

Expert Workshop on Civil Society Policy Advocacy on Sudan

Final Declaration

Nairobi, 5th August 2026

We, the participants at the Expert Workshop on the Civil Society Policy Advocacy on Sudan, held in Nairobi (Kenya) between 3rd and 5th August 2026, having examined the human rights and humanitarian situation in Sudan and the complications faced by millions of civilians within the context of the armed conflict that pits the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and militia groups associated with each one of them;

Disappointed that despite several resolutions by the African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council (AUPSC) and the United Nations (UN) Security Council (UNSC) on the situation in Sudan under their respective mandates to promote regional and international peace and security as well as the initiatives of the QUAD countries and the QUINTET, the situation remained unchanged since mid-April 2023, that the warring parties are unable to sit at the negotiations table due to internal and external obstacles, notably SAF's continuous rejection of all attempts for a short-term ceasefire arrangements for humanitarian purposes, which is responsible for the ongoing stalemate, while the RSF is responsible for most of the atrocious and heinous crimes;

Abhorring the abuses and violence against civilians trapped in the crossfire lines and fighting zones and which have reached intolerable proportions with the recapture of densely populated cities and the retaliatory atrocities committed by both SAF and the RSF, and their allied militias against civilians amidst accusations of collaboration with this party to the conflict or the other;

Gravely concerned by the return of supporters of the former military regime to the realm of political power and state institutions which inflamed the war, prolonged the suffering and that Sudan is currently the epicenter of population displacement in the world, with a record 16 million forcibly displaced civilians, including 11.6 million internally displaced persons (IDPs), while about 4.5 were forced to cross its international borders into exile in neighboring African countries, whereas millions are internally self-relocated or externally exiled war victims;

Deeply concerned that Sudanese refugees and asylum seekers in neighbouring north African countries are particularly vulnerable to serious infringements of their rights under national and international law and that authentic studies showed that 40% of surveyed refugees experienced racial discrimination and xenophobia in host nations and that in one country 59% of the respondents reported witnessing deportation since 2024 and in another country over 100,000 are detained in harsh conditions;

Outraged by the growing propagation of hate speech and calls for racial hatred together with the militarization of civilians and that the warring parties continue a policy of forming and arming civilians on tribal and ethnic basis which increased ethnicity-induced violence, notably against residents of *Al-Kanabi* (agricultural camps) in Al-Jazirah State, central Sudan and the purposeful destruction of lives and livelihoods and deportations which requires the deployment of a robust international peacekeeping force to save the lives of millions of Sudanese at risk;

Equally outraged by the politicisation of religion and the polarization of the country along religious divide and that some clergymen have been mobilizing and indoctrinating youngsters to fight a holy war to achieve military victory or die as martyrs thus legitimizing the internal war, justifying violence and contributing to the suffering of the victims;

Mindful that dozens of external state and non-state actors are fuelling the war and prolonging the suffering of victims through military support, funding and above all through political and diplomatic backing to the conflicting parties at the regional and the international levels, further exacerbating what the UN described as the world's worst humanitarian crisis, a tragedy that stands as a stain on humanity's conscience, yet we observe attempts to weaponize the suffering of the victims of war for sheer geopolitical interests and the quest for selective condemnations;

Utterly disturbed by the accusations that the SAF used chemical weapons in the context of the armed conflict and that such accusations have been substantiated by victims' accounts and testimonies by eyewitnesses and experts, notably in the aftermath of SAF's attacks against the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) positions in Sinnar State (October 2024) and Khartoum (January and March 2025), and that the risk of further use of these weapons cannot be excluded as fresh accusations were labelled against SAF during its attacks against civilians targets in Um Garfa, AL-Hamadab, Um Tagirat and Al-Haraz in North Kordofan State in mid-July 2026;

Taking note of the Interim Report–June 2026, issued by the “*National Committee on the U.S. Allegations announced on May 2025*” established pursuant to Decision No 139/2025 to examine accusations about the use of chemical weapons, sent by Sudan on 6 July 2026 to the 112 session of OPCW's Executive Council, held in The Hague between 7 and 10 July 2026 in which Sudan claimed that there is no evidence that chemical weapons were used in the country;

Also taking note of Sudan's declared position to address accusations about the use of chemical weapons with seriousness, notably its decision to form a National Committee for this purpose, however, we are disappointed by the timing and the conclusion of the Interim Report issued by the National Committee in July 2026, which fell short of the standards of professionalism and transparency, particularly the lack of independent and competent laboratory analysis, victims and witness interviews and on-site inspection for investigations of alleged use;

Cognizant of the provisions of Article 4(h) of the AU Constitutive Act, which authorize AU's member states to intervene in cases of war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide as well as the UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, which prohibits acts intended to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group; in this respect recall Decision 1(2024) adopted by the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on 12 April 2024 under its Early Warning and Urgent Action Procedure on the “ethnic violence” and “ethnically motivated attacks” in Sudan, the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols, particularly the obligations under Common Article 3, which calls for the humane treatment of civilians and those no longer taking part in hostilities;

