

Country/entity	Sudan
Region	Africa (excl MENA)
Agreement name	Declaration of Principles between the Transitional Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement - North
Date	28 Mar 2021
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes

Agreement/conflict level Intrastate/intrastate conflict

Sudan Conflicts (1955 -)

Agreements relate to several distinct dyads, and also the negotiated independence of South Sudan, and subsequent internal conflict in South Sudan. Sudan-South Sudan. The long-standing conflict between the north and the south of the country dates back to colonial times, where the British introduced a so-called 'Southern Policy', severely hampering population movements between these big regions. Immediately after gaining independence in 1956, southern movements started to fight for independence; this fight became professionalised in 1983 with the foundation of the soon internationally supported Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). When the Islamic Front government introduced strict sharia laws in the south after it took over power in 1988 the war intensified. A decade later, the military situation reached a stalemate, enabling internationally facilitated peace negotiations to begin in 1997. After more fighting, a final negotiation push began in 2002, leading to the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in January 2005.

Sudan-South Sudan post referendum. South Sudan became independent in July 2011; since then, relations between the two countries are complicated and violent conflict led by the SPLM (North) in the Sudanese Nuba mountains region has since intensified.

Darfur. Other long-standing violent conflicts are in the east and the west of the country. In the east, the Beja Congress, established in 1957, is the spearhead of a currently 'peaceful' opposition movement. In the west, the violent conflict in Darfur intensified in the early 2000s and rapidly gained international attention, even resulting in genocide charges against leading figures of the Sudanese government. The situation on the ground is complex, with over a dozen organisations (most notably the Sudanese Liberation Movement and the Justice and Equality Movement) fighting the Sudanese government and allied groups like the Janjaweed – although all parties have switched sides on numerous occasions. Several mediation attempts have not been successful, due to the shaky commitment of the Sudanese central government and the distrust among the armed opposition.

South Sudan - internal

In December 2013, after president Salva Kiir accused opposition leader Riek Machar of attempting a coup, violent conflict broke out between government forces of the SPLM/A and anti-governmental groups. In addition, several other political militias as well as communal militias have joined the conflict. In 2015 the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (ARCSS) was signed. Due to unsuccessful implementation the agreement was revitalized in 2018. In September 2019, Kiir and Machar agreed to establish a power-sharing government after struggles on forming a unity transitional government.

Close

Sudan Conflicts (1955 -)

Stage Framework/substantive - partial

Conflict nature Government

Peace process	Sudan Transition Process
Parties	<p>Signatories:</p> <p>Gen. Abdulfatah El-Burhan Abdulrahman, Chairman of the Transitional Sovereign Council, Republic of Sudan</p> <p>CDR. Abdalaziz Adam Al-Hilu, Chairman, Sudan People's Liberation Movement / Army - North, SPLM/A-N</p>
Third parties	<p>Witnesses:</p> <p>Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit, President of the Republic of South Sudan</p> <p>Gov. David M. Beasley, Executive Director, World Food Programme</p>
Description	An Agreement between the new transitional government of Sudan and the SPLM/A-N (SPLM-N in text), affirming a commitment to the past agreements (undertaken by previous government), and to secure a ceasefire within the frame of the transition. The Agreement sets out key principles agreed between the parties and brings is a key group that was not a signatory of the Juba Agreement into negotiations.

Agreement document [SD_210328_Declaration of Principles.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

Groups

Children/youth	<p>Groups→Children/youth→Rhetorical</p> <p>Page 3:</p> <p>2-6: Human, women and children rights that are enshrined in international covenants and covenants which are ratified shall be incorporated in the peace agreement.</p>
Disabled persons	No specific mention.
Elderly/age	No specific mention.
Migrant workers	No specific mention.

**Racial/ethnic/
national group**

Groups→Racial/ethnic/national group→Rhetorical

Page 2:

2-1: Sudan is racially, ethnically, religiously and culturally a diverse state; therefore, this diversity must be fully recognized and managed, and the question of national identity be addressed.

Page 2-3:

2-3: The establishment of a civil, democratic, federal State in Sudan, wherein, the freedom of religion, the freedom of belief and religious practices and worship shall be guaranteed to all Sudanese people by separating the identities of culture, region, ethnicity and religion from the State. No religion shall be imposed on anyone and the State shall not adopt any official religion. The State shall be impartial in terms of religious matters and matters of faith and conscience. The State shall guarantee and protect the freedom of religion and practices. These principles shall be enshrined in the constitution.

Religious groups

Groups→Religious groups→Rhetorical

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Indigenous people No specific mention.

Other groups No specific mention.

Refugees/displaced persons No specific mention.

Social class No specific mention.

Gender

Women, girls and gender	Page 3: 2-6: Human, women and children rights that are enshrined in international covenants and covenants which are ratified shall be incorporated in the peace agreement.
Men and boys	No specific mention.
LGBTI	No specific mention.
Family	No specific mention.

