

Country/entity	South Sudan Sudan Southern Kordofan - Blue Nile - Abyei
Region	Africa (excl MENA)
Agreement name	Agok Declaration
Date	2 Jun 2003
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes
Agreement/conflict level	Intrastate/local conflict
Stage	Framework/substantive - partial
Conflict nature	Inter-group
Peace process	South Sudan: Pre-secession Local Peace Processes
Parties	<p>Agreement not signed due to nature, but the declaration notes the following:</p> <p>Page 1, Preamble:</p> <p>...</p> <p>The contribution of the local people of Abyei was central to the success of the Conference, which brought together over 700 participants in a democratic and popular forum that addressed fundamental issues facing the area and the country.</p> <p>Page 4,</p> <p>...</p> <p>We, the Ngok of Abyei, resoundingly endorse these resolutions and call upon our friends everywhere to exercise their good will and actively promote efforts towards a just and lasting peace in Sudan.</p> <p>This communique was presented to the full plenary on the closing day of the Ngok of Abyei People's Conference where it was unanimously endorsed and popularly adopted at 8:30 in the evening on June 7th, 2003, after 6 days of deliberation.</p>

Third parties	<p>Sudan Peace Fund of the United States Government</p> <p>Official Italian Observer to the IGAD Peace Forum</p>
Description	<p>The Agok Declaration was a set of resolutions adopted by the Ngok Dinka people of Abyei County, Bahr el Ghazal Region, Southern Sudan during a conference held from June 2 to June 7, 2003. The conference was sponsored by the Sudan Peace Fund of the United States Government and attended by over 700 participants. The resolutions adopted by the conference addressed issues facing the Abyei area and the country as a whole. The declaration asserted that the Ngok Dinka are part of Southern Sudan and demanded the immediate restoration of their land and people to Bahr el Ghazal. It also fully mandated the SPLM/A as the legitimate representative of their cause and called for a just and lasting peace in Sudan. The declaration also welcomed efforts to facilitate the process of repatriation and return of their displaced people and expressed concern over aggression and violations of human rights committed against them.</p>

Agreement document	SS_SD_030602_Agok Declaration.pdf (opens in new tab) Download PDF
---------------------------	---

Groups

Children/youth	No specific mention.
Disabled persons	No specific mention.
Elderly/age	No specific mention.
Migrant workers	No specific mention.
Racial/ethnic/national group	<p>Groups→Racial/ethnic/national group→Rhetorical Page 2, II. On the Peace Process:</p> <p>...</p> <p>G. Affirm that we are a peace loving people, who have historically welcomed our neighbours to have seasonal access to water and grazing lands on the soil of Abyei, and give specific assurance to the Missiriya that this existing understanding will prevail even when Abyei is restored to Bahr el Ghazal.</p> <p>Groups→Racial/ethnic/national group→Anti-discrimination Page 2, II. On the Peace Process:</p> <p>A. The Ngok Dinka of Abyei assert that we are part and parcel of Southern Sudan, and demand the immediate restoration of the land and people to Bahr el Ghazal in accordance with the historic ceremony of reunification that was conducted by the spiritual leaders of Bahr el Ghazal during the course of the Conference.</p>
Religious groups	No specific mention.

Indigenous people No specific mention.

Other groups No specific mention.

Refugees/displaced persons Groups→Refugees/displaced persons→Rhetorical
Page 2-3, III. On Repatriation and Return:
A. Welcome all genuine efforts to facilitate the process of repatriation and return of our displaced people, and commit to actively supporting those processes as they progress further.
B. Express concern over our lack of involvement to date in these noble efforts, and over the continued exposure of our people to insecurity and restrictions on their free movement in the process of repatriation and return by the GOS.
C. Call for consultation and active participation in the process of repatriation and return through representative bodies chosen by the Ngok people of Abyei.
D. Express outrage at the sub-human conditions under which our displaced people in the North are living as refugees in their own country, and demand recognition of their full citizenship and dignity irrespective of where they happen to reside.
E. Call upon the SPLM/A, the GOS and the International Community to develop a normative agreement framing the peaceful return of our displaced people, including necessary elements of monitoring and evaluation.
F. Call upon the international community to guarantee free movement, adequate protection and security for the repatriation and return of our people in the face of aggression by the Sudan Defense Forces and the militias they sponsor.
G. Call upon the Operation Lifeline Sudan and the wider international humanitarian community to provide much needed services to ensure the successful repatriation and return of our people.
H. Request support in reinforcing our local capacities to receive and reintegrate our people upon their return.

