



PROVISION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO BUILD INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES OF NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ON PREVENTIVE DIPLOMACY, MEDIATION, CONFLICT PREVENTION AND PEACE-BUILDING

**CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT FOR IGAD MEMBER STATES'
NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**



PHASE 1: SOUTH SUDAN | SUDAN | KENYA



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Table of Contents

REPORT ON THE NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOPS.....	1
Provision of Technical Assistance to Build Institutional Capacities of National Institutions on Conflict Prevention and Peace-Building EU IPPSHAR ACTION AREA: Ref No. 3.2.1.4 (a)	
Executive Summary.....	2
Introduction	3
Identification of Institutions.....	3
Key Priority Needs and Frameworks to create synergies.....	5
Recommendations from Discussions for Consideration.....	6
Conclusion.....	7
 REPORT ON THE SOUTH SUDAN NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP Towards:	 8
Provision of Technical Assistance to Build Institutional Capacities of National Institutions on Conflict Prevention and Peace-Building 25-27 November 2019 in Nimule, South Sudan	
Summary	9
Introduction	10
National Institutions on Conflict Prevention, Peace-Building, and Reconciliation	12
Key Strategies, Policies and Frameworks	12
Key Thematic Areas and Institutions working within these mandates:.....	13
GAPS and COORDINATION MECHANISMS across the thematic areas.....	14
Key Recommendations for Consideration	16
Annex 1: Methodologies for Consideration	17
Concluding Remarks	17
Annex 2: List of Participants.....	18
 REPORT ON THE NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOPS.....	 21
Provision of Technical Assistance to Build Institutional Capacities of National Institutions on Conflict Prevention and Peace-Building EU IPPSHAR ACTION AREA: Ref No. 3.2.1.4a (B)	
Executive Summary.....	22
Introduction	23
Identification of Institutions.....	24
Key Priority Needs and Frameworks to create synergies.....	25
Recommendations from Discussions for Consideration.....	26
Conclusion.....	28

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Disclaimer

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REPORT ON THE NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOPS

**Provision of Technical Assistance to Build Institutional Capacities of
National Institutions on Conflict Prevention and Peace-Building
EU IPPSHAR ACTION AREA: Ref No. 3.2.1.4 (a)**



Executive Summary

The assessment study which was conducted by IGAD MSU with the financial support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) highlighted the lack of coordinated peace apparatus at the national level in Kenya. It was observed that Kenya had all the institutions and frameworks in place namely but not limited to the NSC, and NCIC. In a bid to build and support the capacities of the member states in order to institutionalize preventive diplomacy and mediation in a structured manner, as well as identify the capacity needs of these national institutions, IGAD MSU conducted a workshop with key institutions in Mombasa, Kenya from 4 -6 November 2019. The 21 participants were drawn from various institutions that included NCIC, UWIANO, Civil Societies and the Uniformed forces. The participants agreed unanimously that the assessment report had captured the Kenyan context accurately.



Introduction

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development, as the building bloc of the African union has envisioned promoting peace, security and regional development. IGAD has set up instruments such as the Mediation Support Unit to prevent conflict and promote preventive diplomacy. In 2012 the Mediation Support Unit (MSU) was established to undertake mediation efforts and provide support to mediation interventions in order to mitigate violent conflicts.

The MSU works on conflict prevention through preventive diplomacy and mediation, strengthening the capacities of member states in conflict prevention, peace building and mediation. This entails working with a wide network of organizations and experts in order to effectively respond to conflict situations as they arise as well as mitigate the recurrence of conflicts. As part of its mandate to build the normative capacity of IGAD in preventive diplomacy and mediation, MSU undertook an assessment to identify the existing peace and mediation infrastructures in Kenya. The assessment came as a result of an Action Plan in which Kenyan institutions identified the need to address conflict at national levels by synergizing existing frameworks. The focus on national institutions sort to understand the level to which Kenya incorporates civil society and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms in the processes.

The workshop specific objectives included;

- Identify existing national normative frameworks on Mediation, Dialogue, Conflict Prevention and Peace-Building.
- Identify priority needs of these institutions by conducting a capacity needs assessment (institutional and individual).
- Establish consensus on coordination mechanisms as well as apparatus for maintaining dialogue among national institutions working on the similar thematic areas.
- Define the gaps, interface and boundaries that exist among national institutions with similar mandates to engage in Mediation and Peace-Building.

