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PEACE

**DIDC**

**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

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## BACKGROUND

The Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD), signed between the Government of Sudan and some of the Darfur Movements provides for the conduct of a Darfur-wide internal dialogue and consultation (DIDC) 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 of the people of Darfur on issues underlying the Darfur conflict, their perspective on solutions and on the way forward to permanent peace.

The Facilitators, UNAMID, the State of Qatar and the African Union, who are guarantors of the process, nominated a 17 member committee of eminent Darfuris to implement the process, with UNAMID providing technical and logistical support. The last progress report to the Facilitators was presented at a meeting, which took place in EL fasher on 27 April 2014. The meeting approved the DIDC Implementation Schedule; the DIDC Structure and Design, budget proposals for the process and the outcomes of a survey conducted on the DIDC and the DDPD.

The design of the process provides for an Outreach and Sensitization, which is essentially an awareness raising process, to be followed by Locality, State Level and regional consultations through a bottom up approach. The design further calls for the conduct of consultations with Darfuris in Refugee camps and in the Diaspora, as well as for a post DIDC feedback process.

Initial apprehensions of access restrictions, government interference and security did not materialize during the consultations. The consultations were conducted in a free and peaceful atmosphere, with participants seizing the liberty and freedom to have frank, open and sometimes heated discussions on all issues pertinent to the attainment of peace in Darfur.

With funding from the Government of Sudan, the State of Qatar and the European Union, 77 Outreach consultations and 68 Locality level consultations have been completed. The consultations were conducted with the active collaboration of the Government of Sudan and State Government officials, and the Doha civil society Follow up Mechanism (FUM). The UNDP has been managing project funds and servicing project implementation through the University Peace Centres in Darfur.

This report covers the period from the last Facilitators meeting in April 2014 to July 2018. It outlines the implementation of the DIDC outreach and Locality consultations and analyses the results and outcomes, with particular focus on the root causes of the conflict and its impact on the Darfuri people. The report further assesses the actual and potential challenges of the implementation as well as the plans on the way forward.

## THE OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY SENSITIZATION

The DIDC community outreach and sensitization process was designed out of the desire to create a sense of local ownership of the DDPD and the peace process and to raise awareness among the local population of Darfur of the essence of an internal dialogue process. With UNAMID creating the necessary enabling environment, the outreach consultations 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 instituted 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, compensation and reparation; addressing 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 from politics 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 and presented as an agenda for the Locality meetings. Each outreach meeting also nominated 150 participants from their community to participate in the Locality meetings, as required by the design of the process.

## LOCALITY CONSULTATIONS

Locality consultations were officially launched at El Fasher University on 25 January 2015. Although the process was initially slow, it picked up when additional funds were made available by the government of Sudan on the 16 April 2016. The Locality consultations have now been completed, 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 UNDP, UNAMID 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 non-signatory movements and the government 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 problem of intercommunal conflicts. They believe that such a mechanism should also address all other social issues including tribal disputes, discrimination along ethnic lines and issues affecting youth and women.
7. The limitations imposed on the availability of land and other natural resources for animal grazing and for farming, by the creeping desert, the conflict and the population increase, has been 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 addressing these issues.
9. Most of the recommendations on economic issues relate to the tackling of poverty and the economic crisis resulting from the war. They focus on development 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 on 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.

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.

## 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 State of Qatar.

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 El Fasher 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 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.

