Darfur Internal Dialogue and Consultations
Progress Report
of the Darfur Internal Dialogue and Consultations (DIDC)
An opportunity for Darfuris to participate in the peace process
CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .................................................................................................................. 4
INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND .................................................................................. 6
THE DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY OF THE PROCESS .................................................. 7
LAUNCH OF THE DIDC PROCESS .......................................................................................... 10
IMPLEMENTATION AND OUTCOMES OF THE DIDC PROCESS ........................................ 11
OUTCOMES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DIDC LOCALITY CONSULTATIONS ...... 13
NEXT STEPS ............................................................................................................................ 16
CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ............................................................................ 18
The Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD), signed by the Government of Sudan and some of the Darfur Movements provides the conduct of a Darfur-wide internal dialogue process (DDIC) for ordinary Darfuris. The DIDC process is designed to consolidate the achievements of the Doha peace process, including effective implementation of the DDPD, through an inclusive engagement that took the form of socio-cultural activities, entertainment and community meetings in all communities.

A total of 77 outreach meetings were held: 69 in Darfur; 23 in North Darfur; 21 in South Darfur; 9 in East Darfur; 8 in Central Darfur and 8 in West Darfur, and 8 in Khartoum; with over 200 participants attending each meeting. The following is a summary of the issues raised in the outreach meetings:

Security: promoting rule of law, disarmament of non-state armed groups such as militias and rebel movements as well as state sponsored armed groups; Signing of a comprehensive peace agreement between the government and non-signatory movements; IDPs, the conducive environment for voluntary return and compensation packages; Reinforcement of the existing mechanisms on land management and land tenure, returning land to original ownership; and reform of the remaining tribal, inter-communal conflicts and nepotism: Ending politicization of tribes by the government who use tribal mobilization for political interests; Rehabilitation and disengaging the Native Administration system to re-politicize it to maintain its neutrality and acceptance by all; Comprehensive reconciliation; Education; Employment of youth: Easing the burden of unemployment; Implementation of development projects and provision of basic services in all areas of Darfur region;

The issues raised in each outreach meeting were compiled, with nearly 10,000 Darfuris participating in the process. An additional four consultations were conducted for Darfuris resident in Khartoum. A minimum of 150 community residents participated in each Locality consultation.

The DIDC process, which is community led, brought together traditional leaders, youth, women, civil society, teachers, IDPs, nomads, farmers, Native Administration, religious leaders and other stakeholders to directly discuss issues affecting them, so as to make common decisions for lasting peace. After very frank, transparent and open discussions, the outcomes seem to suggest a common trend of events and issues affecting the various communities. Each Locality consultation has been concluded with a series of recommendations that have been compiled and shared with the UNAMID UNDAM and the DIC. The recommendations have been summarized for each state and for each phase of the process.

There were security, political, economic and social recommendations most of which were identical, across the Localities and across States, but with some state specific recommendations. A number of issues were also found to be cross-cutting or, at least, perceived as such. This indicates that the underlying causes of the conflict among grass-root communities are common throughout Darfur, which further indicates the direction the dialogue implementation and peace efforts should take, if lasting peace and development are to be achieved.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

From all the recommendations compiled from the various consultations, the main issues have been summarized as follows:

1. There is yearning among the population for a peaceful resolution of the Darfur conflict. They therefore urge the government and non-signatory movements; IDPs of Sudan to avail themselves of the opportunity of a negotiated settlement to the conflict, to prevent the future resumption of the conflict.

2. Insecurity is one of the biggest concerns in all five states of Darfur. All communities in Darfur, are very keen to see a comprehensive disarmament and for law and order to be restored, through the rule of law.

3. Recommendations welcomed the implementation of the DDPD as an important milestone in the peace process and encouraged the government and the international community to continue investing in the DDPD to ensure its comprehensive implementation.

4. Another serious political and social issue which gained prominence in the consultations is the return of IDPs and refugees to their original homes, as well as calls for the guarantee of financial compensation packages for returnees. The conditions outlined for the voluntary return of IDPs and refugees by the participants, include comprehensive disarmament, the rule of law, the provision of basic services and more importantly, the vexed issue of illegal occupation of land owned by IDPs by other tribes, especially those of Arab origin.

5. Also recommended as part of the political issues, is the restoration of the traditional authority of the Native Administration, a traditional governance mechanism that guaranteed the stability of the Darfuri society in the past, which was eroded. Participants believe that most of the issues that seem intractable now can easily be resolved if the Native Administration is restored to its old statute in a peaceful environment.

6. Participants recommend a comprehensive reconciliation mechanism to mediate the seemingly intractable political issues in Darfur. They fear that such a mechanism should also address all other social issues including tribal disputes, discrimination among ethnic lines and issues affecting women and children.

7. The limitations imposed on the availability of land and other natural resources for animal grazing and for farming by the government of Sudan, has increased the population pressure on the land, which has caused a root cause of the conflict in Darfur. The recommendations call for a comprehensive approach that will take into account security, land titles, reconciliation through traditional solutions and the injection of new policy and development initiatives.

8. There were general recommendations for the restoration of civil liberties, fundamental freedoms, good governance, democracy and the guarantee of human rights including the freedom of expression. The consultations acknowledge that there are some provisions in the DDPD and in the outcomes of the National Dialogue which make references to these issues.

