

Republic Of South Sudan



Office Of the President

**National Security Policy and Strategy
National Security Council
Republic of South Sudan**

NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE PROCESS

**CONSULTATION ON DRAFTING OF
THE NATIONAL SECURITY POLICY**

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Natural resources and geography

South Sudan is blessed with abundant natural resources. Oil in particular represents over 90 per cent of national revenue. It is both a blessing and a curse. It has precluded diversification and bred economic over-dependence, as illustrated by the crisis provoked by the cutoff of oil pipelines in early 2012. Known oil reserves are located along the border with the Republic of Sudan and existing pipelines run northwards. Oil income is therefore currently dependent upon good relations with our northern neighbour.

Beyond currently exploited natural assets, there is a vast spectrum of as yet commercially unexploited mineral resources. If harnessed, they have the potential to enhance economic development. Equally, they may draw us into conflict through international competition, in part because many mineral deposits are located in unresolved border areas.

Water flows into South Sudan from neighbouring countries. Most significantly, the White Nile dissects South Sudan and provides a considerable source of livelihoods and transportation. The Sudd is the world's largest wetland, offering considerably biodiversity. However, the strategic importance of the Nile is reflected in ongoing regional tensions between the signatories of the 1929 Nile Basin Agreement, imposed by colonial powers. Attempts to renegotiate the Agreement have the potential to provoke a regional conflict, drawing in South Sudan. In the future, the same may hold true of other water sources that enter our borders from neighbouring countries. Nonetheless, these numerous water sources make South Sudan a fertile land, with potential for large-scale agricultural development, greater food security and national self-sufficiency.

The benefits of South Sudan's geography are counterbalanced by the challenges of governing a sparsely settled population in a vast and underdeveloped land. Physical infrastructure is almost non-existent. A large proportion of South Sudan's population undertakes extensive seasonal pastoral migration, causing communal conflicts and further difficulties of administration.

Exploiting South Sudan's vast natural assets, particularly oil, threaten environmental and social upheaval. Unless an environmentally sustainable approach to exploitation is adopted, it has the potential to destroy the very livelihoods that it seeks to provide.

Demography

South Sudan has over sixty distinct [ethnicities/tribes], with diverse languages, values and customs. Bad governance and political exploitation have provoked communal and [ethnic/tribal] conflicts. Cattle rustling and land disputes have been a primary expression of

these conflicts, resulting in endless fatalities. Political calculations are determined by [ethnic/tribal] affiliations as politicians have prioritised communal over national interests, undermining effective government. As a result, [ethnic/tribal] identity has undermined national unity and been a principal source of instability in the South. However, South Sudan's [ethnic/tribal] groups are highly mobile and constantly interacting. There is a long tradition of inter-communal marriage and those communities that cross international borders have provided opportunities for regional integration.

The majority of the population is under the age of thirty. Whilst representing a formidable potential work force, the youth are currently overwhelmingly untrained and unemployed. This is a considerable source of internal conflict. Youths from pastoralist communities revert to cattle camps and are encouraged to raid cattle from neighbouring communities. The spiraling cost of dowries has further encouraged raiding. Equally, the lack of skills training amongst young people leaves them unequipped for the future endeavour of nation-building.

Women in South Sudan make up over 50 per cent of the population. Traditional practices have not encouraged their participation in politics and the public sphere, ensuring that the majority of South Sudan's people remain under-represented. Women should be empowered to contribute to the economic development and to peace building efforts.

Post-conflict context

South Sudan is heavily defined by its post-conflict context. The institutions of the State are nascent and underdeveloped. To date they have not been capacitated to deliver good governance and basic services to the people. The security sector has not yet transformed to become effective and accountable and has been undermined by the need to integrate other armed groups. Political parties are underdeveloped and not yet able to contribute to a credible democratic process. Nepotism and corruption undermine institutional development. In short, government institutions are not currently equipped to manage a wide array of internal and regional challenges.

