Country/entity	Sudan
Region	Africa (excl MENA)
Agreement name	Jeddah Declaration of Commitment to Protect the Civilians of Sudan
Date	11 May 2023
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 Areement (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/territory

Peace process	Sudan Transition Process
Parties	Sudanese Armed Forces, Rear Admiral, Mahjoub Bushra Ahmed Rahma Rapid Support Forces, Brigadier General, Omer Hamdan Ahmed Hammad
Third parties	United States, Saudi Arabia
Description	The "Jeddah Declaration of Commitment to Protect the Civilians of Sudan," signed on May 11, 2023, by representatives of the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), outlines a series of commitments primarily centered on the protection of civilians and the facilitation of humanitarian aid amid ongoing conflict. The commitments include respecting international humanitarian and human rights law, ensuring the protection and well-being of civilians, preventing incidental harm, and facilitating the unimpeded passage of humanitarian relief. Furthermore, the declaration emphasizes the necessity of discussions towards a short-term ceasefire and a subsequent permanent cessation of hostilities.

Agreement document	SD_230511_Jeddah Declaration of Commitment to Protect the Civilians of Sudan.pdf (opens in new tab) | Download PDF
Source of document	https://www.state.gov/jeddah-declaration-of-commitment-to-protect-the-civilians-of-sudan/

Groups

Children/youth	Groups→Children/youth→Substantive **Commitments** ... Refrain from the recruitment of children and the use of children in hostilities.
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 **Commitments** 1. We agree that the interests and well-being of the Sudanese people are our top priority and affirm our commitment to ensure that civilians are protected at all times.
Religious groups	No specific mention.
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	**Commitments** ... Refrain from any form of torture or other cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment, including sexual violence of all kinds.
Men and boys	No specific mention.
LGBTI	No specific mention.
Family	No specific mention.

State definition

Nature of state (general)	**Preamble** ... We affirm our unwavering commitment to the sovereignty of Sudan and to maintaining its unity and territorial integrity.
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

Preamble

...

We, the undersigned, representing the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), with this Declaration of Commitment, reaffirm our core obligations under International Humanitarian Law to facilitate humanitarian action to meet the needs of civilians.

...

Commitments

...

Ensure that checkpoints are not used to infringe upon the principle of the freedom of movement for civilians and humanitarian actors.

...

Take all possible measures to collect and evacuate the wounded and sick, including combatants, without discrimination, and allow humanitarian organizations to do so;

...

Treat all persons deprived of their liberty in a humane manner and provide principal humanitarian organizations with regular access to persons in detention.

...

We agree on the need to allow principal humanitarian operations to resume and to protect humanitarian personnel and assets, including to:

...

Allow and facilitate the rapid and unimpeded passage of humanitarian relief, including medical and surgical equipment, and ensure relief personnel the freedom of movement required for their functions.

...

Facilitating the safe, rapid and unimpeded passage of humanitarian personnel through all available routes (and any established humanitarian corridors) as needs require, into and within the country, including the movement of humanitarian convoys.
Adopting simple and expedited procedures for all logistical and administrative arrangements necessary for humanitarian relief operations.

...

Refraining from interference with principal humanitarian operations and never accompany side by side humanitarian personnel carrying out humanitarian activities, in conformity with the Amended Directives and Procedures for Humanitarian Action in Sudan.
Protect and respect humanitarian workers, assets, supplies, offices, warehouses, and other facilities.
Armed actors must not interfere in the actions of humanitarian operations.
While respecting the principle of the neutrality of humanitarian actors, armed actors must guarantee the security of corridors for transport and areas for storage and distribution.

...

4. We commit to exert all efforts to ensure that these commitments—and all obligations of International Humanitarian Law—are fully disseminated within our ranks and appoint focal points to engage with humanitarian actors to facilitate their activities.
5. We will enable responsible humanitarian actors, such as the Sudanese Red Crescent and/or the International Committee of the Red Cross to collect, register, and bury the deceased in coordination with competent authorities.

...

7. In furtherance of the principles and commitments contained herein, we commit to prioritizing discussions to achieve a short-term ceasefire to facilitate the delivery of emergency humanitarian assistance and restoration of essential services, and we commit to scheduling subsequent expanded discussions to achieve a permanent cessation of hostilities.

Traditional/ religious leaders	No specific mention.
Public administration	No specific mention.
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	**Commitments** ... Respect the fundamental humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality, and operational independence. ... Refraining from interference with principal humanitarian operations and never accompany side by side humanitarian personnel carrying out humanitarian activities, in conformity with the Amended Directives and Procedures for Humanitarian Action in Sudan. ... While respecting the principle of the neutrality of humanitarian actors, armed actors must guarantee the security of corridors for transport and areas for storage and distribution.
Bill of rights/similar	No specific mention.
Treaty incorporation	No specific mention.