Fully conscious of Article 23 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, which guarantees the right of all peoples to peace and security; and Articles 3(1)(j) and 4(4)(a) and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa particularly Articles 10(2), 11(3), and 14(2)(c) in conjunction with UNSC Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace, and Security, which calls for inclusion of women in peace negotiations, the protection of women and girls in conflict situations, UNSC Resolution 2250 (2015) on the positive role of youth in maintaining international peace, conflicts resolution and in building sustainable peace as well as the AU Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa which oblige states to protect civilians from displacement and ensure humanitarian assistance to affected populations;

Fully aware of Sudan's obligations as a state party to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction (the Chemical Weapons Convention), and as such, Sudan should refrain from developing, producing, possessing, transferring or using chemical weapon;

We, hereby, recommend the following:

1. Urgent Measures for the Protection of Civilians

- 1.1. As the situation continues to deteriorate without any meaningful prospect for a peaceful settlement, African governmental and non-governmental stakeholders need to consider action-oriented measures and call for the establishment of an International Coalition of the Willing to protect civilians in Sudan.
- 1.2. Efforts to end the armed conflict must envisage closely monitored arrangements for immediate cessation of hostilities and the establishment of safe corridors for delivery of humanitarian relief to avert the growing risks of famine.
- 1.3. We call upon the religious leaderships in Sudan to fulfil their entrusted role in advocating for peace, instilling values of love and tolerance, and strengthening social cohesion, among the citizenry and ultimately leading to national unity.
- 1.4. Sudan should heed the requests for clarifications submitted by Chad, Mauritania, Benin, and Guinea-Bissau to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in June and July 2025 and in this respect, cooperate fully with all state parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention and allow the OPCW to deploy technical teams on its territory and ensure that any investigations are conducted in a thorough, transparent, independent and timely manner.
- 1.5. As a member of the OPCW's Executive Council, Sudan must collaborate fully and constructively with its members, particularly declare any chemical weapons production facilities and the whereabouts of chemical munitions and allow the OPCW's Technical Secretariat to verify and destroy such munitions in total conformity with its obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention.
- 1.6. Future peace initiatives need to pay special attention to the strengthening of cooperation with independent and credible Sudanese civil society organizations and enhance their engagement as equal partners in the peace initiatives.

2. Humanitarian Assistance and Protection of Refugees

- 2.1. More efforts need to be exerted in mobilizing the African stakeholders and the international community at large in order to ensure the immediate, timely, safe and unhindered inflow of adequate humanitarian aid to support the Sudanese IDPs, returnees and forcibly repatriated refugees from host countries.
- 2.2. We demand that African states concerned treat Sudanese refugees and asylum seekers with dignity, protect their rights, allow them access to legal assistance, healthcare and education of their children and lift all measures that hinder their

rights to stay and freedom of movement and to address the rising discrimination, xenophobic attacks, arrests and detention and forced deportation.

3. Strengthening Women's Participation in Peace Processes

- 3.1. Ensure equitable representation of women in all peace negotiations and that at least 30% of seats in the transitional governance structure are reserved for them.
- 3.2. Establish gender-sensitive mechanisms to address the needs of women and children in conflict-affected areas, including psychological, social, medical, and legal support and other necessary services

4. To the International Community and members of the UN Security Council:

- 4.1. Heed calls to end the internal war and address the humanitarian crisis in Sudan, including the deployment of an international military force to protect civilians, increase funding for relief operations and ensure the protection of Sudanese refugees, asylum seekers, and support the self-relocated victims of war and the returnees, ensuring that they access food, shelter, healthcare and education.
- 4.2. Ensure that any future negotiated settlement be based on a social contract and provide for justice and accountability for war crimes, crimes against humanity and support legal mechanisms to hold perpetrators of such crimes accountable.
- 4.3. Continue diplomatic engagement with the warring parties and other Sudanese stakeholders and countries with special influence on them to affirm commitment to a smooth transition to civilian governance and ensure their compliance with international human rights and humanitarian law to which Sudan is a state party.
- 4.4. Demand unconditional cooperation with regional and international investigative mechanisms by allowing the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission for the Sudan and the Joint Fact-Finding Mission of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights on Sudan, unhindered access to its territory.

5. To Civil Society Organizations:

- 5.1. Regional and international civil society groups and movements are called upon to redouble their efforts for peace in Sudan and strengthen solidarity networks with Sudanese groups to enhance collective policy advocacy options to engage policymakers at the regional and global levels, to push for an end to internal wars, protection of civilians and accountability for the perpetrators of atrocities.
- 5.2. Leading African women organizations and movements are strongly encouraged to continue their efforts in support of Sudanese women and to stand in solidarity with them during this difficult time.
- 5.3. We hereby launch the Sudan Civil Society Consortium and invite the concerned and Sudan-focused civil society organizations to join it and to put their acts together in a bid to strengthen their policy advocacy capabilities, and to take advantage of the wider outreach inherent in a civil society network.