An experience of prolonged conflict has broken down traditional norms and values of collective responsibility that once upheld peace and stability within and between the communities of South Sudan. A culture of casual violence and individual interest is the result of this corruption of values for personal gain. Small arms have proliferated within the civilian population as a result of numerous conflicts as well as the interference of outsiders, making internal conflicts more deadly.

In managing this strategic environment, we are informed by our core values, the timeless principles that define us as a people and as a State.

Justice, equality, freedom and dignity

The historical struggle of South Sudan's people was motivated by a desire to secure freedom from want and fear, as well as equal access to opportunities and resources. These remain and will continue to be the most fundamental common values of the people to protect and uphold.

Democratic governance

A fair and equal representative system of government is the basis for promoting democratic principles. Upholding the interests of minority and vulnerable groups is essential to preserving our unique national diversity. Protection of human rights through the establishment and maintenance of the rule of law is paramount in achieving these values.

Security, Peace and Prosperity

Security of the people and the State is the prerequisite for peace and in turn for prosperity. Sustainable peace is dependent upon robust and diverse economic development, harnessing the abundance of South Sudan's human and natural resources.

Diversity and Tradition

South Sudan's diversity is its strength. The unique values, customs and traditions of our many peoples and faiths are the basis for national identity. Their preservation and promotion are vital to realising national harmony and pride. Tolerance of beliefs and practices underpin the secular State, based on a culture of peace, unity and cooperation.

NATIONAL INTERESTS

Our national interests are those elements of our wellbeing that we need all national institutions to uphold for the foreseeable future.

Peace and stability

South Sudan is a post-conflict country and a new nation. Consolidation of peace to create a secure and stable enabling environment for socio-economic development is a first order priority. An appropriate and affordable security sector is essential to deliver stability.

National healing and unity

South Sudan is facing internal competition and tension. A national process of reconciliation and healing is necessary to promote national harmony as well as the promotion of our diversity. The promotion of gender equality and minority rights is necessary to ensure the participation of all citizens.

Institutional development and good governance

Decentralised democratic institutions are newly established. They must be strengthened to provide effective checks and balances, underpinned by principles of pluralism, devolution of powers to the people and meritocracy.

Economic development

Economic development is a basis for constructing the State. Sustainable exploitation of natural resources should be balanced against the need for diversification of the economic base. Equitable distribution of national wealth is a means to ensure the reduction of poverty.

Territorial integrity and sovereignty

As a new nation we have a particular interest in upholding our territorial integrity and strengthening our sovereignty.

Regional and international cooperation

South Sudan exists in a volatile neighbourhood, straddling a number of sub-regions. Building regional and international partnerships, especially through the United Nations and African Union, are a means to manage instability and consolidate peace. As a constructive member of the international community, South Sudan should contribute to regional stability and combat terrorism.

SOUTH SUDAN'S STRATEGIC SECURITY VISION

In the course of the next decade, South Sudan aspires to be a safe and united nation, at peace with itself and its neighbours and a constructive member of the international and regional community. Socio-economic development should be underpinned by – but not reliant upon – our abundant natural resources. An appropriate and accountable security sector under democratic control will be capable of addressing our internal and external security challenges, providing security to the people and the State. Government institutions will be established to more effectively deliver our national interests through promoting a compassionate and tolerant nation. Traditional norms and values will be re-established,

complementing the formal institutions of State. Diversity will be embraced and harnessed as a national asset.

CHALLENGES MOST LIKELY TO EFFECT OUR SECURITY ENVIRONMENT

South Sudan faces a number of challenges that can prevent us from achieving a peaceful, stable and prosperous environment in the next decade. They have been analysed carefully in order to identify those that we must prioritise and to prepare an appropriate response. This analysis has been based on a combination of the likelihood of the threat being realised as well as the strength of its impact on our wellbeing and security. The following are the top security challenges that we face, beginning with the most important.

