



# COMMON SENSE 1

## A CALL FOR RECONCILIATION, PEACE, AND UNITY

through confederate cooperation in promoting dialogue,  
building peace, and restoring civil society  
among peoples of South Sudan

### ABOUT SSLM

The South Sudan Liberation Movement (SSLM) formed in January 2000 in Upper Nile Region of South Sudan to restore unity and democratic civic order among a people that have been devastated by lawlessness, overlooked by the outside world since 1991, and politically neutralized.

In mobilizing people for peace-building, the SSLM aims to complement the efforts of other political and military groups who are defending South Sudan against Arab/Islamic domination and oppression.

The SSLM follows two avenues to assert the rights of the people of South Sudan to freedom and self-determination. First, we seek the peaceful resolution of the conflict through negotiated settlement. Second, we will defend ourselves against Northern aggression.

It is the SSLM's belief that peaceful resolution of conflict must build upon the civic tradition of the people. It must encourage reconciliation and forgiveness. And it must focus upon the common ground of a unity of purpose.

### Why is it taking so long to stop the fighting in Sudan?

Since 1983, Sudan's war has killed an estimated 2 million people and displaced an estimated four million. Most victims are southern Sudanese and Nuba civilians. The Arab/Islamic objective is to "re-unify" Sudan under one government, language, religion, and culture, as well as to control the natural resources in the South. The Arab/Islamic North carries out a "divide and rule" strategy to defeat southern opposition.

### Can Southerners come together to achieve peace?

Yes. Southern unity has a direct bearing upon the outcome of the larger conflict. But first communities and parties to conflict in the South must come together in mutual forgiveness, accept one another as equals, and then work to build a common future together.

SSLM appreciates the January 2002 Nairobi declaration of unity between the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLM/SPLA) and the Sudan People's Democratic Front and Sudan People's Defence Force (SPDF). We hope this declaration will not fall apart, as have previous agreements between the two.

Should the Nairobi declaration fail, it will be because it compels people to unity without processes of dialogue. The declaration calls for "...the administration of the Sudan as a Confederal/ Federal United Secular Democratic New Sudan..." Its "vision of the New Sudan" defines the common ground of the peoples of northern and southern Sudan as a united state. But in South Sudan, the grassroots people have already defined the common ground. That ground is the self-determination of peoples. This is an internationally recognized human right that can be exercised only in a peaceful, civic atmosphere through an internationally supervised referendum.

SSLM calls people to unity through dialogue. This statement outlines a model of confederate cooperation that is grounded in the common purpose of achieving the right of self-determination. Within the framework of this model, parties remain free to govern their own affairs and agree to work together to achieve self-determination for the people of South Sudan.

## The Basics of Confederate Cooperation

### *General structure of confederate cooperation*

There is no ultimate solution to the inter-ethnic and inter-factional fighting that has made South Sudan vulnerable to exploitation by the northern Sudanese. Bringing together peoples who have been killing one another for decades will not be accomplished easily. But it can be done.

SSLM's model of confederate cooperation is an approach that recognizes local realities and offers a platform for unity and future development in which no one is forced to accept a preordained agenda, and trust in democratic processes is built over the long-term.

Confederate cooperation is an approach that offers an institutional channel for communication, as well as for resolution of disputes and tensions. Parties to the Confederate Cooperation are received as equal partners, each having complimentary strategies for achieving the common purpose. The working of the institutional leadership structure (that is, the councils and committees) operates according to open dialogue along the following general principles:

- The purpose that unifies us is political, economic, and social self-determination for the peoples of South Sudan.
- The main partners to the confederation are open to participation from others who share our fundamental objective.
- Each partner is free, independent, and responsible to coordinate and execute the struggle against the Khartoum Government in their respective areas, and to assist one another in time of need.
- Relations among the partner parties are governed by agreed upon principles.

### *General principles and objectives of confederate cooperation*

The general principles and objectives of SSLM's model of confederate cooperation model offer a basis for collaboration among southern parties and the civil society and also as a guide for action. The foundation has already been laid down in the continuing grassroots People to People Peace Process. The strength of this Process of dialogue and consensus building depends less upon the personalities of the leadership and more upon the civic order at the grassroots level.

In addition, the institutional structure of confederate cooperation offers the international community a vehicle for applying multilateral coordinated leverage, for encouraging parties to stay the course, and for ensuring the success of peace agreement implementation.

General principles and objectives include:

1. The Right to Self-determination of Peoples. The central objective of the parties to the confederate cooperation is to secure freedom and the right to self-determination for the peoples of South Sudan. This is to be achieved through an internationally supervised referendum.

