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### **SuNDE calls on the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly (SSLA) for information about and opportunity for citizens' participation in the constitutional review**

The Sudanese Network for Democratic Elections (SuNDE) is a coalition of over 75 civil society organizations based in all ten States of Southern Sudan whose objective is to promote and protect citizens' participation in electoral and democratic processes.

SuNDE views the constitutional review as an important political process for citizen participation and a vital step to provide the foundation for the birth of the Republic of South Sudan on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2011 on the basis of democratic principles. SuNDE aims to enhance the understanding and participation of citizens in the review and development of the country's supreme law through their active participation in the constitution making process.

On this background, SuNDE has made the following observations and recommendations:

- (1) SuNDE notes that the draft *Transitional Constitution* was prepared by the Technical Committee, presented to the Political Parties' Leadership Forum by HE Salva Kiir Mayardit, adopted by the Council of Ministers and presented to the SSLA on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May in an extraordinary session;



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(2) SuNDE further notes that the SSLA has established four clusters to review the draft amendments and that the clusters are open to receiving input from citizens or other stakeholders;

(3) SuNDE encourages the SSLA to provide clear information about the process for reviewing the draft *Transitional Constitution*, in particular the timeline, the contact points for the clusters and the mechanisms for citizens, civic groups, like SuNDE, and other interested parties to participate, through input or observation;

(4) SuNDE appeals to the SSLA to ensure that the version of the draft *Transitional Constitution* that is being considered by the SSLA is made available to the public in Juba and in the ten states so that citizens can discuss and provide input on an informed basis, not on the basis of rumors, incorrect or old versions of the document;

(5) Despite the time constraints, SuNDE calls on the elected members of the legislative assembly to make every effort to provide information to their constituencies about the process and to fulfill their role and responsibility to represent the views, interests and concerns of their electorates in deliberations of the SSLA.

SuNDE looks forward to disseminating information on the *Transitional Constitution* throughout its network, organizing and participating in public dialogues and open media discussions between citizens and their elected officials.

**The Sudanese Network for Democratic Elections (SuNDE) is a non partisan coalition of over 75 Sudanese Civil society organizations.**