State definition

Nature of state (general)	<p>Page 2: The two parties agree that the following principles form the basis for resolving the conflict in Sudan:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The two parties agree to work together to achieve and consolidate the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Sudan. <p>Page 2-3: 2 Any comprehensive solution to the Sudanese problem requires all parties to recognize and affirm the following:</p> <p>(A) The history and nature of the conflict in the Sudan confirm that a military solution cannot lead to lasting peace and stability in the country;</p> <p>(B) A peaceful and just political solution to the conflict in the Sudan must be a common goal of the parties to the negotiation;</p> <p>2-1: Sudan is racially, ethnically, religiously and culturally a diverse state; therefore, this diversity must be fully recognized and managed, and the question of national identity be addressed.</p> <p>2-2: Emphasize the right of the peoples of the regions of Sudan to manage their affairs through decentralization or federalism.</p> <p>2-3: The establishment of a civil, democratic, federal State in Sudan, wherein, the freedom of religion, the freedom of belief and religious practices and worship shall be guaranteed to all Sudanese people by separating the identities of culture, region, ethnicity and religion from the State. No religion shall be imposed on anyone and the State shall not adopt any official religion. The State shall be impartial in terms of religious matters and matters of faith and conscience. The State shall guarantee and protect the freedom of religion and practices. These principles shall be enshrined in the constitution.</p>
State configuration	No specific mention.

Self determination No specific mention.

Referendum No specific mention.

State symbols No specific mention.

**Independence/
secession** No specific mention.

**Accession/
unification** No specific mention.

Border delimitation No specific mention.

**Cross-border
provision** No specific mention.

Governance

Political institutions (new or reformed) No specific mention.

Elections No specific mention.

Electoral commission No specific mention.

Political parties reform No specific mention.

Civil society No specific mention.

Traditional/religious leaders No specific mention.

Public administration No specific mention.

Constitution Governance→Constitution→Constitutional reform/making
Page 2-3:
2-3: The establishment of a civil, democratic, federal State in Sudan, wherein, the freedom of religion, the freedom of belief and religious practices and worship shall be guaranteed to all Sudanese people by separating the identities of culture, region, ethnicity and religion from the State. No religion shall be imposed on anyone and the State shall not adopt any official religion. The State shall be impartial in terms of religious matters and matters of faith and conscience. The State shall guarantee and protect the freedom of religion and practices. These principles shall be enshrined in the constitution.

Page 3:
5: What is agreed upon between the two parties will be considered in the process of developing the constitutional charter to become a permanent constitution at the end of the transitional period.

Power sharing

Political power sharing No specific mention.

Territorial power sharing Power sharing→Territorial power sharing→Federal or similar sub-divided government
Page 2:
2 Any comprehensive solution to the Sudanese problem requires all parties to recognize and affirm the following:
...
2-2: Emphasize the right of the peoples of the regions of Sudan to manage their affairs through decentralization or federalism.

Economic power sharing Power sharing→Economic power sharing→Other
Page 3:
2-5: Achieving justice in the distribution of power and wealth among all the peoples of the Sudanese regions to combat marginalization developmentally, culturally, taking into account the affirmative action of the war regions;

Military power sharing Power sharing→Military power sharing→Merger of forces
Page 3:
3: Sudan shall have a single professional national army that operates according to a new unified military doctrine that is committed to protecting national security in accordance with the constitution; security and military institutions shall reflect Sudanese diversity and their allegiance shall be to the country and not to any other political parties or groups. The process of integration and unification of forces shall be gradual and completed by the end of the transitional period and after resolution of the relationship between religion and state by the constitution as referred to in Paragraph 2-3 herein.
Power sharing→Military power sharing→Proportionality
Page 3:
3: Sudan shall have a single professional national army that operates according to a new unified military doctrine that is committed to protecting national security in accordance with the constitution; security and military institutions shall reflect Sudanese diversity and their allegiance shall be to the country and not to any other political parties or groups. The process of integration and unification of forces shall be gradual and completed by the end of the transitional period and after resolution of the relationship between religion and state by the constitution as referred to in Paragraph 2-3 herein.

Human rights and equality

Human rights/RoL general Page 3:
2-4 Personal status laws are based on religion, custom and traditional beliefs in a way that does not conflict with basic rights;
...
2-6: Human, women and children rights that are enshrined in international covenants and covenants which are ratified shall be incorporated in the peace agreement.

Bill of rights/similar No specific mention.

Treaty incorporation Page 3:
2-6: Human, women and children rights that are enshrined in international covenants and covenants which are ratified shall be incorporated in the peace agreement.
2-7: Emphasize that the government of Sudan has taken the necessary measures to accede to international and African human rights charters and covenants that have not been ratified by the Republic of Sudan.

