

**SRSQ Qazi's Closing Statement at the Sudan Consortium**  
**(7 May 2008, Oslo)**

**Vice President Taha, Minister Solheim, Mr Schafer, Excellencies and Colleagues,**

I would first of all like to thank the donor community for their generous pledges this afternoon. The estimated **US\$ 4.8 billion** pledged by the donors clearly indicate the firm commitment of the international community to enabling Sudanese establish a sustained peace through development.

Once again it is time to express our gratitude to our host, the Norwegian Government, for organizing a successful consortium at such a short notice. The Norwegian hospitality was matched by their generosity in pledging money for Sudan.

Overall, the Consortium has been a success. We all sat as friends. Appreciated what has been achieved and honestly acknowledged what needs to be done. The CPA implementation, though behind schedule remains on track. While we commended where progress was made, all of us rightly recognize that Abyei, border demarcation, elections and trust between the parties remain as some of the major challenges facing the CPA. I also feel confident and pleased that there is a renewed recognition of the CPA being the bedrock of peace in Sudan and that its failure is not an option.

Fruitful discussions took place on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR). There is a renewed commitment by the parties to move the process forward. Significant progress was made on the project document in cooperation with the donors.

However, the need for timely funding is critical and I hope that the funds pledged for the program would be available as soon as possible.

Elections are aimed at leading Sudan into the process of democratic transformation. Once again, healthy discussions were held between the Government and the donors. While we ask the donors for timely assistance, it is very important to note that the parties must expeditiously pass the electoral law and establish the National Election Commission (NEC) in order to optimally utilize international assistance.

Gender also merged as one of the important issues during discussions where it was agreed to put renewed focus on women representation in various ongoing processes. In this regard the efforts should not be restricted to alleviating the sufferings of women but also transcend into the realm of their empowerment so that they are able to participate in the decision making process.

In order to sustain peace and stability, it is essential that all Sudanese reap the benefits of peace. Peace and development are intertwined and must reach the most vulnerable in Sudan. The third Sudan Consortium has also highlighted the need to rapidly deliver recovery and development package for reconstruction and economic development of Sudan. The continued commitment and support, by the international community, towards the implementation of GNU/GOSS proposed policies, projects and reform processes for the next four years bear testimony to the importance it assigns to the

delivery of a peace dividend to the Sudanese people through recovery and development projects.

In 2011 the people of Southern Sudan and Abyei will exercise their right of self determination. We are obliged to ensure that their choice is informed and peaceful. The joint national programs, jointly prepared by the two CPA partners, are a testimony that the two CPA partners recognize that whether they remain united or live as neighbors, peaceful co-existence is indispensable for the future of all Sudanese. Return to conflict is not an option. I hope the period 2008-11 will be an era of peace and stability for Sudan. I hope it will be a period where the Sudanese, through sustained development, will be able to achieve their Millennium Development Goals.

Thank you.

Ashraf Jehangir Qazi

SRSG for Sudan