9. Most of the recommendations on economic issues relate to the tackling of poverty and the economic crisis stemming from the war. They focus on issues such as road construction and rehabilitation and electricity supplies; protection of natural resources by preventing deforestation and creating conditions for sustainable development; agriculture and livestock production and tackling unemployment. The recommendations call on government and the international community to address the issues, through investment in the DDPD implementation and the outcomes of the National Dialogue, as well as in reconstruction.

10. Regarding social issues, the provision of basic amenities such as improved health care facilities and construction of schools in villages and towns in promoting education, were identified as the way forward. It is acknowledged that social issues are also addressed in the DDPD and in the outcomes of the National Dialogue, which if comprehensively implemented will address a lot of the recommendations put forward in the Locality level dialogues.

The recommendations of the Locality dialogues have been compiled and will be tabled at the State-level consultations, and eventually at the Darfur wide conference.

Also as part of the process, the DIC hosted a conference on 30 October 2017 in Khartoum to show case the outcomes
of the DIDC process and improve its visibility. Eventually it is hoped that, in accordance with the DDPD, the final outcome of the DIDC process will be incorporated in the development and constitutional agenda for Darfur, by the Government of Sudan.

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Article 76, of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD), provides for the conduct of a Darfur-wide internal dialogue and consultation (DIDC), a forum for all stakeholders to address the root causes of the conflict while promoting healing and reconciliation. The DIDC strategy targeted citizens in the five states of Darfur and those living in Khartoum, through a bottom up approach generating ideas in an open dialogue among Darfuris at the Locality Levels and funneling them towards state level consultations and eventually to a Darfur region wide conference.

The DIDC process aims to consolidate the achievements of the Doha peace process, including effective implementation of the DDPD, through an inclusive and continuous multi-stakeholder engagement of the citizens of Darfur on issues underlying the Darfur conflict, their perspective on solutions and the way forward to permanent peace in Darfur.

The facilitators of the process, the State of Qatar, UNAMID and the African Union, approved the DIDC Implementation Committee (DIC), a 17-member Committee of eminent Darfuris, led by Haj Saddiq Adam Abdallah, (Saddiq Wada) to have overarching responsibility for managing and leading the process. UNAMID was mandated by the UN Security Council to provide technical and logistical support for the process and has done so by delegating the supervision of the process to the Political Affairs Section (PAS). UNDP and the University Peace Centres have been managing funds provided by the Government of Sudan, the European Union and the Government of Sudan.

The objective of this progress report is to provide an update to the Facilitators (the State of Qatar, the Government of Sudan and UNAMID) and donors, on the process since the last Facilitators meeting in Doha on 27 April, 2014. It will also review the progress recorded throughout the period, taking into account the leadership provided by the DIDC Implementation Committee (DIC), the range of technical and logistical support provided by UNAMID and the UNDP support in the utilization and management of donor funds.

The Facilitators have provided adequate guarantees to the consultations as a vital part of the peace process. This report is therefore presented to them for their approval and further guidance.

The last Facilitators meeting approved the DIDC Implementation Schedule; the DIDC Structure and Design; budgets proposed for the process and the survey conducted to determine knowledge and understanding on the DIDC and the DDPD. Subsequently, the then JSR, Mohamed Ibn Chambas launched the 17-Member DIC committee.

With funds provided by the State of Qatar, the European Union and the Government of Sudan, 77 outreach and sensitization programmes and 68 Locality consultations have been conducted in the five states of Darfur and in Khartoum. The program involved about 10,000 Darfur residents and will involve another 1,000 in the refugee camps and the diaspora.

The end of the Locality consultations marked an important milestone in the DIDC process, principally due to its extensive coverage and access to all parts of Darfur and also because the outcome of these grass-root consultations will form an important foundation for the next stages of the process; the State, refugee and diaspora consultations.

The report will therefore provide background information on some aspects of the implementation of the DIDC process since its inception, including activities undertaken by a range of stakeholders and partners. It will also outline and analyze the outcomes of the Locality consultations in all five States and Khartoum, especially as they relate to the causes of the war, the impact and consequences of the conflict on the Darfuri population. The report will further assess the actual and potential challenges of the implementation as well as plans on the way forward.

The DIC hopes that this report will provide an important feedback to the Government of Sudan as it embarks on the consolidation of peace in Darfur and the wider process of constitutional reforms as well as serve as a guide for all those planning to intervene in the recovery process in Darfur.

The Design and Methodology of the Process

THE DESIGN

The DIDC process was designed as an all-inclusive and transparent process to provide the people of Darfur at the grass-root, the unique opportunity of contributing to the DDPD and to the peace process. It was also an opportunity for the non-signatory movements to further influence the DDPD, through their grass-roots civilian support, even after the Doha process. The strategy was designed to build on the inputs by civil society and ordinary Darfur people at the talks in Doha, in a bid to achieve comprehensive solutions that resonate with all Darfuris and Sudanese people.

The Concept Note and design of the process which was done by UNAMID pursuant to para.473 of the DDPD and UNSCR 2063 (2012) provides for a bottom up approach, beginning with a community outreach to Locality consultations and then to state level consultations. The design further makes provision for consultations among Darfuris in diaspora and refugee camps, which together with the State level consultations will culminate into a Darfur wide conference.

The outreach programme was a community sensitization process intended to raise awareness through social and cultural activities, on the objectives, modalities and values of the DIDC process. The activities were followed by community meetings where issues critical to the communities were discussed and recommendations on how the Locality meetings should be conducted were made. The outreach meetings were followed by Locality level consultations in 64 localities in Darfur and four for Darfuris in Khartoum, to discuss issues impacting their lives, including root causes of the conflict, and the other relevant issues suggested by the various communities during the Outreach. The design calls for the recommendations of Locality consultations to be presented at State level meetings, for further discussions and consolidation of recommendations.

