

Country/entity	South Sudan Sudan
Region	Africa (excl MENA)
Agreement name	Declaration of Unity Between SPLM/SPLA and SNA/SNF
Date	5 Mar 2002
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 Inter-group

Peace process	Sudanese (North-South) peace process
Parties	Dr. John Garang de Mabior / Chairman, SPLM., C-in-C, SPLA Brig. Abdelaziz Khalid / Chairman, Exec.Comm. SNA, C-in-C, SAF
Third parties	-
Description	The SPLM/A and the SNA/F agreed to merge their forces to pursue their common agenda in the conflict against the Government of Sudan.

Agreement document [SD_020305_Declaration of Unity between SPLM or SPLA and SNA or SNA \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

Source of document Prospects for Peace in Sudan: The Literature of Accord (Justice Africa, 2002)

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** No specific mention.

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 No specific mention.

Men and boys No specific mention.

LGBTI No specific mention.

Family No specific mention.

State definition

Nature of state (general) **The SPLM/SPLA and SNA/SAF have reached agreement on the following:**
a) Unification of the Two Movements into One Organization:
The SPLM/SPLA and SNA/SAF are committed to the common political and ideological vision of a New Sudan.
...
b) Agreement has been reached on the following issues:
...
The unity of the two movements creates a favorable and conducive environment for voluntary unity of the country based on the right of self-determination.
...
Finally:
The historic agreement between the SPLM/SPLA and SNA/SAF enhances the struggles of our people for democracy, voluntary unity on new bases, the realization of a just peace, and the building of the New Sudan.

State configuration No specific mention.

Self determination **The SPLM/SPLA and SNA/SAF have reached agreement on the following:**
...
b) Agreement has been reached on the following issues:
...
The unity of the two movements creates a favorable and conducive environment for voluntary unity of the country based on the right of self-determination.

Referendum No specific mention.

State symbols No specific mention.

Independence/secession **The SPLM/SPLA and SNA/SAF have reached agreement on the following:**
a) Unification of the Two Movements into One Organization:
...
This historic step constitutes a continuation of the struggles for national formation and national liberation on democratic bases.

**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 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 Power sharing→Military power sharing→Merger of forces
The SPLM/SPLA and SNA/SAF have reached agreement on the following:
a) Unification of the Two Movements into One Organization:
...
Whereas both movements share common political and ideological beliefs, it is in the national interest and in the interest of the struggle waged by the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) that the two movements unify their political, organizational, and military structures.
...
The two sides have agreed on an immediate political, organizational, and military unification.
Joint Committees have been formed in order to unify political, organizational, military, and administrative structures.

Human rights and equality

Human rights/RoL general **The SPLM/SPLA and SNA/SAF have reached agreement on the following:**
...
b) Agreement has been reached on the following issues:
...
The SPLM & SNA affirm their absolute commitment to democratic pluralism, rule of law, and respect for human rights.

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 No specific mention.

Democracy **The SPLM/SPLA and SNA/SAF have reached agreement on the following:**
a) Unification of the Two Movements into One Organization:
...
This historic step constitutes a continuation of the struggles for national formation and national liberation on democratic bases.
...
b) Agreement has been reached on the following issues:
...
The SPLM & SNA affirm their absolute commitment to democratic pluralism, rule of law, and respect for human rights.
...
Finally:
The historic agreement between the SPLM/SPLA and SNA/SAF enhances the struggles of our people for democracy, voluntary unity on new bases, the realization of a just peace, and the building of the New Sudan.

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 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 No specific mention.

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 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**

The SPLM/SPLA and SNA/SAF have reached agreement on the following:

a) Unification of the Two Movements into One Organization:

The SPLM/SPLA and SNA/SAF are committed to the common political and ideological vision of a New Sudan.

Whereas both movements share common political and ideological beliefs, it is in the national interest and in the interest of the struggle waged by the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) that the two movements unify their political, organizational, and military structures.

The historic decision to unite the two organizations is a true expression of the will and determination of our people to overcome the divisions of history, culture, and religion which have hampered the development of our country, its security, and its stability.

...

The two sides have agreed on an immediate political, organizational, and military unification.

Joint Committees have been formed in order to unify political, organizational, military, and administrative structures.

b) Agreement has been reached on the following issues:

...

The SPLM & SNA affirm their absolute commitment to democratic pluralism, rule of law, and respect for human rights.

...

The SPLM and SNA are both committed to a peaceful resolution of the conflict in Sudan. Their unification is in accordance with this same principle and is based on their commitment to implementing peace initiatives on the basis of NDA resolutions.

...

Finally:

The historic agreement between the SPLM/SPLA and SNA/SAF enhances the struggles of our people for democracy, voluntary unity on new bases, the realization of a just peace, and the building of the New Sudan.

**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 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.