Civil and political rights	Human rights and equality→Civil and political rights→Torture **Commitments** ... Refrain from any form of torture or other cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment, including sexual violence of all kinds. Human rights and equality→Civil and political rights→Humane treatment in detention **Commitments** ... Treat all persons deprived of their liberty in a humane manner and provide principal humanitarian organizations with regular access to persons in detention. Human rights and equality→Civil and political rights→Freedom of movement **Commitments** ... Ensure that checkpoints are not used to infringe upon the principle of the freedom of movement for civilians and humanitarian actors. ... Uphold and not hamper the right of civilians to pass and travel via roads and bridges, inside and outside the State of Khartoum. ... Allow and facilitate the rapid and unimpeded passage of humanitarian relief, including medical and surgical equipment, and ensure relief personnel the freedom of movement required for their functions.
Socio-economic rights	No specific mention.

Rights related issues

Citizenship	No specific mention.
Democracy	No specific mention.
Detention procedures	**Commitments** ... Refrain from engaging in forced disappearances and arbitrary detention of civilians. ... It is prohibited to attack, harass, intimidate or arbitrarily detain personnel, or to attack, destroy, misappropriate or loot relief supplies, installations, material, units or vehicles.
Media and communication	No specific mention.

Mobility/access

Commitments

...

This includes allowing safe passage for civilians to leave areas of active hostilities on a voluntary basis, in the direction they choose.

...

Allow all civilians to voluntarily and safely leave areas of hostilities and any besieged areas.

...

Treat all persons deprived of their liberty in a humane manner and provide principal humanitarian organizations with regular access to persons in detention.

...

We agree on the need to allow principal humanitarian operations to resume and to protect humanitarian personnel and assets, including to:

...

Facilitating the safe, rapid and unimpeded passage of humanitarian personnel through all available routes (and any established humanitarian corridors) as needs require, into and within the country, including the movement of humanitarian convoys.

...

While respecting the principle of the neutrality of humanitarian actors, armed actors must guarantee the security of corridors for transport and areas for storage and distribution.

Protection measures

Rights related issues→Protection measures→Protection of civilians

Commitments

1. We agree that the interests and well-being of the Sudanese people are our top priority and affirm our commitment to ensure that civilians are protected at all times.
This includes allowing safe passage for civilians to leave areas of active hostilities on a voluntary basis, in the direction they choose.

...

Distinguish at all times between civilians and combatants and between civilian objects and military targets.
Refrain from any attack that may be expected to cause incidental civilian harm that would be excessive in relation to the concrete and direct military advantage anticipated.
Take all feasible precautions to avoid and minimize civilian harm, with an aim to vacate urban centers, including civilian houses.
Civilians should not be used as human shields, for example.

...

Allow all civilians to voluntarily and safely leave areas of hostilities and any besieged areas.
Commit to safeguard the needs and necessities indispensable to the survival of the civilian population, which can include foodstuffs, agricultural areas, crops, and livestock.

Rights related issues→Protection measures→Protection of groups

Commitments

...

Commit to respect and protect medical personnel and public installations.

...

Protect and respect humanitarian workers, assets, supplies, offices, warehouses, and other facilities.

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→Humanitarian assistance

Preamble

...

We, the undersigned, representing the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), with this Declaration of Commitment, reaffirm our core obligations under International Humanitarian Law to facilitate humanitarian action to meet the needs of civilians.

...

Commitments

...

Take all possible measures to collect and evacuate the wounded and sick, including combatants, without discrimination, and allow humanitarian organizations to do so;

...

Treat all persons deprived of their liberty in a humane manner and provide principal humanitarian organizations with regular access to persons in detention.

3. We recognize that humanitarian activities solely aim to alleviate human suffering and protect the lives and dignity of persons who are not or are no longer fighting.

We agree on the need to allow principal humanitarian operations to resume and to protect humanitarian personnel and assets, including to:

...

Allow and facilitate the rapid and unimpeded passage of humanitarian relief, including medical and surgical equipment, and ensure relief personnel the freedom of movement required for their functions.

...

Facilitating the safe, rapid and unimpeded passage of humanitarian personnel through all available routes (and any established humanitarian corridors) as needs require, into and within the country, including the movement of humanitarian convoys.

Adopting simple and expedited procedures for all logistical and administrative arrangements necessary for humanitarian relief operations.

Observing the implementation of regular humanitarian pauses and days of tranquility as needed.

Refraining from interference with principal humanitarian operations and never accompany side by side humanitarian personnel carrying out humanitarian activities, in conformity with the Amended Directives and Procedures for Humanitarian Action in Sudan.

Protect and respect humanitarian workers, assets, supplies, offices, warehouses, and other facilities.

Armed actors must not interfere in the actions of humanitarian operations.

While respecting the principle of the neutrality of humanitarian actors, armed actors must guarantee the security of corridors for transport and areas for storage and distribution.

...