Once the State level consultations are conducted, Diaspora and refugee consultations are expected to be held simultaneously and for the outcomes of all three processes to be presented at the Darfur regional conference.

The post DIDC phase will facilitate the incorporation of the outcomes of the process into the revised constitution, and provide further guidance on the other aspects of the peace process like the mediation, the integrated strategic framework and the final implementation of the DDPD.

THE VALIDATION EXERCISE

Since the DIDC process was designed by the UNAMID Secretariat, it was essential that the people of Darfur be widely consulted on the design and implementation for them to understand, accept and even own the process. In that regard, a number of steps were taken by the UNAMID secretariat to solicit the views of various stakeholders on the concept note and the design of the DIDC process.

A perception survey aimed at gauging perceptions of
Table 1: List of DIC members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Occupation/designation</th>
<th>State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saddig Adam Abdallah (Saddig Wada) M</td>
<td>Businessman and philanthropist</td>
<td>North Darfur</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amir Bakheet Arja M</td>
<td>Representative</td>
<td>JEM-D</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zahra Adelhameim Mohammed F</td>
<td>Civil society Activist &amp; Women's leader</td>
<td>North Darfur</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ahmed Adam Yousef M</td>
<td>NGO and former Local Government Administrator</td>
<td>North Darfur</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halima El Nour Ahmed F</td>
<td>IDP and Civil Society Activist</td>
<td>North Darfur</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Nagla Bashir F</td>
<td>Academic/ Professional</td>
<td>South Darfur</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mohamed Ahmed Haroon M</td>
<td>Chairman of SD FUM Civil Society Activist</td>
<td>South Darfur</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Omda Mariam F</td>
<td>IDP, Women's leader, Civil Society Activist</td>
<td>South Darfur</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Omda Salah M</td>
<td>IDP and Youth Leader</td>
<td>South Darfur</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mohammed Adelrasoul Mohammed M</td>
<td>Chairman of CD FUM, Civil Society Activist</td>
<td>Central Darfur</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Suad Adam Albarjo M</td>
<td>Civil Society Activist</td>
<td>Central Darfur</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Izaldin Khalil Abu Bakar M</td>
<td>Chairman of WD FUM, Civil Society Activist</td>
<td>West Darfur</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ahmed Suleiman Ali M</td>
<td>Community leader and Professional</td>
<td>West Darfur</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magboolah Hussien Mustafa F</td>
<td>Women’s groups leader</td>
<td>East Darfur</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aml. Osman Dirar M</td>
<td>Representative</td>
<td>GOS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mohammed Ibrahim Azazgar M</td>
<td>Representative</td>
<td>JEM-A</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Abas Hamza M</td>
<td>Representative</td>
<td>JLM</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Pre-dialogue planning involved extensive engagements with various stakeholders. This formed an important part of the planning and methodology, even before the commencement of the DIDC process. The DIC secretariat had meetings with stakeholders within Darfur, including State Government authorities, university staff and several civil society and non-governmental organizations. The secretariat also consulted with the international community in Khartoum. This was done to allow fear and cynicism which had developed among the populaion overtime due to the circumstances that prevailed in the Darfur region.

Following the development of the concept note, the Roadmap and the communication strategy by the UNAMID, the JSR/JCM convened a meeting in El Fasher on 26 May 2014, marking the formal commencement of the implementation phase of the DIDC process. In his opening remarks, UNAMID JSR Mohamed Ibn Chambas welcomed all the dignitaries including Prof. Ghandour, the then Special Assistant to the President of the Republic of Sudan; Dr. Tijani Seisi, DRA Chairperson; Mr. Amin Hassan Omar, Head of Darfur Peace Follow-up Office; H.E. Mr. Rasheed El Naeemi, Ambassador of the State of Qatar; Mr. Ibrahim Kamara, AU Representative; Mr. Baher Idris Abu Garda, the Federal Minister of Health; and the Heads of the five Darfur States. Following the opening remarks by the JSR, Dr. Tijani Seisi, Prof. Ibrahim Ghandour, H.E. Ambassador Rasheed El Naeemi, AU Representative Mr. Ibrahim Kamara, and Mr. Siddig Wadia, also made speeches. All speakers including the JSR stressed the importance of the implementation of DDPD, the Peace Process and especially the implementation of DIDC and its vital contribution towards sustainable peace in Darfur.

On May 25, 2015, the D1DC secretariat organized a one-day working session for the nominated members of the DIC on the objectives and principles of the DIDC, the implementation schedule; potential challenges to the implementation; the role of the DIC and administrative and financial arrangements. The working session was concluded by an election of the DIC leadership. Saddig Adam Abdalaah (Saddig Wada), the popular businessman from Wada in Kalimando Locality, North Darfur, was elected Chairman of the DIC, while Suad Adam Albarjo, from Central Darfur and Mohamed Ahmed Haroun, from South Darfur were elected Deputy Chairpersons.
the planning and implementation of all activities. Implementation is done through the civil society Follow-up Mechanism (FUM) which hires Facilitators, Coordinators and Rapporteurs for every Locality consultation. The DIC has the responsibility to liaise with the States and Federal Government institutions to ensure the smooth implementation of the DIC activities.

