

ACHOLI PEACE CONFERENCE IN JUBA, SOUTHERN SUDAN

We, the Acholi people duly invited by His Royal Highness, The Lawii Rwodi, Rwot David Onen Acana II and assembled in Juba from March 1–4, 2007 to review the Juba peace process to resolve the conflict in Northern Uganda;

Recognising the vision of the Late Dr. John Garang, which has resulted in the Juba peace process between the Government of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army;

Appreciative of the magnanimity of the Government of the Republic of Sudan and the Government of Southern Sudan; the commitment and dedication of the First Vice President of the Republic of Sudan and President of the Government of Southern Sudan, H.E. General Salvar Kiir Mayardit; and The Vice President of Southern Sudan H.E. Lt. Gen. Dr. Riek Machar Teny-Dhurgon; and the sacrifice of the people of Southern Sudan in the pursuit of peace in Northern Uganda and Southern Sudan;

Commending the Government of Uganda and the LRA for pursuing a negotiated settlement to the conflict;

Cognisant of the role and contribution of the United Nations and International Community to the Juba peace process;

Recognising and appreciating the relative peace that is prevailing in Northern Uganda as a result of the Juba peace process;

But gravely concerned with the delayed resumption of the Peace Talks; and having reviewed and considered all the issues and concerns raised by the LRA with regard to the Juba Peace process;

Now, therefore, we recommend that:-

1. The Government of Uganda and The Lord's Resistance Army do immediately resume and continue with the Peace Talks.
2. Juba continues as the venue for the Peace Talks.
3. The Government of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army continue to uphold the spirit of Cessation of Hostilities Agreement.
4. The Government of the Republic of Sudan and the Government of Southern Sudan should reassure the participants in the Juba Peace Talks of their security.
5. The Cessation of Hostilities Monitoring Team be fully constituted and made more effective.
6. The Government of Southern Sudan remains the Chief Mediator and, in consultation with the two parties, should invite countries with experience to strengthen the mediation team.
7. The Chief Mediator should define the roles and responsibilities of NGOs, groups and individuals invited to facilitate, observe or participate in the Peace Talks.

8. The Chief Mediator should ensure equitable participation of women and other interest groups in the Peace Talks.
9. The capacity of parties involved in the peace process should be enhanced through training and technical assistance.
10. The United Nations, African Union, Inter Governmental Authority on Development and the East African Community enhance their presence at the Peace Talks.
11. The Secretariat be strengthened and staffed with competent, professional and accountable personnel to provide effective and equitable services and equal treatment to the parties.