



Ministry of Cabinet Affairs

Secretariat of Sudanese Working Abroad (SSWA) Sudanese Partnership for Knowledge Transfer by Expatriate Nationals (SPAKTeN)



SSWA & the Embassy of Canada in Sudan

Workshop: Canada-Sudan Relations: Knowledge Transfer and Sustainable Development

19 January 2020 – Coral Hotel, Khartoum

Conference Proceedings



Edited by Dr. Amal Madibbo

October 2020

Dedication

For the Martyrs of Sudan 2018/2019 Revolution
who sacrificed their lives for Sudan

&

Dr. Hafiza Alrufai who supported the workshop
wholeheartedly, shortly before she passed away



The flag of Sudan raised in Ottawa, Canada. January 2020

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Editorial Commentary

On the Canada-Sudan Relations: Knowledge Transfer and Sustainable Development Workshop

Dr. Amal Madibbo, Editor

University of Calgary &
Carleton University, Canada

The Canada-Sudan Relations workshop on Knowledge Transfer and Sustainable Development which was convened at the Coral Hotel Khartoum on January 19, 2020 was a sound achievement and constructive continuation of a lengthy engagement on the part of Sudanese and Canadians. The workshop developed a fruitful partnership between the organizers: the Embassy of Canada in Sudan and the Secretariat of Sudanese Working Abroad (SSWA) of the government of Sudan. It also articulated deserved attention to knowledge transfer through the contributions of those in the diaspora. In our globalizing world, migration has become a prominent phenomenon that significantly impacts states, societies and citizens alike. But immigration is only universally valued when it benefits the migrants themselves, their respective host societies and their sending countries. In this ideal, knowledge transfer is an asset that turns brain drain into a brain gain, providing unequivocal opportunities to enhance democratization, development, peace and prosperity. Luckily, many actors are deploying outstanding efforts to optimize knowledge transfer in the economic, socio-cultural and political arenas.



Dr. Amal Madibbo

When it comes to the Sudanese diaspora in Canada and the Canadian diaspora in Sudan, considerable initiatives have been implemented to give back to Sudan and Canada. Most notable efforts at fostering development have been from the efforts of the governments of Sudan and Canada, Sudanese immigrants in Canada, Canadians, and citizens of other nations, such as the Dutch. It must be said however that the characteristics, scope and impacts of these initiatives are largely unexplored. In addition, it could be useful to enhance collaboration of these efforts to maximize their advantages. Collaboration becomes crucial, especially at this historic juncture when Sudan is transitioning to democracy, and the diplomatic relations between Canada and Sudan are elevated even to a higher –ambassadorial– level.

The workshop investigated knowledge transfer activities, whether these are socio-cultural, economic, scientific, medical or diplomatic areas. It also focused on the successes that have been accomplished and posited the institutional and societal factors that facilitate these contributions. It then looked to the future, and what needs to be done to extend the benefits of knowledge transfer.

It is significant that the workshop brought together government officials, diplomats and academics, international organizations, and civil society including youth, women and student groups to deliberate on these issues. The speakers and the audience constituted a multicultural collective of Sudanese, Canadians, French, Dutch, Romanians and others. This diversity enabled constructive discussions and recommendations about merging needs in the pluralistic post-revolutionary Sudan. Together, participants were able to look at mechanisms to strengthen the transition to democracy and democratization. Canada, Sudan, the Netherlands and countries to which other participants belong made a point of appreciating the value of the contributions that immigrants make. The workshop opened the door for a greater planning and hopeful collective engagement, as we all strive together to secure a more promising future.

Several prominent participants addressed matters of democracy and equality. The perspectives of the Government of Sudan were communicated by His Excellency Mr. Tariq Abusalih, Canada's Ambassador to Sudan, His Highness Mr. Hassan Sheikh Idris, Member of the Sovereignty Council of Sudan, and Dr. Abdelrahman Seed Ahmed, the Interim General-Secretary for the Secretariat for Sudanese Working Abroad (SSWA). Ambassador Abusalih offered a competent history of the relations between Sudan and Canada from the 1880s to the present, highlighting historical, diplomatic, cultural and academic ties that expanded across the Atlantic to remind us that there are a great many more ties than we think. He also informed us of current milestones that pave the way for a radiant future. Mr. Idris added a poignant analysis of the relations between Canada and Sudan, stressing ups and downs in the relationship while affirming that the present momentum provides opportunity to establish a glorious era of diplomacy and knowledge transfer. He stated that it is highly likely that these outstanding goals will be achieved as Sudan continues to transition to democracy and Canada continues to exhibit a commitment to support Sudan. Dr. Seed Ahmed posited ways in which immigration impacts Sudan and illuminated strategies that the Government of Sudan adopts to deal with immigration. As the government unit that handles immigration issues, SSWA implements programs and initiatives to maximize the benefits of immigration and redress its shortcomings.

Echoing the Canadian perspectives, His Excellency Mr. Adrian Norflok, Canada's Ambassador to Sudan, stressed that Canada appreciates the assets that immigrants bring to the Canadian society and the willingness to support the contributions that Sudanese-Canadians enact to sustain development in Sudan.

Moreover, he highlighted similarities between Canada and Sudan that encourages cooperation and exchange. His Excellency Mr. Salah Bendaoud, Canada's former Chargé d'Affaires in Sudan, spoke about the important role that public diplomacy plays in building and maintaining connections and development channels. In addition, her Excellency Mrs. Jacqueline O'Neill, Canada's first Ambassador for Women, Peace and Security, emphasized the important role that Sudanese women played in the Sudanese revolution and in Sudan's transition to democracy. Emphasizing the desire to continue to support women and girls worldwide, Ambassador O'Neill also stressed that the empowerment of women and girls causes considerable benefits to society as a whole, and when this sector of society is strengthened, everyone capitalizes on women's resilience and empowerment, which has been especially enhanced in the current transition to democracy.

The representatives of the Dutch government were particularly enthusiastic about the diasporic connections that promote sustainable development, which was explored in the speech from His Excellency Mr. Sjoerd Smit, Chargé d'Affaires and Deputy Ambassador of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Sudan. He reminded us that, though many within EU countries view immigration as a challenge, in actual fact, it is a phenomena which is highly beneficial on many levels. He pointed out that immigrants boost the pluralism of host countries such as the Netherlands, and they also stimulate progress in their countries of origin. Highlighting success stories that involve Dutch citizens, Sudanese-Dutch, and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Sudan, he stressed that greater knowledge transfer will further cultivate peace and prosperity.

The audience was not disappointed when the academic speakers supported the assertions of the political representatives in a meaningful manner. As I underscored, both Canada and Sudan have provided a considerable institutional and infrastructural framework that facilitates a great deal of knowledge transfer between the two countries. Professor Barry Sanders pointed to the success of his contributions, stating that the training he offered in Sudan in the field of quantum physics is an integral part of his global scientific engagement with countries in Africa, Asia and Europe, among other places. I (Dr. Madibbo), synthesized the gains in the areas of the academic, socio-economic and health projects that Sudanese/Canadians implement. These gains are also supported by Dutch colleagues who partner with Sudanese/Canadians to support education and training in Sudan, which indicates that knowledge transfer is increasingly pluralistic and global.

