



## **STATUS OF THE ELECTORAL PROCESS IN SUDAN – CONCERNS**

### **Voter registration**

Voter registration is widely recognized as one means of ensuring that the right to vote is fulfilled.<sup>2</sup> Targeted to reach approximately 20 million people, national voter registration in

### **Role of the Political Parties Affairs Council**

As campaign activities begin, and with political party registration ongoing, the role of the Political Parties Affairs Council (PPAC) will be increasingly important. As the regulator of political party activity, the PPAC should make

in the spirit of the democratic transformation envisaged in the CPA to ease the state of emergency and lift the restrictions on civil liberties that persist across the region and to allow for an environment where political parties can freely organize, recruit, and campaign. Genuine and freely contested elections may be a partial answer to addressing the causes of marginalization and conflict in Darfur, but little progress will be made if severe and inhibiting regulations remain in force. Confidence in the electoral process in Darfur remains low, and the NEC and state elections committees must visibly demonstrate that their activities in Darfur are fair, impartial, and organized in the interests of all citizens.

Finally, The Carter Center once again reiterates its support for the right of all Sudanese to register to vote and freely elect their representatives in a peaceful and tolerant environment, and notes its desire to contribute to building a lasting and just peace throughout Sudan through a genuine, inclusive, and viable electoral process that meets international standards.

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*The Carter Center conducts its election observation in accordance with the Declaration of Principles of International Election Observation and Code of Conduct that was adopted at the United Nations in 2005, and has been endorsed by 33 election observation groups. The Declaration of Principles can be read in Arabic and English at:*  
[http://cartercenter.org/peace/democracy/des\\_declaration.html](http://cartercenter.org/peace/democracy/des_declaration.html)

*The Carter Center was founded in 1982 by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and his wife, Rosalynn, in partnership with Emory University, to advance peace and health worldwide. A not-for-profit, nongovernmental organization, the Center has helped to improve life for people in more than 70 countries by resolving conflicts; advancing democracy, human rights, and economic opportunity; preventing diseases; improving mental health care; and teaching farmers to increase crop production. The Carter Center began working in Sudan in 1986 on the Sasakawa-Global 2000 agricultural project and for more than 20 years its health and peace programs have focused on improving health and preventing and resolving conflicts in Sudan. Please visit [www.cartercenter.org](http://www.cartercenter.org) to learn more about The Carter Center.*

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