Memorandum of Understanding between the Governing Board of Solidarity with South Sudan, and the Catholic Bishops of South Sudan

Preamble
At the invitation of the Sudan Catholic Bishops' Regional Conference, the Union of International Superiors General (UISG) and the Union of Superiors General (USG) in Rome, Italy, sent a delegation of religious to visit the dioceses of Southern Sudan in 2006. The delegates reported back to the Superiors General on the needs of the Church in the region with a view to proposing a cooperative project of support and solidarity. A General Assembly of adherent Religious Institutes was established and the project Solidarity with South Sudan was initiated.

The General Assembly as legal owner of the Solidarity with South Sudan project collaborates with the local Church under the leadership of the Sudan Catholic Bishops' Conference (SCBC) to create sustainable programmes and institutes for the promotion of human capacity development that will be passed to local leadership. The Governing Board established by the General Assembly is responsible for the establishment of the legal structures required by the project, which encompasses: a centre for the training of nurses and health workers, centres for the training of school teachers; formation for pastoral services and programmes for developing agricultural skills.

Religious Congregations continue to support the project by donating money, material or provision of personnel. The mutual expectations of Solidarity with South Sudan on the one hand and the bishops of South Sudan on the other are set out in the agreement below which was updated and renewed during 2016.

Agreement

Whereas: the Catholic Bishops of South Sudan and the Governing Board of Solidarity with South Sudan, renew their agreement to the cooperative project to promote integral human development in the dioceses of the Church in South Sudan that was initiated in 2008,

and whereas: the Catholic Bishops of South Sudan and the Governing Board of Solidarity with South Sudan, are agreed that the project should encompass the dimensions of:

- Education: an institution for the training of teachers comprising linked networks of diocesan centres, centres for formation in agricultural skills
- Health: an institution for the training of nurses and health workers,
- Pastoral care, formation of pastoral agents organised in collaboration with the SCBC and the local churches.

It is therefore agreed with respect to ownership and responsibilities:

1. that the Governing Board of Solidarity with South Sudan continues to accept responsibility for the project for a further ten (10) years beginning January 2017 with a review every three (3) years of the progress that is being made towards achieving the programmes and institutes sustainability under local leadership, at which time, with the agreement of both parties, the ultimate responsibility for the projects components would pass to the SCBC,
2. that though the legal ownership is under the General Assembly of Solidarity with South Sudan, the project inspired by Jesus’ love for humanity is in partnership with the SOUTH SUDAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS, local dioceses and the people of South Sudan which through human capacity building aims to promote and enhance the post war reconciliation required for the welfare of the people of South Sudan,

3. that all premises, infrastructure and equipment remain the property of the Sudan Catholic Bishops’ Conference or the local diocese,

4. that Solidarity with South Sudan will continue to be responsible for securing the funding costs for any construction that may be required on the sites while this MOU is in effect.

It is agreed with respect to Governance:

5. that the SOUTH SUDAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS shall name a representative from among the bishops conference to sit on the Governing Board of Solidarity with South Sudan as a voting member and assist in decision making processes,

6. that plans for additions, alterations, or alienation of any part of the premises, infrastructure or equipment of either the Solidarity Teacher Training College (STTC) or of the Catholic Health Training Institution (CHTI) must have the agreement of both the SOUTH SUDAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS and the Governing Board of the project,

7. that the Governing Board of Solidarity with South Sudan has the responsibility for reviewing and approving the budgets and the financial reports of the project which come under its legal ownership

8. that the transfer of personnel within the project is the responsibility of Solidarity with South Sudan with due notification to the local ordinary.

9. that the Secretariat of the Sudan Catholic Bishops will speak for the project in all contacts with the Government of South Sudan and its Ministries including, but not limited to agreements, official documentation, permits, and visa applications for expatriate staff.

It is agreed with respect to Goals and expectations:

10. that to facilitate coordination of the project, official contact between the South Sudan Catholic Bishops and Solidarity with South Sudan will be through the Executive Director and not directly through individual religious institutes,

11. that any requests or submissions to Solidarity with South Sudan for expansion beyond the scope of the existing project will be referred to the offices of the local diocese or the SOUTH SUDAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS.

12. that the Bishops are open to the Governing Board initiating conversations with congregations and institutes that might be in a position to assume long term responsibility for elements of the project. *(Agreed in August 2015 in the meeting of the Bishops of South Sudan, which was attended by representatives of the Governing Board of Solidarity with South Sudan)*
While Solidarity with South Sudan would facilitate these agreements any final decisions about such agreements or contracts, outlining rights and responsibilities with respect to usage of the facilities, would be between the South Sudan Catholic Bishops and the respective organisation.

13. that the SOUTH SUDAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS and involved Dioceses in partnership with Solidarity with South Sudan will in all good faith, seek and use their own resources of funding for the continued operation, management and running of the project once the responsibility for the project has passed to local control.

14. that the SOUTH SUDAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS will provide assistance to the project through identifying qualified personnel to staff, manage and administer the project in the future,

15. that Solidarity with South Sudan will make provision in its strategic planning for the training of people in the local Church; preparing them to work in the areas of education, health and pastoral care identifying those with the capacity for taking leadership roles in the project’s institutions,

16. that the pastoral care component will be sensitive to the needs for post war reconciliation, ethnic conflict resolution and other spiritual training of local church personnel under the guidelines of the SOUTH SUDAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS and local Bishops,

Any changes affecting this Memorandum of Understanding which might arise as a result of ecclesiastical re-organisation, or civil strife, or political contingencies will be accommodated by decisions of the Governing Board of Solidarity with South Sudan in consultation with the SOUTH SUDAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS.

Signed for South Sudan Catholic Bishops

Signed for Solidarity

18/6/2016

Date

Witness 1

Witness 2

Solidarity with South Sudan
c/o Sudan Catholic Bishops Conference
South Sudan Secretariat
P.O. Box 144 Juba South Sudan
ss@juba@gmail.com