

Country/entity	South Sudan
Region	Africa (excl MENA)
Agreement name	Statement of participants from Yirol meeting on Wunlit 1999 peace conference after 22 years (Yirol Agreement)
Date	19 May 2021
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 Implementation/renegotiation

Conflict nature Inter-group

Peace process South Sudan: Post-secession Local agreements

Parties The agreement lists the following signatories:

Peter Nyuong Danhiar (Paramount Chief, Payinjiar County)

Gum Mading Akuecbany (Paramount Chief, Wunlit County)

Sawat Malual Arop (Paramount Chief, Aduol Kong County)

Jacob Madhel Lang (Paramount Chief, Aweng Payam, Twic County and Chairperson COTAL Warrap State)

Andrew Madot Buoi (Paramount Chief, Yirol East County, Nyang Payam)

Joseph Kong Yoach (Paramount Chief, Guit County)

Elizabeth David Dabuol Ngot (Women League Chairperson, Koch County)

Isaac Magok Gatluak (Paramount Chief, Mayendit County)

Stephen Kuong Mabil (Paramount Chief, Leer County)

Madut Aguer Adel (Paramount Chief, Tonj East County)

Reechdit Anyieth Reech (Paramount Chief, Yirol East County)

Bahon Mabor Deng (Paramount Chief, Yirol West County)

Thiik Riiny Giir (Paramount Chief, Gogrial East County)

Marial Dhieu Malual (Paramount Chief, Yirol East County)

Malok Wol Madhieu (Paramount Chief, Tonj East County)

Third parties Rift Valley Institute, Assistance Mission for Africa and the Swiss government.

Description A short agreement calling for further implementation of inter-communal reconciliation efforts involving county chiefs, women, youth and religious leaders through continued community dialogues in line with the aims of the Wunlit agreement of 1999. Substantively this agreement follows up on its partner agreement in Nyal and makes provision for return of IDPS, development and humanitarian supports to address flooding and calls for the enforcement by the office of the regional commissioner to address key issues for community peace. The provisions address community violence and hate speech acts and the prevalence of weapons within communities, calling for an overall solution to ongoing inter-communal violence in border areas between the states.

Agreement document [SS_210519_Yirol meeting signed statement.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

Groups

Children/youth	Groups→Children/youth→Rhetorical Page 2, Therefore we resolve: - To reconvene a second Wunlit meeting bringing together all chiefs from across the three regions together with commissioners, youth, women and religious leaders to convene once again in Wunlit and evoke the spirit of Wunlit;
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	Groups→Refugees/displaced persons→Rhetorical Page 2, We appeal: - To the humanitarian actors to provide support to those displaced by the flooding in Unity State. Page 2, Therefore we resolve: - That our people in Payinjiar County should be welcome for peaceful coexistence to the drylands in Lakes State whilst the floods subside;
Social class	No specific mention.

Gender

Women, girls and gender Page 2, Therefore we resolve:
- To reconvene a second Wunlit meeting bringing together all chiefs from across the three regions together with commissioners, youth, women and religious leaders to convene once again in Wunlit and evoke the spirit of Wunlit;

Page 2, Signatories: We, the undersigned, resolve this on Wednesday 19 May in Yirol, Yirol West County, Lakes State, South Sudan.

... Elizabeth David Dabuol Ngot, Women League Chairperson, Koch County

Men and boys Gender→Men and boys→Other
Page 1, We acknowledge and endorse and reiterate:
- In particular, the absence of key chiefs missing from our meeting, notably from the Bul Nuer community, and the prevalence of guns in the hands of our young men;

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

No specific mention.

Traditional/religious leaders

Page 1, We acknowledge and endorse and reiterate:

- In particular, the absence of key chiefs missing from our meeting, notably from the Bul Nuer community, and the prevalence of guns in the hands of our young men;

Page 2, We appeal:

- To our community leaders at large to stop hate speech and inciting community violence;

- To the Church to be actively involved and remain visible in the support of work of community peace and social cohesion;

Page 2, Therefore we resolve:

- To reconvene a second Wunlit meeting bringing together all chiefs from across the three regions together with commissioners, youth, women and religious leaders to convene once again in Wunlit and evoke the spirit of Wunlit;

Public administration

Page 1, We recognise with concern:

- That the Commissioner of Payinjiar County has not yet taken up his position meaning that the Commissioners of the neighbouring counties do not have a counterpart in place with whom to resolve key issues;

Page 1, We appeal:

- To the Transitional Government of National Unity, Republic of South Sudan, and to the Community in Payinjiar County to address the concerns around the Commissioner as soon as possible;

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 No specific mention.

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 Rights related issues→Media and communication→Other
Page 2, We appeal:
- To our community leaders at large to stop hate speech and inciting community violence;

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 Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Humanitarian assistance
Page 2, We appeal:
- To the humanitarian actors to provide support to those displaced by the flooding in Unity State.

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 Page 1, We recognise with concern:
 - The serious flooding and subsequent challenges to livelihoods faced by the citizens of Payinjiar County.

Page 2, We appeal:
 - To the humanitarian actors to provide support to those displaced by the flooding in Unity State.

Page 2, Therefore we resolve:
 - That our people in Payinjiar County should be welcome for peaceful coexistence to the drylands in Lakes State whilst the floods subside;

Water or riparian rights or access Page 1, We recognise with concern:
 - The serious flooding and subsequent challenges to livelihoods faced by the citizens of Payinjiar County.

Page 2, We appeal:
 - To the humanitarian actors to provide support to those displaced by the flooding in Unity State.

Page 2, Therefore we resolve:
 - That our people in Payinjiar County should be welcome for peaceful coexistence to the drylands in Lakes State whilst the floods subside;

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	Page 2, Therefore we resolve: - To work amongst ourselves to identify and condemn the thieves, criminals and peace spoilers in our communities;
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	<p>Page 1, We appeal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To the Transitional Government of National Unity, Republic of South Sudan, and our partners in peace, to organise a Governors' and Commissioners' conference to bring together Governors and Commissioners of Yirol East, Yirol West, Payinjiar, Rumbek East, Rumbek North, Tonj East, Twic, Mayom, Gogrial East Counties, and Abyei Administrative Area; <p>Page 2, Therefore we resolve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To reconvene a second Wunlit meeting bringing together all chiefs from across the three regions together with commissioners, youth, women and religious leaders to convene once again in Wunlit and evoke the spirit of Wunlit;

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 <https://riftvalley.net/news/what-happened-wunlit-reliving-south-sudans-most-successful-peace-conference>