For his part, Dr. Ammar Abdallah delineated the efforts of Sudanese universities that are engaged in knowledge transfer initiatives which are attained through diasporic connections. While Sudan's most resourced universities are in the regions surrounding the capital city of Khartoum, the University of Dongola (UD) where Dr. Abdallah works is an excellent example of a rural institution that draws together grass roots cooperation with the global to strengthen education initiatives.

UD has hosted academics from Canada, Europe, Asia, and others, and it plans to create additional exchanges. These perspectives were corroborated by professors and students who also spoke on the benefits of educational collaborations. Rania Naeem, a PhD student at the University of Khartoum, eloquently expressed appreciation for the aforementioned academic initiatives and suggested actions to be taken to make them even more viable to students in Sudan who are hoping to gain strong skills to help Sudan build in this new era.

The workshop captivated an engaged audience representing civil society which maintained intense interest and participants were able to put forth intriguing suggestions. Stating the important role that the Sudanese-Canadian Friendship Association (SCFA) plays in promoting public diplomacy, Misters Satti, Yusuf and Kamal ascertained that the SCFA has gone a long way towards advancing mutual understanding and cultural knowledge amongst Sudanese and Canadians.

The findings proved that the workshop was undeniably conducive and that politicians, practitioners, academics, youth and civil society will gain greater knowledge from the achievements that have been made in the field knowledge transfer. There is much inspiration we can draw from the hopes and dreams expressed by all as we work collectively to allow our countries and communities to thrive in the twenty-first century.



Towards New Avenues of Sudanese Canadian Relations

HE. Mr. Tariq Abusalih¹

Sudan Ambassador to Canada

Canada's first ever involvement in Sudan goes back to 1884, when 386 Canadian voyageurs led by Garnet Wolseley were recruited by the Governor General of Canada Marquess Lansdowne to help rescue General Charles Gordon, the Governor General of Sudan that time, who was besieged in Khartoum by the Mahdi revolutionists. This mission was not accomplished since Khartoum fell two days before the arrival of the boats carrying the Canadian voyageurs.

The increasing activities of Talisman Energy in oil exploration in Sudan was the main reason which motivated Canada to open a diplomatic mission in Sudan. It worth mentioning that Talisman which invested approximately 1 billion dollars, was a main factor in the oil boom in Sudan. This office was upgraded to an embassy in 2005. On January 13, 2020, during a meeting in Khartoum between Dr. Abdalla Hamdok, the Prime Minister and Dr. Rob Oliphant, the Parliamentary Secretary of the Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sudan and Canada reciprocally announced the upgrade of their diplomatic representation from the level of Chargé d'Affaires en pied to Ambassador level. The upgrading of diplomatic relations will allow the two countries to enhance communication and cooperation during the democratic transition in Sudan as Canada pledged to support the civilian-led transitional government bilaterally, and through the group of Friends of Sudan and in other international forums.



*HE. Ambassador Abusalih with the
RT. Hon. Justin Trudeau, Prime
Minister of Canada*

Since establishing the diplomatic representation between the two countries, Canada continues to support Sudan. An important landmark of Canadian cooperation with Sudan is Samsam Agriculture Project in Eastern Sudan which was inaugurated in the early eighties of the twentieth century. This important project helped developing and modernizing the mechanized agriculture in Sudan. In the past CIDA played a major role in providing humanitarian aid to the needy in Sudan. Recently the govern-

¹ Ambassadors Abusalih, Bendaoud, and O'Neil did not attend the workshop yet generously contributed important perspectives.

ment of Canada provided funds to Sudanese civil society organizations to promote human rights, gender equality, pluralism and diversity, including a number of projects in 2019 supporting women's inclusion in political processes such as peace negotiations. In 2017-20, through UNAMID, Canada supported projects on the rule of law, and children in armed conflicts.

The Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) and some Canadian archaeologists participated in the excavations to reveal the glorious history of Sudan, and they immensely contributed to enrich our heritage by major discoveries. One would commend the substantial role of the Canadian scholars in diffusing our cultural heritage to the world, and would like to name the doyen of nubiology Professor Peter Shinnie of University of Calgary, the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) Krzysztof Grzyski, and Adam Giambrone, the Canadian politician who is originally an archaeologist. Those three archaeologists played a tremendous role to introduce the early history of Sudan and its importance in the ancient world to Canadians and other people in the globe. Professor Krzysztof Grzyski developed the Nubian gallery of the Royal Ontario Museum, which was opened in 1992, and also organized an astonishing exhibition titled: "The Gold of Meroe" in 1994. Acknowledging the role played by Professor Peter Shinnie in his archaeological research at Meroe and his publications, he was awarded one of Sudan's highest distinctions in 2006, the Order of the Two Niles.

After the political change in Sudan in April 11, 2019, Sudanese Canadian relations witnessed important developments at all levels. Canada welcomed and backed all the steps taken by the Transitional Government in Sudan to open a new era by establishing the rule of law and paving the way for democracy.

Canada participated at an important meeting of the Friends of Sudan which was held in Khartoum last November, then it took part at a second one in Stockholm, Sweden last February. It also participated at the latest meeting of the Friends of Sudan on May 7, 2020 hosted by France and which was held by video conference due to the COVID-19 crisis.

A lot of Canadian companies showed great interest to invest in Sudan especially in mining and agriculture. Now, Orca Gold Inc, one of the pioneer Canadian mining companies is working on gold mining in Sudan, and they have good results so far. In agriculture, Agriculture Environmental Renewal Canada Inc. (AERC) signed an important partnership agreement with Moawia Elberier Group of companies in Sudan to introduce modern technologies in agriculture and produce improved seeds and forage for export. Also, Omrab Canada Inc. based in Ottawa was awarded a contract for implementation of SOBA Activated Sewage Treatment Plant in Khartoum with the capacity of 60,000 m³/day (Average), 90,000 m³/day (Peak).

A delegation headed by the Undersecretary of Mining in Sudan and composed of major Sudanese companies working in mining participated last March in Toronto

in PDAC 2020 which is the world's premier mineral exploration and mining convention. The delegation had fruitful meetings with the Canadian and international companies participated in that convention, and also had the chance to discuss investment opportunities in mining in Sudan with the Canadian Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade Mrs. Mary Ng.

To promote trade and investment between Sudan and Canada, the Sudan Canada Chamber of Commerce and Industry was created last January. This chamber which will be based in Toronto with some branches of major Canadian cities will play an important role to increase the trade volume with Canada and also promote Canadian investment in Sudan.

At the academic level, many Canadian universities and scientific institutions are interested to sign protocols with their Sudanese counterparts. During my visits to University of Ottawa, Carleton University, University of British Columbia and Western University of London, Ontario, and meetings with the rectors and other academics of these universities, I felt their enthusiasm to launch cooperation with Sudan.

Cultural diplomacy is an important tool to develop contacts among nations to foster mutual understanding, and today it is considered the dynamo of bilateral relations. It is my conviction that public diplomacy and soft power like art, archaeology, music, and sport are the most appropriate mechanisms that would boost relations among nations. Since culture had been set as a priority for us in the coming period, we planned a series of activities towards fulfilling that goal. Our cultural activity was culminated by a well-attended lecture titled: "Nubia, the Land of Hidden Treasures: An Overview of Nubian Antiquities in Sudan", delivered by Professor Krzysztof Gryzmski of the Royal Ontario Museum last January at Saint Paul University in Ottawa.

