



# Electoral Assistance Division (EAD)

## FACT SHEET

### EAD mandate

Security Council Resolution 1590 mandated UNMIS to “provide guidance and technical assistance to the parties to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in cooperation with other international actors, to support the preparations for and conduct of elections and referenda provided for by the CPA” countrywide (including Darfur). To perform this function effectively, UNMIS created the EAD.

### Elections and referenda

The CPA stipulates that general elections will be held for:

1. President of the Republic of Sudan
2. President of the Government of Southern Sudan
3. National Assembly
4. Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly
5. State Assemblies
6. State Governors

In addition, the CPA calls for a referendum for the right to self-determination (whether to secede or continue unity with the north) for the people of Southern Sudan. Another referendum is to be held giving the people of Abyei the choice of keeping special administrative status in North Sudan or becoming part of Southern Sudan.

### EAD role

In coordination with the National Elections Commission (NEC), the Government of National Unity and the Government of Southern Sudan, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and UN agencies, EAD’s role is to implement the electoral mandate, monitor implementation of CPA electoral provisions by its parties, and provide technical assistance as required to the National Elections Commission and other authorities.

Additionally, EAD advises the mission senior management on electoral matters. It also liaises with the United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur on all aspects of the electoral process in Darfur, including logistical support for any UNMIS electoral operations

there. EAD also coordinates with the UN Development Programme (UNDP), UN agencies, and other assistance providers.

### EAD activities

EAD has a team of electoral advisers assisting NEC in developing operational plans, providing guidance and strategies on procedures and training, and civic as well as voter education. EAD also coordinates donor assistance to support the electoral process.

In addition, EAD works with the Political Parties Affairs Council, civil society, domestic and international observer organizations, media, political parties, and the judiciary to help establish a conducive environment for holding credible elections.

### Supporting the electoral process

The activities of EAD fall within two broad categories:

#### Operations, including:

- Logistics;
- Training;
- Field Coordination;
- Information Technology.

#### External relations, including:

- Civic and voter education;
- Public Information;
- Stakeholder relations such as donors, NGOs, political parties and election observers.

### Current Activities

- Assisting to develop operational plans for conducting voter registration and polling;
- Assisting with preparation of plans for movement and secure storage of electoral materials;
- Coordinating UN support for electoral process, including logistical support;
- Assisting in preparation of procedures and training for registration, nomination, polling, and counting;

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- Developing simulations to help NEC determine the best options for voting;
- Assisting in development of strategies for civic and voter education and preparation of materials;
- Assisting in development of public information materials and strategies.

### EAD structure

Currently, EAD has about 141 staff members working throughout the country in headquarters, two regional offices, and state level offices. Details of its structure are as follows:

- Headquarters – Khartoum;
- Regional Office for Southern Sudan - Juba
- Regional Office for Darfur;
- Offices in each state in Southern Sudan, located in Juba, Wau, Malakal, Torit, Yambio, Rumbek, Warrap, Aweil, Bor, Bentiu;
- At the request of the NEC, EAD is planning to staff offices to support the electoral process in each of the northern states;
- Eventual size of UNMIS EAD will depend on type of support requested and on resources available.

EAD teams in the states consist of a team leader, electoral support, logistics, training, and civic and voter education officers.

### Challenges

Among the many challenges to the successful conduct of elections in Sudan are:

- Managing the number of ballots – there will be six elections/12 ballot papers for each voter in Southern Sudan, and eight papers for each voter in the North;
- More than 275,000,000 ballot papers must be printed and distributed throughout Sudan;
- Illiteracy of a large percentage of the population;
- Effective participation of women as voters, observers, electoral staff, and as candidates;
- The vast size of the country and its cultural diversity;
- Lack of infrastructure and communications in some areas of the country, especially in Southern Sudan.

### Achievements and future plans

In June 2009, UNMIS EAD along with UNDP, the International Foundation for Electoral Systems and Assessment and Evaluation Commission assisted NEC in training its 156 High Committee members and Returning Officers from all 25 states and at the level of Southern Sudan.

EAD collaborates with UNMIS Gender Unit, Civil Affairs, Rule of Law, UN Development Fund for Women and other sections as well as organizations to provide briefings and workshops on the electoral law and electoral process.

### UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN

Ebeid Khatim Street  
P.O.Box 69  
Khartoum, 11111  
Sudan

PHONE:  
(249) 187-086000

FAX:  
- Inside Sudan: 0 187 086200  
- Outside Sudan: +1 917 3673523

E-MAIL:  
ecomment-pio@un.org

We're on the Web!

See us at:  
[www.unmis.org](http://www.unmis.org)