



# Fact sheet on the elections in Sudan

## 9 April 2010

- The elections in Sudan, to be held from 11 to 13 April 2010, are an important step in the implementation of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement ([CPA](#)) between the Government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), which ended 20 years of war in the country.
- The organization and conduct of the elections is the responsibility of the Government of Sudan. The National Election Commission ([NEC](#)), a Sudanese body established in November 2008 by Sudan's National Elections Act (July 2008), is responsible for organizing and conducting the elections. The United Nations is providing technical assistance and logistical support to the NEC.
- The United Nations has no mandate to monitor the elections. There will be approximately 18,000 domestic and 750 international observers, including from the [African Union](#) (AU), [European Union](#) (EU), [League of Arab States](#) and [Carter Center](#).
- The voter registration process was launched on 1 November 2009. More than 16 million people registered, nearly 80 per cent of the estimated voting-age population.
- The elections campaign period started on 13 February and ended on 9 April. If a run-off is required, it is to be conducted within 60 days of the first round of balloting.
- Sudan's elections are extremely complex. Six elections are to be conducted simultaneously, with polling lasting for three days. Offices to be elected are:
  - President of the Republic
  - President of the Government of Southern Sudan
  - Governors
  - National Assembly
  - Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly
  - State Legislative Assemblies
- The electoral system is a mix of *proportional representation* (new to Sudan) and *majoritarian*:
  - President of the Republic: requires absolute majority; if no candidate receives an absolute majority in the first round, there will be a second round between the top two candidates
  - President of the Government of Southern Sudan: requires absolute majority; if no candidate receives an absolute majority in the first round, there will be a second round between the top two candidates
  - Governor: requires simple majority -- the candidate with the most votes wins

- National Assembly: 450 members
  - Geographical Constituencies (270, apportioned on the basis of the National Census): requires simple majority -- the candidate with the most votes wins
  - Women's List (112 seats, apportioned by state): Proportional Representation -- Parties win seats in proportion to their vote totals.
  - Party List (68 seats, apportioned by state): Proportional Representation -- Parties win seats in proportion to their vote totals.
- Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly: 170 members
  - Geographical Constituencies (102, apportioned on the basis of the National Census): requires simple majority -- the candidate with the most votes wins
  - Women's List (53 seats, apportioned by state): Proportional Representation -- Parties win seats in proportion to their vote totals.
  - Party List (25 seats, apportioned by state): Proportional Representation -- Parties win seats in proportion to their vote totals.
- State Assembly: most states have 48 seats in their State Assembly; Khartoum and Southern Kordofan states have more seats; for those states with 48 seats:
  - Geographical Constituencies (29, apportioned on the basis of the National Census): requires simple majority -- the candidate with the most votes wins
  - Women's List (12 seats): Proportional Representation -- Parties win seats in proportion to their vote totals.
  - Party List (7 seats): Proportional Representation -- Parties win seats in proportion to their vote totals.
- Voters in the north of the country will receive eight ballots and voters in the south, twelve. The volume of electoral material to be transported — including polling kits, ballots for each level of election and constituency, and ballot boxes — will be approximately seven times the volume transported during voter registration. The United Nations Mission in Sudan ([UNMIS](#)) and the African Union/United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur ([UNAMID](#)) will assist the NEC in transporting materials to 55 remote locations in the South and to 32 locations in Darfur. The United Nations Development Programme ([UNDP](#)) manages the elections assistance basket fund, which holds approximately \$70.45 million in donor contributions.
- Sudan's last multi-party elections were held in 1986, and then, few areas in the South participated because of the civil war. The CPA, signed in 2005, mandated the holding of general elections by July 2009. However, due to delayed passage of the National Elections Act (by two and a half years), the late establishment of the NEC (a further three months later than scheduled) and delays in the census process, the CPA timeline was not met.