

**AGREEMENT ON THE PROVISION OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE
AND CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES**

**FOR THE TWO AREAS OF BLUE NILE AND NUBA MOUNTAINS/SOUTH
KORDOFAN**

BETWEEN

**THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT OF SUDAN & THE SUDAN
PEOPLE'S LIBERATION MOVEMENT–NORTH (SPLM–N) / SUDAN
REVOLUTIONARY FRONT (SRF)**

Preamble

The Transitional Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement–North / Sudan Revolutionary Front, referred to hereinafter as the Parties,

PURSUING the aspirations of the Sudanese people, and implementing the Juba Declaration for confidence building measures paving the way for negotiation and the Political Declaration between the Transitional Government of Sudan and the Sudan Revolutionary Front signed on 21 October 2019;

AFFIRMING the two Parties' willingness to achieve prompt, just, and comprehensive peace;

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION that addressing the humanitarian plight of the civilians, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and refugees is a priority, and that peace is one of the pillars for change and an important step towards political, economic, and social transformation;

INTENDING to alleviate the suffering of the Sudanese people who have suffered the catastrophic result of the wars that have deprived them of their resources and brought them nothing but death and destruction.

Hereby the two Parties agree on the following:

Objectives of the Agreement

1. This Agreement is considered to be a binding framework for the two Parties throughout all forthcoming political negotiations for the Two Areas, leading to a comprehensive peace agreement for Sudan.
2. This Agreement incorporates the cessation of hostilities, which will be developed subsequently into a permanent ceasefire in accordance with final security arrangements, which shall be agreed upon.
3. Providing for a path forward for achieving durable peace for the Two Areas in a manner that promotes and complements the efforts for the successful completion of a just, comprehensive, and durable peace for all of Sudan and a transition from the oppression of the Former Regime to a democratic new Sudan, based on equal citizenship;
4. The cessation of hostilities provided for in this agreement aims at guaranteeing the unhindered access to humanitarian assistance, which shall be developed into a permanent ceasefire in accordance with final security arrangements.
5. Creating an environment conducive for the safe and voluntary return of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees to their homes.
6. Alleviating the suffering of the people in the Two Areas through immediate humanitarian action to those who are in need, as well as through long-term political and social transformation.

Principles of Humanitarian Action

7. The Parties confirm that all humanitarian actions for the Two Areas shall be undertaken in accordance with the international humanitarian law and all applicable and relevant standards, and best practices, as well as all relevant international mechanisms.
8. The Parties confirm that all humanitarian action for the affected civilians in the Two Areas shall respect the dignity of beneficiaries, the guiding principles of UNGA Res. 46/182, and the humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality, and independence.
9. The Parties guarantee the free movement and safety of civilians to and from the areas controlled by each party.

Humanitarian Access

10. In accordance with the above principles, the Parties shall permit and facilitate the comprehensive provision of immediate, full, and unimpeded humanitarian access to all

the conflict-affected areas and persons of the Two Areas, without discrimination.

11. The Parties commit to respecting and protecting humanitarian relief personnel and objects used for relief operations, and agree to refrain from attacking, harassing, intimidating, or detaining personnel, as well as to refrain from attacking, destroying, misappropriating, or looting relief supplies, installations, material, units, or vehicles operating in the humanitarian action.
12. Humanitarian access shall be guaranteed throughout the conflict-affected areas controlled by the SPLM/A-N/ SRF, without prejudice to national sovereignty, including through safe and unhindered multiple access corridors for all humanitarian personnel, supplies, and equipments.
13. Humanitarian access and delivery of aid shall be facilitated through both cross-line and cross-border corridors, where it is appropriate.
14. The precise formula for cross-line and cross-border aid delivery shall be decided by the tripartite Joint Humanitarian Committee (JHC).
15. The Parties shall seek protection and assistance from relevant third-parties, the Republic of South Sudan, and international organizations or humanitarian organizations for the purpose of facilitating both cross-line and cross-border aid delivery and access.
16. Humanitarian access will be subject to the control of the Parties for their respective areas of control, but in no circumstance may humanitarian access be withheld or constrained.