The outstanding relationship between Sudan and Canada counts at the first place on an active Sudanese community in Canada. There are approximately 50000 Sudanese-Canadians in the 4 winds of Canada, and they could highly contribute to develop their original country which is the land of opportunities.

The bilateral partnership between Sudan and Canada will continue to strengthen, and I believe that the current situation in Sudan avails an ideal atmosphere and offers an excellent backdrop to our collaboration. An important factor that would enhance this is that there are many similarities between Sudan and Canada in terms of abundance of natural resources, lands and water. Sudan can benefit a lot of the Canadian modern technology and know-how to exploit its rich resources.

Today, Sudan and Canada enjoy strong ties in all domains, but the level of cooperation is still below our aspirations and ambitions since we have all the potentials for a more robust cooperation. It is needless to say that we need to exert more efforts to boost the developing bilateral relations specialty at the academic,

cultural and economic levels, and I am confident that with our mutual interest and combined work the Sudanese – Canadian relations will witness a tremendous boom in the coming period.

I would like to conclude by reiterating that Sudan is warmly welcoming the visit of the Prime Minister of Canada H.E. the Right Honorable Justin Trudeau, after the global situation of the COVID-19 hopefully brought under control very soon. This visit will draw new horizons for the Sudanese Canadian relations and open broad avenues for cooperation between the two countries in all fields.



From left to write: Charles Lagat, Moi University, Kenya; Nicole Haggerty, Director of the African Institute, Western University; Tariq Abusalih, Sudan Ambassador to Canada; Jean Bosco Rusagara, University of Rwanda; and Abeba Mengistu, Addis Ababa University.

At the Africa-Western Collaboration Day 2019 in Western University, where Ambassador Abusalih discussed academic collaboration with Africa.

The Perspective of the Embassy of Canada in Sudan

HE. Mr. Adrian Norfolk

Canada's Ambassador to Sudan

Your Excellency Member of the Sovereignty Council Mr. Hassan Sheikh Idris, Acting Secretary of the Secretariat for Sudanese Working Abroad, Distinguished guests,

It is a great honour and pleasure to be addressing you at the beginning of this workshop on Sudan-Canada Relations: Knowledge Transfer and Sustainable Development. It is a priority for the Canadian Government, our Embassy here in Khartoum and myself personally to encourage and support the contributions that Sudanese-Canadians can make to their new home country of Canada and to their original home of Sudan.

At the outset I would like to thank Ms. Amal Madibbo who had the idea for this workshop, has worked hard to bring it to fruition and who herself is an excellent example of a Sudanese-Canadian contributing significantly to her two home countries.

I am particularly pleased that this workshop is being held just one week after the first high-level visit to Sudan by Government of Canada's for over a decade, and the announcement by our Minister of Foreign Affairs that Canada and Sudan are raising the level of their diplomatic relations to full Ambassadorial level. This is both a highly symbolic and practical step, signaling Canada's support for the transitional government, led by a civilian-majority Sovereignty Council and PM Hamdok's Executive Council, and the ongoing revolution towards a fully-democratic, economically sustainable and peaceful Sudan.

Following this high-level visit and announcement, the Canadian government is now planning for 2020 to see a meaningful increase in Canadian diplomatic, commercial, development and people-to-people partnerships – and I have no doubt that Sudanese-Canadians will play an important role.

Canada is a nation of many immigrants. Our indigenous population of First Nations, Inuit and Metis is around 5% of Canada's 37 million population, which is considerably outnumbered by our immigrant population. Over 20%, more than one in five, of Canada's population were born abroad. The number of immigrants is increasing by over 300,000 new arrivals every year - with well over 50% being



HE. Mr. Adrian Norfolk

Canada's Ambassador to Sudan

“economic class”, meaning the applicants had work skills needed in Canada. For example in 2017, the top five occupations of principal applicants were: information systems analysts and consultants; software engineers; computer programmers and interactive media developers; financial auditors and accountants; and administrative assistants. So it goes without saying that Canada depends on immigrants for its economic prosperity – and celebrates the multicultural and diverse society that results.

I am an immigrant myself – I emigrated to Canada from the UK when I was 18. The fact that I am now a Canadian Ambassador representing the Government of Canada is a small example of how welcoming to migrants Canada is. Much better examples are in PM Trudeau’s present Cabinet: the Minister of Defence – Harjit Sajjan born in India; Minister of Gender and Women’s Equality – Afghan Mariam Monsef born in Iran; Minister of Immigration – Somalian Ahmed Hussen; and Minister of Small Business and Exports – Mary Ng born in Hong Kong.

The majority of Sudanese-Canadians living in Canada fall into two broad categories: a relatively small group of those who came to Canada in the 1960s, 1970s and early 1980s, to go to university and pursue professional careers, and a much larger number who arrived in Canada from the mid-1980s onwards as refugees and family members, fleeing the deterioration of the political and security situation in Sudan under the Bashir regime. It has not been easy for many of the first generation of these more recent arrivals – but they have still contributed significantly to Canada, enriching Canada both economically and culturally. They are working in a wide variety of fields and starting businesses, while their children have succeeded at school and university and many have become professionals in their new home.

So the benefit to Canada is undeniable. What I am now particularly interested in supporting is the benefits these migrants to Canada can now bring or send back to Sudan as it now moves through the revolution:

- 1) Obviously transferring money back to Sudan is one way, either by a) remittances – even the poorest of Sudanese refugees and immigrants to Canada were and are sending back money to their relatives back in Sudan – finding ways around various sanctions limitations to transfer the funds ; and now: b) investment – professional Sudanese-Canadians looking to buy homes and/or invest in land and businesses back in Sudan,
- 2) Technical assistance – Sudanese Canadians themselves (e.g. Amal Madibbo) and facilitating/encouraging others. Academic exchanges, work placements and internships, paid consultancies through development programmes, etc., are all ways.
- 3) Trade in goods and services – Sudanese Canadians identifying areas where there are obvious complementarities between Canadian expertise and products and the Sudanese economy’s needs and priorities – the obvious ones being in agriculture, mining, oil and gas. Both countries are very large and very rich in natural resources, and our relatively small populations are able to benefit from the processing and

export of those resources. Canada has already developed a sophisticated system of resource management designed to maximize the managing situated in these areas.

In conclusion, I wish you all a successful workshop and I look forward to seeing the recommendations for how we can together increase the level of people-to-people cooperation between Canada and Sudan.



Sudanese Canadian Bilateral Relations: Developments and the Way Forward

HH. Mr. Hassan Sheikh Idris

Member of the Sovereignty Council of the Republic of Sudan



HH. Mr. Hassan Sheikh Idris

*Member of the Sovereignty Council
of the Republic of Sudan*

Though the first Embassy of Sudan in Canada was inaugurated in December 27, 1978, Sudan and Canada exchanged non-resident diplomatic representation a long time before, through their ambassadors respective in Washington and Cairo in 1961. Ambassador Ibrahim Muhammad Ali was the first accredited ambassador of Sudan to Canada, followed by Ambassador Francis Deng. The embassy was closed on June 3, along with other 23 Sudanese embassies around the world by a decision of the President of the Republic of the Sudan at that time, Jaafar Muhammad Nimeiri, due to the economic conditions. It was reopened in December 1985 in the aftermath of the April 1985 Popular Uprising in Sudan. Diplomatic representation between Canada and Sudan continued to fluctuate for various reasons, including Canada's foreign policy, which has historically been known for its concern for humanitarian aspects, its support for human and women's rights issues, and its focus on peace issues. However, after the arrival of the

Conservative Party of Canada to power in 2006, Canada's policy became more stringent in many international issues. Since the liberal government led by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was elected in 2015, fundamental changes took place, the most important of which was the openness to the world and dealing with stressing issues in the world today, so that Canada would return to the international arena after an absence of some time.