Identification of Institutions

The assessment report noted the scope and limitation of the conflict prevention, peace building and mediation architectures- where they exist, and made recommendations that aim to improve the national response coordination. Hence, it was imperative for participants to feed into the report and input on any gaps and/or missing links and information.

The assessment report identified key sectors involved in conflict prevention and mediation in Kenya as follows:

1. **National Institutions:** National Steering Committee, National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC), National Gender Commission.
2. **Development Partners, Private Sector, Philanthropic and other Partners,** as important actors for whom the realization of their objectives are affected by conflict, and are also focused on prevention;
3. **Justice, Arbitration and Mediation,** determine conflicts and setting precedents that act as a preventive measure to potential conflicts. The reliability of this sector is crucial to the reconciliation agenda and peace building, which in the longer turn prevents conflict.
4. **Civil Society Organizations:** Faith Based Organization (FBOs) and Community Based Organizations (CBOs).

Existing National Institutions

National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC)	National Steering Committee (NSC)	Council of Elders
Religious Leaders	Peace Net	County Peace Committees
County Youth Forum	Women Peace Link	Tecla-Lorupe
UWIANO	NCAJ	CAJ
Council of Governors	Directorate of National Values and Cohesion	Inter-religious Council of Kenya
National Gender Commission		



Key Priority Needs and Frameworks to create synergies

- Peace building Champion/Motivators
- Advocacy & Awareness
- Resources/Finance
- Government Protection
- Legal framework/Penal
- Research
- Collaboration/synergies/Partnerships /with stakeholders
- Conflict prevention, management and general peace building skills and technical knowhow.
- Political good will and support
- IT Skills and resources
- Experts / Trainers
- A mediation and coordination guidelines / Manuals
- Technical experts
- Development of manuals and policies
- Conciliation guidelines



Recommendations from Discussions for Consideration

1. National Mediation Team

In response to the 2022 elections it was suggested to put together a skilled National Mediation Team to mitigate any potential conflicts in the upcoming elections.

2. Capacity building support

Participants indicated that there is a fundamental need to build the capacities in mediation, conflict prevention, conflict management and negotiation at the various levels, namely, individual, county and national.

3. Collaboration with key institutions

Participants highlighted that IGAD should work closer with key institutions such as the National Steering Committee (NSC) who lead in coordinating efforts in conflict prevention at the national level. It was suggested that IGAD should support the NSC in strengthening collaborative efforts amongst the national, and county institutions undertaking mediation and conflict prevention efforts.

4. Support to participatory peace efforts

It was requested that IGAD support institutions to drive efforts at the national level to promote peace. This could be undertaken by use of creative and artistic platforms such as peace caravans, conventions on peace building, art, as well as but not limited to peace festivals.

5. Knowledge generation and management

Participants highlighted that there is a lack of information where mediation, conflict prevention, and peacebuilding efforts and activities are concerned. They saw a need for research support to enable them to expand on existing information as well as to collate accurate information from the field. Participants are looking to IGAD to provide support in research development, generation and management.

6. Support for Resources

Participants suggested for IGAD to embed within their work plans to include support for resources and expertise to Kenyan institutions as they undertake efforts in mediation, conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

7. Inclusivity and engendering peace processes

Participants noted the importance of women and youth in peace processes. There

is therefore a need to strengthen the capacities of women and youth to participate effectively in these processes. Capacity building for these groups are needed and there is a request to IGAD to conduct trainings for women and youth at the community level.

8. Religious Institutions and Elders

It was noted that Elders and religious institutions who play an influential role in mitigating conflicts have no formal experience in mediation. there is therefore a need to conduct basic and advanced mediation trainings for these groups

9. Strengthening Monitoring and Evaluation Frameworks

Participants indicated that institutions have monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, however there is a need to strengthen these mechanisms in order to assess the results of the efforts being undertaken. The lessons learnt from current efforts will help to inform on further initiatives to be undertaken to ensure maximum results.

10. Regional Collaboration

It was suggested that IGAD facilitate efforts at the regional level to strengthen collaborative efforts amongst states. This is in relation to issues such as cross-border related conflict, violent extremism, natural resource governance, amongst others. This will help to strengthen communication and networking amongst key institutions in the region.

