

Country/entity South Sudan

Region Africa (excl MENA)

Agreement name Waat Lou Nuer Covenant

Date 6 Nov 1999

Agreement status Multiparty signed/agreed

Interim arrangement Yes

Agreement/conflict level Intrastate/local 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

Parties

Delegates came from all districts in addition to Lou who came from Malakal, Khartoum and foreign countries.

Lou Nuer Peace and Governance Council Membership

Elected at Waat Lou Nuer Peace and Governance Conference

6 November 1999

Akobo District

Michael Yien Jiek
Executive Chief Thok Luak Yak
Mrs. Mary Chol Kwany

Nyirol District

Head Chief Peter Gatkek Tolciek
James Yoal Lul
Mrs. Elizabeth Nyagun Chuol

Dirror District

Head Chief Majok Rambang
Rebecka Nyanyak Wictuor
John Kutei Mut

Pulchuol District

Head Chief Dhuor Luak Loth
Buk Malual Muol
Thomas Lual Puot

Wuror District

Head Chief Gatluak Thou Kuony
Stephen Maluit Chuol
Elizabeth Nyayonga Chuol

Waat District

Head Chief Kai Gatkak Ngundeng
Mrs. Mary Nyayuok Jany
Nyang Kerjiok Char

At-Large Members

Gabriel Yoal Dok, Chairperson
John Luk Jok, Secretary
Gatliak Gatlou Riak
Nyang Chuol Dhuor
Majok Guandong
Kueth Luak Kok

John Jok Yoal Gai

Hoth Gor Luak

Third parties	New Sudan Council of Churches (NSCC)
Description	Short agreement aiming at establishing peace between factions of the Lou Nuer by increasing local governance and customary law as well as the separation of powers.

Agreement document [SS_991106_Waat Lou Nuer Covenant.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

Groups

Children/youth	Groups→Children/youth→Substantive Page 1-2, Governance ... o Require the regular military and the White Army to demobilize all children under age fifteen;
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) No specific mention.

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 Page 1-2, Governance
... o Instruct all civil administrators to be accountable for their areas, to the people, and to work in a close and transparent manner with indigenous and international NGOs;

Traditional/ religious leaders	<p>Page 1, Governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Empowerment of chiefs to handle all local judicial cases and a rebuilding of the civil judicial system;
Public administration	<p>Page 1-2, Governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Strongly urge our political and military leaders to construct civil and military governance systems that will unite all Nuer people and contribute to a reconciled and united south Sudan. This system must be outside the control of the Government of Sudan or persons working in Government of Sudan controlled areas of the country. <p>Page 1-2, Governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ... o A separation of civil and judicial administration from the military administration; <p>Page 1-2, Governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ... o Instruct all civil administrators to be accountable for their areas, to the people, and to work in a close and transparent manner with indigenous and international NGOs; <p>Page 2, Appeals from Lou Nuer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o To all Nuer: Appeal for unity, peace and shared responsibility for security within a unified political administration.
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	<p>Page 2, Appeals from Lou Nuer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ... o To all Southerners: We appeal for an unending commitment to unite south Sudan so that security is assured, our political objectives are realized and our rights protected.
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 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	Page 1-2, Governance ... o A separation of civil and judicial administration from the military administration;
	Page 1-2, Governance ... o Empowerment of chiefs to handle all local judicial cases and a rebuilding of the civil judicial system;
Prisons and detention	No specific mention.
Traditional Laws	Page 1, Governance o Empowerment of chiefs to handle all local judicial cases and a rebuilding of the civil judicial system;

Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction	Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Socio-economic development Page 2, Governance ... o Commit ourselves to development of water resources that enable us to have permanent communities, the establishment of schools for our children, health care for our people, and food to sustain ourselves all year.
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 Land, property and environment→Cultural heritage→Other
Page 1, untitled preamble, We have sealed this Covenant, with its included Resolutions, by the traditional sacrifice of a White Bull (Tu-Bor) and with Christian worship.

Environment No specific mention.

Water or riparian rights or access Page 2, Governance
... o Commit ourselves to development of water resources that enable us to have permanent communities, the establishment of schools for our children, health care for our people, and food to sustain ourselves all year.

Security sector

Security Guarantees Page 2, Appeals from Lou Nuer
... o To all Southerners: We appeal for an unending commitment to unite south Sudan so that security is assured, our political objectives are realized and our rights protected.

Ceasefire Security sector→Ceasefire→Ceasefire provision
Page 1, We have agreed to the following:-
Peace
o An end to all conflicts among Lou Nuer

Page 2, Appeals from Lou Nuer
... o To all Neighbors: We declare a unilateral, permanent cease-fire and express our desire to build peace with our neighbors.

Police Page 1-2, Governance
... o Establishment of a police system that will maintain order within our communities and be accountable to the civil administration;

Armed forces Page 1-2, Governance
o Strongly urge our political and military leaders to construct civil and military governance systems that will unite all Nuer people and contribute to a reconciled and united south Sudan. This system must be outside the control of the Government of Sudan or persons working in Government of Sudan controlled areas of the country.

Page 1-2, Governance
... o A separation of civil and judicial administration from the military administration;

Page 1-2, Governance
... o Require the regular military and the White Army to demobilize all children under age fifteen;

DDR No specific mention.

Intelligence services No specific mention.

Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces	Page 1-2, Governance ... o Require the regular military and the White Army to demobilize all children under age fifteen;
Withdrawal of foreign forces	No specific mention.
Corruption	Page 1-2, Governance ... o Instruct all civil administrators to be accountable for their areas, to the people, and to work in a close and transparent manner with indigenous and international NGOs;
Crime/organised crime	No specific mention.
Drugs	No specific mention.
Terrorism	No specific mention.

Transitional justice

Transitional justice general No specific mention.

Amnesty/pardon Transitional justice→Amnesty/pardon→Amnesty/pardon proper
Page 1, We have agreed to the following:-
Peace
...
o Amnesty for offenses against persons and property prior to 1 November 1999

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 Page 1, We have agreed to the following:-
Peace
... o Extending the hand of peace to Gaawar Nuer to our west and Jikany Nuer to our East.
We stand ready to resolve any outstanding issues and build a permanent peace.
o Extending the hand of peace to all neighbouring people on the East Bank of the Nile.
With the NSCC, we invite all Nilotic peoples on the East Bank of the Nile to send delegations in February 2000 for a People-to-People peace conference.

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 Sudan Info Net: http://sudaninfonet.tripod.com/Waat/waat_covenant.htm