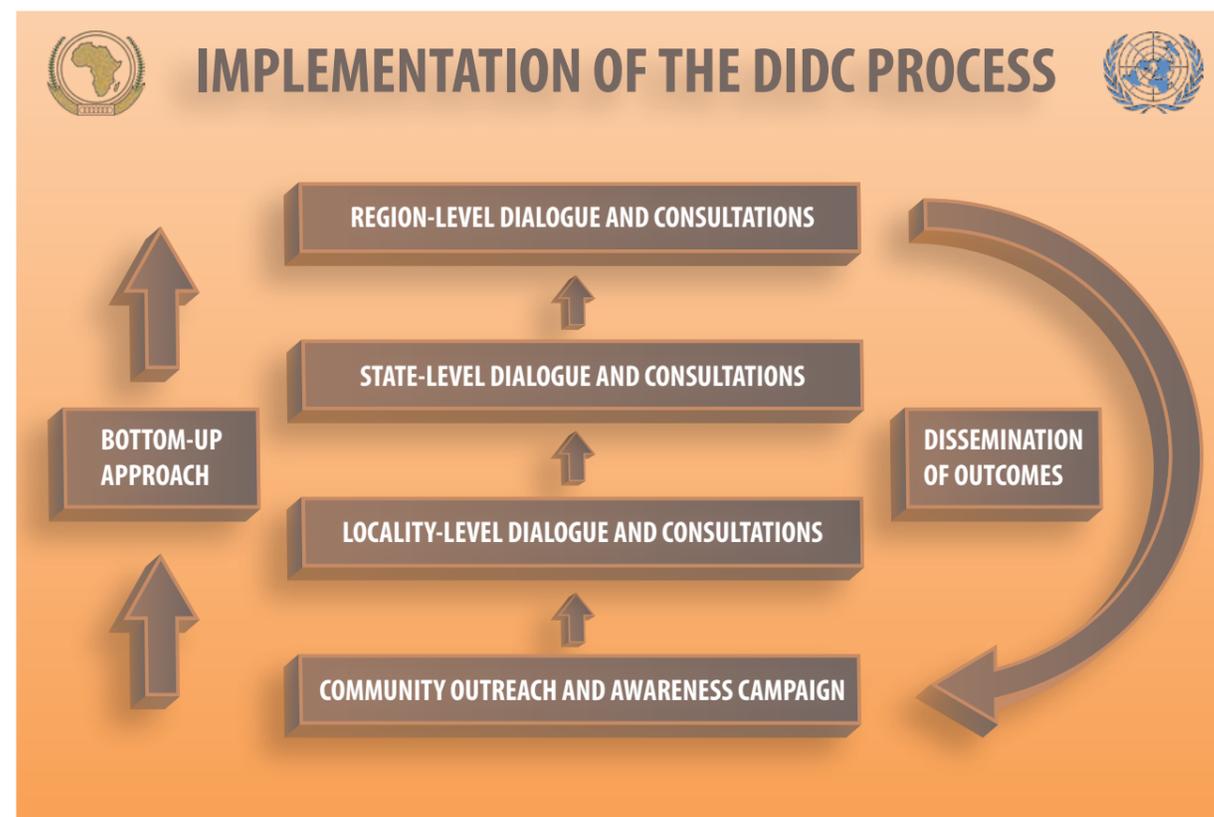


Fig 1: Implementation of the DIDC process

## 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 in 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 process 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**

	Name	Gender	Occupation/ designation	State.
1	Saddig Adam Abdallah (Saddig Wada)	M	Businessman and philanthropist	North Darfur
2	Amir Bakheit Arja	M	Representative	JEM-D
3	Zahra Adbelnaeim Mohammed	F	Civil society Activist & Women's leader	North Darfur
4	Ahmed Adam Yousif	M	NGO and former Local Government Administrator.	North Darfur
5	Halima El Nour Ahmed	F	IDP and Civil Society Activist	North Darfur
6	Dr. Nagla Bashir	F	Academic/ Professional	South Darfur
7	Mohamed Ahmed Haroon	M	Chairman of SD FUM Civil Society Activist	South Darfur
8	Omda Mariam	F	IDP, Women's leader, Civil Society Activist	South Darfur.
9	Omda Salah	M	IDP and Youth Leader	South Darfur.
10	Mohammed Adbelrasoul Mohammed	M	Chairman of CD FUM, Civil Society Activist	Central Darfur
11	Suad Adam Albarjo	F	Civil Society Activist.	Central Darfur
12	Izaldin Khalil Abu Bakar	M	Chairman of WD FUM, Civil Society Activist	West Darfur
13	Ahmed Suleiman Ali	M	Community leader and Professional.	West Darfur
14	Magboolah Hussien Mustafa	F	Women's groups leader	East Darfur
15	Amb. Osman Dirar	M	Representative	GOS.
16	Mohammed Ibrahim Azaragr	M	Representative	JEM-A
17	Abass Hamza	M	Representative	LJM

stakeholders on the design, conduct, and the role of DIDC in resolving the conflict was launched in December, 2013 and conducted till March, 2014. The survey revealed that the majority of Darfuris were in favour of the process but needed more sensitization, because many key stakeholders such as internally displaced persons (IDPs) and the Native Administration were not aware of the DDPD and the DIDC process.

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 DIDC 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 allay fear and cynicism which had developed among the population overtime due to the circumstances that prevailed in the Darfur region.

Following the development of the concept note, the Road map and the communication strategy by the UNAMID Secretariat, the JSR/JCM convened a meeting in El Fasher on the 15 December, 2013 of the Facilitators to approve or validate the documents prepared by the Secretariat for the conduct of the DIDC process.

Furthermore, after the consultations, the DIDC Secretariat convened a two-day workshop for members of the Doha civil society follow-up mechanism and university peace centers from across Darfur on 18-19 February 2014. The

workshop adopted recommendations on the DIDC design and structure, the DIDC agenda and priorities as well as initial plans for the community outreach and awareness activities which were approved by the Facilitators on 27 April 2014.

