



2011/1/17

Unofficial Translation

Statement of the League of Arab States' Mission to monitor the self-determination referendum of Southern Sudan

In compliance with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement of 2005 witnessed by the League of Arab States, and under the relevant Arab summits resolutions requesting the contribution of the Arab League in monitoring the referendum on self-determination for Southern Sudan, the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States H.E Mr. Amre Moussa has dispatched a Mission of 80 members to monitor this referendum.

The Mission has consequently been distributed through 18 states of the Republic of the Sudan: 11 states in the north, including the state of South Darfur, and seven states in Southern Sudan; where the Mission visited about 417 centers that include points of ballots in various states.

The Arab League Mission followed up closely the performance of the referendum process in all stages, starting from the approval of the referendum law, through the registration of voters lists, leading to the polling, counting and sorting, and eventually the process of data entry;

Moreover, the Arab League Mission carried out contacts and meetings with the Sudanese Referendum Commission, as well as periodic meetings with the United Nations Committee on the Control of Referendum for Southern Sudan, and with all the other international missions participating in the monitoring process, including the missions of the African Union, the European Union and IGAD, as well as the Carter Center. These communications and meetings focused on sharing information and observations on the functioning of the referendum process, and were characterized by consensus.

The Arab League Mission concluded that it has monitored the following advantages:

- Opening of the majority of polling stations in due timing.
- Provision of all logistic and polling materials.
- Compatibility of boxes and insulators with the internationally accepted standards and specifications.
- Good presence of members of the polling stations with the allocation of a specific task to each member in the voting process.
- Effective participation of women in the polling stations.
- Cooperation of the heads of the centers with voters and observers.
- The existence of facilities for the disabled, the elderly and assistance for the illiterate in voting.
- Significant and active presence of civil society organizations and international observers.
- Intensive presence of the local and international media.



- Sustained security presence outside the polling stations.

Despite the good organization of the referendum process and its smooth functioning; the following drawbacks have been observed:

- Some voters were underage.
- Discrepancy between the number enrolled in some centers and the number registered on the lists of the Commission.
- Propaganda manifestations existed in some polling stations by some staff of the centers and local observers.
- Lack of illustrations that guide the voters to the details and steps of the voting process.
- Lists of voters were inexistent outside some polling stations in the southern states.

In spite of these negative aspects, the Arab League Mission to monitor the referendum confirms that these drawbacks do not affect the veracity of the process which was characterized by a high degree of transparency and integrity in line with international standards; eliciting respect for the outcomes produced by the ballot box.

The Arab League, urges all the concerned national, regional and international parties to exert efforts and work collectively to achieve security, stability and peace based on the principles of brotherhood, equality and justice in all parts of the Sudan, and stresses the need for a positive and constructive dialogue aimed at resolving all outstanding issues and post-referendum questions.