

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

|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Country/<br/>entity</b>           | South Sudan<br>Sudan  |
| <b>Region</b>                        | Africa (excl MENA)<br>Africa (excl MENA)  |
| <b>Agreement<br/>name</b>            | SPLM-United / Operation Lifeline Sudan Agreement on Ground Rules  |
| <b>Date</b>                          | 1 May 1996  |
| <b>Agreement<br/>status</b>          | Multiparty signed/agreed  |
| <b>Interim<br/>arrangement</b>       | Yes   |
| <b>Agreement/<br/>conflict level</b> | Intrastate/intrastate conflict ( Sudan Conflicts (1955 - ) )  |
| <b>Stage</b>                         | Pre-negotiation/process   |
| <b>Conflict<br/>nature</b>           | Government/territory  |
| <b>Peace process</b>                 | Sudanese (North-South) peace process  |
| <b>Parties</b>                       | Dr. Lam Akol, Chairman and Commander in Chief SPLM-United; Pierce Gerety, OLS Coordinator and UNICEF Chief of Operations  |
| <b>Third parties</b>                 | An agreement by the Fashoda Relief and Rehabilitation Association, a humanitarian branch of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement, and Operation Lifeline, a UNICEF-led coalition of humanitarian assistance organizations, on the acceptable standards of conduct for humanitarian activities in SPLM controlled areas. |
| <b>Description</b>                   | Agreement to improve delivery of humanitarian relief.   |

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**Agreement  
document** [SD\\_960501\\_SPLM-United Operation Lifeline Sudan Agreement on Ground Rules.pdf](#)  | [Download PDF](#)

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## Groups

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Children/<br>youth                      | <p>Groups→Children/youth→Rhetorical</p> <p>Page 1, A. Statement of humanitarian principles</p> <p>3. All humanitarian assistance provided is for the use of identified civilian beneficiaries. Priority must at all time be given to women and children and other vulnerable groups such as the elderly, disabled and displaced people.</p> <p>Groups→Children/youth→Substantive</p> <p>Page 1, In signing this agreement, we express our support for the following international humanitarian conventions and their principles, namely:</p> <p>i. Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989</p>   |
| Disabled<br>persons                     | No specific mention.  |
| Elderly/age                             | No specific mention.  |
| Migrant<br>workers                      | No specific mention.  |
| Racial/<br>ethnic/<br>national<br>group | <p>Groups→Racial/ethnic/national group→Anti-discrimination</p> <p>Page 1, A. Statement of humanitarian principles</p> <p>2. The guiding principle of OLS and FRRRA is that of humanitarian neutrality - an independent status for humanitarian work beyond political or military considerations. In other words:</p> <p>i. Humanitarian aid must be given according to considerations of human need alone. Its granting, or its acceptance must not be made dependent on political factors or upon race, religion, ethnicity or nationality. It must not seek to advance any political agenda. Where humanitarian assistance is inadequate to meet the needs of all, priority must be given to the most vulnerable.</p> |
| Religious<br>groups                     | <p>Groups→Religious groups→Anti-discrimination</p> <p>Page 1, A. Statement of humanitarian principles</p> <p>2. The guiding principle of OLS and FRRRA is that of humanitarian neutrality - an independent status for humanitarian work beyond political or military considerations. In other words:</p> <p>i. Humanitarian aid must be given according to considerations of human need alone. Its granting, or its acceptance must not be made dependent on political factors or upon race, religion, ethnicity or nationality. It must not seek to advance any political agenda. Where humanitarian assistance is inadequate to meet the needs of all, priority must be given to the most vulnerable.</p>             |

Indigenous people No specific mention.

Other groups No specific mention.

Refugees/  
displaced  
persons No specific mention.

Social class No specific mention.

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## Gender

Women,  
girls and  
gender Page 1, A. Statement of humanitarian principles  
3. All humanitarian assistance provided is for the use of identified civilian  
beneficiaries. Priority must at all time be given to women and children and  
other vulnerable groups such as the elderly, disabled and displaced people.

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 Page 1, A. Statement of humanitarian principles

1. The fundamental objective of OLS and FRRA is the provision of humanitarian assistance to populations in need wherever they may be. Such humanitarian assistance seeks to save life, to ease suffering, to promote self-reliance, self-sufficiency and the maintenance of livelihoods. The right to receive humanitarian assistance and to offer it is a fundamental humanitarian principle.

