

**Peace Agreement Access Tool PA-X <https://pax.peaceagreements.org/>**

<b>Country/ entity</b>	South Sudan Sudan Southern Kordofan - Blue Nile - Abyei
<b>Region</b>	Africa (excl MENA) Africa (excl MENA) Africa (excl MENA)
<b>Agreement name</b>	Agok Declaration
<b>Date</b>	2 Jun 2003
<b>Agreement status</b>	Multiparty signed/agreed
<b>Interim arrangement</b>	Yes
<b>Agreement/ conflict level</b>	Intrastate/local conflict ()
<b>Stage</b>	Framework/substantive - partial
<b>Conflict nature</b>	Inter-group
<b>Peace process</b>	South Sudan: Pre-secession Local Peace Processes
<b>Parties</b>	Agreement not signed due to nature, but the declaration notes the following:  Page 1, Preamble: ... The contribution of the local people of Abyei was central to the success of the Conference, which brought together over 700 participants in a democratic and popular forum that addressed fundamental issues facing the area and the country.  Page 4, ... We, the Ngok of Abyei, resoundingly endorse these resolutions and call upon our friends everywhere to exercise their good will and actively promote efforts towards a just and lasting peace in Sudan.  This communique was presented to the full plenary on the closing day of the Ngok of Abyei People's Conference where it was unanimously endorsed and popularly adopted at 8:30 in the evening on June 7th, 2003, after 6 days of deliberation.
<b>Third parties</b>	Sudan Peace Fund of the United States Government  Official Italian Observer to the IGAD Peace Forum

**Description** The Agok Declaration was a set of resolutions adopted by the Ngok Dinka people of Abyei County, Bahr el Ghazal Region, Southern Sudan during a conference held from June 2 to June 7, 2003. The conference was sponsored by the Sudan Peace Fund of the United States Government and attended by over 700 participants. The resolutions adopted by the conference addressed issues facing the Abyei area and the country as a whole. The declaration asserted that the Ngok Dinka are part of Southern Sudan and demanded the immediate restoration of their land and people to Bahr el Ghazal. It also fully mandated the SPLM/A as the legitimate representative of their cause and called for a just and lasting peace in Sudan. The declaration also welcomed efforts to facilitate the process of repatriation and return of their displaced people and expressed concern over aggression and violations of human rights committed against them.

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**Agreement document** [SS\\_SD\\_030602\\_Agok Declaration.pdf](#)  | [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, II. On the Peace Process:

...

G. Affirm that we are a peace loving people, who have historically welcomed our neighbours to have seasonal access to water and grazing lands on the soil of Abyei, and give specific assurance to the Missiriya that this existing understanding will prevail even when Abyei is restored to Bahr el Ghazal.

Groups→Racial/ethnic/national group→Anti-discrimination

Page 2, II. On the Peace Process:

A. The Ngok Dinka of Abyei assert that we are part and parcel of Southern Sudan, and demand the immediate restoration of the land and people to Bahr el Ghazal in accordance with the historic ceremony of reunification that was conducted by the spiritual leaders of Bahr el Ghazal during the course of the Conference.

Religious  
groups

No specific mention.

Indigenous  
people

No specific mention.

Other  
groups

No specific mention.

Refugees/ displaced persons	<p>Groups→Refugees/displaced persons→Rhetorical</p> <p>Page 2-3, III. On Repatriation and Return:</p> <p>A. Welcome all genuine efforts to facilitate the process of repatriation and return of our displaced people, and commit to actively supporting those processes as they progress further.</p> <p>B. Express concern over our lack of involvement to date in these noble efforts, and over the continued exposure of our people to insecurity and restrictions on their free movement in the process of repatriation and return by the GOS.</p> <p>C. Call for consultation and active participation in the process of repatriation and return through representative bodies chosen by the Ngok people of Abyei.</p> <p>D. Express outrage at the sub-human conditions under which our displaced people in the North are living as refugees in their own country, and demand recognition of their full citizenship and dignity irrespective of where they happen to reside.</p> <p>E. Call upon the SPLM/A, the GOS and the International Community to develop a normative agreement framing the peaceful return of our displaced people, including necessary elements of monitoring and evaluation.</p> <p>F. Call upon the international community to guarantee free movement, adequate protection and security for the repatriation and return of our people in the face of aggression by the Sudan Defense Forces and the militias they sponsor.</p> <p>G. Call upon the Operation Lifeline Sudan and the wider international humanitarian community to provide much needed services to ensure the successful repatriation and return of our people.</p> <p>H. Request support in reinforcing our local capacities to receive and reintegrate our people upon their return.</p>
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Social class No specific mention.