Conclusion

The workshop validated the assessment report carried out by IGAD MSU and UNDP and added a few key institutions and civil societies that carry out work in conflict prevention, and mediation in Kenya. The need to create a National Mediation Team that will serve as the Trainer of Trainers and cascade to the counties was reiterated. It was concluded that there was need for intensified capacitation of key institutions and CSO's especially in the pre-election period such that there is preparedness for conflict prevention in Kenya. The support to research was reiterated by participants as key in tracking the route cause of conflict in Kenya especially during election periods.



REPORT ON THE SOUTH SUDAN NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP Towards:

**Provision of Technical Assistance to Build Institutional Capacities of
National Institutions on Conflict Prevention and Peace-Building
25-27 November 2019 in Nimule, South Sudan**



Summary

The consultative workshop on Building Conflict prevention capacities of South Sudan national institutions provided a platform for relevant national institutions to engage in dialogue, assess the institution's capacities and identify the gaps in the scope, mandate, policies and responsibilities. The workshop enabled discussions on the role of the different institutions that work in similar thematic areas. Moreover the consultative workshop provided an opportunity for the national institutions to identify missing links and establish mechanisms for streamlining inter-linkages and synergies.

The workshop was held in light of the Study on the Assessment of Conflict Prevention Architectures IGAD Member States. The study which was conducted by IGAD Mediation Support Unit with the financial support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) highlighted the lack of coordinated peace apparatus at the national level. It was observed that the republic of South Sudan, for various reasons, had not established institutions and frameworks that guide, support and coordinate mediation efforts at the national level. Additionally, the study identified that whereas a peace commission was set up; this instrument was not institutionally embedded in the relevant national institution. To this end, MSU held a consultative workshop, convening national institutions such as ministries, CSOs, and the Peace and Reconciliation Commission with the aim of identifying the capacities of these institutions to engage in conflict prevention.

The workshop provided an opportunity to clarify and rationalize the roles and objectives of these institutions. Additionally, it set the pace for the need to establish frameworks which support creation of inter-linkages, synergy and coordination. To this end, the need for a National Independent Coordinating Mechanism in the South Sudan was identified.



Introduction

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) is located in the East and Horn of Africa region. The East and Horn of Africa region is observed to be a conflict prone region which has experienced security challenges from intra and inter-communal conflicts, to election related violence, emerging and evolving transnational threats, violent extremism and trans boundary conflicts. The Intergovernmental Authority on Development, as the building bloc of the African union has envisioned promoting peace, security and regional development. Institutionally, IGAD has set up instruments such as the Mediation Support Unit to prevent conflict and promote preventive diplomacy.

In 2012 the Mediation Support Unit (MSU) was established to undertake mediation efforts and provide support to mediation interventions in order to mitigate violent conflicts. The MSU works on conflict prevention through preventive diplomacy and mediation, strengthening the capacities of member states in conflict prevention, peace building and mediation. This entails working with a wide network of organizations and experts in order to effectively respond to conflict situations as they arise as well as mitigate the recurrence of conflicts.

As part of its mandate to build the normative capacity of IGAD in preventive diplomacy and mediation, MSU undertook an assessment to identify the existing peace and mediation infrastructures in member countries. IGAD undertook a capacity assessment of the national conflict prevention, peace building and mediation architectures in the seven-member states that included; Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda. The assessment came as a result of an Action Plan in which member states identified the need to address conflict at national levels. It focused on national level conflict prevention, peace building and mediation architectures as well as considered the legal, policy and institutional frameworks available at that level as well as the extent to which the context incorporates civil society and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.

However, it is observed many of the IGAD member states lack the relevant peace infrastructures and apparatus that promote, facilitate and enhance conflict prevention and mediation. The assessment established the lack of institutionalized mediation and preventive diplomacy architectures. As a result, the assessment recommended the institutionalization of preventive diplomacy and mediation support through setting up peace infrastructures structurally embedded within relevant national organizations. The assessment report identified key sectors involved in conflict prevention and mediation in the Member States as follows:

1. The relevant Department of Government representing the executive arm, [either

foreign affairs, internal affairs or regional coordination as the case may be per Member State], which is involved in mediation and/or to an extent, inter-linkage approaches to conflict prevention and peace building nationally and mainly seen as responsive to already existing tensions;

