

Country/entity Sudan

Region Africa (excl MENA)

Agreement name First Meeting of the Political Committee Between the Government of Sudan and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army

Date 20 Jan 2000

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/territory

Peace process	Sudanese (North-South) peace process
Parties	Head of Delegation Government of Sudan; Head of Delegation Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A).
Third parties	Special Envoy IGAD Secretariat on Peace in Sudan.
Description	The government of Sudan and the SPLM/A met to establish key points of agreement and difference about the post-conflict political settlement in Sudan.

Agreement document	SD_000120_First Meeting of the Political Committee between the government of Sudan and the SPLM (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 Groups→Racial/ethnic/national group→Rhetorical
COMMON UNDERSTANDING AND POINTS OF DIFFERENCE
 ...
The parties agree that:
 ...
DOP 3:
 ...
 DOP 3.1 The parties agree that the Sudan is a multi-racial, multi-ethnic, multi-religious and multi-cultural society, and affirm their recognition and the need to accommodate these diversities.
 ...
 In recognition of the multi-religious, multi-racial, multi-cultural and multi-national character of the Sudan, the SPLM/A calls for the separation of state and religion;

Religious groups Groups→Religious groups→Rhetorical
COMMON UNDERSTANDING AND POINTS OF DIFFERENCE
...
The parties agree that:
...
DOP 3:
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...
In recognition of the multi-religious, multi-racial, multi-cultural and multi-national character of the Sudan, the SPLM/A calls for the separation of state and religion;

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)

COMMON UNDERSTANDING AND POINTS OF DIFFERENCE

...

The parties agree that:

...

DOP 3:

The parties agree in principle to maintain the unity of the Sudan.

The SPLM/A maintain, however, that the unity is conditioned to the separation of state and religion during the interim period and the outcome of the referendum on the right of self-determination.

The GOS contend that Unity of Sudan is not contingent on the issue of the separation of state and religion and administration, and that these are issues that may be negotiated.

DOP 3.1 The parties agree that the Sudan is a multi-racial, multi-ethnic, multi-religious and multi-cultural society, and affirm their recognition and the need to accommodate these diversities.

DOP 3.2 The parties agree that complete political and social equalities of all peoples of the Sudan shall be guaranteed by law.

...

In recognition of the multi-religious, multi-racial, multi-cultural and multi-national character of the Sudan, the SPLM/A calls for the separation of state and religion;

State configuration COMMON UNDERSTANDING AND POINTS OF DIFFERENCE

...

The parties agree that:

...

DOP 3:

...

The GOS contend that Unity of Sudan is not contingent on the issue of the separation of state and religion and administration, and that these are issues that may be negotiated.

...

DOP 3.3 On the issue of self-administration, the GOS prefers federation whereas SPLM/A prefers confederation.

The SPLM/A is not concerned with labels but rather with the substance and not withstanding its preference for a confederation, it has no objection to any arrangement during the interim period that guarantees:

state and religion are separated

The equitable representation at all the National Institutions of all the entities making up the union.

...

The SPLM/A reiterated its previous position on constitutional separation of state and religion.

In recognition of the multi-religious, multi-racial, multi-cultural and multi-national character of the Sudan, the SPLM/A calls for the separation of state and religion;

and therefore no single religion shall be made a state religion or a source of laws.

The constitution and the laws must remain secular and all organs and institutions of the state shall be neutral on religion.

Self determination COMMON UNDERSTANDING AND POINTS OF DIFFERENCE

...

The parties agree that:

...

DOP 2:

The parties agree that the right of self-determination of the people of Southern Sudan to determine their future status through a referendum must be affirmed.

The parties agree to the exercise of self-determination of the people of Southern Sudan as of the borders of 01/01/56.

The GOS contend that Abyei is not part of Southern Sudan but the position of Abyei may be discussed.

The GOS does not accept that Southern Kordofan and Southern Blue Nile are part of South Sudan and hence self-determination is not relevant.

With regard to-Abyei, the SPLM/A shall respect the will and the wish of the people of Abyei through a referendum whether to be part of Southern Sudan or remain in the North.

The Dinka Ngok people and the territory of Abyei shall therefore be administered as part of Southern Sudan.

The SPLM view that the right of self-determination should be affirmed to the people of Southern Kordofan and Southern Blue Nile.

However, this case shall be further explored at the commencement of the Transitional Committee.

DOP 3:

...

The SPLM/A maintain, however, that the unity is conditioned to the separation of state and religion during the interim period and the outcome of the referendum on the right of self-determination.

Referendum COMMON UNDERSTANDING AND POINTS OF DIFFERENCE

...

The parties agree that:

...

DOP 2:

The parties agree that the right of self-determination of the people of Southern Sudan to determine their future status through a referendum must be affirmed.