Canada views Sudan as a country of economic and strategic weight and a great future it is provided if political stability. Therefore, the official Canadian position continues to support achieving peace in Sudan through negotiations and political settlements. Following the formation of the newly re-elected Canadian Liberal government on November 20, 2019 and the appointment of Ambassador Francois Philippe as Minister of Foreign Affairs, a shift occurred in Canada's policy towards Africa. More attention towards the African continent crystallized, and this is evident from the tour that the Canadian Foreign Minister was planning to undertake in mid-January 2020 to three African countries (Sudan, Mozambique and Ethiopia). But due

to the repercussions of the Ukrainian plane accident, the Prime Minister asked Minister Francois Philippe to stay in Ottawa and sent on behalf of the Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Oliphant, who is considered the second person in the ministry.

Canada had previously imposed sanctions against Sudan that were as follows:

- 1) Cessation of development cooperation with Sudan,
- 2) Refraining from financing trade and investment, and
- 3) Commitment of the Canadian government to implement the sanctions imposed by the Security Council on Sudan.

Concurrently, the Canadian government set conditions for improving bilateral relations that can be summarized as follows:

- 1) Maintaining peaceful relations with South Sudan and the neighboring countries,
- 2) Ending to the war and violence in Darfur and the politics of impunity, and
- 3) Improving the general human rights situation throughout Sudan.

A new condition was added later calling on the Sudanese government to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid to the areas and regions in need.

As for economic relations between Canada and Sudan in the past, cooperation in many areas can be summarized as follows:

- 1) Agricultural research,
- 2) Sesame Agricultural Project 1960,
- 3) Darfur Water Project 1986,
- 4) Kordofan Forestry Project, and
- 5) The entry of Talisman Energy Company to invest in the field of oil and other companies that worked in the field of mining.

Otherwise, economic cooperation and trade exchange remained below ambition, and cooperation in other cultural, media and academic fields witnessed a significant decline, but the opportunity is still available.

Moving forward, cooperation between Canada and Sudan requires prioritising the following:

- 1) Inviting Canada's Foreign Minister to visit Sudan,
- 2) Holding the sixth session of the Consultation Committee between Sudan and Canada,
- 3) Returning the Canadian aid provided by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and convert it from emergency aid to a developmental contribution to reducing poverty, developing skills and promoting economic growth.
- 4) Establishing cooperation in the fields of training and exchange of experiences in the legal field and other domains, and
- 5) Strengthening relations between Sudan and the Canadian Forum of Federation and benefiting from their experiences in developing the experience of decentralized governance in Sudan.

The Perspective of the Secretary of the Sudanese Working Abroad (SSWA)
Dr. Abdel Rahman Sid Ahmed, Interim Secretary General

Immigration has been a prominent social phenomenon throughout human history. As a long-established tradition, it responded to people's aspirations worldwide, offering them a better life. It also contributed to the formation of societies and states alike. In our current era, immigration has also turned into a dilemma for the sending and receiving countries. This is due to its repercussions and various implications, especially on the economy and knowledge of these countries.

For the first time, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognized the migration's contributions to sustainable development. Eleven of the seventeen sustainable development goals of the 2030 Agenda contained objectives and indicators are related to immigration. The core principle of the Development Agenda is the need to "leave no one behind", including migrants.

Sudan is one of the countries that have paid attention to the phenomenon of global migration and started to enhance the positive sides of immigration and redress its negative aspects early. This is done by enacting legislation, developing policies and setting implementing sustainable mechanisms to organize immigration and support the Sudanese diasporas abroad. The Secretariat of the Sudanese Working Abroad (SSWA), which was established in 1979, pioneers these efforts. SSWA has identified goals and implemented initiatives to deal with immigration, which include:

- 1) Benefiting from the potential of the Sudanese in the diaspora and their intellectual and scientific experiences, and capitalize on them to foster sustainable development in Sudan.
- 2) Expanding the Sudanese culture and civilization globally by sponsoring the various activities of the Sudanese communities abroad.

Since its inception, SSWA has assumed leadership to observe and cope with developments in global migration, creating units that address some of the pros and cons of immigration, such as the Voluntary Return Support Fund and the Center for Migration Studies. Among other things, SSWA noted that majority of recent



*Dr. Abdel Rahman Sid Ahmed, Interim
Secretary General*

immigrants are highly qualified, which could be triggered by the intensity of the global economic crises that pushes people to leave their countries in search of better opportunities. This brain drain, or the migration of the knowledge capital, is strenuous for the sending countries because they lose skilled calibre. In the long term, the migration of the highly qualified reduces skills and knowledge and therefore hinders development in these countries. Therefore, the decision-makers had to address immigration from a strategic perspective to make it beneficial to the sending country as well.

This is what SSWA has done by creating a unit called SPaKTEN – the Sudanese Partnership for Transfer of Knowledge by Expatriates Nationals, whose goal is to bridge and narrow the effects of that loss through knowledge transfer programs. For more than 12 years, SPaKTEN did not cease to communicate with and support Sudanese experts abroad. SPaKTEN partners with governmental institutions and civil society organizations through forums and meetings to achieve these goals. In addition, SPaKTEN created a network that brings together Sudanese experts in the diaspora to coordinate and implement knowledge transfer initiatives.

Today's workshop, which is organized in partnership between SSWA and the Embassy of Canada in Sudan, is nothing but a model for these efforts and perspectives. We thank Canada's Ambassador to Sudan, HE. Mr. Adrian Norfolk, for his cooperation this workshop. His keenness boosts our shared goal to benefit from the skills and knowledge of the Sudanese Canadians in the years to come, especially as we look forward to a new and advanced Sudan to play its historical role in its regional surroundings and international arena.



The Perspective of a former Canada's Chargé d'affaires in Sudan

HE. Mr. Salah Bendaoud

Former Canada's Chargé d'Affaires in Sudan

As-salamu alaykum,

Greetings from the Embassy of Canada in Khartoum:

Canada's experience may offer some interesting ideas of how diaspora can make a contribution to the development of its new country as well as the country of origin and actively build bridges to advance development. We are a nation of immigrants, dating back to the time of the first explorers and traders from France and later Britain, who arrived only several hundred years ago. Most of you have probably heard of Canada's rugged terrain of mountains and rivers, and of course of our infamously cold and long winters, which in many places go as low as 30 degrees below zero for days at a time. These early settlers quite literally depended on the local Aboriginal population to teach them how to survive, and thrive, in this climate. The Europeans also brought with them their own sets of experiences, and their connection with Europe provided Canada with access to modern technology and markets for our exports.

Fast-forward to today. As of 2011, over 20% of Canadians were born in another country, much higher than any other G8 country. And many who had originally immigrated from places like China and India now have adult children and grand-children born in Canada. They are Canadians, and their culture, their ideas and their connections to foreign markets have also become Canadian. Immigration from Africa to Canada is currently growing more quickly than from any other region, and we welcome the energy and contribution these immigrants bring to what Canada is today and will become.

