

1996 Political Charter

This Charter has been concluded between the:

- (1) The Government of Sudan.
- (2) The South Sudan Independence Movement (SSIM/A).
- (3) Sudan People Liberation Movement (Bahrel Ghazal Group SPLM (B. G. G.))

In recognition of the series of previous peace talks, the Parties have pledged to put an end to the ongoing civil war in the Sudan. They agreed on the provisions mentioned below in this Charter:

1. To resolve the conflict in the Sudan through peaceful and political means.
2. The unity of the Sudan with its known boundaries shall be preserved, its entity shall be secured against all internal and external dangers. The parties shall endeavour to keep peace, justice and supremacy of values of right, goodness and virtue.
3. After full establishment of peace, stability and a reasonable level of social development in the south, and at the end of the interim period, a referendum shall be conducted by the people of the southern Sudan to determine their political aspirations.
4. Recognizing the constitutional development, implementation of federal system and political practice based on the values of participatory democracy, the parties shall endeavour to boost the progress in these fields in the light of changing situations.
5. Citizenship shall be the basis of rights and duties in furtherance of the values of justice, equity, freedom and human rights.
6. Sharia and custom shall be the sources of legislation. However, states may enact legislation complementary to the federal law in matters peculiar to those states.
7. Cultural diversity in the Sudan is recognized; Sudanese people are encouraged to freely express its values.
8. Freedom of religion and belief shall be observed and a suitable atmosphere shall be maintained for practising worship, dawa, proselytization and preaching. No citizen shall be coerced to embrace any faith or religion.
9. Social development is an extreme priority for the achievement of which the government shall plan for confidence building and expediting the process of alleviation of poverty, ignorance and illiteracy. The states shall also cater for provision of knowledge and satisfaction.
10. Power and national wealth shall equitably be shared for the benefit of the citizens in the country. The details shall be worked out by the parties.
11. A coordinating council shall be formed between the Southern States for better implementation of this Agreement.

12. The parties shall work together for the stability and improvement of living conditions in the war affected areas according to the provisions of the subsequent Peace Agreement. They shall carry the duty of implementing the security arrangement, resettlement reconstruction, development and preservation of rights and duties.

13. The Sudan shall interact with African and Arab Nations and world community on the basis of the effective Sudanese identity for the benefit of the country.

14. Sudanese in general and Southerners in particular shall be mobilized to rally behind and support the subsequent peace agreement.

Khartoum, 10 April 1996.

(signed)

For the Sudan Government

MAJ. GEN. AL ZUBEAR MOHAMMED SALIH,
First Vice President of the Republic of Sudan

For SSIM/A

CDR/DR RIEK MACHAR TENY DHURGON,
Chairman of NLC SSIM & C-in-C of SSIA

For SPLM/A (BGG)

CDR/ KERBINO KUANYIN,
Chairman of SPLM/ (BGG)