1. Tensions with Sudan

Outstanding issues related to the CPA continue to cause tension between South Sudan and Sudan. Interference in our internal affairs by our northern neighbour is an ongoing reality. Interstate conflict between us remains a possibility.

2. [Ethnic/Tribal] and local conflicts

South Sudan is a house of [ethnicities/tribes], where a single national identity is nascent. The unifying effect of external domination must be built on. Communities are competing for influence and resources at the expense of the national interest, threatening the stability of the State. Current internal administrative boundaries fuel tensions.

3. Inequality and underdevelopment

Poverty and illiteracy are widespread, undermining the State-building project. Citizens resent the lack of a peace dividend and the perceived inequality of opportunities, fuelling internal instability.

4. Weak State institutions

Centuries of bad governance combined with conflict mean that we have not inherited functioning institutions. State institutions are not yet able to deliver basic services. As a result, inequality and underdevelopment are not being effectively addressed.

5. Fragile regional environment

Regional dynamics offer a series of challenges. As a landlocked country, we are dependent upon our neighbours for trade. Tensions over the Nile Basin could draw us into a regional conflict.

6. Corruption

Corruption threatens to undermine our economic development, distorting emerging institutions and diminishing the trust of citizens. It diverts much-needed public resources to private interest groups, fuelling inequality and underdevelopment.

7. Porous borders

We face an influx of illegal immigrants and organised criminals as well as the threat of [ethnic/tribal] conflicts spilling over into South Sudan from our neighbours. We do not yet have functioning border controls to manage these challenges.

8. Unresolved international borders

South Sudan's international boundaries remain to be demarcated in a number of critical regions. They risk drawing us into conflict with our neighbours if not peacefully resolved.

9. Small arms proliferation

The legacy of war and the unregulated movement of criminals have facilitated the proliferation of small arms in communities, making community conflicts more common and deadly.

10. Epidemics

The outbreak of a major epidemic, not least HIV or AIDS, is a significant threat. They may enter our porous borders from neighbouring countries, just as they may emanate from within.

11.Terrorism

Terrorism is a global problem from which we are not immune. Extremists could emerge as a significant threat to South Sudan in the coming years.

Other threats were also considered in the course of our analysis. For example, while strategic natural resources are the backbone of our economy, there is a risk that they will distort economic growth by precluding diversification. While these were not considered first order priorities, they have not been disregarded

OPPORTUNITIES TO SECURE OUR STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT

In confronting the challenges to our national security, a number of opportunities present themselves. If properly harnessed, they have the potential to mitigate the threats to our security.

Strategic natural resources

Oil, minerals, fertile agricultural land and the abundant flow of water are the basis for our socio-economic development, if exploited in a sustainable manner.

Unity in diversity

Despite South Sudan's diverse [ethnicities/tribes], they are bound together by a common historical experience as well as shared norms, values and customs. Many of our communities cross international boundaries, offering a bridge for regional partnerships.

Nationalism

South Sudan's newly independent status is a basis for national solidarity. Our shared history of resisting oppression has the potential to bind us together in a common nation-building endeavour.

Regional location

We are situated at the nexus of a number of sub-regions in the centre of the African continent, from which we can derive influence and partnerships. These can be harnessed by effective diplomacy, international agreements, economic and security cooperation.

International and regional allies

South Sudan has a number of influential international supporters, which continue to be a critical asset in promoting our diplomatic interests.

RESPONDING TO OUR STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT

Internal challenges are the ones that most threaten the viability of our new State, caused by [ethnically/tribally] defined competition for resources. Internal consolidation, through socio-economic development, building unity through diversity and institution building is critical, both to overcome internal weakness and to resist external challenges. South Sudan's most immediate security challenge is external, resulting from unresolved CPA arrangements. Additionally, the region in which we are located is fragile and unpredictable threats can emerge from beyond our borders. However, external challenges flourish because of internal weaknesses.