In the old days, many migrants to Canada were farmers and they settled in different areas of the country knowing little about their new environment. Today's migrants have different skills and bring a more global perspective to the places where they settle (often urban centres like Toronto) and the ways they contribute to their new country. For those who live in Canada or those who have witnessed the Canadian winter, they know how difficult it can be. But with extraordinary efforts and legendary patience, migrants have built a remarkable country equipped with



HE. Mr. Salah Bendaoud

Former Canada's Chargé d'Affaires in Sudan

modern infrastructure connecting communities from the Atlantic to the Pacific ocean, where everyone has a chance to succeed and to realise his or her potential. Sudan is also a nation that has welcomed migrants from many different regions over its long history, and is still doing so today. North Africans on their way to Hajj, West and East Africans and today thousands of Syrians. In the same way diversity has been strength for Canada, it is also strength for Sudan. As some Sudanese are themselves living abroad, the resulting diaspora can be another pathway to seeing how others do things in places like Dubai, New York, Pretoria, London, Beijing and of course, the Hague and Ottawa, to then bring that knowledge back to Sudan and adapt it to fit the strengths of Sudan's culture and history. If the city of Vancouver is known for its European architecture and its Asian culture, Khartoum is also a micro representation of the rich Sudanese diversity of people, languages and religions.

While relations between governments are governed by politics, and may have their ups and downs, relations between people are personal connections. And from what I have seen over the course of the last year I have spent in Sudan, personal relationships are something that Sudanese understand very well. These relationships are already contributing to the development of the country, and I believe will continue to do so in the future.

Public diplomacy has a role to play in reducing misunderstandings and promoting knowledge. The Embassy of Canada will continue to work with the Sudanese Friendship Association and other local organisations to promote relations between Canada and Sudan and between people in several domains. And we rely too on the Sudanese diaspora in Canada to engage in building bridges between Canada and their country of origin in different areas. We have also witnessed members of the Sudanese diaspora with rich experiences coming back temporarily to Sudan and sharing their knowledge and expertise. This type of initiative is in line with development objectives to equip people with the required skills, improving their chances to have a better job and a better life.

The Sudanese diaspora in Canada is active in many areas and has the potential to play a significant role in disseminating Canadian experiences that could be of assistance to Sudanese politicians, policy-makers and others. This experience could certainly include Canada's federal political system (at the national, provincial and municipal levels), the sharing of financial resources between regions based on need and population to ensure services are available to Canadians no matter where they live, our approach to multiculturalism as a cement to solidify social cohesion and how it translates in people's day-to-day lives, bilingualism as part of a national identity and projection of unity, and of course our religious diversity, which is protected to ensure Canadians of different faiths can feel comfortable calling Canada home.

Women at the Heart of Peace, Prosperity and Democracy in Sudan
Ambassador Jacqueline O'Neill²
Canada's first Ambassador for Women, Peace and Security

It was while sitting in traffic in Khartoum, with Drake's latest hit playing in the background, that the magnitude of Sudan's massive transformation hit me. In most cities, you wouldn't notice pop music on the radio. In Khartoum, it represents a revolution.

A year ago, radio in Sudan was state-controlled. Sudanese women could be flogged publicly for wearing trousers. The former regime has been accused of genocide against its own people in Darfur.

Today, because millions of courageous Sudanese took to the streets in a peaceful, historic revolution in 2018-19, the country has a new government, a renewed sense of pride and hope, and even Drake on the radio.

Getting here has not been easy.

For nine months, Sudanese people demonstrated daily, sometimes in 45-degree heat.

Well over half of the demonstrators were women. Many were youth.

They led resistance committees. They planned protest routes. And they never stopped fighting for democratic rights, even when women and men were beaten, raped, teargassed, and killed.

Yet the people of Sudan persisted.



² Jacqueline O'Neill was appointed Canada's first Ambassador for Women, Peace and Security in June 2019.

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Today, Omar Al Bashir is no longer president and may be handed to the ICC to face trial for war crimes and crimes against humanity. A transitional government is in place. Elections are planned for late 2022. And Sudan has an interim constitution. Still, many important steps remain, including improving women's inclusion at official decision-making tables.

According to research, when women are meaningfully included in peace negotiations, agreements are 35 percent more likely to last at least 15 years. This is in part because women tend to raise a broader set of issues, including many that were root causes of the conflict. Having diversified voices around decision-making tables helps to reduce transactional approaches and shorter-term thinking.

Research and experience in countries around the world shows that despite being heavily involved in organizing and demonstrating in revolutions, women are often excluded in formal processes established just after.

Knowing how essential their voices are on all issues facing the country, and how much more difficult it will be to fight for inclusion later, women demanded and secured a 40 % quota in the soon-to-be named interim parliament.

Many Sudanese women, already thankful for life-saving Canadian humanitarian support, have described meaningful roles that Canada can play to support them in their ongoing struggle for equality.

Canada is contributing by funding local women's movements and organizations and engaging with the Sudanese government about the value of inclusion.

Since my first visit to Khartoum in 2005, and in some two dozen visits since, Sudanese women have taught me about the value of listening to those closest to the effects of war about what is needed to make lasting peace.

Recalling always that much work remains in our own country, Canada is eager to keep working with women and girls everywhere, to make sure their rights are respected, their opinions valued, and their presence around decision-making tables required.

A more peaceful, prosperous and inclusive Sudan, and world, depend on it.

These women and men deserve to see their immense courage rewarded – it is in that regard that we need to keep supporting a peaceful, prosperous and meaningfully inclusive future in Sudan.

Migration as an Opportunity

HE. Mr. Sjoerd Smit

Chargé d’Affaires, Deputy Ambassador

Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Sudan



HE. Mr. Smit with graduates of the OCP

Throughout the history of Sudan, its people have been migrating. Some Sudanese went abroad, whilst new people were welcomed to settle in Sudan. There is no precise data on the Sudanese diaspora, but Sudan’s government estimates that about five million live abroad - from the Middle East to Europe, and from North America to Australia.

In the Netherlands, and other EU countries, migration is often perceived as a challenge and a threat. This is a negative and

one-sided perception that overlooks an important fact, namely that migration is an opportunity to create a lively, pluralistic society.

Migrants have skills, talents, ambitions and views that contribute to the new society they choose to live in. Many diasporas feel a strong commitment to the country where they live and work, but also to their country of origin. Their expertise, cultural affinity, and strong commitment can make them humanitarian actors in crisis situations, entrepreneurs in business, trade and innovation, as well as excellent agents for development.

The Netherlands stimulates the exchange of ideas and expertise between the Netherlands and Sudan through academic exchange programs, including ‘twinning’ programs between educational institutions in Sudan and in the Netherlands. Prominent alumni of Dutch universities are the Minister of Irrigation and Water Resources, H.E. Dr. Yasir Mohamed, and Sovereign Council Member, H.E. Dr. Saddiq Tawor, who studied in Delft and Leiden respectively. Lately, the focus on educational exchange and capacity building programs has broadened from purely academic institutions to technical schools and vocational training centers as it dawned upon academics that flourishing academic programs hinge on qualified technical cadre for its implementation.

The Sudanese diaspora in the Netherlands has received a boost in visibility and leadership in the course of the glorious December revolution that unfolded in Sudan in 2018/2019. In Sudan, the Dutch-Sudanese friendship association has always been a vital part of maintaining and strengthening the bilateral ties.