2. National Institutions, Human Rights and/or Equality Commissions, Ombudsman, as the case may be in each country, as an extension of executive arm of Government, remain more focused on the information and research aspect, ensuring an equitable approach in addressing issues that ignite conflict in the Member States;
3. Development Partners, Private Sector, Philanthropic and other Partners, as important actors for whom the realization of their objectives are affected by conflict, are also focused on prevention;
4. Justice, Arbitration and Mediation, these play a key role in determining live conflicts and setting precedents that act as a preventive measure to potential conflicts. The reliability of this sector is crucial to the reconciliation agenda and peace building, which in the longer turn prevents conflict.
5. The wider encompassing Civil Society Organizations; Faith Based Organization (FBOs) and Community Based Organizations (CBOs)

Presentation by the participants



National Institutions on Conflict Prevention, Peace-Building, and Reconciliation

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare • Institution for Peace and development studies- University of Juba • Transformational Leadership Centre • Ministry of Interior • Transitional National Legislative Assembly • Ministry Of Culture Youth And Sports • South Sudan Council of Churches • Ministry of Federal Affairs • South Sudan Peace and Reconciliation • South Sudan anti-Corruption Commission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional authority (Chiefs and Elders) • Faith based organizations • Community Based organizations • National Dialogue • South Sudan Human Rights commission • Ministry Of Defence & National Security Services • South Sudan Islamic Council • Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs
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Key Strategies, Policies and Frameworks

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Development Policy • Youth Entrepreneurship framework (SSYPFW) • NAP on UNSCR1325 • Peace and Reconciliation Commission Act, 2012 • South Sudan Vision 2040 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic plan and commission act 2013 • SOP for prevention and response on GBV • NAP to end child marriage • South Sudan National & Development Plan Strategy 2016 – 2018 • South Sudan Development Plan 2011 - 2013
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KEY THEMATIC AREAS and Institutions working within these mandates:

CONFLICT PREVENTION	MEDIATION	PEACEBUILDING	RECONCILIATION	GAPS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. South Sudan CEWERUs ii. South Sudan Human Rights Commission iii. Ministry of justice iv. Ministry of Interior v. South Sudan Council of Churches vi. South Sudan Islamic Council vii. Youth Coalition viii. Women Coalition ix. AMDISS – Association of Media Development in South Sudan x. Community Empowerment Progress Organization (CEPO) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Sudan Peace Mediation Committees ii. South Sudan Council of Churches iii. Courts iv. Chiefs and Traditional leaders v. Cluster 2 ? PCPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Local Government – Chiefs and the Boards ii. Educational Systems – Universities and Research institutes iii. National Dialogue iv. CSOs v. Ministry of Interior vi. Media Authority (Under M-o-Information) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Traditional leaders ii. Peace Commissions iii. Judiciary iv. CSOs v. Ministry of Youth and Cultural Affairs (through Sports and Cultural Events) vi. South Sudan human Rights Commission vii. South Sudan Council of Churches viii. National platform for Peace and Reconciliation (collapsed after 1 year of formation) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Coordination (limited communication) ii. Capacity (technical and structural) iii. Funding/ financial Resources iv. Poor Implementation of Policies and Strategies v. Prioritization (basic amenities vis-à-vis comfort facilities) vi. Accountability and transparency vii. Participation and Involvement (Some stakeholders excluded from processes) viii. Awareness and Orientation ix. Lack of political goodwill x. Competing Interests
COORDINATION MECHANISMS for each sector				
Peace Commission	Office of the president	Peace Commission	Peace commission	

GAPS and COORDINATION MECHANISMS across the thematic areas

GAPs	LEAD INSTITUTION/s for COORDINATING
i. Coordination (e.g. limited communication)	Ministries: Finance and Economy Planning, Foreign Affairs & Internal Cooperation, Public Service
ii. Capacity (technical, institutional and structural)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Finance
iii. Funding/financial Resources	Internal/Audit Chamber, TNLA, SSAC,
iv. Poor Implementation of Policies and Strategies	Transitional National Legislative Assembly
v. Prioritization (basic amenities vis-à-vis comfort facilities)	Cabinet/Council of Ministers
vi. Accountability and transparency	New Mandate for (South Sudan Anti-Corruption) to work closely with Cabinet and office of the President. TNLA
vii. Participation and Involvement (Some stakeholders excluded from processes)	Ministry of Federal Affairs, Peace Commission, National Dialogue
viii. Awareness and Orientation	Media, ministry of Information, SS, FMs
ix. Political Will	Government (All arms of government)
x. Conflict of Interest/Competing Interests	SSRRC- Relief and Rehabilitation Commission,