Page 1, A. Statement of humanitarian principles

2. The guiding principle of OLS and FRRA is that of humanitarian neutrality - an independent status for humanitarian work beyond political or military considerations. In other words:

i. Humanitarian aid must be given according to considerations of human need alone. Its granting, or its acceptance must not be made dependent on political factors or upon race, religion, ethnicity or nationality. It must not seek to advance any political agenda. Where humanitarian assistance is inadequate to meet the needs of all, priority must be given to the most vulnerable.

ii. The passage of humanitarian assistance to populations in need should not be denied even if this requires that aid passes through an area controlled by one party in order to reach the needy in another area, provided that such passage is not used for military advantage.

iii. Relief assistance is provided solely on the basis of need; those providing assistance do not affiliate themselves to any side in the ongoing conflict.

iv. The only constraints on responding to humanitarian need should be those of resources and practicality.

Page 2, A. Statement of humanitarian principles

4. Those carrying out relief activities under the auspices of OLS must be accountable to the beneficiaries and their representative structures in first place, and to those who fund the activities. This places the following obligations on the various parties:

i. those rendering humanitarian aid have a duty to ensure its appropriate end use. This includes a right to monitor and participate in the distribution of humanitarian aid on the ground in partnership with FRRA.

ii. local authorities, through the FRRA, must ensure that aid is distributed fairly to civilian beneficiaries. Diversion of aid from intended beneficiaries is regarded as a breach of humanitarian principles.

iii. decision-making on the selection of beneficiaries and the monitoring of the use of inputs and resources must be, and be seen to be, transparent and responsive to broad based decision-making at the level of affected communities. Local authorities and relief agencies should involve local representatives of communities in the processes of targeting and monitoring of aid. Where possible, this should be done through the Joint Relief and Rehabilitation Committees which include elected community representatives.

Page 2, A. Statement of humanitarian principles

5. OLS is based on the complete transparency of all its activities. This means that local authorities have the right to expect that OLS agencies provide full information regarding the resources to be provided. In return, it is expected that local authorities will report honestly and fairly in all their dealings with OLS with respect to needs identified, populations in need, use of resources, etc.

Traditional/  
religious  
leaders No specific mention.

Public  
administration Page 6, E. Rents, taxes, licences, protection money  
2. In the case of public buildings which are being rented by an NGO as living  
accommodation, a reasonable rent may be paid by the NGO/UN agency to  
the civil administration. Genuine efforts should be made to make moves  
towards standardization of these rents.

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 Page 2, A. Statement of humanitarian principles  
7. The fundamental human right of all persons to live in safety and dignity  
must be affirmed and supported through appropriate measures of protection  
as well as relief. All those involved in OLS must respect and uphold  
international humanitarian law and fundamental human rights.

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| Bill of rights/<br>similar | No specific mention.   |
| Treaty incorporation       | <p>Page 1, In signing this agreement, we express our support for the following international humanitarian conventions and their principles, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989</li> <li>ii. Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the 1977 Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions</li> </ul> <p>Page 3, A. Statement of humanitarian principles</p> <p>7. The fundamental human right of all persons to live in safety and dignity must be affirmed and supported through appropriate measures of protection as well as relief. All those involved in OLS must respect and uphold international humanitarian law and fundamental human rights.</p>  |
| Civil and political rights | <p>Human rights and equality→Civil and political rights→Liberty and security of person</p> <p>Page 3, A. Statement of humanitarian principles</p> <p>7. The fundamental human right of all persons to live in safety and dignity must be affirmed and supported through appropriate measures of protection as well as relief. All those involved in OLS must respect and uphold international humanitarian law and fundamental human rights.</p> <p>Human rights and equality→Civil and political rights→Privacy and family life</p> <p>Page 4, B. Mutual obligations</p> <p>10. UN/NGO compounds should be respected as property of these institutions. Those living in these compounds have the right to privacy and compounds should only be entered with the permission of their residents. No military or political activity should take place in these compounds and no personnel bearing arms may enter them except when the safety of their residents is threatened.</p> |

Socio-economic rights

Human rights and equality→Socio-economic rights→Property  
Page 5, C. Use of relief property and supplies  
3. UN and NGO staff will be allowed unrestricted access to their communication equipment and to exercise normal property rights. Except for emergencies, all messages should be written and recorded. Use of UN/NGO radios or other communication equipment will be limited to information on relief activities only. All messages will be in the English language. Operation shall be by a locally designated radio operator seconded and selected jointly by the local authorities and relief agencies. Whenever necessary, UN/NGO personnel will be allowed to transmit their own messages.

