



**EUROPEAN UNION**

DELEGATION TO THE REPUBLIC OF SUDAN

## **Speech by Ambassador Jean-Michel Dumond at the Max Planck Foundation Workshop with National Legislature**



Your Excellency, Ibrahim Ahmed Omer, Speaker of the Parliament

Dear Members of the Parliament,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very glad to be here today to open this workshop, funded by the European Union and organised by the Max Planck Foundation.

As you know, this workshop comes as part of a wider programme that the EU has been co-funding together with Germany over almost two years to provide technical support to the constitutional process in Sudan.

Through this programme, the EU has been offering – with the Max Planck Foundation – technical, legal expertise and capacity-building to an inclusive group of beneficiaries, including policymakers, political parties' representatives, and member of the civil society. Today, we bring this experience forward up to you, through a series of workshops specifically designed for the members of the Parliament.

In particular, today, this workshop is specifically addressed to to you as members of the committee which is going to draft the amendments to the constitution on some specific topics as such, your role will be very important and I think peace workshop is particularly relevant.

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The Parliament has indeed a key function in the approval of any new or amended Constitution. As the legislature, you play an important role in ensuring the compliance of laws; in ensuring laws are passed in a way that effectively implement the constitutional provisions on decentralised governance, to strengthen regional and local levels of government.

As a member of the Parliament, you also play a role in applying the fundamental principles of constitutional law while creating and enacting laws, as well as when monitoring the application of those laws by the executive.

The promotion and protection of human rights and dignity, the realisation of accountability and rule of law, the freedom of expression, association, assembly and participation in public life are just some of the most important fundamental principles that are part of any constitutional principles. They have been agreed as outcomes of the national dialogue and will be the basis for any new amended constitution.

At the same time, topics like good governance and decentralisation also feed within the wider discussions on the constitutional processes that have been discussed within the framework of the official National Dialogue.

Today, the workshop will indeed address several issues regarding the role of the national legislature on constitutional amendments, some of which are related to the outcomes of the National Dialogue: the Prime Minister's functions and powers; the Institutional reforms; the separation of powers, and the constitutional protection of human rights just to mention some.

Clearly this workshop will not be sufficient to go into detail of all these issues, But I believe it provides a great opportunity for you to go into a thorough analysis of these different topics, and – more importantly – an opportunity for building trust among you, enhance dialogue, and inspire exchange of views on the future constitution and reforms needed. How to take this forward will, then, of course be up to you.

In this regard, let me reaffirm the engagement of the European Union to work for the benefit of the population of Sudan.

The European Union long involvement in Sudan started already long time ago, providing both development and humanitarian assistance, supporting activities aimed to mitigate the negative effects of the conflicts, while trying to contribute to build dialogue, peace, economic and social development.

In this context, Parliaments have a crucial responsibility to play in national and local development policies. As a result of their law-making, oversight and representation functions, parliamentarians can actively engage in the development and implementation of policies and



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laws that are pro-poor, minority- and gender-responsive, and environmentally sensitive, all which broadly reflect and support efforts to achieve the overarching objectives of peace and human development.

Let me therefore congratulate all of you to be here today, and thank the Max Planck Foundation for its continuous engagement in conducting these activities.

I'm confident this workshop will bring discussions on these issues forward, looking at different ways of supporting development and in particular rule of law in this country.

Thank you