UNDP provides secretariat services to the implementation committee as well as technical and logistical support in the form of communication, transportation, and security coverage for all consultations. UNDP also has the ultimate responsibility to compile reports on dialogue outcomes and prepare comprehensive reports for all stakeholders. The UNDP provides technical support in the management of the project funds; provides accounting and audit services and also reports to donors on how the funds are expended. University Peace Centers have been contracted as implementing partners to provide professional support in managing the funds and compiling narrative reports of the consultations.

**FUNDING**

In order to kick-start the process, the government of Qatar contributed the sum of 1.7 million dollars, which was used for planning, conduct of the Outreach and sensitization process and to start the Locality level consultations. Thereafter the process experienced a huge delay in funding, as funds provided by the State of Qatar, had been expended and the other potential donors were looking forward to government’s financial contribution to the process before they could provide their own support. The Government of Sudan contribution eventually came in on March 16, 2016, representing a part payment of 1 million dollars, 50% of its original pledge of 2 million dollars to the programme. Within the international community, it was only the European Union that augmented the finances with an input of 800,000 Euros, an equivalent of 907,000 Dollars.

**IMPLEMENTATION AND OUTCOMES OF THE DIDC PROCESS**

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH CONSULTATIONS**

The DIDC outreach Community awareness and sensitization process was designed out of the desire to create a sense of local ownership of the DDRP and the peace process and to raise awareness among the local population of Darfur on the essence of an internal dialogue process as a critical element in addressing the root-causes of the conflict and for bringing about reconciliation and lasting peace.

With UNAMID creating the enabling environment for an awareness campaign, the community outreach consultations took the form of a socio-cultural entertainment and a community meeting of all stakeholders. The socio-cultural programmes included cultural and sporting activities, radio/TV discussion programmes, placing adverts in the daily or organizing massive public events in each Locality throughout Darfur. Some of them were organized in all localities and had a bearing on the cultural and social orientation of the population in the Locality.

The objective was to ensure that these social and cultural activities would assist in focusing the minds of the people on the positive aspects that bind them together culturally, their communal spirit and promote their natural ability to excel in physically demanding cultural/sporting activities, as a way of promoting their positive competitive spirit as opposed to conflict. In such an atmosphere, the social gathering provided an important conduit to pass on important peace messages.

Subsequently, the community meetings were held so as to reach a consensus on issues to discuss during the Locality level meetings as well as to select 150 participants to represent the community at the Locality consultations.
A total of 69 Locality meetings were held in Darfur; 23 in North Darfur; 21 in South Darfur; 9 in East Darfur; 8 in Central Darfur and 8 in West Darfur.

While the plan was to conduct outreach meetings with 60 community representatives, the heightened interest and enthusiasm of the population to be part of the process caused an increase in the number of participants from anything between 150 and 200 per meeting.

Outcomes of the Outreach Consultations
South Darfur
The issues of concern raised in South Darfur for further deliberations at the Locality meetings were as follows:
- Security and disarmament
- Comprehensive negotiations with all non-signatories groups/ movements and all the community segments; addressing tribal conflicts
- Power and wealth sharing: Rule of law and accountability
- Social peace, justice and reconciliation (Joolyabah)
- Land issues (Hawakeer); strengthening the role of Native Administration and ensuring its free election; support for traditional customary rulers; unity and confidence building; economic development; provision of services; return of IDPs and provision of basic services and security for return villages; addressing issues of compensation and the return of conflict affected property; and implementation of DPDD: education and empowerment of women; good governance; natural resources; democracy and freedom; issues of identity; protection of civilians; reintegration of social fabric between Nitega and Khor Abeche.

North Darfur
In North Darfur, the issues identified included Security: proliferation of weapon and disarmament and conflict resolution; comprehensive peace agreement; good governance, democracy, justice, rule of law and human rights; economy and the restoration of basic services; environmental concerns and the exploitation of natural resources; Restoring land rights and the traditional land system (Hawakeer); poverty and unemployment; settling disputes between cattle herders and the need for demarcation of nomadic routes; reviving peace building mechanisms; social reforms; demarcation of the Locality border; resolving tribal conflicts.

East Darfur
In East Darfur, suggested areas of focus were Security; disarmament promote rule of law, how to disarm non-state institutions associated with rebel movements, as well as state sponsored militias; addressing the matter of IDPs and providing an environment conducive for voluntary return; strategies to reinforce existing mechanisms on land management and land tenure; compensation and reparation; tribalism and tribal conflicts: how to end politicization of tribes by the government who use tribal mobilization for political interests; strengthen Native Administration. How to disengage Native Administration System from politics to maintain its neutrality and acceptance by all; education; employment of youth; tackling the burden of unemployment; implementation of development projects and provision of basic services in all areas of Darfur region; signing of a comprehensive peace agreement between the government and rebel movements.

Central Darfur
For Central Darfur issues for concern included Security; disarmament; conflict resolution between farmers and herders; empowerment of Native Administration; voluntary return of IDPs and compensations; protection of natural resources; Rule of Law; popular participation in decision making; education for all including Nomads; invitation to Armed Movements to join the peace process; development (roads, hospitals, Darraim dam; education (Adult, Girl Child, Youth Training, Midwives); justice.

West Darfur
In West Darfur, main issues raised were collection of the illegal arms; compensation or incentives for collected arms; security (more police stations); compensation; provision of basic services (water, schools, hospital, electricity); ensuring the safe and sustainable return of IDPs and refugees; securing the nomads’ rights; demarcation of animal routes/corridors and constructing water points along these routes; civilian arms collection; women education, literacy and organized occupations; safely occupied lands to their rightful owners; upgrading Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs) and provision of delivery kits to midwives; provision of agricultural inputs.