Human rights and equality→Socio-economic rights→Other  
Page 1, A. Statement of humanitarian principles  
1. The fundamental objective of OLS and FRRA is the provision of humanitarian assistance to populations in need wherever they may be. Such humanitarian assistance seeks to save life, to ease suffering, to promote self-reliance, self-sufficiency and the maintenance of livelihoods. The right to receive humanitarian assistance and to offer it is a fundamental humanitarian principle.

Page 2, A. Statement of humanitarian principles  
5. OLS is based on the complete transparency of all its activities. This means that local authorities have the right to expect that OLS agencies provide full information regarding the resources to be provided. In return, it is expected that local authorities will report honestly and fairly in all their dealings with OLS with respect to needs identified, populations in need, use of resources, etc.

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## 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→Media logistics

Page 5, C. Use of relief property and supplies

3. UN and NGO staff will be allowed unrestricted access to their communication equipment and to exercise normal property rights. Except for emergencies, all messages should be written and recorded. Use of UN/NGO radios or other communication equipment will be limited to information on relief activities only. All messages will be in the English language. Operation shall be by a locally designated radio operator seconded and selected jointly by the local authorities and relief agencies. Whenever necessary, UN/NGO personnel will be allowed to transmit their own messages.

Page 6, F. Implementation of this agreement

1. All signatories to this agreement must accept responsibility for ensuring that it is disseminated to all their officials and staff working in Sudan. It should also be publicised in public places in Sudan to ensure that local communities and beneficiaries understand its principles and rules.

Mobility/  
access

Page 1, A. Statement of humanitarian principles

2. The guiding principle of OLS and FRRA is that of humanitarian neutrality - an independent status for humanitarian work beyond political or military considerations. In other words:

ii. The passage of humanitarian assistance to populations in need should not be denied even if this requires that aid passes through an area controlled by one party in order to reach the needy in another area, provided that such passage is not used for military advantage.

Page 3, A. Statement of humanitarian principles

8. Bona fide staff members of OLS agencies and others living, working or travelling in Sudan under the auspices of OLS have the right to go about their business freely and without restraint provided that they adhere to these ground rules and to local laws and customs. In all their dealings, relief workers and local authorities must demonstrate mutual respect.

Page 3, B. Mutual obligations

5. UN agencies and NGOs must ensure that all their staff living, working or visiting Sudan are bearers of valid entry passes from SPLM-United.

Page 4, C. Use of relief property and supplies

1. i. All UN/NGO property, including vehicles and property hired by UN/NGOs, is to be controlled and moved at the discretion of UN/NGOs or their agencies, unless such property is formally donated to another party.

Page 5, C. Use of relief property and supplies

3. UN and NGO staff will be allowed unrestricted access to their communication equipment and to exercise normal property rights. Except for emergencies, all messages should be written and recorded. Use of UN/NGO radios or other communication equipment will be limited to information on relief activities only. All messages will be in the English language. Operation shall be by a locally designated radio operator seconded and selected jointly by the local authorities and relief agencies. Whenever necessary, UN/NGO personnel will be allowed to transmit their own messages.

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Protection measures | <p>Rights related issues→Protection measures→Protection of civilians<br/>Page 1,</p> <p>We, the undersigned, enter into this agreement in a spirit of good faith and mutual cooperation in order to improve the delivery of humanitarian assistance to and protection of civilians in need.</p> <p>Rights related issues→Protection measures→Protection of groups<br/>Page 4, B. Mutual obligations<br/>9. Local authorities assume full responsibility, through the FRRA for the safety and Protection of relief workers in areas under their control. This responsibility includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Providing an immediate alert to relief workers in potentially insecure areas;</li> <li>ii. facilitation of safe relocation when necessary;</li> <li>iii. protection from any form of threat harassment or hostility from any source;</li> </ul> |
| Other               | <p>Page 5, D. Employment of staff<br/>1. All UN agencies and NGO have the right to hire their own staff as direct employees. These agencies should be encouraged to employ appropriately qualified and experienced Sudanese as part of a capacity building strategy.</p>  |