Our shared cultural values are a basis for national unity and should be preserved. As a landlocked country, our economy – the basis for our development – is vulnerable to external factors. We are highly dependent upon strategic natural resources, which must be protected at all costs. We must therefore become more economically self-sufficient. In the

meantime, we remain reliant on good relations with our neighbours. Regional cooperation is a priority in pursuit of our economic, diplomatic and security interests.

The challenges and opportunities in our strategic environment require a number of responses. Most pressing is the need to defend our territorial integrity and national sovereignty against external aggression, both through military and diplomatic means. Recourse to timely and accurate intelligence will reinforce this effort. We must settle disputes regarding our international borders through peaceful means and develop robust institutions to manage movement across them. Equally, a number of measures are required to meet our internal challenges: we must be equipped to uphold law and order, both through our security organs and our tools for political reconciliation. Effective state institutions should ensure good governance and uphold the rule of law, as well as equitably deliver basic services to the people and realise our human resources potential. All of our actions and decisions must be articulated in a clear and consistent manner through effective strategic communications.

The capabilities we need to respond to our strategic challenges

In light of the many security challenges that we face, there are a number of capabilities that we require to respond to them.

Defend national sovereignty

We must be able to defend our sovereign territory, citizens and resources from combined external conventional and unconventional threats.

Economic strength and stability

Without a strong and stable economic foundation, based upon sustainable exploitation of our resources, we will not be equipped to deliver the capabilities that we need to ensure our security.

Upholding law and order

Since our greatest security challenges result from internal conflicts, we require the ability to establish and maintain law and order through capable and professional law enforcement services.

Effective intelligence gathering

We require accurate and timely collection, analysis and dissemination of intelligence to inform security decision-making and to assist in combating terrorism.

Strong diplomacy

We require a robust diplomatic capability to maintain and strengthen our regional and international relationships, as well as to peacefully resolve our international disputes.

Decentralised service delivery

Decentralised institutions must be capable of effectively and equitably delivering basic services to citizens across South Sudan, in order to address poverty and underdevelopment.

Good Governance

An accountable and transparent system of government is required to maintain the rule of law and to ensure that government operates effectively and in the interests of the people.

Anti-corruption

In order to fight the scourge of corruption, South Sudan requires a dedicated, well-resourced and independent anti-corruption body with robust statutory powers, underpinned by a strong political will.

Conflict management

We must have the capability to provide peaceful solutions to conflicts within and between our communities by promoting reconciliation processes through robust local government, including the use of traditional dispute resolution.

Strategic communications

In order to inform citizens about the actions and policies of government, an effective strategic communications capability is required. Well-informed citizens will be better equipped to contribute to policy-making processes. Equally, we must be able to clearly communicate our intentions and decisions to our neighbours and the international community in order to cement our alliances.

Border management

Spectrums of threats that emanate from our porous borders require effective border management, in cooperation with neighbouring countries.

Fighting epidemics

South Sudan is vulnerable to potential epidemics, not least HIV and AIDS. We must be equipped to control and overcome them, in cooperation with neighbouring countries where necessary.

Human resource development

To contribute to economic development and harness the potential of our youths, human resource capacity must be strengthened through education and training.

Responsibility for delivering capabilities

In order to develop and maintain the capabilities required to respond to our threats, it must be clear which institutions are responsible for delivering them. All of our capabilities require combined responses from multiple actors. For this reason, we have assigned responsibility by sector, with lead agencies identified. These lead agencies are responsible for overseeing delivery of the capability, under the direction of the National Security Council.