Analysis
The design of the outreach consultations yielded positive results as hundreds of local people attended the outreach programmes. The high level of heart felt contributions and the opportunity to socialize after a gruesome war that lasted for many years, created a positive atmosphere that encouraged open interaction and frank discussions during the outreach events.

Although, there were initial skepticisms about government’s commitment to the DIDC process, the cooperation and participation of the Walis, Locality Commissioners and local government officials during the outreach activities influenced the large turn out by the communities in these events.

During the meetings, people spoke openly and passionately about issues that impacted their lives and desperate conditions of living in Darfur exacerbated by the conflict. These discussions showed their level of desperation and frustration with the state of affairs in many parts of the Localities. Most of the issues raised seem to cut across the five States of Darfur. While some of the recommendations were general and can be applied to any post conflict situation or developing country, other recommendations were unique and at the core of the Darfur conflict. The recommendations generally focused on addressing security issues associated with arms proliferation, land disputes related to dwindling resources, the creeping desert and ethnic tensions, the desire for the voluntary return of IDPs, the erosion of traditional systems of governance, the government of Sudan, which, in turn, paved the way for funding from the European Union in July 2015.

Each Locality Consultation was supervised by the rapporteurs and copies submitted to the DIDC, UNAMID Political Affairs Section and the UNDP. UNAMID Political Affairs staff in the sectors also submitted separate reports to the Mission Leadership. The University Peace Centres were to submit regular financial reports to the UNDP for funds disbursed before they could access additional funding.

Phase one: September 2015 – January 2016
In this period, 25 Locality consultations; 21 in Darfur and four in Khartoum were conducted from September 2015 to early 2016. The recommendations were presented to the project board meeting at the UNDP. The implementation of the recommendations on the ground was by state of Qatar were fully exhausted. However, with the intervention of the Government of Sudan, and a subsequent donation by the European Union, the DIDC implementation was resumed in the five Darfur States. The recommendations that emanated from these consultations touched on security, political, social and economic issues.

Phase two: 01 September – November 2016
During this period, a total of 17 Locality consultations were conducted across Darfur States. The recommendations from the consultations bordered on security, economic, social, and political issues; very much the same as in the previous consultations. Some of the border localities in various states highlighted peculiar challenges and concerns. Some for instance, raised concerns regarding the free inflow of drugs and alcohol from neighboring countries were also raised, which they said was making the youth uncontrollable and violent.

Phase three: January – December 2017
All the remaining 26 Locality consultations were completed during this period.

OUTCOMES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DIDC LOCALITY CONSULTATIONS
The DIDC process which is community led, brought together traditional leaders, youth, women, civil society, teachers, IDPs, nomads, farmers, Native Administration, religious leaders and people from all walks of life at the local community level to directly discuss issues affecting them, so as to make joint decisions for lasting peace. Af-
ter very frank, transparent and open discussions by the local communities, there seems to be a common trend of events and issues that affect the various communities. Each Locality consultation was concluded with a series of recommendations that have been compiled in the narrative report, copies of which are with the UNDP, UNAMID and the DICC Chairman. The recommendations have been summarized and cross-checked for each phase of the process. The summaries of the consultations for each phase were presented at the Project Board meetings at the request of the donors to the project. The recommendations presented below have been compiled and summarized out of the state level summaries.

Security issues

Demarcation of the boundaries and Collection of Illegal Weapons: collection of illegal arms including among IDPs; disarmament of all irregular forces; prevention of arms smuggling across the border; abolishing arms licenses, workshops for people to voluntarily handover their weapons and proposals for compensation; ceasing recruitment of fighters.

Security and Stability: Rule of Law; strengthening the role of judiciary and prosecutors’ offices, strengthening the capacity of the National Administration.

Land and Grazing Rights: demarcation of transhumance and herders’ routes, restoration of traditional Hawkeri system, protection of farmland and farming season, opening of new pastures, freeing land in return areas for returnees, determining the starting dates of grazing/animal movements.

Animal Routes and Pastures: demarcation of animal routes, building water boreholes, protecting farms; determining appropriate seasonal animal grazing periods.

Economic issues

Development: Construction and reconstruction of roads, construction of dams and wells, electricity supply and power grids.

Protection of Natural Resources: prevention of deforestation by herders and for cooking/heating, protection of forests; sustainable use of natural resources; creating conditions for sustainable development.

Agriculture and Livestock Production: improvement and distribution of improved quality livestock and agricultural products; Modern agricultural machinery, tools and services; new agriculture cooperative schemes, increase of arable land, accessible animal markets for herdsmen, veterinary services.

Unemployment: Income generation projects, local factories, cooperatives, microfinance and banking opportunities for youths and women; vocational and technical education.

Animal Routes and Pastures: demarcation of animal routes, building water boreholes, protecting farms; determining appropriate seasonal animal grazing periods.

Social issues

Health Care: improved health care facilities; training and recruitment of medical staff and midwives.

Education: construction of schools in villages and towns; development of women’s education, women development centers; recruitment of more teachers; youth education and social centers.

Political issues

Government vs. Movements: comprehensive reconciliation; comprehensive peace agreement between the government and movements; no forced demobilization;

Government vs. Native Administration: empowering Native Administration; government not to interfere into selection and authority of Native Administration leaders.

IDP/Refugee: create secure conditions for areas of return; promote voluntary return of IDPs; compensation for IDPs; security and basic needs in IDP camps, rehabilitation and training of IDPs.

