

In the Name of Allah the Most Merciful and the Most Passionate

## **Declaration of Principles for the Resolution of the Conflict in Eastern Sudan**

### **Preamble**

We the Government of Sudan (GOS) and the Eastern Front (EF), henceforth referred to as the parties, meeting in Asmara, Eritrea, under the auspices of the Government of the State of Eritrea and on the basis of the agreement on procedural issues that we signed on May 25, 2006;

**Reaffirming** our commitment to the unity, sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of Sudan;

**Convinced** that Sudan can prosper and flourish in peace only when it ensures equitable participation and development of its people throughout the country;

**Determined** to address the root causes of the conflict in Eastern Sudan, ensure stability and security and find a lasting peaceful settlement that benefits the people of Eastern Sudan and the whole country;

**Committing** ourselves to respect the integrity of the talks and the mediation and to negotiate in good faith;

**Taking into consideration** what has followed from the Comprehensive Peace Agreement of 9 January 2005 as well as the particularities of Eastern Sudan;

*Agree that the following principles shall form the basis of a just and lasting peaceful settlement of the conflict in Eastern Sudan*

1. Unity with recognition of and respect for diversity, protection of the fundamental freedoms and rights of citizens, devolution of powers within a federal system, and equitable distribution of national wealth are essential foundations for a united, peaceful, just and prosperous Sudan.
2. Political, economic, social and cultural marginalization constitutes the core problem of Eastern Sudan.
3. Effective participation and representation in all government institutions and at various levels shall be ensured for the people of Eastern Sudan.
4. A fair share of national resources and affirmative action to address past inequalities as well as sustained social, economic and cultural development are key to a just and lasting settlement.

5. Security arrangements for the consolidation of peace shall be addressed as part of an overall agreement.
6. Rehabilitation of war-affected areas will be given priority and assistance provided to refugees and internally displaced people to return to their homes.
7. The Parties commit themselves to involve the people of Eastern Sudan from the beginning of the peace process; and to convene an Eastern Sudan Consultative Conference to ensure support for, and active participation in the implementation of, a Comprehensive Agreement.
8. The parties undertake to immediately cease all military hostilities and to maintain a military stand-down during the negotiations on the basis of the "Agreement on Creating a Conducive Atmosphere For Peace" signed on 19 June 2006.
9. All Agreements reached by the parties shall be incorporated in the Interim National Constitution.

**Asmara, June 19, 2006**