
Towards Inclusive Economic Growth in Sudan: Stabilization and Recovery

Thursday 3 October 2019 | Khartoum, Sudan

Conference Agenda

Sudan has experienced seismic changes in 2019. The fall of former President Omar al Bashir's regime and emergence of a new transitional government in August, has raised expectations that Sudan can break with the past to become more peaceful, inclusive and prosperous. But the new transitional government faces enormous challenges, among the most urgent being an economy in crisis and at risk of collapse, as well as a much-needed long-term structural reform agenda. Sudan's economy has been in decline for many years and deteriorated further after losing 75 per cent of its oil revenues with the secession of South Sudan in 2011. Improvements in Sudan's foreign relations led to the lifting of US sanctions in 2017 and this was expected to foster recovery, but significant debt, a widening trade deficit, eroded foreign reserves, a devalued currency and soaring inflation worsened.

In 2019 the Chatham House Africa Programme convened a series of *Sudan Stakeholder Dialogues*. These roundtables fostered constructive exchanges among diverse Sudanese and international experts on the causes of the economic crisis, the steps that need to be taken to stabilize the economy in the near-term, and the longer-term structural reforms required to set Sudan on the path to recovery. As the new government, led by Prime Minister Dr Abdalla Hamdok, undertakes the design and implementation of reform programmes, this conference will discuss the durable solutions to Sudan's pressing challenges.

Arrivals and registration

08:00– 09:00

Welcoming Address

09:00 – 09:10

Dr Alex Vines OBE, Director, Risk, Ethics, Resilience; Head, Africa Programme, Chatham House

Opening Keynote Address

09:10 – 09:30

Sudan's Economic Future: Addressing the Challenges and Meeting the Potential

HE Dr Abdalla Hamdok, Prime Minister, Republic of Sudan

Chair: **Dr Alex Vines OBE**, Director, Risk, Ethics, Resilience; Head, Africa Programme, Chatham House

Session 1: Building an Environment for Reform: Laying the Foundations

09:30 – 11:00

Lasting Peace as the Foundation for Sustainable Economic Recovery

Professor Atta El-Battahani, School of Political Science, University of Khartoum

Sequencing Policy Reforms for Maximum Impact

Nicholas Haysom, Special Adviser to the United Nations Secretary General on Sudan

Entrenching Economic Legitimacy: Accountability and Transparency, Strengthening Anti-corruption efforts and Recovering Stolen Assets.

Dr Suliman Baldo, Senior Advisor, Enough Project; Former Director, Sudan Democracy First

Legitimacy and Inclusion: Communication, Consultation and Women in Decision-Making

Huda Shafiq, Gender and Inclusion Specialist

Chair: **Dame Rosalind Marsden**, Associate Fellow, Africa Programme, Chatham House

Coffee Break

11:00 – 11:30

Session 2: Stabilizing the Economy: Implementing a Near-Term Action Plan

11:30 – 13:00

Budget Restructuring and the Pursuit of a Fiscal Rescue Plan

Abda El-Mahdi, Managing Director, UNICONS Consulting; State Minister, Ministry of Finance and National Economy (2002 – 2004)

Setting Coherent Monetary Policy and Containing Inflation

Professor Ibrahim Ahmed Onour, School of Management Studies, University of Khartoum

Building a Social Safety Net: Protecting the Most Vulnerable in Society

Dr Khalid Eltigani Elnour, Chief Editor, Elaph Economic Newspaper

Clearing the Debt Burden: Restructuring, Transparency and Setting Expectations for International Support

Carolyn Turk, Country Director for Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sudan and South Sudan, World Bank

Chair: **Gabriel Negatu**, Director General, Eastern Africa, African Development Bank (2016 – 2019)

Lunch

13:00 – 14:00

Session 3: Economic Recovery: Developing Mid- to Long-Term Strategies

14:00 – 15:30

Creating Multiple Growth Poles: Reviewing and Rolling-Out Fiscal Federalism

Dr Adam Elhiraika, Director, Macroeconomic Policy Division, UNECA

Land Reform and Rehabilitating the Conflict Areas for Future Growth

Professor Guma Kunda Komey, Department of Geography and Centre for Peace and Development Studies, University of Bahri

Developing a Comprehensive Strategy for the Productive Sectors

Ahmed Amin Abdellatif, President, CTC Group

Meeting Infrastructure Needs and Working with the Private Sector

Ihab Ibrahim Osman, Chairman and President, U.S. Sudan Business Council

Strengthening the Banking System and Providing Access to Finance

Mohamed Ahmed Bushra Badawi, Assistant Governor, Central Bank of Sudan (2013 – 2018)

Chair: **Tarneem Saeed**, Founder and CEO, Alsoug.com

Coffee Break

15:30 – 16:00

Session 4: Building the Sudan of the Future: Capacity Development, Delivery and Inclusion

16:00 – 17:30

Public Sector Reform and Delivery: Building Rules-Based, Independent and Accountable Institutions
Hiba Farid, Managing Director, Center for Development and Public Policy

Addressing the Causes and Consequences of Marginalization

Dr Samah Jamous, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Young Leaders Programme in Sudan

Youth and Future Opportunities: Education, Training and Sustainable Employment

Abbas Ageed Abu-Sakin, Engineer, Renewable Energy

Chair: **Gwi-Yeop Son**, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Sudan, United Nations

Closing remarks

17:30 – 18:00

Hon Dr Ibrahim Elbadawi, Minister of Finance, Republic of Sudan

Chair: **Ahmed Soliman**, Research Fellow, Africa Programme, Chatham House

Reception

18:00 – 19:00

End of Conference

This conference is supported by:

