

Country/entity	South Sudan
Region	Africa (excl MENA)
Agreement name	Rome Initiative for Political Dialogue in South Sudan, Declaration of Principles, 10 March 2021, Naivasha, Kenya
Date	10 Mar 2021
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 Pre-negotiation/process

Conflict nature Government/territory

Peace process	South Sudan post-secession process
Parties	For Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity (R-TGoNU) Hon. Barnaba Marial Benjamin For South Sudan Opposition Movements Alliance (SSOMA) Hon. Pa`gan Amum Okiech (Real SPLM) and Gen. Paul Malong Awan Anei (SSUF/A)
Third parties	Observers: Ismail Wais, IGAD Special Envoy for South Sudan, Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka, Kenya Special Envoy for South Sudan, Betty Oyella Bigombe, Uganda Special Envoy for South Sudan Facilitator: Paolo Impagliazzo, Secretary General Community of Sant'Egidio Host: Government of Kenya
Description	This agreement sets out a list of principles between the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity (R-TGoNU) and South Sudan Opposition Movements Alliance (SSOMA) following the Rome Declaration of 12th January 2020 and the Rome Resolution of 13th February 2020.

Agreement document	SS_210310_Rome Initiative for Political Dialogue in South Sudan - Declaration of Principles.pdf (opens in new tab) Download PDF
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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**

Groups→Racial/ethnic/national group→Rhetorical
Page 2, 4.

South Sudan is a multi-ethnic, multi religious and multi-cultural society and therefore full recognition, respect, protection and acceptance of these diversities must be affirmed.

Page 2,5.

Divisive policies, and negative regional sectarianism, tribalism and nepotism shall be rejected and eradicated South Sudan.

Groups→Racial/ethnic/national group→Substantive

Page 2, 9.

Land in South Sudan belongs to the people. Its ownership and use shall be regulated by customs and law. Resolution of communal and tribal land disputes shall be based on communal and tribal land boundaries as they stood on the 01/01/1956, taking into consideration the historical, cultural and geographical factors. This principle shall be incorporated into the permanent constitution in the current constitutional making process.

Religious groups

Groups→Religious groups→Rhetorical
Page 2, 4.

South Sudan is a multi-ethnic, multi religious and multi-cultural society and therefore full recognition, respect, protection and acceptance of these diversities must be affirmed.

Page 2, 5.

Divisive policies, and negative regional sectarianism, tribalism and nepotism shall be rejected and eradicated South Sudan.

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) Page 1, 2.
No military solution can bring lasting peace and stability to the country and a negotiable and just political settlement shall be the common objective of the parties to the Rome Initiative to achieve permanent and sustainable peace and democratic system of governance; based on the supremacy principles of the rule of law.

Page 2, 3.
The unity of the people of South Sudan based on their shared history of struggle for freedom and self-determination, shared aspirations to live in peace, harmony and dignity, must be the common goal.

Page 2, 6.
The civil and political, cultural and economical rights of all South Sudanese citizens shall be upheld and guaranteed by law.

Page 2, 7.
A secular, democratic and multi-party federal state based on equal citizenship shall be established in South Sudan.

State configuration Page 2, 7.
A secular, democratic and multi-party federal state based on equal citizenship shall be established in South Sudan.

Page 2, 8. ,
A fair, transparent management and sharing of national wealth among the people of South Sudan at the national state and local government levels must be realized.

Self determination Page 2, 3.
The unity of the people of South Sudan based on their shared history of struggle for freedom and self-determination, shared aspirations to live in peace, harmony and dignity, must be the common goal.

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	<p>Page 2, 9.</p> <p>Land in South Sudan belongs to the people. Its ownership and use shall be regulated by customs and law. Resolution of communal and tribal land disputes shall be based on communal and tribal land boundaries as they stood on the 01/01/1956, taking into consideration the historical, cultural and geographical factors. This principle shall be incorporated into the permanent constitution in the current constitutional making process.</p>
Public administration	<p>Page 3, 15.</p> <p>The Republic of South Sudan shall have an effective public service reform and environmental stewardship.</p>
Constitution	<p>Governance→Constitution→Constitutional reform/making</p> <p>Page 2, 9.</p> <p>Land in South Sudan belongs to the people. Its ownership and use shall be regulated by customs and law. Resolution of communal and tribal land disputes shall be based on communal and tribal land boundaries as they stood on the 01/01/1956, taking into consideration the historical, cultural and geographical factors. This principle shall be incorporated into the permanent constitution in the current constitutional making process.</p> <p>Page 2, 12.</p> <p>Defense forces and other organized forces of the Republic of South Sudan shall be professional, non-partisan and non-political. Their composition shall reflect the diversity of the Republic of South Sudan, their mandate shall be defined by the constitution and law.</p> <p>Page 3, 13.</p> <p>The National Security Service (NSS) of the Republic of South Sudan shall be professional, non-partisan and non-political and its composition shall reflect the diversity of the nation. Its sole mandate is to gather and analyse information, and advise the government in pursuit and protection of national interest. They shall have no power of domestic law enforcement. The principle of it not having the power of arrest and detention shall be enshrined in the Constitution as part of the current constitution making process.</p>

Power sharing

Political power sharing No specific mention.

Territorial power sharing Power sharing→Territorial power sharing→Federal or similar sub-divided government
Page 2, 7.
A secular, democratic and multi-party federal state based on equal citizenship shall be established in South Sudan.

Economic power sharing Power sharing→Economic power sharing→Fiscal federalism
Page 2, 8.
A fair, transparent management and sharing of national wealth among the people of South Sudan at the national state and local government levels must be realized.

Military power sharing No specific mention.

Human rights and equality

Human rights/RoL general Page 1, 2.
No military solution can bring lasting peace and stability to the country and a negotiable and just political settlement shall be the common objective of the parties to the Rome Initiative to achieve permanent and sustainable peace and democratic system of governance; based on the supremacy principles of the rule of law

Page 2, 6.
The civil and political, cultural and economical rights of all South Sudanese citizens shall be upheld and guaranteed by law

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
Page 2, 7.
A secular, democratic and multi-party federal state based on equal citizenship shall be established in South Sudan.
Human rights and equality→Civil and political rights→Other
Page 2, 6.
The civil and political, cultural and economical rights of all South Sudanese citizens shall be upheld and guaranteed by law

Socio-economic rights Human rights and equality→Socio-economic rights→Cultural life
Page 2, 4.
South Sudan is a multi-ethnic, multi religious and multi-cultural society and therefore full recognition, respect, protection and acceptance of these diversities must be affirmed.
Page 2, 5.
Divisive policies, and negative regional sectarianism, tribalism and nepotism shall be rejected and eradicated South Sudan.
Human rights and equality→Socio-economic rights→Other
Page 2, 6.
The civil and political, cultural and economical rights of all South Sudanese citizens shall be upheld and guaranteed by law

Rights related issues

Citizenship	Rights related issues→Citizenship→Citizen, general Page 2, 7. A secular, democratic and multi-party federal state based on equal citizenship shall be established in South Sudan.
Democracy	Page 1, 2. No military solution can bring lasting peace and stability to the country and a negotiable and just political settlement shall be the common objective of the parties to the Rome Initiative to achieve permanent and sustainable peace and democratic system of governance; based on the supremacy principles of the rule of law Page 2, 7. A secular, democratic and multi-party federal state based on equal citizenship shall be established in South Sudan.
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 No specific mention.

Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Socio-economic development
Page 2, 9.

Land in South Sudan belongs to the people. Its ownership and use shall be regulated by customs and law. Resolution of communal and tribal land disputes shall be based on communal and tribal land boundaries as they stood on the 01/01/1956, taking into consideration the historical, cultural and geographical factors. This principle shall be incorporated into the permanent constitution in the current constitutional making process.

Page 2, 10.

Establishment of transparent and accountable system of management of natural and public resources to prevent and combat corruption, mismanagement and to realize equitable socio-economic development in the country

National economic plan No specific mention.

Natural resources Page 2, 10.
Establishment of transparent and accountable system of management of natural and public resources to prevent and combat corruption, mismanagement and to realize equitable socio-economic development in the country

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, 9. Land in South Sudan belongs to the people. Its ownership and use shall be regulated by customs and law. Resolution of communal and tribal land disputes shall be based on communal and tribal land boundaries as they stood on the 01/01/1956, taking into consideration the historical, cultural and geographical factors. This principle shall be incorporated into the permanent constitution in the current constitutional making process.
Pastoralist/ nomadism rights	No specific mention.
Cultural heritage	No specific mention.
Environment	Page 3, 15. The Republic of South Sudan shall have an effective public service reform and environmental stewardship.
Water or riparian rights or access	No specific mention.

Security sector

Security Guarantees	No specific mention.
Ceasefire	No specific mention.
Police	Page 3, 14. Professionalize law enforcement agencies and community policing services with the mandate of maintaining internal law and order and protection of citizen's life and property.
Armed forces	Page 2, 12. Defense forces and other organized forces of the Republic of South Sudan shall be professional, non-partisan and non-political. Their composition shall reflect the diversity of the Republic of South Sudan, their mandate shall be defined by the constitution and law.
DDR	No specific mention.

Intelligence services	Page, 13. The National Security Service (NSS) of the Republic of South Sudan shall be professional, non-partisan and non-political and its composition shall reflect the diversity of the nation. Its sole mandate is to gather and analyse information, and advise the government in pursuit and protection of national interest. They shall have no power of domestic law enforcement. The principle of it not having the power of arrest and detention shall be enshrined in the Constitution as part of the current constitution making process.
Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces	No specific mention.
Withdrawal of foreign forces	No specific mention.
Corruption	Page 2, 10. Establishment of transparent and accountable system of management of natural and public resources to prevent and combat corruption, mismanagement and to realize equitable socio-economic development in the country
Crime/organised crime	No specific mention.
Drugs	No specific mention.
Terrorism	No specific mention.

Transitional justice

Transitional justice general	Page 2, 11. Transitional justice and accountability must be instituted without delay or obstruction as the basis for national reconciliation, healing and unity.
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 Page 2, Declaration of Principles:

11. Transitional justice and accountability must be instituted without delay or obstruction as the basis for national reconciliation, healing and unity.

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.

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