nuer territories and examines the potentials of utilizing traditional tribal and clan based dispute conflict resolution mechanisms (other than armed conflict) in conjunction with successful models of intra-ethnic dispute resolution implemented elsewhere.

To commit to enhancing the capacity-generating potentials of all levels of education in the Nuer region of South Sudan, partly by recognizing the linguistic and gender dimensions of this challenge. One project, for example, is to examine the possibility of transposing the Australian TAFE model to the Nuer land.

To commence planning for the follow up 2011 Conference in Fangak County, Jonglei State in Southern Sudan

## 3. Nuer in Australia Issues

As discussed in the People's Assembly (2/10/10), the Conference resolves to:

**(In relation to Employment)**

Seek to improve the recognition in Australia of pre-existing skills/qualifications held by the Nuer Community.

Develop proposals for Federal and State governments that emphasize the need to upgrade the skills of Nuer people in Australia through a *TAFE and Higher Education* scholarship program.

Develop a database of Australian Nuer Community members' skills/capacities and seek to link these skills to employment opportunities within Australia and within the context of nation-building in post-referendum South Sudan/the Nuer land.

**(In relation to Law, Order and Community issues)**

Undertake a survey of the Nuer Community in Australia to identify the key challenges in relation to community issues.

Institute regular Youth Forums to address cultural issues within the Nuer Community, with specific reference to the 'generation gap'.

Set up a task group to investigate the main causes of Family Breakdown in the Australian Nuer Community, with specific reference to domestic violence.

Continue to promote and improve relations between law enforcement agencies and the Nuer Community in Australia.

Undertake an inventory of social services to the Nuer Community in Australia.

Undertake an evaluation of social services provision to the Nuer Community in Australia.