



## THE UN INTEGRATED REFERENDUM AND ELECTORAL DIVISION (UNIRED)

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### What is UNIRED?

Following the April 2010 elections in Sudan, the UN decided to merge into one team all UN election actors working in Sudan (UNMIS Electoral Assistance Division, UN Development Programme - UNDP) to effectively support the upcoming Southern Sudan and Abyei referenda. The UN Integrated Referendum and Electoral Division (UNIRED) was thus established with a streamlined reporting and operational structure.

#### What is UNIRED's mandate?

UN Security Council Resolution 1590 (2005), UN Security Council Resolution 1870 (2009) and UN Security Council Resolution 1919 (2010) mandated UNMIS to:

- provide guidance and technical assistance to the parties to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in cooperation with other international actors;
- Support preparations for elections and the referenda, including an advisory task related to security arrangements.

#### What is its actual role?

The Southern Sudan Referendum Commission (SSRC) is responsible for planning, organizing and conducting the referendum in Southern Sudan. Ownership of the whole process remains Sudanese. UNIRED's role is to provide advice and technical assistance to the SSRC and its subsidiary bodies throughout every phase of the referenda processes. This includes development of the necessary regulatory framework, operational planning, logistical arrangements, security, training of referendum staff, and public outreach as well as cooperation with external stakeholders, such as international and domestic observers, media and civil society.

#### What has UNIRED been doing?

UNIRED's current activities include:

- Assisting referendum authorities in the design of operational plans for conducting voter registration and polling;

- Assisting in preparing procedures and training for voter registration, polling and counting;
- Procurement and transportation of referendum-related materials and equipment;
- Security training for Southern Sudan and Sudan Police Forces officers;
- Advising in developing strategies for voter education, as well as public information materials;
- Support to accredit international and domestic observers;
- Coordination of international efforts in support to the referenda.

#### How is UNIRED represented in the field?

The field structure of UNIRED is designed to enhance close and effective cooperation with Sudanese referendum authorities. UNIRED has offices and representatives in:

- Khartoum (where the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission headquarters is situated);
- Juba (seat of the Southern Sudan Referendum Bureau);
- Each of the 10 Southern Sudan states (liaising with SSRC State High Committees);
- County level Referendum Support Bases (liaising with SSRC county subcommittees);
- El Fasher, Khartoum, Kassala, Kadugli and Ed Damazin (supporting SSRC State Committees in the North).
- Abyei: a regional office to support the Abyei Area Referendum Commission once it is established.

#### Who are UNIRED's partners?

UNIRED's main partners are:

- The Southern Sudan Referendum Commission (SSRC);
- Government of the Republic of Sudan;
- Government of Southern Sudan;

- UN agencies;
- UN-African Union Mission in Darfur.

In addition, UNIRED, through a donor-supported UNDP Basket Fund, works with civil society organizations, domestic observers, the media, and the judiciary.

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