Tribal issues: resolution of outstanding issues between various tribes, no discrimination or marginalization on the basis of tribal affiliation; resolve issues between Arabs and tribes of African origin, government to stop indiscriminate recruitment and mobilization of fighters.

Other issues: DDPD is comprehensive but there is no will to implement it, nepotism, workshops on dialogue/reconciliation, equal division of wealth and power, combating corruption.

State specific issues

Notwithstanding the above, the consultations reveal some State-by-State variations in wider categories of issues which feature prominently in most if not all Locality level recommendations. These differences stem from various States’ specifics, whether they be the size, geographical features and location, ethnic mix and population size, relative size of IDP population; economic development and land ownership issues, etc.

For instance, in Central Darfur land issues and farms expansion into designated animal routes and pastures featured prominently among the identified causes of conflict, which is perhaps a consequence of fertile lands on the slopes of Jebel Marra and the opportunities which they provide for growing crops and enhancement of the livelihood conditions. At the same time, places that IDPs fled from are now being occupied by new settlers which also increases tensions with traditional local communities and put pressure on limited land and water resources while also preventing the permanent return of its original inhabitants or seasonal use of their farmlands due to intimidation.

In East Darfur, one of the State specific recommendations from El Daein South Locality, was control of border with South Sudan, especially with regard to South Sudanese refugees in the State and prevention of SPLA infiltration. Primary Locality school completion rates were also mentioned as being among the lowest in the country. The participants in the whole State were also very much concerned about the frequency and intensity of inter-communal violence between tribes, the frequent clashes between the State and the Malakiyya and Malakiyya and the Malakiyya and the National Administration control. This issue, coupled with the proliferation of weapons and the competition over animal resources, remains the critical security issue of the State.

In West Darfur the major concern was better road connectivity between localities and the State capital, as well as concerns with the cross-border movements and security with Chad. South Darfur raised concerns related to tribal relations, land occupation as well as the need to re-draw some of the Locality boundaries to prevent further tribal and community conflicts. The issue of new settlers was re-echoed with demands for eviction of the settlers and return the land to its lawful owners. Therefore in South Darfur, the issue of land ownership and the traditional Hawkeri system which governed it, giving the tribes the right to decide on land distribution and management, remains a critical concern. Demands were also made to restore land boundaries according to historical documents dating back to the beginning of 20th century (1905, 1922, and 1926).

Finally, in North Darfur, which along with South Darfur witnessed the highest number of consultations, issues deliberated upon had to do with the size of the State and its localization and its low population density in its northernmost part, which is mostly a desert. They called for localities to be treated equally in terms of wealth distribution and socio-economic opportunities. The natural resource rich localities demanded better security regulation and management of mines and the equitable distribution of profits from mining activities among local communities; they also called for tighter regulations for non-Sudanese workers. Due to the vastness of the territories of North Darfur, the advance of the desert and the outlandish nature of some of the communities, the consultations, appealed for better roads and demanded for a review of administrative decisions on Locality boundaries specifically along the border with neighbouring Chad; some Arab nomad communities called for the government to create a separate state to accommodate their nomadic lifestyle. Tribal communities are also prominent in discussions of the various states which have witnessed the highest number of consultations with Locality specific recommendations in some cases. A number of issues emerging from Locality level consultations were found to be cross-cutting or, at least, perceived as such. This indicates that the underlying causes of the conflict among grass-root communities are common throughout Darfur, which as earlier mentioned, gives a clear indication that the principle of solutions and peace efforts should take, if lasting peace and development is to be achieved. Furthermore, although most of the issues raised and recommendations professed improvement on the socio-economic front, like basic reconstruction and development issues that are akin to all post-conflict countries.

From the various recommendations and outcomes recorded from all localities in Darfur, there seems to be a general yearning for a peaceful resolution of the Darfur conflict and for basic security to be restored across the region. In this regard, all communities in Darfur, are keen to see a comprehensive disarmament and law and order to be restored. They also urge the non-signatory movements and the Government of Sudan to avail themselves of the opportunity of a negotiated settlement to the conflict. They further welcomed the implementation of the DDPD and encouraged the government and the international community to continue investing in the DDPD to ensure a comprehensive implementation. They call for reconciliation among all communities in Darfur.

In the area of security, disarmament and collection of illegal weapons including from IDPs and irregular forces, according to the recommendations, remain the most important elements for restoring normalcy in Darfur. Participants were keen to see a comprehensive disarmament and for law and order to be restored. They further welcomed the implementation of the DDPD and encouraged the government and the international community to continue investing in the DDPD to ensure a comprehensive implementation. They call for reconciliation among all communities in Darfur.

ANALYSIS OF THE DICC RECOMMENDATIONS

It was observed that most of the recommendations were almost the same, across the Localities and across States, with Locality specific recommendations in some cases. A number of issues emerging from Locality level consultations were found to be cross-cutting or, at least, perceived as such. This indicates that the underlying causes of the conflict among grass-root communities are common throughout Darfur, which as earlier mentioned, gives a clear indication that the principle of solutions and peace efforts should take, if lasting peace and development is to be achieved. Furthermore, although most of the issues raised and recommendations professed improvement on the socio-economic front, like basic reconstruction and development issues that are akin to all post-conflict countries.

