Sudan Taskforce Recommendations:

The Sudan Taskforce on the Engagement of Women (the Taskforce), is a group of 13 peacebuilders – one man and 12 women. We are leading civil society activists and leaders from political parties with diverse backgrounds with the shared objective of increasing the effectiveness of the peace processes. We believe this will happen through an inclusive process in which women and communities are consistently engaged. Through consultation and advocacy, the Taskforce supports inclusivity, serving as a conduit between policymakers and civil society, especially on the community level.

We met in Addis Ababa from January 26 to February 1, 2016, on the sidelines of the African Union Summit. We developed the following recommendations for the Troika (governments of Norway, the UK, and US), the German government, the U.S. Special Envoy to Sudan and South Sudan, and the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP), to ensure the continuation of effective and inclusive peace processes:

1. **Continue to convene and support formal and informal meetings between warring parties to overcome deadlock, reach an agreement on the ceasefire, and facilitate humanitarian aid by:**
   1. Pressuring the government and other relevant parties to commit to continuing informal meetings and including at least 50% women in every participating delegation; and
   2. Granting an observer status to a civil society observer group that includes at least 50% women. The Taskforce members can serve as a conduit to mobilize such a group.
2. **Provide support to the AUHIP by:**
   1. Enabling the creation of a National Advisory Body composed of several national experts, 50% women, from Sudan to support the Panel in its mediation role;
   2. Ensuring the appointment of a Gender Advisor who is experienced with the intersection of gender and peacebuilding;
   3. Bolstering the Panel’s administrative staff (its number and capacity) to strengthen operational aspects of the mediation efforts; and
   4. Ensuring the Panel liaises with civil society, including the Taskforce and other women’s groups.
3. **Appoint, in consultation with the Taskforce, at least two qualified women to the panel of mediators in the AUHIP,** in line with the African Union’s gender and peacebuilding commitments and requirements of UN Security Council Resolution 1325.
4. **Enable a conducive environment for the continuation of the National Dialogue, such as:**
   1. Ensuring freedoms for all, including an independent media; and
   2. Ending restrictions on and closures of nongovernmental organizations
5. **Support civil society initiatives, including those by the Taskforce, to increase the effectiveness and impact of ongoing mediation efforts. Priority civil society-led initiatives requiring funding include:**
   1. A series of workshops about effective, inclusive, and credible National Dialogue processes.
      1. Suggested workshop topics: sensitization and awareness raising about National Dialogue processes (including through study of examples from other countries), conflict resolution, peace and gender, consensus building, conflict analysis, mediation, and responsible negotiation;
   2. A series of consultations, some Taskforce-led, with communities to ensure broader society buy-in.
      1. Suggested issues to address: What is the history of the National Dialogue and the need for its continuation? How do people perceive peace? How do we connect community level peace and security needs to the efforts at the national level? What feedback do communities have about gaps in the process? What is the mechanism to ensure community needs and concerns are taken into account in the continuation of the process?
6. **Ensure effectiveness and inclusivity of the Procedural Meeting that is proposed in AUHIP’s plan by:**
   1. Conducting an analysis of why the previous talks did not work and circulating recommendations for improvement;
   2. Requiring at least 50% women in each delegation;
   3. Seeking input prior to the meeting from civil society on the topics of discussion;
   4. Providing immediate and accurate reporting on the progress of the discussions:
      1. Conducting a regular briefing to the media by a Panel member, disseminated via social media and other media outlets;
      2. Developing and disseminating a report after each meeting; and
      3. Making available on the Facebook page the proceedings of the Meeting.
7. **Include within the recommendations that will come out of all processes, including the National Dialogue, a strong monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plan to ensure they will be effectively implemented and those responsible for doing so held accountable.** This includes:
   1. Requiring all committees, especially the Governance and Outcomes Implementation Committee, to develop specific monitoring indicators;
   2. Devoting adequate staff, technical capacity, and financial resources to M&E;
   3. Supporting civil society to lead a series of workshops on M&E; and
   4. Creating indicators that include input from the communities and be gender sensitive, for example:
      1. Number of women in the implementation committees at the local level;
      2. Method of dissemination, including safety of the physical sites and related media coverage (e.g. newspapers, TV, and radio).