Security sector

Defence of national sovereignty (*lead: Ministry of Defence and Veterans' Affairs*)

Upholding law and order (*lead: Ministry of Interior*)

Effective intelligence gathering (*lead: Ministry of National Security*)

Border management (*lead: Ministry of Interior*)

Governance sector

Strong diplomacy (*lead: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation*)

Good Governance (*lead: Legislature, Judiciary*)

Anti-corruption capability (*lead: Anti-corruption Commission*)

Conflict management (*leads: Peace Commission, State Ministries of Local Government*)

Strategic Communications (*lead: Ministry of Information and Broadcasting*)

Social services sector

Decentralised service delivery (*lead: State governments*)

Fighting epidemics (*lead: Ministry of Health*)

Human resources development (*lead: Ministry of Labour and Public Service*)

Finance and economics sector

Economic strength and stability (*leads: Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning; Ministry of Petroleum and Mining*)

The institutions that have been assigned responsibility for delivering these capabilities are expected to develop strategies that describe how they will attain and maintain them. Those

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1. Maj. Gen. Kuol Deng Abot – Chairperson (Defence and Veterans Affairs);
2. Maj. Gen. Majak Arol Kachuol- Member (Ministry of Interior);
3. Brig. Gen. Rabbi Majong – Member (Defence and Veterans Affairs);
4. Brig. Gen. Charles Ciec –Member (National Security);
5. Brig. Gen. Bor Wutchok – Member (National Security);
6. Cde. Samuel Amule – Co-ordinator (National Security);
7. Cde. Peter Biar – Co-ordinator (National Security);
8. Cde. Peter Aban Amon –Co-ordinator (National Security);
9. Cde. Gol Ayie Jal- Co-ordinator (National Security);
10. Dr. Hoth Chan – Member (Anti-corruption Commission);
11. Dr. Chuol Ruey Kompuok – Member (National Security);
12. Ms. Aduei Abednego – Member (Defence and Veterans Affairs).

institutional transformation strategies will then collectively inform the implementation plan for comprehensive security sector reform. The development, implementation and regular review of this comprehensive plan will be the responsibility of the National Security Council.

Concept Paper National Security Policy And Strategy (NSPS)

1. Introduction

The government has been desirous to develop a National Security Policy(NSP) to underpin the reform process of the entire security sector and state institutions in order to lay a strong foundation for economic development, security, stability, and sustainable peace. This is to fill an existing gap of our on-going efforts in individual institutional reforms by providing an overarching policy on which these reforms should be based relating to the security sector.

In this regard, the Council of Ministers recently endorsed the setting up of a drafting committee to lead in the development of a National Security Policy for South Sudan. In this context, the Hon. Minister, on behalf of the Council of Ministers appointed a drafting committee (the list of which is attached) to take this work of the development of the National Security Policy.

The formulation of this policy is nonetheless responsibility of all citizens in private and public institutions, collective or individuals, to share their opinions on matters related to national security matters impacting the socio-economic well-being, economic development, governance, human rights and rule of law.

This document provides the concept of a NSP, and explains the reason why the country needs such a policy framework at this time. This brief enables informed contribution of ideas that may add value to the drafters' work, such as to enrich and build on the zero draft on which this consultation is being based. Thereafter, these will be incorporated in the draft towards the finalization of the document to reflect views across all South Sudan.

2. The Concept of a NSP

A NSP is briefly defined as a framework that assesses the threats and opportunities of a nation as it impacts our core values and national interests, and describes the required overarching capability to address threats and opportunities.

A NSP adopted through national consensus and participation does not only focus on achieving the primary objectives of security and the protection of territorial

sovereignty; but provides the platform for addressing strategic national objectives that *inter alia* include:

- Strengthening institutional capacities to enhance good governance, rule of law, delivery of services (such as education, health, infrastructure, food security, environmental protection etc.); protection and promotion of freedoms, equality, national unity, and diversity in plural democracy;
- Developing economic strategies that hastens the phase of economic development through encouraging non-oil alternative sources of income, stringent management of economic resources, skills development initiatives, and creation of state-sponsored long term programmes to alleviate poverty, create national wealth, and rid the nation from reliance on foreign assistance;
- Protection of our sovereignty, peace, and stability not only by means of maintaining strong internal security and defence organs; but also by promoting friendly diplomacy and co-operative security for mutual benefit with sub-regional, regional and international allies.