A telling example how the Netherlands contributes to exchange of ideas, knowledge and approaches is via the Orange Corners Program (OCP)(www.orangecorners.com.sd). With this program, our ambition is to develop and strengthen the entrepreneurship ecosystem in Sudan. This ecosystem should enable youth to develop their business concept and become successful entrepreneurs, by providing them with the necessary opportunities, skills and access to markets. Through Orange Corners we provide young entrepreneurs with a six months incubation program. At the same time, Orange Corners serves as a bridge between these innovative entrepreneurs and the private sector. The Netherlands strongly believes in a private sector led economic growth. Job creation is crucial to the economy in Sudan. In the absence of large Dutch companies that are permanently based in Sudan, we are proud to have some of the finest and reputable independent Sudanese private sector entities as our partners in the program. They provide the important role of mentorship to young Sudanese entrepreneurs who want to live their dream, and are generous financial contributors to the program as well.

During this transitional period the capacities of the new Sudanese government need to be strengthened. The Netherlands believes that to rebuild Sudan into a rights-based and civilian-led democracy, the Sudanese diaspora have a valuable role to play. The diaspora is key in helping stabilize a better Sudan. Why use foreign experts when there is a wealth of Sudanese knowledge available?



On Moving Forward: Sudan Science and Technology

Prof. Barry C. Sanders

University of Calgary, Canada



Prof. Sanders with faculty at UofK, Sudan

I had an enjoyable and unforgettable week in Khartoum and environs from 12 to 19 January 2020 during which I visited and gave talks at the University of Khartoum (Uof) twice once to Physics and the second to Electrical Engineering, Al-Neelain University (AU) and the University of Garden City. My planned visit to Sudan University of Science and Technology was unfortunately cancelled for exigent circumstances; instead faculty members met me over dinner, and we enjoyed great food and productive discussions about scientific projects that would make sense for Sudan.

On Sunday 19 January, I spoke at the Canada-Sudan Workshop on Knowledge Transfer and Sustainable Development. I explained who I am and what I do: my work is quantum computing, which is a futuristic area that deals with how marrying quantum physics with computer science and network security would upend basic tenets of computer science. Quantum computing has little overlap with current efforts to advance science and technology in the developing world, but both endeavours are my passions. I illustrated my developing world activities by highlighting some of my roles such as faculty positions in China and India, my partnership and role with the African Institute for Mathematical Sciences and my contributions to what has become the Maldives National University.

I discussed the enormous goodwill in the scientific community towards supporting science and technology development in Africa. As examples, the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics, jointly under the Italian Government, UNESCO, and the International Atomic Energy Agency, provides education and training opportunities in Africa, and the aforementioned African Institute for Mathematical Sciences has Masters-level training centres in several countries with scholarships offered to all Africans. Germany supports African researchers through DAAD and also through private entities such as the Volkswagen Foundation.

Canada has a Queen Elizabeth II Scholarship program, which supports one Sudanese doctoral student in my University of Calgary research group.

So many benefits can come to Sudan through international collaboration and training. Sudan would clearly benefit from increased scientific expertise in managing energy, environmental, health, communication, transportation and security. The path to these benefits rests on investing in quality education and training, excellent shared facilities, infrastructure for fast, reliable, secure information and communication technologies, and establishing local expertise.

I appreciate support from the Secretariat for the Sudanese Working Abroad and from the universities that hosted my visit. I am awed by the kindness, gentleness and generosity of all the Sudanese people I met and look forward to support Sudan on its path to increasing scientific and technical strength.



Prof. Sander teaching at AU, Sudan



Canada's and Sudan's Contributions to Knowledge Transfer

Dr. Amal Madibbo

University of Calgary & Carleton University, Canada

By now we have established that the present is a time of hope and possibility with respect to the relations between Sudan and Canada. Diplomatic relations between the two countries have been elevated, which promises to boost bilateral and multilateral cooperation, and I am thrilled to report that I was in Ottawa when Canada raised Sudan's flag to commemorate the first anniversary of the revolution.

With this in mind, I would like to explore the ways in which both the institutional and infrastructural resources that Canada and Sudan provide in the realm of knowledge transfer can facilitate this process, allowing us to draw on these opportunities to foster sustainable development. These ideas were the subject of a significant workshop on Canada-Sudan Relations held in January 2020 in Khartoum.

Scholarship on immigration has documented numerous venues to achieve knowledge transfer the most promising of which is one that connects two levels of transnationalism: 1) transnationalism from above and 2) transnationalism from below (Hugo, 2014). The former refers to cross-border activities which are conducted by global organizations, such as: the IOM, governments and their formal institutions such as the Secretariat of Sudanese Working Abroad (SSWA), the Canada Embassy, the Dutch Embassy, and universities such as the ones that were represented in the workshop. The latter corresponds with initiatives of the civil society including NGOs such as the Sudanese Canadian Friendship Society, and individual citizens such as Prof. Barry Sanders and the Sudanese among us who are dual citizens. Put simply, we, this group, represent what is considered the most efficient medium of knowledge transfer.

In the process, actors from both levels of transnationalism need to coalesce efforts to enable knowledge transfer. Ambassador Norfolk posited that Canada is making an important effort. He explained that Canada is a country of immigration that capitalizes on immigration to enhance its growth. Its official immigrant policy is termed "Multiculturalism", which is essentially a policy of integration which stresses the value and validity of diversity, whether it is cultural, ethnic or religious diversity. Diversity is also rooted in Canada's tradition of communitarianism which opens the door for new communities, such as the Sudanese diaspora in Canada, to succeed and prosper.

When it comes to Sudan, it does not have a policy on diversity per se, though one could observe that there is multiculturalism from below, or everyday multiculturalism from society at large. The discourse from conflict and cleavages within Sudan overshadows numerous positive aspects of everyday multiculturalism. While it is important not to deny these problems, we can also stress that there has largely been peaceful co-existence among diverse groups at the micro level of

society. For example, my neighborhood in Omdurman is a hub for many groups from Sudan and neighboring countries who embrace numerous religions and cultural beliefs, from the Nuba, to the Somalians or the Coptic Christians. At the macro level of the state, we have a solid vision and knowledge transfer programs that SSWA has pioneered, which many speakers have accentuated. In fact, this workshop was a perfect example of co-operation amongst diverse groups and influencers within Sudan.

The institutional and infrastructural resources that Canada and Sudan provide facilitates viable knowledge transfer. They result in rich human capital resources in terms of education, occupational status and social capital that are crucial to the success of knowledge transfer (Carruthers, 2013). Sudanese people in Canada are generally highly educated and many have achieved successful socio-economic integration. At the community level, there are a number of associations and organizations that are influential, such as the Calgary Canadian Sudanese Community Association and the Sudanese Community Association of Ontario. It is worth mentioning that Canadians figure quite highly in terms of skills development and educational attainment at the world level. These capabilities enable multifold knowledge transfer initiatives that Sudanese in Canada engage with through individual and collective enterprises and in cooperation with fellow Canadians.

Participants at the workshop highlighted successful outcomes in the realms of diplomacy, economy, education, agriculture, culture and heritage that are being enacted both in Canada and Sudan. A wide range of additional actions under in these areas has been the subject of my academic work over the years (Madibbo, 2015). In particular, I developed a productive partnership amongst Canadian, Sudanese and Dutch professors, the Government of Sudan (SSWA), Sudanese universities, civil society groups such as the Sudanese Canadian Friendship Association, to create an initiative we call “the Winter University”, which is volunteer-based teaching and training that we offer regularly at universities in Sudan. It is noteworthy that this year the initiative resulted in training that Prof Barry Sanders of the University of Calgary offered to seven universities, and Dr. Karin Willemse of Erasmus University Rotterdam offered in both Khartoum and Dongola.