Social class No specific mention.

Gender

Women, girls and gender Page 3, IV. On Good Governance,
...
E. Recognise the need for the full emancipation of women at all levels of decision making and commit to their further empowerment within our system of local governance.

Men and boys No specific mention.

LGBTI No specific mention.

Family No specific mention.

State definition

Nature of state (general) No specific mention.

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**

Page 2, II. On the Peace Process:

...

E. Call upon our representatives to appreciate the esteemed position of our traditional and spiritual leaders, and to seek their guidance in all matters of our representation.

Page 3, III. Repatriation and Return:

...

C. Call for consultation and active participation in the process of repatriation and return through representative bodies chosen by the Ngok people of Abyei.

Page 4, V. On Unity amongst Ngok and Relations with Neighbors,

...

B. Uphold the need to stand together in a common identity and cultural heritage, and to respect the wise traditional leadership of our people.

**Public
administration**

Page 3, IV. On Good Governance,

...

F. State the need for the local administration to improve security, police, judiciary, and revenue management in our area.

Constitution

No specific mention.

Power sharing

**Political power
sharing**

No specific mention.

**Territorial power
sharing**

No specific mention.

**Economic power
sharing**

No specific mention.

**Military power
sharing**

No specific mention.

Human rights and equality

Human rights/RoL general No specific mention.

Bill of rights/similar No specific mention.

Treaty incorporation No specific mention.

Civil and political rights No specific mention.

Socio-economic rights No specific mention.

Rights related issues

Citizenship	<p>Rights related issues→Citizenship→Citizen, general</p> <p>Page 3, III. On Repatriation and Return:</p> <p>...</p> <p>D. Express outrage at the sub-human conditions under which our displaced people in the North are living as refugees in their own country, and demand recognition of their full citizenship and dignity irrespective of where they happen to reside.</p>
Democracy	No specific mention.
Detention procedures	No specific mention.
Media and communication	No specific mention.
Mobility/access	<p>Page 2, II. On the Peace Process:</p> <p>...</p> <p>G. Affirm that we are a peace loving people, who have historically welcomed our neighbours to have seasonal access to water and grazing lands on the soil of Abyei, and give specific assurance to the Missiriya that this existing understanding will prevail even when Abyei is restored to Bahr el Ghazal.</p> <p>Page 2, III. On Repatriation and Return:</p> <p>...</p> <p>B. Express concern over our lack of involvement to date in these noble efforts, and over the continued exposure of our people to insecurity and restrictions on their free movement in the process of repatriation and return by the GOS.</p>
Protection measures	No specific mention.
Other	No specific mention.

Rights institutions

NHRI	No specific mention.
Regional or international human rights institutions	No specific mention.

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 No specific mention.

Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Socio-economic development
Page 4, V. On Unity amongst Ngok and Relations with Neighbors,
...
E. Commit to building our local capacities, knowledge and skills for self-reliance and selfsufficiency as a means of development as a process of self-enhancement from within.

Page 4, On the Way Forward:

We the Ngok of Abyei, in furthering these resolutions propose that:

1. A fund managed by representatives of the people should be created to support peacebuilding and development in the area that can be supported by all peoples of good will.

2. The specific donors and organizers of this conference should support follow-up activities to this historic event, specifically through provision of water, health and educational services to the people of the area.

Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Humanitarian assistance

Page 3, III. On Repatriation and Return:

...

G. Call upon the Operation Lifeline Sudan and the wider international humanitarian community to provide much needed services to ensure the successful repatriation and return of our people.