Also recommended as part of the political issues, is the restoration of the traditional authority of the Native Administration, a traditional governance mechanism that guaranteed the stability of the Darfur region. It was observed that most of the recommendations were almost the same, across the Localities and across States, with Locality specific recommendations in some cases. A number of issues emerging from Locality level consultations were found to be cross-cutting or, at least, perceived as such. This indicates that the underlying causes of the conflict among grass-root communities are common throughout Darfur, which as earlier mentioned, gives a clear indication that the principle of solutions and peace efforts should take, if lasting peace and development is to be achieved. Furthermore, although most of the issues raised and recommendations professed improvement on the socio-economic front, like basic reconstruction and development issues that are akin to all post-conflict countries.

Discussions on political issues reinforced the need for a comprehensive peace agreement between the government and the non-signatory movements. Calls for a comprehensive political settlement of the conflict were made across all States in Darfur. Participants recommended that there is always a potential danger for the resumption of the conflict which can be addressed using traditional dispute resolution mechanisms are now intractable because of the proliferation of weapons. For example, addressing the land disputes and tribal conflicts was done by the Native Administration through traditional means. With the prevalence of weapons that approach is now redundant. Getting rid of arms from those involved in these disputes will create a conducive atmosphere for the resolution of the issues. The conclusions from the Locality consultations therefore indicate that a natural complement to the disarmament of the communities is the strengthening of the rule of law.

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serve as a powerful tool for local conflict resolution, out-
standing tribal issues and discrimination on the basis of
tribe and ethnicity.

Another serious political issue which gained prominence in
the consultations is the return of IDPs and refugees to
their original areas of settlement. The conditions outlined
for the voluntary return of IDPs and refugees by the partici-
pants are security related; disarmament and the rule of law,
but they are also based on the provision of basic services
and as mentioned above, on the vexed issue of illegal oc-
cupation of land owned by IDPs by other tribes, especially
those of Arab origin. The IDPs also call for the guarantee of
financial compensation packages for returnees.

The limitations imposed on the availability of land and other
natural resources for animal grazing and for farm-
ing, by the creeping desert and the population increase,
especially in the Northern most states, has been a tra-
ditional cause of the conflict in Darfur. The problem has
been compounded by the war, which has resulted into
the introduction of lethal weapons into the population and
also caused massive displacement of populations. The
issues are related to land ownership and rights and
grazing rights for animal herders, which, in the past
were settled through the traditional Hawker system, which
facilitated the demarcation of transhumance and herders’
routes and the protection of farm lands. The recommen-
dations focus on restoration of those traditional solutions,
which can only now be possible through comprehensive
approaches that deal with security, land titles, con-
scription and the inauguration of development projects.
There were recommendations for the restoration of civil
rights, fundamental freedoms, good governance, de-
velopment; agriculture and livestock production and tack-
ling deforestation and creating conditions for sustainable de-
velopment; agriculture and livestock production and tack-
ling unemployment. These issues are however addressed in
the DDPPD and in the outcomes of the National Dialogue.

Although the DRA efforts were commendable, it is ob-
vious that because the war has not formally ended and a
sizeable proportion of the population is still in the IDP
camps, there is still a lot to be done. The consultation out-
comes are demanding more comprehensive post conflict
interventions by the government and by the international
community to ensure that life returns to normal and an
enabling environment is established for normal develop-
ment to take place.

Social issues are also addressed in the DDPPD and in
the outcomes of the National Dialogue, which if compre-
hensively implemented will address a lot of the recom-
endations put forward in the Locality level dialogues.
Regarding social issues, the provision of basic amenities
such as improved health care facilities and construction
of schools in villages and towns in promoting education,
was identified as the way forward.

NEXT STEPS

In line with the design, meetings will be held at State level
and with Darfuris in the Refugee camps in Chad, and the
Darfuris in the diaspora to ensure the inclusion of all voic-
es in the peace negotiations. The recommendations at State
level, refugee and diaspora consultations will be tabled at
the Regional Darfur consultation for thorough discussions
and finalization.

STATE CONSULTATIONS

According to the process design, after a successful con-
duct of the Locality consultations, the next step would be
to conduct State level consultations. The recommendations at State
level, refugee and diaspora consultations will be tabled at
the Regional Darfur consultation for thorough discussions
and finalization.

At the State level consultations, the issues raised at the
Locality level consultations as well as the refugees and
diaspora sessions to emerged into concrete action points to provide informed insight into fur-
ther discussions. The outcome of the comprehensive dis-
cussions of the Locality level recommendations, will serve
as a working document for the subsequent refugee and
diaspora consultations.

As part of our mandate of providing technical support to
the DIC, UNAMID and the support of the UNDP, has
drawn up a tentative work plan and a budget to cover the
state level consultations. The DIC is currently in discus-
sions with the Government of Sudan in an effort to have
the rest of the funds earlier pledged to be released for the
state level consultations. The budget was also submitted to the
EU and the state of Qatar. If the funds are released on time the state level consultations will be started in the
first half of 2019.

DIC REVIEW CONFERENCE

On 30th October 2017 the DIC in collaboration with UN-
AMID and UNDP and sponsored by the European Union
and the Government of Sudan hosted a one-day confer-
ence to mark the launch of the Locality level consultations,
which have been conducted in 67 Localities in the 5 Dar-
fur states and in Khartoum.