Participants following discussions on existing frameworks and structure at IGAD and at the regional level

Table 4: Responsibilities for the Coordinating Mechanism

Dialogue Platform	Raising awareness & Information Sharing	Capacity Building	Convening	Monitoring and Evaluation	Facilitation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to create an environment to dialogue among conflicting parties • Ability to convene different groups to dialogue on different issues such as Conflict, peace-Building and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensitizing the populace about on-going peace initiatives • Sharing Information with relevant actors and other players through appropriate instruments (frequent meetings, monthly forums) • Ability to disseminate Early Warning Information 	<p>Strengthen the capacities of key players and stakeholders involved in the peace-building processes</p> <p>Increased Technical Expertise</p> <p>Access to the institution as well as other institutions working within similar thematic areas.</p> <p>Ability to generate policy briefs and influence early interventions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to bring together key actors and stakeholders to commit to peace initiatives • Capacity to convene, delegate, share information on on-going peace initiatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring decisions and plans have been implemented • Provide feedback on lessons learnt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity to conduct workshops, forums and seminars • Capability to mediate, negotiate and provide technical support • Ability to (establish dialogue platform, information sharing, • Ability to utilize the expertise of other stakeholders such as researchers, influencers, academia to support the efforts of the network



Participants following discussions on identifying key institutions and brainstorming on the way forward

Key Recommendations for Consideration

1. Need to Create a Coordinating Mechanism for Conflict Prevention

The recommendation of the plenary was to establish a coordinating structure within the Ministry of Interior to undertake coordination of conflict prevention at the national level. Furthermore, the participants suggested that the coordination mechanism should be under the auspices of the Ministry of interior.

2. Building Mediation Expertise

It was noted that South Sudan lacks key mediation experts who can be deployed in the region. The participants suggested IGAD to build the mediation capacity of South Sudanese experts in Conflict Prevention and similar thematic areas, in order to equip them with mediation, negotiation and facilitation skills. This initiative will **build a pool of mediation experts** within South Sudan who can resolve conflicts and facilitate negotiations and mediation processes. Therefore, the participants recommended IGAD to embed within its yearly plan, an intervention area on capacity building on Mediation.

3. Capacity Training

The participants recognized that Capacity building is essential for institutional building and enhancement. Therefore it was underscored that there is need for basic and advanced training on conflict prevention, conflict resolution, peace-building and reconciliation. More specifically there is an immediate need for training on mediation skills.

4. Research, Documentation and Knowledge Management

Participants highlighted that there is a lack of information where mediation, conflict prevention, and peace-building efforts and activities are concerned. Information on mediation efforts and research on conflict prevention is limited due to the inadequate mechanisms for knowledge sharing such as communication. The need for evidence based research and relevant documentation was underscored as a priority need. Therefore, participants underlined that localized information could be shared through brochures, pamphlets and radio.

5. Benchmarking and Visits

Participants noted that experience sharing visits are of importance to further understanding the practices and involvements of other countries across the region. This would help to provide more insight on dire cases from the region as well as best practices on issues of mediation and preventive diplomacy.

6. Basic Human Rights and Peace-building embedded in Curriculum

In a bid to create a culture of peace, participants noted the importance of a curriculum on peace from primary level to tertiary level.

Annex 1: METHODOLOGIES FOR CONSIDERATION

In view of the robust discussions, the participants further provided a strategy for creating a coordinating mechanism where they suggested IGAD to conduct a brief study to determine suitable approaches for developing a coordination mechanism (Unit), and the way forward.

Strategic Option 1

1) A Study to help identify the type of structure for conflict prevention

The participants recommended IGAD to engage a consultant to conduct a study to analyse and identify a suitable holistic structure for conflict Prevention. Conflict prevention can include fact-finding missions, consultations, warnings, inspections, and monitoring. Therefore, it was highlighted that the Study needs to establish the relevance of an Independent body for Conflict prevention initiatives as well as its relevance at the national level.