...

With regard to-Abyei, the SPLM/A shall respect the will and the wish of the people of Abyei through a referendum whether to be part of Southern Sudan or remain in the North.

...

DOP 3:

...

The SPLM/A maintain, however, that the unity is conditioned to the separation of state and religion during the interim period and the outcome of the referendum on the right of self-determination.

State symbols No specific mention.

**Independence/
secession**

COMMON UNDERSTANDING AND POINTS OF DIFFERENCE

...

The parties agree that:

...

DOP 2:

The parties agree that the right of self-determination of the people of Southern Sudan to determine their future status through a referendum must be affirmed.

The parties agree to the exercise of self-determination of the people of Southern Sudan as of the borders of 01/01/56.

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The Dinka Ngok people and the territory of Abyei shall therefore be administered as part of Southern Sudan.

The SPLM view that the right of self-determination should be affirmed to the people of Southern Kordofan and Southern Blue Nile.

However, this case shall be further explored at the commencement of the Transitional Committee.

**Accession/
unification**

No specific mention.

Border delimitation COMMON UNDERSTANDING AND POINTS OF DIFFERENCE

...

The parties agree that:

...

DOP 2:

...

The parties agree to the exercise of self-determination of the people of Southern Sudan as of the borders of 01/01/56.

The GOS contend that Abyei is not part of Southern Sudan but the position of Abyei may be discussed.

The GOS does not accept that Southern Kordofan and Southern Blue Nile are part of South Sudan and hence self-determination is not relevant.

With regard to-Abyei, the SPLM/A shall respect the will and the wish of the people of Abyei through a referendum whether to be part of Southern Sudan or remain in the North.

The Dinka Ngok people and the territory of Abyei shall therefore be administered as part of Southern Sudan.

The SPLM view that the right of self-determination should be affirmed to the people of Southern Kordofan and Southern Blue Nile.

**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
COMMON UNDERSTANDING AND POINTS OF DIFFERENCE
...
The parties agree that:
...
DOP 3:
...
The GOS agreed that the agreement reached shall be enshrined in the constitution.
The SPLM/A agreed that the understanding that will be reached shall be the basis of the new constitution during the Interim Period.

Power sharing

Political power sharing No specific mention.

Territorial power sharing No specific mention.

Economic power sharing

Power sharing→Economic power sharing→Sharing of resources

COMMON UNDERSTANDING AND POINTS OF DIFFERENCE

...

The parties agree that:

...

DOP 3:

...

DOP 3.5: The parties agree that appropriate and fair sharing of wealth among the various peoples of the Sudan must be realized.

Military power sharing

No specific mention.

Human rights and equality

Human rights/RoL general

COMMON UNDERSTANDING AND POINTS OF DIFFERENCE

...

The parties agree that:

...

DOP 3:

...

DOP 3.1 The parties agree that the Sudan is a multi-racial, multi-ethnic, multi-religious and multi-cultural society, and affirm their recognition and the need to accommodate these diversities.

DOP 3.2 The parties agree that complete political and social equalities of all peoples of the Sudan shall be guaranteed by law.

...

DOP 3.6: The parties agree that human right as internationally recognized, shall form part and parcel of this arrangement.

Bill of rights/similar No specific mention.

Treaty incorporation

No specific mention.

Civil and political rights

Human rights and equality→Civil and political rights→Equality

COMMON UNDERSTANDING AND POINTS OF DIFFERENCE

...

The parties agree that:

...

DOP 3:

...

DOP 3.1 The parties agree that the Sudan is a multi-racial, multi-ethnic, multi-religious and multi-cultural society, and affirm their recognition and the need to accommodate these diversities.

Human rights and equality→Civil and political rights→Thought, opinion, conscience and religion

COMMON UNDERSTANDING AND POINTS OF DIFFERENCE

...

The parties agree that:

...

DOP 3:

...

DOP 3.4 The GOS view is that no legislation shall adversely affect the religious right of any citizen.

Socio-economic rights

No specific mention.

Rights related issues

Citizenship

No specific mention.

Democracy

No specific mention.

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 **COMMON UNDERSTANDING AND POINTS OF DIFFERENCE**
...
The parties agree that:
...
DOP 3:
...
DOP 3.7: The parties agree that the independence of the Judiciary shall be enshrined in the constitution and laws of the Sudan.

Prisons and detention No specific mention.

Traditional Laws **COMMON UNDERSTANDING AND POINTS OF DIFFERENCE**
...
The parties agree that:
...
DOP 3:
...
On the issue of the source of law, the view of the GOS is that Sharia, custom and the consensus of the nation shall be the sources of legislation.

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** No specific mention.

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.