3. Why South Sudan needs a NSP at this time

Defining our national destiny, interests, core values, and opportunities in a coherent manner fosters national unity against challenges and threats confronting the country. This in turn provides the context to define achievable socio-economic objectives for rapid development, good governance, service delivery, foreign policy advancement, and security/defence objectives with the means of realizing such objectives.

Further, a NSP consultative process is necessary to:

- Foster sense of ownership and consensus, national dialogue, domestic, regional and international confidence and cooperation for common understanding of challenges and threats to be addressed;
- Guide various state institutions address challenges and threats in a comprehensive and coherent approach, and also to set objectives that are commensurate to scheduled resources.
- It also provides for the coordination of all the response efforts of the security sector.

The NSP as a minimum will capture the strategic context of South Sudan including its core values and national interests and it will examine the threats and opportunities that impact on this context and also assign responsibility for implementation of the capabilities required to deliver our national interest.

4. Themes on which consultations will be based

To focus our thinking on issues relevant to the policy, this concept note proposes the following themes on which consultations will be based:

- a) Consider the internal and external risks, challenges and opportunities impacting South Sudan's security and socio-economic development.
- b) How would you describe South Sudan's core national values and national interests?
- c) How do we enhance our national unity between and among various ethnic groups?
- d) What is the main physical threat to you and your interests?
- e) How do we overcome corruption and inequality in our society?
- f) How can the government build the accountability and legitimacy of the organized forces?
- g) How can we improve the level of education and reduce poverty?
- h) What strategies do you suggest for conflict management within your community?
- i) What mechanisms would you suggest as a way of fighting corruption?

CONSULTATION MODALITIES (When and how to consult)

Consultation will be mainly done through dialogue with the people at national, state, county and Payam levels. See at Annex B the consultation matrix indicating the stakeholders to be consulted, why, when and the methodology of consultation.

3. Post-consultation Activity

The Drafting Committee at the end of the consultation will reflect a consolidated view of the entire public of the South Sudan in the draft the NSP. This second draft will be disseminated to the stakeholder groups as a feedback on their efforts in enriching the Policy. It will also be presented in a public forum to all stakeholders at the national level. Feedback from this session will now be processed through the National Security Council for final endorsement by the Government of South Sudan.

Draft for Consultation

October 2012

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INTRODUCTION

After the Comprehensive Peace Agreement was signed in 2005, Southern Sudan aspired to develop an NSP to guide the development of the security sector. A first National Security Strategy was drafted in 2008 that intended to address the most serious threats to future peace. In 2011, South Sudan Vision 2040 was launched. It was a guide to strategic thinking and the policy-making process. It called for the establishment of a safe and secure nation in which national security and territorial integrity were guaranteed. In the same year, the South Sudan Development Plan described the need for security institutions that were accountable, adequate, affordable and appropriate in order to defend the sovereignty and territorial integrity of South Sudan.

All of these documents focused on the need for achieving national security through equitable development, good governance and effective service delivery. As such they form an important background to this Policy. However, they do not provide sufficient guidance to the security sector on how to achieve these goals. Equally, they tended to be donor driven initiatives that did not sufficiently reflect the common aspirations of the people of South Sudan.

Within the security sector, sectorial reforms have been underway since the development of the SPLA White Paper in 2009. Although they have focused primarily on the SPLA, they have more recently included the police and other organised forces, as well as initiatives like the disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR). To date these efforts have not been guided by a clear national policy framework for security sector reform. The President articulated his commitment to transform South Sudan's security institutions and justice system in the SPLA White Paper. In addition, a report of the Specialised Standing Committee of Security and Public Order in the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly in March 2011 recommended the development of a comprehensive national security strategy by the end of 2012.

Since independence, there has been new impetus to revive a consultative and comprehensive national security framework to guide the sectorial reform processes, based on broader development objectives. This has been facilitated by the establishment of a National Security Council (NSC). Article 160(2) of the 2011 Transitional Constitution of the

Republic of South Sudan stated that the NSC shall define the national security strategy based on the analysis of all threats to security of South Sudan. This Policy is a response to that mandate.