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## Gender

Women, girls and gender	<p>Page 3, IV. On Good Governance, ...</p> <p>E. Recognise the need for the full emancipation of women at all levels of decision making and commit to their further empowerment within our system of local governance.</p>
Men and boys	No specific mention.
LGBTI	No specific mention.

Family No specific mention.

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## **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.

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## 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, II. On the Peace Process: ... E. Call upon our representatives to appreciate the esteemed position of our traditional and spiritual leaders, and to seek their guidance in all matters of our representation.</p> <p>Page 3, III. Repatriation and Return: ... C. Call for consultation and active participation in the process of repatriation and return through representative bodies chosen by the Ngok people of Abyei.</p> <p>Page 4, V. On Unity amongst Ngok and Relations with Neighbors, ... B. Uphold the need to stand together in a common identity and cultural heritage, and to respect the wise traditional leadership of our people.</p>
Public administration	<p>Page 3, IV. On Good Governance, ... F. State the need for the local administration to improve security, police, judiciary, and revenue management in our area.</p>
Constitution	No specific mention.

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## **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.

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## **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.

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## Rights related issues

Citizenship	Rights related issues→Citizenship→Citizen, general Page 3, III. On Repatriation and Return: ... D. Express outrage at the sub-human conditions under which our displaced people in the North are living as refugees in their own country, and demand recognition of their full citizenship and dignity irrespective of where they happen to reside.
Democracy	No specific mention.
Detention procedures	No specific mention.
Media and communication	No specific mention.
Mobility/ access	Page 2, II. On the Peace Process: ... G. Affirm that we are a peace loving people, who have historically welcomed our neighbours to have seasonal access to water and grazing lands on the soil of Abyei, and give specific assurance to the Missiriya that this existing understanding will prevail even when Abyei is restored to Bahr el Ghazal.  Page 2, III. On Repatriation and Return: ... B. Express concern over our lack of involvement to date in these noble efforts, and over the continued exposure of our people to insecurity and restrictions on their free movement in the process of repatriation and return by the GOS.
Protection measures	No specific mention.
Other	No specific mention.

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## Rights institutions

NHRI	No specific mention.
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Regional or international human rights institutions

No specific mention.

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## **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.

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## Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction    Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Socio-economic development  
Page 4, V. On Unity amongst Ngok and Relations with Neighbors,  
...  
E. Commit to building our local capacities, knowledge and skills for self-reliance and selfsufficiency as a means of development as a process of self-enhancement from within.

Page 4, On the Way Forward:

We the Ngok of Abyei, in furthering these resolutions propose that:

1. A fund managed by representatives of the people should be created to support peacebuilding and development in the area that can be supported by all peoples of good will.
2. The specific donors and organizers of this conference should support follow-up activities to this historic event, specifically through provision of water, health and educational services to the people of the area.

Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Humanitarian assistance

Page 3, III. On Repatriation and Return:

...

G. Call upon the Operation Lifeline Sudan and the wider international humanitarian community to provide much needed services to ensure the successful repatriation and return of our people.

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.

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## **Land, property and environment**

Land reform/  
rights No specific mention.

