

Country/entity	South Sudan Sudan Southern Kordofan - Blue Nile - Abyei
Region	Africa (excl MENA)
Agreement name	Declaration of Principles for the Resolution of the Nuba Mountains' Problem
Date	31 Jul 1996
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	Kordofan - Blue Nile - Abyei process
Parties	ENGINEER ISMAIL ALI SAADELDIN, Deputy Chairman of Central Committee of the Sudan Peoples Liberation Movement and Peoples Liberation Army, Nuba Mountains and Chairman of its Negotiations Team; AHMED MOHAMED HAROUN Director General of Peace Resettlement Administration, South Kordofan and Chairman of Government of Sudan Negotiations team.
Third parties	WITNESSED BY: CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF SPLA/M NUBA MOUNTAINS Engineer ABDELBAGI HAMDAN KABEIR Secretary of Foreign Affairs and the Spokesman, 2. ENG. RIZIGALLA BAKHAT KAHMIS Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment Secretary, 3. DR. AMAR JADELKARIM MAHMMOUD Secretary of Health Affairs, 4. CDR. AKASHA ALSAID AKASHA Secretary for Humanitarian Affairs and Social Welfare, 5. A/CDR. ELTAJ ELTIGANI ARWA, 6. A/CDR.. NASRELDIN HAROUN KAFI ABURASS; SUDAN GOVERNMENT DELEGATION: 1. ISMAIL DIGLES NEJAR Deputy Secretary General for South Kordofan State Government, 2. MUSA SOMI RAIMATAIIA Chairman of Peace Committee Council in South Kordofan State, 3. AHMED MUSA HARIN Member of National Council, 4. HASSAN KUNDA TORUBA Member of the Supreme Council for Peace, 5. REV. YUNTHAN HAMMAD KUKU Member of the Supreme Council for Peace; ACCREDITATION BY: CDR. MOHAMED HAROUN KAFI ABURASS Chairman of SPLA/M Nuba Mountains Central Committee, (R) BRIG. psc HAMAD ABDEIKARIM ELSAID Minister of Finance, South Kordofan State and head of Government of Sudan Delegation
Description	-

Agreement document [SD_960731_Principles for Nuba Mountains Problem.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 No specific mention.

Religious groups No specific mention.

Indigenous people Groups→Indigenous people→Rhetorical
Page 2, 1. Eradication of any and all kinds of socio-economic, cultural injustice and grievances. That include any agricultural, none agricultural and other lands which have been unfairly distributed or owned, headed by agricultural schemes reforms and redistribution in a way that preserves respect of the natives and avail greater opportunity and priorities for the indigenous people of the area to invest and develop their land.

Other groups No specific mention.

Refugees/displaced persons Groups→Refugees/displaced persons→Substantive
Page 3, 13. The government of the Sudan shall abide and undertake a special humanitarian programme for relief, reconstruction, rehabilitation and resettlement for solving and dealing with all kinds of negative effects shortcomings resulting from the war. This shall also include an emergency crush programme for facing the humanitarian urgents and needs, such as the relief and otherwise as appropriate.

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)

Page 2, 5. The parties have agreed to consider the political charter " 10th of April 1996" as a general frame for solving and as a ground for embodying the rest of Sudan's problems and questions of a national nature.

Page 2, 9. The parties acknowledge the federal system as a vehicle of governance that can provide the region's citizens with their rights to participate in the administration of their regions affairs and its development, together with their balanced and full participation in the federal power.

Page 3, 14. To acknowledge the local cultures and their development as well as to support equal opportunities to reflect them and be expressed within other cultures of the people of the Sudan in all fora mass of expression accredited by both the Nuba Mountains state and federal government.

Page 3, 16. The parties have asserted the unity of the Sudan, condemnation and rebuff of the tribal acts and practices. The parties, therefore undertake assurance of the democratic rights of the people of the Nuba Mountains state for achieving and gaining their national and regional just rights, equal and identical within the framework of the united Sudan. This in the eve of any political changes without having any influence from internal and external forces.