Regional and international best practice provides important guidelines that inform this Policy. The African Union (AU)'s Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development Policy (PCRD) calls on member states to pursue the transformation of the organs of State, especially those relating to security and justice. In addition, the recent development of the AU's Policy Framework on SSR offers useful lessons from a continental perspective. As a new nation, South Sudan is particularly committed to key AU SSR principles of African solidarity and regional integration, counterbalanced by robust national ownership. Greater gender equality is another essential aspect of South Sudan's approach to SSR, in order to redress a historical gender imbalance. The 2012 United Nations' technical guidance on national security policy processes highlights the environmentally friendly utilisation of natural resources, another pertinent principle for South Sudan.

A National Security Policy (NSP) provides national consensus for outlining national interests, core values, threats and opportunities. An NSP adopted through national consensus and participation does not only focus on achieving the primary objectives of security and the protection of territorial sovereignty; but provides the platform for addressing strategic national objectives.

Defining our national destiny, interests, core values and opportunities in a coherent manner fosters national unity against challenges and threats confronting the country. This in turn provides the context to define achievable socio-economic objectives for rapid development, good governance, service delivery, foreign policy achievement and security and defence objectives.

This NSP captures the strategic context of South Sudan, including its core values and national interests. It will examine the threats and opportunities that impact on this context and also assign responsibility for the implementation of the capabilities required to deliver our national interest.

SOUTH SUDAN'S STRATEGIC CONTEXT

In order to assess the security requirement for South Sudan, it is critical to consider the strategic context in which we are based. These factors, both internal and external, help to define the security landscape.

Historical Background

The causes of conflict affecting South Sudan's peoples have been rooted in its history, particularly its experience of political colonisation and bad governance. Sudan was an invention of foreign powers, beginning with Ottoman-Egyptian domination from 1820, when southerners were exploited as slaves. Subsequently, the Anglo-Egyptian Condominium rule from 1899 to 1955 neglected development in southern regions through the Closed Districts Ordinance. Although this policy intended to address the exploitation of southerners as slaves and to preserve the African identity of southerners, it had the effect of stifling development.

The 1947 Juba Conference articulated for the first time the demand of southerners for federal arrangements within a post-colonial Sudan. Unfulfilled commitments by the colonial powers and the Sudanese Government to enact federal arrangements triggered large-scale southern rebellion in 1955. The 1972 Addis Ababa Agreement that ended this first civil war was itself later dishonoured, igniting a second civil war in 1983. As a result, southerners lost faith in the viability of a united Sudan, as later illustrated by the overwhelming vote in favour of southern independence in the 2011 Referendum. The 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement was therefore the product of two centuries of struggles against injustice and oppression that cost millions of lives as well as the opportunity for peaceful development.

In the course of the long struggle of the southern Sudanese people, the support of our neighbours played a central role. Key countries and organisations from the region – not least Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, the Inter-Governmental Agency for Development (IGAD) and the African Union (AU) – consistently advocated the southern cause, facilitating the achievement of the CPA.

Regional context

South Sudan borders six countries, all of which have experienced considerable instability in recent times. Violence has been exported to our territory, for example through organised criminal groups from neighbouring states. Equally, South Sudan borders or is within the orbit of numerous sub-regions: sub-Saharan, the Horn of Africa, the Great Lakes, and the Middle East and North Africa. South Sudan's international borders remain unresolved, most seriously with Sudan but also with other neighbours. Some of South Sudan's [ethnicities/tribes] straddle international boundaries. Although this has often provided opportunities for good relations with neighbouring states, it is also a cause of inter-state tensions that may result in conflict. When combined with South Sudan's porous borders, the threat of spill-over from unstable and underdeveloped neighbours is clear. In addition, interference in our internal affairs has promoted conflicts that undermine the State. Furthermore, South Sudan is landlocked, relying upon good relations with neighbours for access to seaports.