4. We commit to exert all efforts to ensure that these commitments—and all obligations of International Humanitarian Law—are fully disseminated within our ranks and appoint focal points to engage with humanitarian actors to facilitate their activities.

5. We will enable responsible humanitarian actors, such as the Sudanese Red Crescent and/or the International Committee of the Red Cross to collect, register, and bury the deceased in coordination with competent authorities.

...

7. In furtherance of the principles and commitments contained herein, we commit to prioritizing discussions to achieve a short-term ceasefire to facilitate the delivery of emergency humanitarian assistance and restoration of essential services, and we commit to scheduling subsequent expanded discussions to achieve a permanent cessation of hostilities.

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

Security sector

Security Guarantees	**Commitments** ... While respecting the principle of the neutrality of humanitarian actors, armed actors must guarantee the security of corridors for transport and areas for storage and distribution.
Ceasefire	Security sector→Ceasefire→General commitments **Commitments** ... 7. In furtherance of the principles and commitments contained herein, we commit to prioritizing discussions to achieve a short-term ceasefire to facilitate the delivery of emergency humanitarian assistance and restoration of essential services, and we commit to scheduling subsequent expanded discussions to achieve a permanent cessation of hostilities.

Police	No specific mention.

Armed forces

Preamble

...

We, the undersigned, representing the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), with this Declaration of Commitment, reaffirm our core obligations under International Humanitarian Law to facilitate humanitarian action to meet the needs of civilians.

We affirm our unwavering commitment to the sovereignty of Sudan and to maintaining its unity and territorial integrity.

We recognize that commitment to the Declaration of Commitment will not affect any legal, security, or political status of the parties signing it, nor will it be linked to participation in any political process.

...

Commitments

1. We agree that the interests and well-being of the Sudanese people are our top priority and affirm our commitment to ensure that civilians are protected at all times.

This includes allowing safe passage for civilians to leave areas of active hostilities on a voluntary basis, in the direction they choose.

2. We affirm our responsibility to respect International Humanitarian Law and international human rights law, including obligations to:

Distinguish at all times between civilians and combatants and between civilian objects and military targets.

Refrain from any attack that may be expected to cause incidental civilian harm that would be excessive in relation to the concrete and direct military advantage anticipated.

Take all feasible precautions to avoid and minimize civilian harm, with an aim to vacate urban centers, including civilian houses.

Civilians should not be used as human shields, for example.

Ensure that checkpoints are not used to infringe upon the principle of the freedom of movement for civilians and humanitarian actors.

Allow all civilians to voluntarily and safely leave areas of hostilities and any besieged areas.

Commit to safeguard the needs and necessities indispensable to the survival of the civilian population, which can include foodstuffs, agricultural areas, crops, and livestock. Looting, ransacking, and ravaging are prohibited.

Commit to vacate and refrain from occupying, as well as to respect and protect all public and private facilities, such as hospitals and water and electricity installations, and refrain from using them for military purposes.

Commit to respect and protect medical transports such as ambulances and refrain from using them for military purposes.

Commit to respect and protect medical personnel and public installations.

Uphold and not hamper the right of civilians to pass and travel via roads and bridges, inside and outside the State of Khartoum.

Take all possible measures to collect and evacuate the wounded and sick, including combatants, without discrimination, and allow humanitarian organizations to do so; do not impede medical evacuations, including during active hostilities.

Refrain from the recruitment of children and the use of children in hostilities.

Refrain from engaging in forced disappearances and arbitrary detention of civilians.

Refrain from any form of torture or other cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment, including sexual violence of all kinds.

Treat all persons deprived of their liberty in a humane manner and provide principal humanitarian organizations with regular access to persons in detention.

3. We recognize that humanitarian activities solely aim to alleviate human suffering and protect the lives and dignity of persons who are not or are no longer fighting.

We agree on the need to allow principal humanitarian operations to resume and to protect humanitarian personnel and assets, including to:

Respect the fundamental humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality

DDR	No specific mention.
Intelligence services	No specific mention.

Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces

Preamble

...

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Refrain from the recruitment of children and the use of children in hostilities.

Refrain from engaging in forced disappearances and arbitrary detention of civilians.

Refrain from any form of torture or other cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment, including sexual violence of all kinds.

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We agree on the need to allow principal humanitarian operations to resume and to protect humanitarian personnel and assets, including to:

Respect the fundamental humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality

Withdrawal of foreign forces	No specific mention.
Corruption	No specific mention.
Crime/organised crime	**Commitments** ... Looting, ransacking, and ravaging are prohibited. ... It is prohibited to attack, harass, intimidate or arbitrarily detain personnel, or to attack, destroy, misappropriate or loot relief supplies, installations, material, units or vehicles.
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	No specific mention.
Other international signatory	No specific mention.
Referendum for agreement	No specific mention.
International mission/force/ similar	No specific mention.
Enforcement mechanism	No specific mention.