Further, the participants recommended that the study on the creating a Coordination mechanism should put into consideration the following methodologies;

i. Experts Consultations on establishing a CP coordination body

It was remarked that IGAD should facilitate an experts consultations to brainstorm on the scope and responsibility of an independent body to work in conjunction with relevant institutions.

ii. Enhance the capacity of Peace Commission to undertake its mandate for Peace-Building

There was a consensus on the constitutional mandate of the Peace Commission for peace-making and peace-building. Furthermore, it was identified that the Peace Commission would benefit from capacity enhancement especially within its departments of Conflict prevention and Peace-building.

iii. Selection of Conflict Prevention Coordination body through the Peace Commission Monthly Forum

Selection through the peace commission's monthly forums was recommended as an alternative methodology for establishing a Conflict prevention body. It was noted that the monthly forums convene a wide networks of stakeholders who work within conflict prevention, mediation, peace-building, peace-making and reconciliation.

iv. Call for Application to stakeholders to formulate a body to Coordinate Conflict Prevention at National Level.

It was noted that there exist several institutions within South Sudan with the responsibility of preventing and resolving conflicts. The participants highlighted a call for proposals to institutions willing to provide services within this area. It was suggested for the proposal to be submitted to IGAD through the consultation forum. This methodology aims to promote ownership and transparency.

v. A network of key stakeholders in Conflict prevention under the Ministry of Interior

The participant called for a stakeholder meeting with key players in conflict prevention and mediation. The Ministry of Interior was identified as an organ to spearhead the formation of a network of stakeholders working in Conflict prevention for purposes of improving coordination and meaningful inter-linkages.

Concluding Remarks

The workshop validated the assessment report carried out by IGAD MSU and UNDP and added a few key institutions and civil societies that carry out work in conflict prevention, and mediation in South Sudan. The need to create a Coordination mechanism as well as a pool of Mediation Experts that will serve the country in conflict prevention was underscored. Furthermore, the need for intensified capacitation of key institutions, personnel and CSO's especially in the field of conflict prevention was reiterated.

There was consensus on the need for synergy and coordination of conflict prevention efforts at the national level. Moreover, it was highlighted that several institutions have a responsibility in conflict prevention and peace-building and the lack of synergy and inter-linkages was noted.

Annex 2: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

	NAME	POSITION	ORGANIZATION	G
1	WILLIAM TABAN	ADMIN OFFICER	SOUTH SUDAN NATIONAL POLICE SERVICE	M
2	CHRISTINE KIDEN BENJAMIN	HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICER	SOUTH SUDAN HR COMMISSION	F
3	ABER AZIZA	VICTIM PROTECTION OFFICER	SOUTH SUDAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION	F
4	MAJIER MAYIEL	DEPUT ADMIN & FINANCE	SS PEACE COMMISSION & RECONCILIATION COMMISSION	M
5	WILLIAM WANI	PROTOCOL	T NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY	M
6	JIMMY GAMA HASSAN	FIRST SECRETARY	SS MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS	M
7	ALUEL MADING	ENTREPRENUER	PRIVATE SECTOR	F
8	SIMON PECH BILIW	COUNSELLOR	MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS	M
9	GIFT ELIABA	DIRECTOR OF BORDER AND MONITORING DEPARTMENT	NSS/ISB	M
10	MARY ASIENDZO BONFACE	A/DIRECTOR FOR RECORDS MANAGEMENT	MINITRY OF GENDER, CHILD AND SOCIAL WLEFARE	F
11	KUAL WEK WOL	UNDERSECRETARY	MINISTRY OF CULTURE, YOUTH & SPORT	M
12	Hon. JACOB RUOT	TNLA	TNLA	M
13	MOSES MANASEH	DIPLOMAT	MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS	M
14	ADUB ACHIER DUT	SSPRC	SSPRC	M
15	WOL LUAL	NISS		M
16	JAMES MANOK WOL	INTERPOL		M
17	WILLIAM MADIONG	MINISTRY OF YOUTH		M
18	SAWSAN OMER	S/INSPECTOR	MINISTRY OF GENDER	F
19	AMBROSE JUBEK	PUBLIC RELATION OFFICER	NPSSS	M
20				
21				

LOGISTICAL ARRANGEMENTS

Due to security concerns, IGAD MSU was advised to travel with security escort and in separate teams.

Fig 6: Photos





REPORT ON THE NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOPS

**Provision of Technical Assistance to Build Institutional Capacities of
National Institutions on Conflict Prevention and Peace-Building
EU IPPSHAR ACTION AREA: Ref No. 3.2.1.4a (B)**



Executive Summary

On 21-11-2019, the IGAD Mediation Support Unit (MSU) in partnership with the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) yesterday concluded a three-day workshop on capacity building and provision of technical assistance to key national institutions, CSOs and states in mediation, conflict prevention and conflict management in Port Sudan, Sudan.

