



**SuNDE and SuGDE Statement on the Tabulation Process and
Announcement of the 2011 Southern Sudan Referendum Preliminary Results
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The Sudanese Network for Democratic Elections (SuNDE) and the Sudanese Group for Democracy and Elections (SuGDE) found the tabulation process for the 2011 Southern Sudan Referendum proceeded quickly and efficiently at the tabulation centers observed. Observers did not report any major incidents in the tabulation that could ultimately affect the accuracy of the official results. This process was a substantial improvement over the tabulation process of the 2010 General Elections.

SuNDE and SuGDE observers found that the majority of tabulation centers observed were open at the start of the tabulation process on January 16 and remained open and staffed until all materials had been received and processed. SuNDE and SuGDE observers reported that officials generally appeared to understand their roles and the tabulation procedures.

SuNDE and SuGDE were concerned that official tabulation rules and procedures were never published publicly which made a thorough observation of the tabulation process difficult. In future elections tabulation procedures should be developed early and made available publicly to ensure the tabulation process is fully understood and transparent.

SuNDE and SuGDE compared the Referendum results posted on the SSRC website with the final number of registered voters per Center and found that just over 260 Referendum Centers in the South reported a turnout greater than 100 percent. Aweil East County saw the highest amount, with 18 of its 99 centers reporting over 100 percent turnout figures. The SSRB attributes the over 100 percent turnout to discrepancies in the number of total registered voters reported to the SSRB and the actual number of registered voters on the Registers at these Centers. Taking this into consideration and given the large voter turnout throughout Southern Sudan, Centers reporting over 100 percent turnout would be possible and not necessarily an indication of any irregularities.

The SSRB did quarantine and investigate the results from 36 Centers reporting above a 105 percent turnout. The results of the investigations showed the majority of these cases to be the result of clerical error. SuNDE and SuGDE note that a 105 percent voter turnout is an unusually high threshold which

must be reached to trigger an investigation of the results of a particular Center and that a lower tolerance threshold should be adopted by the election commission in subsequent elections. SuNDE and SuGDE also strongly recommend that for future elections adequate time is given to developing a comprehensive and accurate voters list which can be independently audited.

SuNDE and SuGDE encourage the SSRC to fairly and quickly resolve any complaints so that the Referendum results can be made final. SuNDE and SuGDE deployed observers at the County and State levels and at the SSRB and SSRC to observe the tabulation process. SuNDE and SuGDE will release a final report on the overall referendum process in the upcoming months.

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. The Sudanese Group for Democracy and Elections (SuGDE) is a joint effort of six independent, non-partisan organizations working with civil society organizations (CSOs) across the North of Sudan to encourage free, fair and non-violent elections and democracy in Sudan.