Pastoralist/  
nomadism  
rights Page 2, II. On the Peace Process:  
...  
G. Affirm that we are a peace loving people, who have historically welcomed our neighbours to have seasonal access to water and grazing lands on the soil of Abyei, and give specific assurance to the Missiriya that this existing understanding will prevail even when Abyei is restored to Bahr el Ghazal.

Cultural heritage

Land, property and environment→Cultural heritage→Tangible

Page 2, II. On the Peace Process:

...

C. Assert that we will continue to defend our land, identity and cultural values, which link us unequivocally to our African kith and kin in the Southern Sudan.

Land, property and environment→Cultural heritage→Intangible

Page 2, II. On the Peace Process:

A. The Ngok Dinka of Abyei assert that we are part and parcel of Southern Sudan, and demand the immediate restoration of the land and people to Bahr el Ghazal in accordance with the historic ceremony of reunification that was conducted by the spiritual leaders of Bahr el Ghazal during the course of the Conference.

...

C. Assert that we will continue to defend our land, identity and cultural values, which link us unequivocally to our African kith and kin in the Southern Sudan.

Page 3, V. On Unity amongst Ngok and Relations with Neighbors,

A. The Ngok of Abyei affirm that our strong culture, which has made us to survive throughout history, is a deep reservoir and resource from which to draw in confronting all of the challenges facing our land and people.

Land, property and environment→Cultural heritage→Promotion

Page 2, II. On the Peace Process:

...

F. Affirm that the Sudan draws from a rich history and cultural diversities that must be recognized and respected as a fundamental step in the resolution of the national conflict.

Page 3, On Good Governance:

...

B. Suggest that a unique system of governance can be developed which builds upon and reinforces our cultural values and identity, and which can also inspire others around Africa and the world who seek solutions that build on their cultural heritage.

C. Appreciate the existing incorporation of traditional structures in the local administration of the area, and propose that they be further integrated as the administration continues evolve.

Page 4, V. On Unity amongst Ngok and Relations with Neighbors,

...

B. Uphold the need to stand together in a common identity and cultural heritage, and to respect the wise traditional leadership of our people.

...

D. Propose the revival of age-sets and the promotion of other positive cultural practices to further cement the unity of our people.

Environment No specific mention.

Water or riparian rights or access Page 2, II. On the Peace Process:  
...  
G. Affirm that we are a peace loving people, who have historically welcomed our neighbours to have seasonal access to water and grazing lands on the soil of Abyei, and give specific assurance to the Missiriya that this existing understanding will prevail even when Abyei is restored to Bahr el Ghazal.

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## 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 Page 2, II. On the Peace Process:  
...  
B. Fully mandate the SPLM/A as the legitimate representative of our just cause in all national, regional, and international fora and to negotiate on our behalf with the government of the day in Khartoum.

Withdrawal of foreign forces No specific mention.

Corruption No specific mention.

Crime/  
organised  
crime No specific mention.

Drugs No specific mention.

Terrorism No specific mention.

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## **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 Page 3, IV. On Good Governance,  
...  
G. Call upon the SPLM/A to establish cooperatives for the rehabilitation of the  
wounded heroes, widows and orphans of the liberation struggle.

Missing  
persons No specific mention.

Reparations No specific mention.

Reconciliation No specific mention.

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## Implementation

UN  
signatory No specific mention.

Other  
international  
signatory Agreement not signed due to nature, but the declaration notes the following:  
Page 1, I. Preamble:  
...was sponsored by the Sudan Peace Fund of the United States Government,  
which is implemented through a consortium of international and indigenous  
non-governmental organizations.  
...  
...including the official Italian observer to the IGAD peace forum...

Referendum  
for  
agreement No specific mention.

International  
mission/  
force/similar No specific mention.

Enforcement  
mechanism No specific mention.

Related  
cases No specific mention.

Source Rift Valley Institute (2003) 'Agok Declaration - Resolutions of the Ngok of Abyei  
People's Conference', 2 June, Sudan Open Archive. Available at: [https://  
www.sudanarchive.net/](https://www.sudanarchive.net/)

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