State configuration Page 2, 3. The two parties have acknowledged their abiding and observing the unity of the Sudan with its geographical and political borders of 1956.

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 No specific mention.

Public administration No specific mention.

Constitution No specific mention.

Power sharing

Political power sharing

Power sharing→Political power sharing→General State level

Page 2, 9. The parties acknowledge the federal system as a vehicle of governance that can provide the region's citizens with their rights to participate in the administration of their regions affairs and its development, together with their balanced and full participation in the federal power.

Page 2, 10. Powers and resources are shared on equal and just basis between the Nuba Mountains state and the federal government, details shall worked out by the two parties in separate protocol.

Territorial power sharing

Power sharing→Territorial power sharing→Autonomous regions

Page 2, 6. The sharia and the customary laws shall both be equally the legislative sources of the Nuba Mountains state, in addition the region has the right to legislate complementary laws to those federal ones on questions and problems peculiar to the Nuba Mountains state.

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Economic power sharing

Power sharing→Economic power sharing→Sharing of resources

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Military power sharing

No specific mention.

Human rights and equality

Human rights/RoL general Page 2, 1. Eradication of any and all kinds of socio-economic, cultural injustice and grievances. That include any agricultural, none agricultural and other lands which have been unfairly distributed or owned, headed by agricultural schemes reforms and redistribution in a way that preserves respect of the natives and avail greater opportunity and priorities for the indigenous people of the area to invest and develop their land.

Page 2, 7. Citizenship, shall be the basis for the rights and duties that include freedom, equality, justice and human rights.

Page 3, 15. The war has badly and effectively led to the destruction of the natural resources, environment and gross violation of human rights in the Nuba Mountains state. The two parties therefore, undertake to deal with these negative effects resulted during the twelve-years war.

Page 3, 16. The parties have asserted the unity of the Sudan, condemnation and rebuff of the tribal acts and practices. The parties, therefore undertake assurance of the democratic rights of the people of the Nuba Mountains state for achieving and gaining their national and regional just rights, equal and identical within the framework of the united Sudan. This in the eve of any political changes without having any influence from internal and external forces.

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

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Page 2, 10. Powers and resources are shared on equal and just basis between the Nuba Mountains state and the federal government, details shall worked out by the two parties in separate protocol.

Page 3, 12. To join efforts for eradication of all kinds of backwardness, illiteracy and ignorance which have caused such situation of injustice and grievances. This alongside with the designing, implementation and execution of a special development programme for the Nuba Mountains state in a such a way that achieves equitable development between the Nuba Mountains state and other regions in the country for a purpose of achieving the region's welfare.

Page 3, 14. To acknowledge the local cultures and their development as well as to support equal opportunities to reflect them and be expressed within other cultures of the people of the Sudan in all fora mass of expression accredited by both the Nuba Mountains state and federal government.

Page 3, 16. The parties have asserted the unity of the Sudan, condemnation and rebuff of the tribal acts and practices. The parties, therefore undertake assurance of the democratic rights of the people of the Nuba Mountains state for achieving and gaining their national and regional just rights, equal and identical within the framework of the united Sudan. This in the eve of any political changes without having any influence from internal and external forces.

Human rights and equality→Civil and political rights→Vote and take part

Page 2, 9. The parties acknowledge the federal system as a vehicle of governance that can provide the region's citizens with their rights to participate in the administration of their regions affairs and its development, together with their balanced and full participation in the federal power.

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

Page 2, 8. The parties acknowledge, and are self-committed to principles of the religious and faiths right, including creation of a peaceful, satisfactory and conducive atmosphere for worshipping, preaching and practices. Without forcing any citizen to believe/ accept any faith or religion contrary to his/her will.