In those and other similar occasions, both Canada’s and Sudan’s embassies provided much appreciated support and guidance. In short, the support that Canada and Sudan has offered represents a willingness on the part of the influencers of transnationalism from above. They facilitate knowledge transfer through resources and programs that are efficient and beneficial. Influencers at the level of transnationalism from below have responded enthusiastically and continue to use the resources to optimize the shared goal of sustainable development. This complementary collaboration makes knowledge transfer a phenomenon of positive social change that instills inclusive citizenship and cosmopolitanism in this age of global migration.

Thus, I would put forward that the relations between Canada and Sudan have passed the short-term phase, and we are currently in a mid-term stage heading towards a long-term era of sustainable development. Moving forward, it would be beneficial for Sudan to develop a knowledge transfer policy to bring together existing transnational initiatives in order to extend their benefits to larger societal and institutional levels. For example, the remittances that many Sudanese in Canada send to Sudan encompass budgets that should not only be devoted to individual family expenses and small entrepreneurship. Moreover if there were invested in large-scale national and international projects, there would be an incredible and sustainable boost to Sudan's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Similarly, current academic initiatives deserve to be expanded into specialized university programs in Sudanese Studies in Canadian universities, and Canadian studies in Sudanese universities. A creation of a Canadian university in Sudan is long over due and would contribute knowledge, exchange, skills and training. A knowledge transfer policy would be efficient if it was associated with immigration policy. Since Sudan doesn't have an independent immigration policy per se, it would be timely to draw on existing programs and guidelines, such as the some that SWAA has achieved, to develop an encompassing immigration policy to further organize knowledge transfer and assist in building additional partnerships among Sudanese, global institutions and societies at large.

The future is promising because we have the knowledge, resources and commitment that will take us to new horizons.

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Contributions of the Sudanese Academic Diaspora to Higher Education in Sudan: The Case of the University of Dongola

Dr. Ammar MS Abdalla

Director of Foreign Relation & International Cooperation
University of Dongola, Sudan

The University of Dongola as a Global Hub

The University of Dongola (UD), founded in 1993, is one of the largest universities in Sudan. It offers graduate and undergraduate education, and has seven campuses in locations across the Northern State (NS).



Dr. Ammar MS Abdalla, University of Dongola, Sudan

that “International relations and cooperation are the cornerstone of UD’s the future vision, which is aimed at advancing the institution globally through investing in academic expertise and existing frameworks and available knowledge. We also seek to benefit from local, regional and global resources to place the University of Dongola in a strong position in the world” (University of Dongola Booklet, 2016, 1).

UD employs some 420 teaching and administrative staff. 15 thousand students are currently enrolled at UD, and over 9 thousand already graduated. In addition to Sudanese students, UD welcomes international students from numerous countries, including Somalia, Palestine, Djibouti, Nigeria, Niger, Jordan, Egypt and Ethiopia. These efforts culminated in the established of *the Administration of Foreign Relation and International Cooperation* (AFRIC) to strengthen

internationalization so as to inform local staff and students about global programs that support scientific research and projects, and optimize dialogue and exchanges between UD and international institutions and partners. In this global environment, international students and staff benefit from the cultural diversity of both the university and Northern State (NS). They also gain valuable knowledge in quality programs that UD offers in its 18 faculties and 6 institutes and research centers.

The main campus is in Dongola, which is the capital city of NS. UD supports sustainable development in NS and Sudan more generally, popularizing tourism in NS by promoting its rich history and historical attractions, which date back to the ancient civilizations of Kush and Marawi. Dongola city is growing day by day due to its strategic geographical location, historical and touristic attractions, transportation facilities and commercial growth. This richness and ambition for prosperity derive UD’s vision, mission and future directions.

Internationalization is at the heart of UD’s ambitions, which is stipulated in UD’s strategic planning clearly UD states

that “International relations and cooperation are the cornerstone of UD’s the future vision, which is aimed at advancing the institution globally through investing in academic expertise and existing frameworks and available knowledge. We also seek to benefit from local, regional and global resources to place the University of Dongola in a strong position in the world” (University of Dongola Booklet, 2016, 1).



Students & Staff from Vienna University at UD



Dr. Karin Willemse of Erasmus University Rotterdam lecturing at UD
 ves that the Sudanese in the diaspora implement at and in cooperation with UD.

We are proud that our planning has resulted in fruitful international collaboration which brought to UD students and staff from diverse countries and numerous academic events. Among other things, in 2016 UD hosted members of the Department of Near Eastern Studies at Vienna University, offering them educational programs and cultural and historical tours near Dongola city and other sites in NS, such as Aldufofa, Karma and Alkar.

These milestones are fostered by valuable initiatives that the Sudanese in the diaspora implement at and in cooperation with UD.

The Sudanese Academic Diaspora and its Capacity Building Initiatives at UD



Dr. Madibbo with staff & students at UD
 refugee and immigration studies, and graduate supervision at UD's main campus in Dongola in December 2018. In that event, over thirty graduate students and new professors in various faculties benefited from the training. While the training was AWB's first involvement in Sudan, it wasn't Dr. Madibbo's first engagement with UD as she offered another training at UD in early 2018, signaling a fruitful rapport with UD. In fact, Dr. Madibbo's collaboration with UD and Dutch academics resulted in the creation of the "Winter University", which is a volunteer-based teaching and training provided in universities in Sudan. Dr. Madibbo's aforementioned training is part of this initiative, and it extends to similar activities that Dutch professors in Dutch universities implement in Sudan. These include a series of training that were delivered at UD to students, faculty and administrators.

The Sudanese Diaspora is a key contributor to internationalization at UD. Why? Because many Sudanese living abroad maintain strong ties with their home country. Many of them are highly educated and skilled and assume their responsibility in enhancing sustainable development in Sudan. While many achievements come to mind, in this context we highlight the contributions that Dr. Amal Madibbo, an associate professor at the University of Calgary in Canada, has accomplished to enhance scholarship and research capacity among emerging scholars in Sudan, in this occurrence at UD. With the support of Academics Without Borders (AWB), Dr. Madibbo offered a training series in research methodology,

Conclusion

It is evident that the Sudanese diaspora has made positive academic contributions to their home country that pave the way for sustainable development. Therefore, we are looking forward to building additional cooperation with the Sudanese diaspora, the Secretariat of the Sudanese Working Abroad which facilitates the diaspora's initiatives in Sudan, other government departments, NGOs and embassies to extend our internationalization strategies. We trust that this type of knowledge transfer will result in new partnerships and projects to boost higher education and research institutions that we aim to foster in the new Sudan.

In the Words of Students and Emerging Scholars

Mrs. Rania Naeem

Phd Student & lecturer

Faculty of Engineering

University of Khartoum (UK), Sudan

No words can express my feelings in that Monday morning last January (2020), when I found an email from Prof. Barry Sanders telling me that he was in Khartoum for a week and he would give a lecture at my university (UK) the same day. I headed directly to the university to attend in lecture that brought back memories of another informative and very interesting event. I first met Prof. Sanders in September 2014 in Morocco at a workshop held by the ICTP. A 5-hour lecture in Quantum Information Theory with Prof. Sanders was unforgettable. His style of teaching was enjoyable and full of enthusiasm.