#### **DARFUR INTERNAL DIALOGUE AND CONSULTATION (DIDC) IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE (DIC) MEMBERSHIP**

As stipulated in the DDPD, the DIC is a 17-member committee of eminent Darfuris, selected from amongst the Darfur civil society through a process of wide-ranging consultations with civil society groups, academic institutions, professional groups, IDPs, community and religious leaders as well as the local and traditional Native Administration of Darfur, to lead and oversee the implementation of the DIDC process.

The composition, the membership, its selection process, and the terms of reference of the DIC as determined by the Facilitators was as follows:

**Composition:** the initial size of the DIC was a total of 17, comprising 14 ordinary members plus a Chairperson and two (2) Deputy Chairpersons. Women representation was not to be less than 30 per cent of the total membership, to be drawn from:

- xi. DDPD Parties
- xii. Civil Society Organizations including professional groups
- xiii. IDPs and Refugees
- xiv. Darfur in the Diaspora



**Darfur Internal Dialogue and Consultation Implementation Committee (DIC) Launch event at UNAMID HQs on 26 May 2014.**

**Selection process:** Facilitators selected the leadership and members of the DIC in consultation with DDPD parties. The Chairperson and the two deputies in particular, were to be prominent and popular Darfuris/Sudanese, neutral, of high integrity, and with a solid and rich career background required for such important and sensitive leadership role.

**Terms of Reference:** The DIC was required to provide leadership for the DIDC process and to prepare and conduct the DIDC under the directive of the Facilitators. Specifically, the DIC was expected to undertake the following responsibilities in close collaboration with the Facilitators:

- xv. Implement the DIDC Concept Note
- xvi. Organize fund raising activities
- xvii. Ensure that programmes are implemented in a timely manner.
- xviii. Determine the venues of meetings/conferences
- xix. Identify logistical support needs
- xx. Budget planning

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 DIDC 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 DIC was formally launched at a high-profile ceremony at UNAMID headquarters on May 26, 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 Walis 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 Wadaa, 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.

In the end, the DIC reached a consensus as to how to proceed. The attendance at the launch ceremony was an indication of the level of cooperation achieved as well as of the future prospects of the process.

#### **IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

During the implementation, the DIC meets regularly to approve plans, activities and budgets for every stage of the process. It coordinates with UNAMID Secretariat on



Dr. Amin Hassan Omer speaking at the DIDC Launch event at El Fasher Peace, Development and Human Rights Centre on 25 January 2015.

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 DIDC activities.

UNAMID 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. UNAMID 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 profes-

sional 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.

## LAUNCH OF THE DIDC PROCESS

The launch of the community outreach consultations commenced in January 2015. The DIDC launch event for North Darfur took place in El Fasher on 25 January 2015, in Nyala, South Darfur on 27 January 2015, in El Geneina, West Darfur State on 1 February 2015, in Zalingei, Central Darfur on 4 February 2015 and in El

Daein, East Darfur on 8 February 2015. The process and outcomes of the outreach consultations for each state are discussed in the ensuing pages.

The Launch event was held at El Fasher University on 25 January 2015 and was attended by dignitaries at

Table 2: DIDC Process Launch in Darfur State Capitals

No.	Date	State	DIDC Launch	No. of Participants
1	1/25/2015	North Darfur	El Fasher	200
2	1/27/2015	South Darfur	Nyala North and South	400
3	2/1/2015	West Darfur	El Geneina	200
4	2/4/2015	Central Darfur	Zalingie	200
5	2/8/2015	East Darfur	El Daien	300



Fig 2: Implementation timeline. (Future dates are indicative and subject to additional funding.)

the highest level of government from Khartoum and across Darfur; Former DRA Chairman Dr. El Tijani Seisi, former North Darfur State Wali and current second vice President Mr. Osman Yousif Kibir, Central Darfur State Wali Mr. Gaafar Abdulhakam, former Head of Darfur Peace Follow-up Office Dr. Amin Hassan Omar, now special envoy of the President for negotiations and Diplomatic Communication on Darfur, North Darfur State.

Legislature Speaker Mr. Abdul Rahman Ahmed Musa, DRA Ministers, Vice-Chancellor of University of El Fasher, DIDC Implementation Committee Chairman, Haj. Saddig Wada and 200 members of civil society organizations. UNAMID was represented by DJSR Dr. Abdul Kamara, staff of the DIDC secretariat and other UNAMID sections.

the speakers called on Darfuris to embrace peace and the DIDC process. The former DRA Chairman Dr. El Tigani Seisi urged Darfuris to support the DIDC process for the sake of peace and development. He pleaded with them to renounce violence and choose peace as the current conflict is not sustainable.