Joint Humanitarian Committee (JHC)

17. Within a period of no later than seven (7) days of the signing of this Agreement, the Parties shall establish a Joint Humanitarian Committee (JHC), which shall be facilitated by the Mediator.
18. The Parties agreed upon a comprehensive mandate for the tripartite JHC, which must include the following competencies:
 - a) Coordinating the delivery of humanitarian assistance in the affected areas in need in the Two Areas, with each party having responsibility within their respective area of control;
 - b) Monitoring, assessing, and reporting about the provision of humanitarian assistance to the affected populations in the Two Areas, with each party having responsibility within their respective area of control;
 - c) Undertaking humanitarian action necessary to support the resettlement and rehabilitation of the IDPs and refugees;
 - d) Making humanitarian arrangements related to the security, livelihood, and safe movement of nomads, particularly with regard to their presence in or movement through conflict-affected areas;

- e) Helping UN agencies and international and national organizations to develop a plan for demining the Two Areas and removing explosive remnants of war in the Two Areas each party in their respective areas of control.
- f) Helping to alleviate competition over resources and pastoral pathways that could help the humanitarian action, including promoting peaceful relations between herders and farmers;
- g) Developing programs for promoting rehabilitation, social integration, and capacity-building in conflict-affected areas;
- h) Coordinating, as appropriate and agreed upon by the Parties, with relevant entities undertaking humanitarian action in other areas of Sudan.
- i) Arranging for the provision of legal and psychological support to vulnerable and conflict-affected persons;
- j) Supporting the creation of a mechanism for transitional justice and healing processes in the future that address the humanitarian challenges that have negatively impacted the Two Areas;
- k) Adopting a joint plan of action for providing humanitarian assistance and implementing its mandate within seven (7) days of its establishment.
- l) Conducting a Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) in the areas controlled by the two parties to comprehensively assess the needs of the people in the conflict-affected areas, and the JAM assessment shall be completed within fourteen (14) days of the establishment of the tripartite JHC.

19. The Parties commit to updating the JHC's mandate and plan of action, as necessary, based on the outcomes and findings of the Joint Assessment Mission (JAM).

20. The Parties shall convene a humanitarian conference to be attended by national, regional and international actors to develop long-term measures to improve the humanitarian situation for all conflict-affected areas in Sudan.

Mechanism for Monitoring Cessation of Hostilities in the Two-Areas

21. The Parties shall form a mechanism for the cessation of hostilities in the Two-Areas composed of three representatives from each Party chaired by the representative of the Republic of South Sudan.

22. The monitoring mechanisms shall be flexible and in keeping with prevailing mood of partnership and common purpose through the following measures:

- a) The Mechanism for Monitoring Cessation of Hostilities will be composed of three representatives from each Party and chaired by the Republic of South Sudan, and its headquarters will be based in Khartoum with joint working teams in Kadugli and el-Damazin.
- b) The joint working teams are composed of a representative from each Party and chaired by the third Party, and it will be based in Kadugli and el-Damazin.

- c) The monitoring teams mentioned above shall be formed within seven (7) days from the date of the signing of this Agreement;
- d) In the instance of any violation of the cessation of hostilities, the monitoring committee shall be informed and it shall investigate, and take necessary actions.
- e) The Parties shall adopt the customary ground-rules for the cessation of hostilities relating to the deployment of forces and operational supplies, etc.

Final provisions

- 23. This Agreement shall enter into force, and become binding upon its signature.
- 24. This Agreement shall come into force from the date of its signing, will remain in force until a comprehensive peace agreement is reached, and it shall form an integral part of that agreement.

*This agreement is signed in Juba, Republic of South Sudan
On the 17th of December 2019.*

**General
Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo
Head of the Transitional Government
Negotiation Delegation**

**Lieutenant General
Malik Agar Eyre
Chairman of the Sudan People's Liberation
Movement–North (SPLM–N) and
Commander in Chief of the Sudan People's
Liberation Army-North (SPLM/A-N/SRF)**

**Witnessed by Hon. Tut Galuak Manime
Special Adviser to the President of the Republic on Security Affairs
Chairman of the Mediation Committee
On behalf of the President of the Republic of South Sudan**