Civil and political rights No specific mention.

Socio-economic rights No specific mention.

Rights related issues

Citizenship No specific mention.

Democracy Page 2-3:
2-3: The establishment of a civil, democratic, federal State in Sudan, wherein, the freedom of religion, the freedom of belief and religious practices and worship shall be guaranteed to all Sudanese people by separating the identities of culture, region, ethnicity and religion from the State. No religion shall be imposed on anyone and the State shall not adopt any official religion. The State shall be impartial in terms of religious matters and matters of faith and conscience. The State shall guarantee and protect the freedom of religion and practices. These principles shall be enshrined in the constitution.

Detention procedures No specific mention.

Media and communication No specific mention.

Mobility/access No specific mention.

Protection measures No specific mention.

Other No specific mention.

Rights institutions

NHRI No specific mention.

Regional or international human rights institutions Rights institutions→Regional or international human rights institutions→Other
Page 3:
2-6: Human, women and children rights that are enshrined in international covenants and covenants which are ratified shall be incorporated in the peace agreement.
2-7: Emphasize that the government of Sudan has taken the necessary measures to accede to international and African human rights charters and covenants that have not been ratified by the Republic of Sudan.

Justice sector reform

Criminal justice and emergency law No specific mention.

State of emergency provisions No specific mention.

Judiciary and courts No specific mention.

Prisons and detention No specific mention.

Traditional Laws Page 3:
2-4 Personal status laws are based on religion, custom and traditional beliefs in a way that does not conflict with basic rights;

Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Socio-economic development
Page 3:
2-5: Achieving justice in the distribution of power and wealth among all the peoples of the Sudanese regions to combat marginalization developmentally, culturally, taking into account the affirmative action of the war regions;

National economic plan No specific mention.

Natural resources No specific mention.

International funds No specific mention.

Business No specific mention.

Taxation No specific mention.

Banks No specific mention.

Land, property and environment

Land reform/rights No specific mention.

**Pastoralist/
nomadism rights** No specific mention.

Cultural heritage Land, property and environment→Cultural heritage→Other
Page 2:
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2-3: The establishment of a civil, democratic, federal State in Sudan, wherein, the freedom of religion, the freedom of belief and religious practices and worship shall be guaranteed to all Sudanese people by separating the identities of culture, region, ethnicity and religion from the State. No religion shall be imposed on anyone and the State shall not adopt any official religion. The State shall be impartial in terms of religious matters and matters of faith and conscience. The State shall guarantee and protect the freedom of religion and practices. These principles shall be enshrined in the constitution.

Environment No specific mention.

**Water or riparian
rights or access** No specific mention.

Security sector

**Security
Guarantees** No specific mention.

Ceasefire Security sector→Ceasefire→General commitments
Page 3,
6: The two parties will agree to a permanent ceasefire once the security arrangements are agreed upon as part of the comprehensive settlement of the conflict in Sudan.

Police No specific mention.

Armed forces	Page 3, 3: Sudan shall have a single professional national army that operates according to a new unified military doctrine that is committed to protecting national security in accordance with the constitution; security and military institutions shall reflect Sudanese diversity and their allegiance shall be to the country and not to any other political parties or groups. The process of integration and unification of forces shall be gradual and completed by the end of the transitional period and after resolution of the relationship between religion and state by the constitution as referred to in Paragraph 2-3 herein.
DDR	No specific mention.
Intelligence services	No specific mention.
Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces	Page 3, 3: Sudan shall have a single professional national army that operates according to a new unified military doctrine that is committed to protecting national security in accordance with the constitution; security and military institutions shall reflect Sudanese diversity and their allegiance shall be to the country and not to any other political parties or groups. The process of integration and unification of forces shall be gradual and completed by the end of the transitional period and after resolution of the relationship between religion and state by the constitution as referred to in Paragraph 2-3 herein.
Withdrawal of foreign forces	No specific mention.
Corruption	No specific mention.
Crime/organised crime	No specific mention.
Drugs	No specific mention.
Terrorism	No specific mention.

Transitional justice

Transitional justice general	No specific mention.
Amnesty/pardon	No specific mention.
Courts	No specific mention.
Mechanism	No specific mention.

Prisoner release	No specific mention.
Vetting	No specific mention.
Victims	No specific mention.
Missing persons	No specific mention.
Reparations	No specific mention.
Reconciliation	No specific mention.

Implementation

UN signatory Gov. David M. Beasley, Executive Director, World Food Programme

Other international signatory Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit, President of the Republic of South Sudan

Referendum for agreement No specific mention.

International mission/force/similar No specific mention.

Enforcement mechanism No specific mention.

Related cases No specific mention.

Source Made publicly available at <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/3/28/sudan-and-main-rebel-group-sign-agreement-to-restart-peace-talks> (accessed on 10/5/2021).
