



## Southern Kordofan Elections

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### **Why are elections taking place in Southern Kordofan State now, a year after Sudanese national elections of April 2010?**

People of Southern Kordofan State (SKS) will go to the polls on 2-4 May 2011 to elect their governor and members of the State Legislative Assembly (SLA). The state-level elections were initially scheduled to be held concurrently with the presidential and National Assembly elections of last year.

However, disputes over the 2008 census results for SKS led the National Elections Commission (NEC) to postpone the gubernatorial and SLA elections in the state and hold only presidential and National Assembly elections in April 2010.

#### **How was the dispute over the state census results solved?**

The parties to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), the National Congress Party (NCP) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), agreed to conduct a new census in SKS. The census of June 2010 established the state's population at 2,508,268, as opposed to 1,406,404 of the disputed census, and the new figures were accepted by both parties.

#### **Besides electing a governor and state assembly, how are the elections significant?**

The elections will influence the popular

consultation process, called for by the CPA to enable the state's population to assess implementation of the peace agreement through an elected State Assembly.

#### **What ballots will the people vote for?**

Elections are taking place for the position of governor and seats of the State Legislative Assembly. The 54 seats in the State Legislative Assembly are allocated as follows: 32 seats (60%) are elected through single-member geographical constituencies, 14 seats (25%) are allocated to women lists, and eight seats (15%) to party lists. Both women and party lists are fielded by political parties.

The electoral system is a simple majority for gubernatorial elections and geographical constituency seats of the State Legislative Assembly and proportional representation for women and party list seats.

#### **Who is running in the elections?**

Overall, 14 different political parties are contesting the elections, fielding 245 candidates for different elections at various levels, with only 10 candidates running independently. By the withdrawal deadline of 3 April, 48 geographical constituency nominees, one women's list, one party list and two gubernatorial nominees withdrew from the elections. The NEC published the final list of candidates on 4 April, which includes three candidates for governor and 126 individual candidates competing for

geographical constituency seats of the State Legislative Assembly, and five and seven parties standing for women and party list seats, respectively.

With the withdrawal of all but the NCP candidate from the geographical constituency seat allocated to Muglad, the lone candidate has been declared as unopposed.

### **How will polling be done?**

There will be 555 polling centres with a total of 666 polling stations, open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. between 2 and 4 May. A total of 3,330 staff will conduct polling and counting exercises (i.e. 5 staff per polling station) and counting will be done at each polling station immediately after polls close on 4 May.

Polling materials remain in polling stations overnight, secured by police and polling staff, under the watch of observers and party/candidate agents. Preliminary results will be posted at each polling station. Result sheets will be transported in tamper-evident envelopes to the State High Committee, where they will be checked and entered into a database for consolidation, release and announcement by NEC.

### **Who will monitor the elections?**

The Carter Center is the only international observer organization on the ground in SKS, and it is deploying seven teams (14 observers). Additionally, some diplomatic missions have expressed an intention to observe the polling and counting exercise, deploying over 40 individual observers in total. There will be some 700 domestic observers and nearly 12,000 party and

candidate agents.

### **Who is in charge of the SKS elections and what is the role of the United Nations?**

The NEC is responsible for organizing and conducting the elections, while the United Nations is providing technical assistance and limited logistical support, as requested by the NEC and mandated by the Security Council. The UN is not conducting, monitoring or observing the elections.

UNMIS has provided advice in all phases of the process, in training plans and materials and voter education. UNMIS' UN Integrated Referendum and Electoral Division (UNIRED) has a team of 14 personnel in Khartoum and a team of 11 staff based in Kadugli, the capital of Southern Kordofan State. The UN Development Programme (UNDP) continues to manage the Basket Fund, which is currently sponsoring civic and voter education activities and the rental of warehouses in SKS. The UNDP will also provide support in reimbursing funds to the NEC for the rental of vehicles used for transportation of polling materials at constituency level.

**Abbreviated timeline**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Date (approximate)</b>
Demarcation of geographical constituencies	4-13 November 2010
NEC publishes final list of 32 geographical constituencies for the State Legislative Assembly Elections, following objections and appeals periods	7 January 2011
Voter registration	24 January-12 February 2011
Electoral campaign	4 April-1 May 2011
Nomination (inclusive of objections, appeals, and withdrawal)	11 March to 3 April
Polling, sorting and announcement of results	2-8 May 2011
NEC announces official results of each constituency and of Southern Kordofan State, based on data entered results from each polling station	15 May 2011
Period of appeals by political parties and candidates which participated in the elections	15-21 May 2011 (within 7 days of NEC's announcement)
Court decisions on appeals	Until 3 June 2011 (14 days from submission of appeal)
Final declaration of results by NEC	4 June 2011 ( <i>no later than 30 days from the end of polling</i> )