



# Press Statement

29 June 2010

## Statement on the endorsement of the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sudan (SRSG), Haile Menkerios, welcomes the endorsement of the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission members by the National Assembly.

The Commission is the independent national body that will organise and conduct the January 2011 referendum where the people of Southern Sudan will either confirm the unity of the country or vote for secession.

SRSG Menkerios congratulates the new Commissioners and takes this opportunity to urge the two partners to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement to accelerate the formation of the long overdue Abyei referendum commission.

The Abyei commission will be responsible for organising and running a referendum in the Abyei Area on whether it should retain its special administrative status in the North or be part of Bahr El Ghazal in the South.

UNMIS reiterates its commitment to fully support the implementation of the CPA and its readiness to assist the parties with the preparations of the two referenda to ensure they are carried out in a credible way and reflect the will of the people.

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