The attendance of the DIDC launch by high level dignitaries from Khartoum and across Darfur demonstrated the commitment of all parties to the peace process and the DDPD. The launch of the programme in South, West, Central, and East Darfur was attended by Walis, State Legislators, State Ministers; the Chairman and members of the DIC, members of the Follow up Mechanism (FUM), UNAMID and civil society representatives.

## 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 DDPD 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 dailies 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 for 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 (Joodiyah); 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 psychosocial impact of conflict; support and implementation of DDPD; 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 farmers and 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 instituted armed groups such as militias and 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, Darrisa 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, restoring ownership of 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 light-hearted nature of the events 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

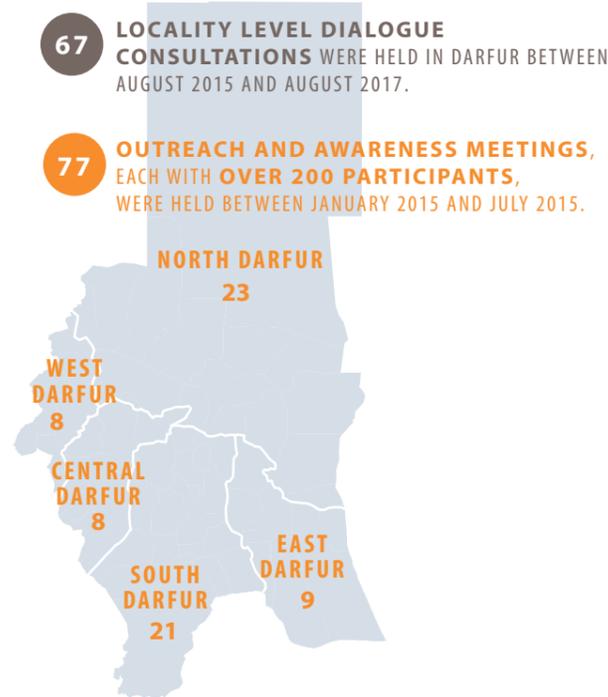


Fig 3: Map of Locality level consultations, by state.

lop-sided development weighing heavily against Darfur and the desperate need for healing and reconciliation.

### IMPLEMENTATION OF LOCALITY LEVEL CONSULTATIONS

Darfur has 64 Localities: 18 in North Darfur, 21 in South Darfur, Nine in East Darfur, Eight in Central Darfur and eight in West Darfur. The Locality consultations which started in September 2015 were completed except for Adeela in East Darfur due to intercommunal conflict between the communities. An additional four consultations were conducted for Darfuris resident in Khartoum. A minimum of 150 community residents including traditional leaders, the Native Administration, teachers, women, youths, IDPs, Nomads, farmers, religious leaders and civil society representatives participated in the consultations. Nearly 10,000 Darfuris have participated in the process so far

The Locality consultations were done in four phases due to funding availability to the process and budgetary reporting procedures instituted by the UNDP to ensure accountability of the funds. After the initial funding provided by the state of Qatar in August, 2014, it was not until February, 2015 that the process received funding from 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 at least one member of the DIC in the state and UNAMID Political Affairs staff in the Sectors. The DIC members were assisted by facilitators, coordinators, rapporteurs selected by the Darfur civil society follow up Mechanism, who participated in the Doha peace process. The University Peace Centres in the various States were also contracted by the UNDP to oversee and manage the disbursement of funds for each Locality consultation.

The report of each Locality was prepared by the rapporteurs and copies submitted to the DIC, UNAMID Political Affairs Section and 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 stalled when the initial funds provided by the 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 all the five Darfur States. The recommendations that emanated from these consultations touched on security, political, social and economic issues.

#### Phase two: 01 September–16 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 refugees in their areas and cross border raids. Serious concerns over the free inflow of drugs and alcohol from neighbouring 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 DIC Chairman. The recommendations have been summarized for each state and 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

**Disarmament 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 state; control over armed forces and strengthening the role of judiciary and prosecutors' offices, strengthening the capacity of Native Administration.

**Land and Grazing Rights:** demarcation of transhumance and herders' routes, restoration of traditional Hawakeer system, protection of farm and farming season, opening of new pasture routes, freeing land in return areas for returnees, determining the starting dates of grazing/animal movements.