This workshop was held against the backdrop of the 2016 Assessment on the Conflict Prevention and Mediation Architectures at National Level, which highlighted the gaps in national institutions on engaging in mediation. During the workshop, participants reviewed the 2016 assessment and made inputs on the changes in key institutions since the ouster of President Omar Al Bashir regime and came up with notable recommendations for engagements with IGAD-MSU.

The workshop not only sought to identify the key institutions that work in areas of peace building, negotiation, mediation in Sudan but it also sought to map out and plan ways of future engagements in which the MSU can undertake in Sudan by providing technical assistance and capacities. The participants came up with several recommendations to IGAD- MSU and top amongst the recommendations was the idea to set up parallel Mediation Support Units in Sudan that will work hand in hand with IGAD- MSU, AU -MSU and the UN-MSU. The suggested body will assist in coordinating and capacitating key institutions that work in preventive diplomacy in Sudan as well as look into issues of regional collaboration for best practices and lessons learned.

The training was attended by members of the diplomatic corps, members of the uniformed forces, academia, media practitioners, CSOs and representatives from Kordofan, Darfur, Blue Nile, Nuba Mountains and Abei States.



Introduction

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development, as the building bloc of the African union has envisioned promoting peace, security and regional development. IGAD has set up instruments such as the Mediation Support Unit to prevent conflict and promote preventive diplomacy. In 2012 the Mediation Support Unit (MSU) was established to undertake mediation efforts and provide support to mediation interventions in order to mitigate violent conflicts.

The MSU works on conflict prevention through preventive diplomacy and mediation, strengthening the capacities of member states in conflict prevention, peace building and mediation. This entails working with a wide network of organizations and experts in order to effectively respond to conflict situations as they arise as well as mitigate the recurrence of conflicts. As part of its mandate to build the normative capacity of IGAD in preventive diplomacy and mediation, MSU undertook an assessment to identify the existing peace and mediation infrastructures in Sudan. The assessment came as a result in which Sudanese institutions were identified. The focus on national institutions sort to understand the level to which Sudan incorporates civil society and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms in the processes.

The workshop specific objectives included:

- Identify existing national normative frameworks on Mediation, Dialogue, Conflict Prevention and Peace-Building.

- Identify priority needs of these institutions by conducting a capacity needs assessment (institutional and individual).
- Establish consensus on coordination mechanisms as well as apparatus for maintaining dialogue among national institutions working on the similar thematic areas.
- Define the gaps, interface and boundaries that exist among national institutions with similar mandates to engage in Mediation and Peace-Building.

Identification of Institutions

The assessment report noted the scope and limitation of the conflict prevention, peace building and mediation architectures- where they exist, and made recommendations that aim to improve the national response coordination. Hence, it was imperative for participants to feed into the report and input on any gaps and/or missing links and information.

Participants identified key sectors involved in conflict prevention and mediation in Sudan as follows:

1. **National Institutions; Development Partners, Private Sector, Philanthropic and other Partners; Justice, Arbitration and Mediation and Civil Society Organizations:**

Existing National Institutions

National	States	Civil Societies
Ministry of Education	Arbitration Institute	Peace Media
Peace Commission		Higher Council for Peace
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Truth Justice and Reconciliation Commission	Informal Traditional Dispute Resolution Mechanisms
Ministry of Federal Governance	Council of States	Native Administration
Ministry of Defence	Eastern Sudan Darfur Blue Nile Kordofan Funds	Humanitarian Aid (Supervises NGO's and INGO's)
Ministry of Interior (General Directorate for Training of NCO's and soldiers)	DDR	Business and Private Sectors

National Commission for Human Rights	Universities	Commission for pastoral and nomadic groups
Land Commission		Peace Centres of Excellence and Peace Think Tanks



Key Priority Needs and Frameworks to create synergies

- Coordination and technical support to key Ministries (Defence, Interior, Federal Governance)
- Intensify the Advocacy & Awareness of mediation and dialogue as a tool for conflict prevention in Sudan through capacity building of Civil Societies.
- Resources/Finance
- Training of experienced personnel in mediation, conflict prevention and conflict management so that they will cascade the training.
- Data collection, analysis and knowledge management in mapping conflict areas and conflict causes to inform policies.
- Collaboration/synergies/Partnerships /with stakeholders and other member states in the region.
- Policy frameworks concerning early warning and early response together with frameworks governing mediation processes especially coming from traditional mechanisms.
- Political good will and support in areas such as with IDPs, Refugees and pastoralists.