Later, I contacted him via email. For five years, he did not cease to answer my questions about Quantum Physics and Quantum Computing promptly and he generously provide me with the necessary educational material. Even though I hoped to meet Prof. Sanders at a subsequent academic event in the future, it has never crossed my mind that I would meet him in my homeland, Sudan.

To expose my students to different experiences and introduce them to emerging



Mrs. Naeem at ICTP with Prof. Sanders & students, Morocco



Mrs. Naeem with Prof Sanders at the UK, Sudan

fields that are not available in Sudan, I always encourage them to apply for internships and summer programs outside Sudan. I inform them about opportunities that I learn about and assist them further by writing recommendation letters. Therefore, when I learned that Prof. Sanders is right here in Sudan, I did not want to miss the opportunity of organizing a lecture by him in my department. When the lecture's ad was posted on twitter, I realized that some of our new graduates who are interested in Quantum Computing already knew Prof. Sanders.

As is always the case, Prof. Sander's lecture was extremely informative and enjoyable.

In the course of two hours, we went on an intriguing journey that explored the beauty of Quantum Computing and introduced us to the state of the art in the field. The audience consisted of graduate and undergraduate students, professors

and staff from the University of Khartoum and other universities, as well as industrial sectors. They were completely impressed by Prof. Sanders' knowledge and enthusiasm, and some attendees were even luckier to engage in discussion with Prof. Sanders about possibilities to strengthen higher education in the field of Quantum Computing. Prof. Sanders generously shared his own experiences with them and offered them valuable advice. For me and my students, that was a truly exceptional and fruitful day.

The excitement of that week continued to the day of the workshop "Canada-Sudan Relations: Knowledge Transfer and Sustainable Development" (January 17, 2020). I, my students and colleagues in the Faculty of Engineering at UK enjoyed the various presentations and speeches that highlighted numerous initiatives that Sudanese Canadian experts and fellow Canadians implement in Sudan. It was the first time for me, and I would say for many, if not all, of my students and colleagues to learn that the diaspora carries out such useful projects that range from workshops to training and from lectures to investments. It was also beneficial to find out that the government supports such activities. The perspectives that were discussed in the sessions were useful and constructive.

Following on Prof. Sanders' lectures and the workshop, it would be useful to build a network in physics and related fields, such as engineering, to bring together experts and emerging scholars in Sudan and Canada to strategize and implement targeted initiatives. An ad-hoc committee could identify priorities for Sudan. It will also be beneficial to enhance research collaboration, scholarly events, visits and exchanges. It will be important to develop follow up mechanism to ensure proper application and progress. Together, we can optimize the use of science for societal wellbeing in order to foster sustainable development in Sudan.



The Contributions of Friendship Associations to sustainable development:

The Sudanese Canadian Friendship Association (SCFA)

Drs. Osman A Satti & Hisham Yusuf A/Rahman & Mr. Mohamed A Kamal (SCFA)



The Sudanese Canadian Friendship Association (SCFA), a community-based organization, aims to strengthen ties with the Canadian people. This has been the central objective, since SCFA's establishment in 1996.

Formally, SCFA is operating under the auspices of the Sudan's Council for International People's Friendship (CIPF), which is a governmental body intended to promote people-to-people diplomacy and elevate understanding among the Sudanese people about the citizens of other countries. To realize its objectives, SCFA takes every opportunity to introduce Canada and the Canadian culture and heritage. Likewise, SCFA seeks to introduce Sudanese culture and heritage to the Canadian people through Sudanese communities Canada.

The Sudanese Canadian Friendship Association (SCFA) participates in all activities organized by the SCIPF, such as the annual People's Friendship Carnival organized at Khartoum.



SCFA President with Staff of the Canadian Embassy in Khartoum at the Booth of SCFA 2018 Annual Friendship Carnival



HE Ambassador S. Bendaoud with SCFA at the 2017 Friendship Carnival Parade

As example, in 2018 carnival, the Association participated with other friendship associations and representatives from 86 countries.



It is interesting to note the mutual gesture of a Sudanese raising the Canadian flag and a Canadian raising the Sudanese flag, reciprocating the joy and the spirit of friendship between the people of the two countries.



A Sudanese raising the Canadian flag and a Canadian raising the Sudanese flag at the Friendship Carnival Parade

In the endeavor to raise the understanding and promote mutual interest, with respect to cultural, economic, and educational connections between the two countries, it is noteworthy to point to some areas of similarity between Sudan and Canada. As noted by the Sudanese writer and journalist Bashir Mohamed Said in his book “Sudan Cross Road to Africa”, Sudan is Africa in miniature. Almost all people of Africa can be found represented in Sudan as Sudanese. Canada, in parallel, is the world in one country. It means the people in both countries are open to other cultures and able to accept differences and assimilate to new experiences. Sudan is by large an agricultural country, and so is Canada. If one can think of the multi-crops in the vast plains of Algazira in Sudan, one can also think of the prairies of Saskatchewan in Canada. Even the geology bears similarity between the two countries. In the Sudan there is the Nubian Shield, whereas in Canada there is the Canadian Shield, and both the Nubian and Canadian shields hold the treasures of economic and strategic minerals. Also both countries are endowed with oil resources, although there are differences of size and measures. So, there is enough footing of similarities to stand on for strengthening the ties between the peoples of the two countries and take it up to new horizon.



HE. Ambassador Dominique Rossetti in Lecture about Canadian Diversity & Citizenship (Organized by SCFA on 26 May 2013)

It is the aspiration of the SCFA to strengthen the bonds of friendship with the people of Canada and expand prospects of mutual benefit. Areas that benefit the bilateral relations, as seen by SCFA, include education, where there can be cooperation between universities at both countries to promote research, graduate studies, and create exchange programs.



One of the good examples is the initiative the University of Calgary in support with an organization known as “Academics without Borders”, to which both Sudan Embassy in Canada and the SCFA are partners. This initiative could still be taken further. Canadian universities may think of having branches in Sudan or strike investment partnership with some Sudanese universities, private or governmental.

SCFA celebrates Canada Day with the Ex Ambassador - H.E. Salah Ben Daoud

Other areas of mutual benefits include economic cooperation, particularly in agriculture and livestock. Furthermore, Canadian companies can invest in mining and oil industry where in exchange Sudan benefits from the transfer of knowledge. It is hoped that there will be cooperation in professional development training, particularly in areas of management of multiculturalism and the relationship between the Federal and the Provincial Government.

Promotion of people-to-people diplomacy by friendship organizations, such as SCFA, acts as a catalyst for political cooperation between governments. SCFA, through its external affairs secretary, provided facts about Sudan, which resulted in the visit to Sudan by Prime Minister Paul Martin in November 2004. Also, SCFA helped in the preparation for the unofficial visit by Honorable MP Borys Wrzesnewskyj to the Canadian soldiers at the Peace Keeping Mission in Darfur in September 2005. It is soothing to note that Sudan and Canada have elevated their diplomatic representation to Ambassadorial level in January 12, 2020. It is the hope of SCFA that this upgrade will result in the realization of mutual interest for both countries and strengthening the friendship bonds between the peoples of Sudan and Canada.