

August 18, 2010

His Excellency Ban Ki-moon  
Secretary-General  
The United Nations  
1 United Nations Plaza  
New York, NY 10017

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Secretary-General and Mr. President:

Less than five months remain until a referendum on self-determination that is likely to lead to the breakup of Sudan, Africa's largest state. Neither Sudanese actors nor the international Guarantors – who helped broker and formally pledged to support the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) – are yet ready for this sensitive culmination of the deal.

Unless international efforts are urgently redoubled, particularly by the countries that made the CPA possible, the risk of conflict in Sudan will increase. A return to war would be a humanitarian disaster of massive proportions, potentially displacing millions of people, in all parts of the country, further destabilizing one of Africa's most fragile regions, and reverberating far beyond. It is imperative that the international community, especially the CPA Guarantors who have both the ability and the responsibility to help Sudan, live up to their commitment and act now to help manage the extremely sensitive process.

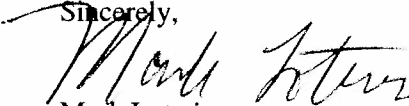
We urge you to seize the opportunity presented by the opening session of the 65<sup>th</sup> session of the UN General Assembly to support the full implementation of the CPA and facilitate a peaceful post-CPA transition. You can do this by using your authority as Secretary-General and President of the United States to convene a meeting of heads of state among the CPA Guarantor countries, Security Council members, and key African states during the General Debate period.

This meeting should have three central objectives:

- Send a unified message to all Sudanese that the international community will uphold the recognized right of the people of Southern Sudan to self-determination;
- Ensure that donors deliver on past pledges to Sudan, particularly in supporting preparations for a free and fair referendum, and call on them to increase their level of engagement in the immediate future of Sudan;
- Convey unequivocally that international human rights and good governance standards must be respected throughout Sudan, including in South Sudan and in Darfur, and that the international community will uphold its commitment to the goals of democratic transformation and economic transparency in Sudan.

We urge you to convene this meeting during the UN General Assembly in order to help coordinate support for the Comprehensive Peace Agreement at this most difficult stage, see that adequate measures are taken to protect Sudanese civilians from potential violence, and ensure a peaceful and democratic post-CPA transition, both in Northern and Southern Sudan.

Sincerely,



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President

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**Change the world. It just takes cents.**

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