## Contact SSLM

### **SSLM/United Kingdom**

Andrew Kuong

Flat 11  
124 Pratt St.  
London  
NW1 ODQ  
United Kingdom  
Tel. 011-44-207-383-4820  
Mobile 011-793-144-3342  
Email [AndrwKuon@aol.com](mailto:AndrwKuon@aol.com)  
(or [sslm4peace@yahoo.com](mailto:sslm4peace@yahoo.com))

### **SSLM/Nairobi, Kenya**

William Kuol Chol

P.O. Box 67413  
Nairobi, Kenya  
Mobile 011-254-733-807-506  
011-254-721-341-911  
Email [kchol2@yahoo.com](mailto:kchol2@yahoo.com)

The way to peace is found in strengthening the institutions and traditions of the existing legal and civic environment.

2. **Unity of Purpose.** Unity is based upon the central objective of achieving self-determination. Unity will be nurtured through:
  - Recognizing all parties as equal partners in the struggle to achieve political, cultural, and social stability.
  - Promoting forgiveness and reconciliation among groups and communities.
  - Cessation of hostilities among the confederate parties, and discouraging violence and hostility among other groups and communities.
  - Building bridges of understanding, unity, and solidarity.
  - Encouraging cooperation among military forces opposed to the NIF regime. Confederate partner armies are independent, with complementary strategies.
3. **Negotiated Resolution of the Sudan conflict.**
  - Support for the IGAD facilitated peace negotiations should continue. However, the forum should be expanded to include other opposition forces fighting for the right of self-determination and representatives from all elements of society, including traditional elders and churches. The negotiations should remain based upon the Declaration of Principles (DoP), which affirm the right of self-determination for the peoples of South Sudan.
  - In addition, support for the grassroots Peace and Reconciliation Process in South Sudan should continue. The grassroots process is an important forum for voices to be heard, to promote dialogue, and to seek out the consensus that drives negotiations on the macro level.
4. **Democracy, Good Governance, and Human Rights.** The way to peace is found in strengthening the institutions and traditions of the existing legal and civic environment. To fully involve all elements of civil society in processes of reconciliation and unification will require:
  - Free movement of peoples and ideas to encourage the evolution of peaceful, civic culture.
  - Nurturing trust, interaction, and cooperation among communities and ethnic groups.
  - Expanding peace through an emerging civil framework of accountable, democratic pluralism and bottom-up approaches to governance.
  - Encouraging open grassroots dialogue and freedom to debate issues.
  - Recognizing the equal status of men and women and encouraging the active participation of women at all levels.
  - Protecting individual freedoms and civil rights through restoring civil administrations and judicial systems.
  - Building security through a climate of law and order that will encourage economic and productive activity.
  - Responding to the humanitarian tragedy in all parts of South Sudan, Nuba Mountains, and southern Blue Nile.

5. Security for the People. The enormous humanitarian crisis in South Sudan has been caused by conditions of war that have disrupted food production, displaced large numbers of people, and broken down systems of law and order.

- Self-reliance and self-sufficiency. To offset the cycle of dependency, measures must be initiated that assist people and communities in launching private enterprise, in becoming self-sufficient in food production and provision of social services, and in responsible use of local resources.
- Natural resources. The water, agricultural lands, minerals, forests, oil, and wildlife belong to the people of South Sudan and must be used to the best interest of all people and with respect for protecting the environment.
- Civic education. The need to involve every human institution in South Sudan—the civil society, churches, labor unions, farmers, teachers, traditional leaders and elders, youth, women, indigenous NGOs, etc.—in the dialogue process is well worth an investment in civic education. This education is not to indoctrinate, but rather to encourage the development of civic culture and faith in democratic process. Civic education shall have as its basic reference the many Charters, Declarations, and Resolutions of the United Nations.
- Law, Order, and Local Self-defense. To restore local security through civic police and courts, and to secure the defense of the community against attack through militia that are accountable to the local people. There is also the need for long range radios to facilitate communications between communities to strengthen security.
- Humanitarian assistance. To create a welcoming environment for international humanitarian assistance in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of physical infrastructure; in the provision of health care, education, and development projects; and in regard to aiding the return and resettlement of displaced peoples.

### *A lesson from history...*

“Let this message be heard by strong and weak alike.  
The peace we seek—the peace we will win—is not victory over any other people, but the peace that comes with healing in its wings;  
with compassion for those who have suffered;  
with understanding for those who have opposed us;  
with the opportunity for all the peoples of this earth to choose their own destiny.”

*FIRST INAUGURAL ADDRESS,*  
Richard Milhous Nixon, 1969.

## How the international community can help

South Sudan Liberation Movement (SSLM) appreciates the role of the international community, especially the United States and the members of the European Union, in helping to relieve the immense suffering and social injustices being inflicted upon the peoples of South Sudan.

The grassroots People to People Peace Process has created a window of opportunity for building broad based southern unity. The international community can help best by:

- Encouraging the People to People Peace Process to expand on the grassroots level.
- Putting their support behind even-handed efforts and material assistance that build peace and harmony among all peoples of South Sudan.
- Calling for reconciliation, peace, and unity through confederate cooperation in promoting dialogue, building peace, and restoring civil society among peoples of South Sudan.