**Drugs Prevention:** sensitization of youth in order to tackle substance abuse. Border control to prevent smuggling.

### 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 agriculture 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; deter-

mining 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; improvement of girls' 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/Refugees:** 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 Mara 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 even 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 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 the Rezeigat and the Ma'aliya over land and Native 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 Hawakeer 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 location and its low population density in its northern most parts, 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 territory 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 conflicts were also prominent in discussions across North Darfur with desperate calls for reconciliation mechanisms to be set up across communities. Due to the vast area of the State, the calls for better road network were frequent.

### ANALYSIS OF THE DIDC RECOMMENDATIONS

It was observed that most of the recommendations were almost identical, 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 of the direction the dialogue implementation and peace efforts should take, if lasting peace and development is to be achieved. Furthermore, although most of the issues raised and recommendations proffered are unique to Darfur, there are some which are simply 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 very keen to see a comprehensive disarmament and for 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 of the view that most of the root causes of the conflict which can be addressed using traditional dispute resolution mechanisms are now intractable because of the proliferation of weapons. For example, addressing 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.

Discussions on political issues reinforced the need for a comprehensive peace agreement between the government and 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, if a political settlement is not achieved. They therefore reaffirmed their faith in the political process as the way towards lasting peace.

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. Participants believe that over the years and partly because of the war, that authority was eroded. They therefore suggest that it should be restored and empowered for it to

serve as a powerful tool for local conflict resolution, outstanding 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 participants 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 occupation 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 farming, by the creeping desert and the population increase, especially in the Northern most states, has been a traditional 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 Hawakeer system, which facilitated the demarcation of transhumance and herders' routes and the protection of farm lands. The recommendations focus on restoration of those traditional solutions, which can only now be possible through comprehensive approaches that will have to do with security, land titles, reconciliation and the injection of development projects. There were recommendations for the restoration of civil liberties, fundamental freedoms, good governance, democracy and the guarantee of human rights including the

freedom of expression. These demands are very general and they are not unique to Darfur. However, the conflict in Darfur and its consequences make those demands gain some significance. There are some provisions in the DDPD and in the outcomes of the National Dialogue which make references to addressing those issues.

Most of the recommendations on economic issues relate to the tackling of poverty and the economic crisis resulting from the war. They focus on development 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. These issues are however addressed in the DDPD and in the outcomes of the National Dialogue.

Although the DRA efforts were commendable, it is obvious 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 outcomes 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 development to take place.

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. 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.

as a working document for the subsequent refugee and diaspora consultations.

As part of our mandate of providing technical support to the DIC, UNAMID with 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 discussions 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.

#### DIDC REVIEW CONFERENCE

On 30th October 2017 the DIC in collaboration with UNAMID and UNDP and sponsored by the European Union and the Government of Sudan hosted a one-day conference to mark the end of the Locality level consultations, which have been conducted in 67 Localities in the 5 Darfur states and in Khartoum.

## 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 voices in the peace process. 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 conduct of the Locality consultations, the next step would be to conduct State level consultations in all the five States in Darfur to consolidate the recommendations from the Locality level consultations. Ten participants from each Locality will participate in the State consultation.

At the State level consultations, the issues raised at the Locality level consultations as well as the refugees and diaspora sessions will be summarized or merged into concrete action points to provide informed insight into further discussions. The outcome of the comprehensive discussions of the Locality level recommendations, will serve



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 process;
22. Use the opportunity offered by the conference to improve 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 interventions aimed at social, political and economic recovery in Darfur.
24. Solicit additional funding for the rest of the DIDC activities; diaspora, refugee and State level consultations;

The conference was attended by 370 participants representing different segments of Darfur community including 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 international community in Sudan, UNAMID, UNDP, University Peace Centres, and media houses. The conference was addressed 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 refugees 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 refugee 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 preliminary visit to Chad. The purpose of the visit was to sensitize the Darfurian refugees on the design and implementation of the DIDC process and their role in it. Meetings with refugees were concluded with their acceptance to take part in the DIDC process.

in consultation with the refugee leadership, 52 representatives of the Darfuri refugees were selected from 13 camps in Eastern Chad. Four representatives selected from each of the 13 camps included a refugee camp President, a refugee youth leader, the refugee women's President and the President of the refugee security committee.

The refugees also decided that the consultations should be carried out in two stages. This two-stage process, according to the refugees, would allow for a better representative 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 involve consultations for groups of refugee camps according 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 Middle East. The Darfuri population in those places is estimated to be high and can constitute a quorum for substantive discussions on the Darfur conflict and how to reach an all acceptable peace deal.

After finalizing the Concept Note on the Diaspora consultations, 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 initial 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 Embassy, 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 office 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 functionary 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.



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**Darfur Internal Dialogue and Consultations**

