

INVITATION TO THE SUDAN-ROUNDTABLE

**Countdown in Sudan:
Context and Consequences of the Elections of April 2010**

Place: swisspeace, Sonnenbergstrasse 17, CH-3000 Bern 7

Date: Thursday, 25 March 2010

Time: 13:30-16:30h

Key note speaker:

Dr. Annette Weber, Senior Researcher, German Institute for International and Security Affairs*

Discussants:

Anne Gloor, Senior Advisor, Election Desk, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Political Division IV
(Human Security)

Frank Schürch, Deputy of the Special Envoy for the Sudan and the Horn of Africa, Federal Department of
Foreign Affairs, Political Division IV (Human Security)

Sudan is currently preparing for its first multi-party elections since 20 years to be held in April 2010. The elections represent a key benchmark of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, as the transitional period set out in the agreement is nearing its end. The elections are affected by a number of political and logistical problems that are rendering their smooth organization particularly challenging. In any case, the outcome of the elections will provide the background against which the Sudanese contemplate the political future of their country, as they approach the referendum on independence in South Sudan planned for January 2011.

The KOFF Sudan-Roundtable aims to provide a forum for discussing a number of challenges related to the national elections in Sudan in April 2010. Based on a recently published briefing paper *Countdown im Sudan*, Dr. Annette Weber will lay out the context of the elections and formulate a number of scenarios for the political future of Sudan in the coming years. As discussants, Anne Gloor and Frank Schürch will offer their own interpretation of the elections from the perspective of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs.

* *Dr. Annette Weber* is a researcher and Horn of Africa expert at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs in Berlin. She has conducted consultancies and trainings on Sudan for various organizations as well as lectured on gender issues and Sudan at different universities. Dr. Weber has written numerous articles and reports on Sudan, most recently "Countdown im Sudan".