



# INDEPENDENT DIPLOMAT

THE DIPLOMATIC ADVISORY GROUP

## Communiqué: December 2010

Independent Diplomat has two stories to tell you as the end of the year approaches. In both Sudan and the climate change talks, our team is producing real results to help otherwise marginalised groups and governments play a full part in the international decisions about their futures. In Sudan, our work with the Government of Southern Sudan is building diplomatic momentum for international recognition of the outcomes of the referendums on self-determination early next year. And in the just-ended climate change negotiations in Cancún, ID's Dean Bialek was in the back room with the delegation of the Marshall Islands and only twelve other countries to help break the key political impasses and ink the final – and very welcome – deal. He tells the story of the Cancún climate agreements in today's *Guardian*, 'How Trust Was Restored at Cancún', below. And lastly, please consider increasing your support of ID – whether through making a donation, signing up for our Facebook page or making your friends and colleagues aware of our work.

### Spotlight on Sudan

As the referendums on self-determination for Southern Sudan and Abyei approach in January, ID's work to advise the [Government of Southern Sudan \(GoSS\)](#) has intensified dramatically. We have worked hard to ensure that the views of Southern Sudanese are heard at all major international gatherings. ID helped ensure that GoSS was invited to a meeting on Sudan attended by President Obama and other world leaders in September, and to a subsequent meeting in November of the UN Security Council, attended by foreign ministers like William Hague and Hillary Clinton, as well as UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. As the pace of diplomacy has accelerated, we have provided continual advice to GoSS on the fast-moving international situation. This is an extremely challenging project, thanks to the non-stop diplomacy taking place on Sudan and the continued risk of instability within the country.

### How Trust Was Restored At Cancún, *The Guardian*

*ID's Dean Bialek was a key negotiator at the climate talks in Cancún this month, as a member of the Marshall Islands delegation. In today's Guardian, he gives us a glimpse inside the negotiations. Here is an excerpt:*

“Cancún can!!” chanted the climate change activists in the lobby at the Moon Palace resort, where the world's much-maligned climate negotiators gathered over the last two weeks to try to fix the mess created by last year's last-minute, last-ditch Copenhagen Accord.

Many thought that the Copenhagen Accord, with its loose, pledge-and review provisions and insufficient emissions reduction targets, meant the end of the international climate change regime – and multilateralism – as we knew it. But the world's governments have now responded, and we might be on the road to something much better.

[Read the full article at The Guardian.](#)

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