- Political good will in the follow up of all peace agreements that have been signed in Sudan,
- Technical expertise provision to universities, and ministries.
- Building on traditional dispute resolution mechanisms.
- Research (support research on climate change, and pastoralists). More engagements with pastoralists in conflict prevention, conflict management, mediation, and negotiation.
- Sensitize the cultural aspect of “Judia” to be all inclusive and involve women and youth. This requires a long term engagement with traditional leaders.
- Policy planning and programming.



Recommendations from Discussions for Consideration

1. Leadership Capacity Building

Participants noted that the leadership of key institutions needed technical support and capacity building in conflict prevention, mediation and negotiation. Leaders are also in need of administration skills.

2. Capacity building and support

Participants indicated that there is a fundamental need to build the capacities in mediation, conflict prevention, conflict management and negotiation at the various levels, namely, universities individual, States and national. This should also encompass trust building,

3. Collaboration with key institutions

Participants highlighted that IGAD should work closer with key institutions who lead in coordinating efforts in conflict prevention at the national, by assisting in strengthening collaborative efforts amongst the national, and states institutions undertaking mediation and conflict prevention efforts, especially those located in University Institutions.

4. Support to participatory peace efforts

It was requested that IGAD support institutions to drive efforts at the national level to promote peace especially in conflicts that involve pastoralists. This could be undertaken by assisting in building water stations, mobile clinics in conflict areas.

5. Early Warning and Early Response.

Participants encouraged IGAD – MSU and CEWARN to work hand in glove in Sudan's areas such as Abeyi region. The process should be a bottom up approach.

6. Support for Resources

Participants suggested for IGAD to embed within their work plans to include support for resources and expertise to Sudanese institutions as they undertake efforts in mediation, conflict prevention and peacebuilding research. This includes assisting in the development of a peace curriculum from primary to tertiary education.

7. Inclusivity and engendering peace processes

Participants noted the importance of women and youth in peace processes. There is therefore a need to strengthen the capacities of women and youth to participate effectively in these processes. Capacity building for these groups are needed and there is a request for IGAD to conduct trainings for women and youth at the community level. Participants further noted that there is need for gender sensitive investigation.

8. Religious Institutions and Elders

It was noted that Elders and religious institutions who play an influential role in mitigating conflicts have no formal experience in mediation there is therefore a need to conduct basic and advanced mediation trainings for these groups as a way of capacity building and strengthening traditional dispute resolution mechanisms.

9. Strengthening Monitoring and Evaluation Frameworks

Participants indicated that institutions have monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, however there is a need to strengthen these mechanisms in order to assess the results of the efforts being undertaken. The lessons learnt from current efforts will help to inform on further initiatives to be undertaken to ensure maximum results.

10. Regional Collaboration

It was suggested that IGAD facilitate efforts at the regional level to strengthen collaborative efforts amongst states. This is in relation to issues such as cross-border related conflict, violent extremism, natural resource governance, amongst others. This will help to strengthen communication and networking amongst key institutions in the region. Share on lessons learnt in conflict prevention.

11. National Coordinating Body and Cascading the MSU in Sudan

Participants noted that there is need to have the MSU in Sudan that works as the national coordinating body, and assists the IGAD-MSU with mediation support in Sudan. Participants noted that there is need for a coordinated National Body which puts first national priorities, but works hand in glove with think tank centres, universities, ministries. The body can be also a committee that follows up on the implementation peace agreements. Adopt a National Centre as a coordinating body for purposes of networking and creating synergies.

12. Psycho-social Support

Participants noted that there is need for Trauma healing workshops in Sudan especially in states that have experienced conflict and also in areas currently under conflict.

Conclusion

The workshop validated the assessment report carried out by IGAD MSU and UNDP and added a number of key institutions and civil societies that carry out work in conflict prevention, and mediation in Sudan. The need to create a Mediation Support Unit akin to the IGAD MSU that will serve as the Trainer of Trainers and cascade to the states was noted as a key recommendation. It was concluded that there was need for intensified capacitation of key institutions and CSO's especially in areas such as Darfur, Kordofan, Abei, and Nuba Mountains. The support to research was reiterated by participants as key in tracking the root cause of conflict in Sudan especially amongst the pastoralists and nomads.

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