Socio-economic rights

Human rights and equality→Socio-economic rights→Cultural life

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Rights related issues

Citizenship	Rights related issues→Citizenship→Citizens, specific rights Page 2, 7. Citizenship, shall be the basis for the rights and duties that include freedom, equality, justice and human rights.
Democracy	Page 3, 16. The parties have asserted the unity of the Sudan, condemnation and rebuff of the tribal acts and practices. The parties, therefore undertake assurance of the democratic rights of the people of the Nuba Mountains state for achieving and gaining their national and regional just rights, equal and identical within the framework of the united Sudan. This in the eve of any political changes without having any influence from internal and external forces.
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 Page 2, 6. The sharia and the customary laws shall both be equally the legislative sources of the Nuba Mountains state, in addition the region has the right to legislate complementary laws to those federal ones on questions and problems peculiar to the Nuba Mountains state.

Page 3, 16. The parties have asserted the unity of the Sudan, condemnation and rebuff of the tribal acts and practices. The parties, therefore undertake assurance of the democratic rights of the people of the Nuba Mountains state for achieving and gaining their national and regional just rights, equal and identical within the framework of the united Sudan. This in the eve of any political changes without having any influence from internal and external forces.

Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Socio-economic development

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Page 2, 1. Eradication of any and all kinds of socio-economic, cultural injustice and grievances. That include any agricultural, none agricultural and other lands which have been unfairly distributed or owned, headed by agricultural schemes reforms and redistribution in a way that preserves respect of the natives and avail greater opportunity and priorities for the indigenous people of the area to invest and develop their land.

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Page 3, 13. The government of the Sudan shall abide and undertake a special humanitarian programme for relief, reconstruction, rehabilitation and resettlement for solving and dealing with all kinds of negative effects shortcomings resulting from the war. This shall also include an emergency crush programme for facing the humanitarian urgents and needs, such as the relief and otherwise as appropriate.

Page 3, 14. To acknowledge the local cultures and their development as well as to support equal opportunities to reflect them and be expressed within other cultures of the people of the Sudan in all fora mass of expression accredited by both the Nuba Mountains state and federal government.

National economic plan Page 3, 12. To join efforts for eradication of all kinds of backwardness, illiteracy and ignorance which have caused such situation of injustice and grievances. This alongside with the designing, implementation and execution of a special development programme for the Nuba Mountains state in a such a way that achieves equitable development between the Nuba Mountains state and other regions in the country for a purpose of achieving the region's welfare.

Natural resources Page 3, 15. The war has badly and effectively led to the destruction of the natural resources, environment and gross violation of human rights in the Nuba Mountains state. The two parties therefore, undertake to deal with these negative effects resulted during the twelve-years war.

International funds No specific mention.

Business	No specific mention.
Taxation	No specific mention.
Banks	No specific mention.

Land, property and environment

Land reform/rights Land, property and environment→Land reform/rights→Land reform and management Page 2, 1. Eradication of any and all kinds of socio-economic, cultural injustice and grievances. That include any agricultural, none agricultural and other lands which have been unfairly distributed or owned, headed by agricultural schemes reforms and redistribution in a way that preserves respect of the natives and avail greater opportunity and priorities for the indigenous people of the area to invest and develop their land.

Pastoralist/nomadism rights No specific mention.

Cultural heritage No specific mention.

Environment Page 3, 15. The war has badly and effectively led to the destruction of the natural resources, environment and gross violation of human rights in the Nuba Mountains state. The two parties therefore, undertake to deal with these negative effects resulted during the twelve-years war.

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	Security sector→DDR→DDR programmes Page 3, 13. The government of the Sudan shall abide and undertake a special humanitarian programme for relief, reconstruction, rehabilitation and resettlement for solving and dealing with all kinds of negative effects shortcomings resulting from the war. This shall also include an emergency crush programme for facing the humanitarian urgents and needs, such as the relief and otherwise as appropriate.
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.

Related cases No specific mention.

Source Peacemaker.un.org,. 2015. 'UN Peacemaker'. <http://peacemaker.un.org>.