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** Page 2, II. On the Peace Process:
...
G. Affirm that we are a peace loving people, who have historically welcomed our
neighbours to have seasonal access to water and grazing lands on the soil of Abyei, and
give specific assurance to the Missiriya that this existing understanding will prevail even
when Abyei is restored to Bahr el Ghazal.

Cultural heritage

Land, property and environment→Cultural heritage→Tangible

Page 2, II. On the Peace Process:

...

C. Assert that we will continue to defend our land, identity and cultural values, which link us unequivocally to our African kith and kin in the Southern Sudan.

Land, property and environment→Cultural heritage→Intangible

Page 2, II. On the Peace Process:

A. The Ngok Dinka of Abyei assert that we are part and parcel of Southern Sudan, and demand the immediate restoration of the land and people to Bahr el Ghazal in accordance with the historic ceremony of reunification that was conducted by the spiritual leaders of Bahr el Ghazal during the course of the Conference.

...

C. Assert that we will continue to defend our land, identity and cultural values, which link us unequivocally to our African kith and kin in the Southern Sudan.

Page 3, V. On Unity amongst Ngok and Relations with Neighbors,

A. The Ngok of Abyei affirm that our strong culture, which has made us to survive throughout history, is a deep reservoir and resource from which to draw in confronting all of the challenges facing our land and people.

Land, property and environment→Cultural heritage→Promotion

Page 2, II. On the Peace Process:

...

F. Affirm that the Sudan draws from a rich history and cultural diversities that must be recognized and respected as a fundamental step in the resolution of the national conflict.

Page 3, On Good Governance:

...

B. Suggest that a unique system of governance can be developed which builds upon and reinforces our cultural values and identity, and which can also inspire others around Africa and the world who seek solutions that build on their cultural heritage.

C. Appreciate the existing incorporation of traditional structures in the local administration of the area, and propose that they be further integrated as the administration continues evolve.

Page 4, V. On Unity amongst Ngok and Relations with Neighbors,

...

B. Uphold the need to stand together in a common identity and cultural heritage, and to respect the wise traditional leadership of our people.

...

D. Propose the revival of age-sets and the promotion of other positive cultural practices to further cement the unity of our people.

Environment

No specific mention.

Water or riparian rights or access	<p>Page 2, II. On the Peace Process:</p> <p>...</p> <p>G. Affirm that we are a peace loving people, who have historically welcomed our neighbours to have seasonal access to water and grazing lands on the soil of Abyei, and give specific assurance to the Missiriya that this existing understanding will prevail even when Abyei is restored to Bahr el Ghazal.</p>
---	--

Security sector

Security Guarantees	No specific mention.
Ceasefire	No specific mention.
Police	No specific mention.
Armed forces	No specific mention.
DDR	No specific mention.
Intelligence services	No specific mention.
Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces	<p>Page 2, II. On the Peace Process:</p> <p>...</p> <p>B. Fully mandate the SPLM/A as the legitimate representative of our just cause in all national, regional, and international fora and to negotiate on our behalf with the government of the day in Khartoum.</p>
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 Page 3, IV. On Good Governance,
...
G. Call upon the SPLM/A to establish cooperatives for the rehabilitation of the wounded heroes, widows and orphans of the liberation struggle.

Missing persons No specific mention.

Reparations No specific mention.

Reconciliation No specific mention.

Implementation

UN signatory No specific mention.

Other international signatory Agreement not signed due to nature, but the declaration notes the following:

Page 1, I. Preamble:
...was sponsored by the Sudan Peace Fund of the United States Government, which is implemented through a consortium of international and indigenous non-governmental organizations.
...
...including the official Italian observer to the IGAD peace forum...

Referendum for agreement No specific mention.

International mission/force/similar No specific mention.

Enforcement mechanism	No specific mention.
Related cases	No specific mention.
Source	Rift Valley Institute (2003) 'Agok Declaration - Resolutions of the Ngok of Abyei People's Conference', 2 June, Sudan Open Archive. Available at: https://www.sudanarchive.net/