DIDC Review Conference, Khartoum 30 October 2017

The specific objectives of the conference were to:
21. Share the preliminary outcomes of the Locality level consultations with key stakeholders of the DIDC pro-
cess;
22. Use the opportunity offered by the conference to im-
prove on the visibility of the process;
23. Raise awareness among political parties, signatory and
non-signatory movements, members of parliament,
civil society and the international community, on the
importance of incorporating the DIDC outcomes in the
constitutional process and in targeted interven-
tions aimed at social, political and economic recovery
in Darfur.
24. Solicit additional funding for the rest of the DIDC activ-
ities; diaspora, refugee and State level consultations;

The conference was attended by 370 participants represen-
ting different segments of Darfur community includ-
ing native administration, civil society representatives in
Darfur and Khartoum, members of the Darfur civil society
follow up mechanism (FUM) and professional groups, the
5 State governments of Darfur, Darfur State universities
as well as universities in Khartoum, representatives of the
Federal government, donors to the process, the interna-
tional community in Sudan, UNAMID, UNDP, University
Peace Centres, and media houses. The conference was ad-
dressed by the second Vice President Hassabo Mohamed
Abdulrahman, who reiterated the government political
and financial support to the DIDC process.

REFUGEES

The DIDC is designed to reach out to the 410,000 refu-
gees in Chad to get their involvement in pursuing peace
for Darfur. The DIC, in collaboration with UNAMID will
work in concert with the refugee committees to identify the
planned activities. The DIC will work with the refu-
gee committees to raise awareness on the concept of the
DIDC since their communities were not targeted during the
initial out-reach program.

DIDC Refugee Preliminary Visit to CHAD

In the period of 15 – 26 April 2018, a delegation from Dar-
fur Internal Dialogue and Consultation Implementation
Committee (DIC), UNAMID and UNDP undertook a prelimi-
nary visit to Chad. The purpose of the visit was to sensitize
the refugees, would allow for a better repre-
sentative account of views from all the camps. Stage one
would be four pre-conference consultations that would
suggest ideas and nominate participants to a refugee
DIDC conference in the second stage. Stage two would in-
volve consultations for groups of refugee camps accord-
ing to their geographical locations, with one participant
selected for every one thousand refugees in each camp.

DIASPORA

The diaspora consultations will be conducted for Darfuris
in Europe and the United States of America and the Mid-
dle East. The Darfuri population in those places is estimat-
ed to be high and can constitute a quorum for substantive discus-
sions on the Darfur conflict and how to reach an all
acceptable peace deal.

After finalizing the Note Concept on the Diaspora consul-
tations, UNAMID and UNDP held discussions with the EU
on two issues; a proposed budget for the consultations and a plan for a preliminary visit to Europe to make in-
ternational contacts with the Refugees. The EU agreed to assist with a mapping scheme that will identify the country with
highest concentration of Darfuri Refugees in Europe. The
capital of such a country will then be used as the main
hub, in addition to London which is also considered to
have a high concentration of Darfuris, for the preliminary
visit. Information provided by the EU and the British Em-
assy, on NGOs that can be used to facilitate the visit and
subsequent activities related to the consultations, is being
sought by officials of the Foreign and Commonwealth Of-
fice in London.

DARFUR REGIONAL CONFERENCE

The Darfur Regional conference will pull together all the
consultations held state level, in refugee camps and in the
diaspora. There will be representation from all five Darfur
States, the refugee community in Chad and the diaspora.

The outcomes of the consultations will be compiled and
the recommendations will be submitted to the facilitators
for onward transmission to the parties to the Agreement.
CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The objective of ensuring the participation of ordinary Darfuris in the peace process has largely been achieved in the Outreach and Locality consultations. The process was extensive and reached the far corners of Darfur which had not been accessed by any political process.

2. It is also obvious from the atmosphere during the consultations that the participants feel a sense of relief that they have been consulted about the peace process and therefore expressed a sense of ownership during their deliberations. There is also evidence of an atmosphere of calm returning to most areas where consultations have been held, which is not only physically evident but equally obvious in the reports coming from all international partners operating in the region.

3. The outcomes of the deliberations and the level of articulation during the consultations indicate that Darfuris know what their problems are and can proffer solutions to those problems. The list of issues addressed are obvious and have been repeated in nearly all consultations right across Darfur. The issues of land and resources, the weakness in the authority of the Native Administration, the displacement caused by the war which has created the large population of IDPs and how the conditions required for them to go return to their place of origin, proliferation of weapons and the absence of the rule of law, the intercommunal conflicts and the need for a comprehensive peace agreement are just some of the issues raised in the consultations, which are very evident across the region.

4. There is hope from every participant in Darfur that these issues will be addressed, through the DDPD, the National Dialogue, other initiatives put forward by the government and the international community, for normalcy to return to Darfur.

5. The Locality consultations are a vital step in the DIDC process but they are not the end of the process. There is still a long way to go. The outcomes of these consultations will be presented at state level consultations, which in turn and together with diaspora and refugee consultations will be presented at a Darfur wide regional conference. It is therefore premature to come up with final recommendations.

6. The DIDC process has been hugely supported by the Government of Sudan, in terms of leadership at the federal and state level, funding, and the provision of security. There has been no attempt from any government fonctionary to interfere with travel arrangements, access, meetings and deliberations in any part of Sudan or in Khartoum. The close collaboration between the government, UNAMID and civil society has been partially responsible for the success of the programme.

7. The role of UNAMID in the design of the process and provision of logistical and technical support has been critical to the successful implementation of the consultations. Even though the leadership of the DIC is widely accepted by the Darfuri population, UNAMID support to the leadership enhanced its effectiveness and credibility.

8. Although the process has been hugely supported by the EU and the State of Qatar, it still requires additional support from other partners for it to be consolidated and properly concluded.

9. The Facilitators have provided the adequate guarantees to the consultations as a vital part of the peace process. This report is presented to them for their approval and further guidance.
LET’S TALK PEACE

DIDC
Darfur Internal Dialogue and Consultations