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**Dieudonné Zognong**  
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**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL  
INTERNATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNITY  
OF DEMOCRACIES (ISC/CD) ON SOUTHERN SUDAN'S UPCOMING  
REFERENDUM  
December 17, 2010**

The ISC/CD notes with concern reports from the Sudan, as the date for the referendum over the secession of South Sudan draws near, of intimidation and harassment. Regional bodies, and the international community, should support the peoples of the Sudan as they attempt to resolve a long standing political crisis that has claimed many lives and left many displaced. The ISC/CD calls on the United Nations, the African Union, and the global community of democrats to lend support to the efforts of enhancing strong democratic institutions and of building good governance, the lack of which has been a significant contributor to the crisis there.

The ISC/CD urges that the upcoming referendum be allowed to reflect the will of the people of Southern Sudan free from all interference. We also encourage the two Sudanese parties to come to an agreement that will create the foundation for peaceful North-South co-existence, regardless of the outcome of the referendum.