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## Rights institutions

|   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| NHRI  | No specific mention. |
| 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→Humanitarian assistance

Page 1, A. Statement of humanitarian principles

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Page 1, A. Statement of humanitarian principles

2. The guiding principle of OLS and FRRA is that of humanitarian neutrality - an independent status for humanitarian work beyond political or military considerations. In other words:

i. Humanitarian aid must be given according to considerations of human need alone. Its granting, or its acceptance must not be made dependent on political factors or upon race, religion, ethnicity or nationality. It must not seek to advance any political agenda. Where humanitarian assistance is inadequate to meet the needs of all, priority must be given to the most vulnerable.

ii. The passage of humanitarian assistance to populations in need should not be denied even if this requires that aid passes through an area controlled by one party in order to reach the needy in another area, provided that such passage is not used for military advantage.

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ii. local authorities, through the FRRA, must ensure that aid is distributed fairly to civilian beneficiaries. Diversion of aid from intended beneficiaries is regarded as a breach of humanitarian principles.

iii. decision-making on the selection of beneficiaries and the monitoring of the use of inputs and resources must be, and be seen to be, transparent and responsive to broad based decision-making at the level of affected communities. Local authorities and relief agencies should involve local representatives of communities in the processes of targeting and monitoring of aid. Where possible, this should be done through the Joint Relief and Rehabilitation Committees which include elected community representatives.

Page 2, A. Statement of humanitarian principles

5. OLS is based on the complete transparency of all its activities. This means that local authorities have the right to expect that OLS agencies provide full information regarding the resources to be provided. In return, it is expected that local authorities will report honestly and fairly in all their dealings with

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 No specific mention.

Cultural heritage No specific mention.

Environment No specific mention.

Water or riparian rights or access No specific mention.

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## Security sector

Security Guarantees Page 4, B. Mutual obligations  
9. Local authorities assume full responsibility, through the FRRA for the safety and Protection of relief workers in areas under their control. This responsibility includes:  
i. Providing an immediate alert to relief workers in potentially insecure areas;  
ii. facilitation of safe relocation when necessary;  
iii. protection from any form of threat harassment or hostility from any source;

Page 4, B. Mutual obligations  
10. UN/NGO compounds should be respected as property of these institutions. Those living in these compounds have the right to privacy and compounds should only be entered with the permission of their residents. No military or political activity should take place in these compounds and no personnel bearing arms may enter them except when the safety of their residents is threatened.

Page 5, C. Use of relief property and supplies  
2. UN and NGO flags are for exclusive use by these agencies.

Page 5, C. Use of relief property and supplies  
3. UN and NGO staff will be allowed unrestricted access to their communication equipment and to exercise normal property rights. Except for emergencies, all messages should be written and recorded. Use of UN/NGO radios or other communication equipment will be limited to information on relief activities only. All messages will be in the English language. Operation shall be by a locally designated radio operator seconded and selected jointly by the local authorities and relief agencies. Whenever necessary, UN/NGO personnel will be allowed to transmit their own messages.

Page 5, C. Use of relief property and supplies  
4. No armed or uniformed personnel is allowed to travel on UN/NGO vehicles: planes, boats or cars. This includes those vehicles contracted by UN/NGOs.

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 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 No specific mention.

Missing persons No specific mention.

Reparations No specific mention.

Reconciliation No specific mention.

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## Implementation

UN signatory Pierce Gerety, OLS Coordinator and UNICEF Chief of Operations

Other international signatory No specific mention.

Referendum for agreement No specific mention.

International mission/force/similar No specific mention.

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Enforcement mechanism | <p>Page 6, F. Implementation of this agreement</p> <p>1. All signatories to this agreement must accept responsibility for ensuring that it is disseminated to all their officials and staff working in Sudan. It should also be publicised in public places in Sudan to ensure that local communities and beneficiaries understand its principles and rules.</p> <p>Page 6, F. Implementation of this agreement</p> <p>2. UNICEF/OLS, together with the FRRA will be responsible for ensuring the holding of workshops and meetings in all key locations in which the principles and rules of this agreement are explained and discussed with all relevant personnel.</p> <p>Page 6, F. Implementation of this agreement</p> <p>3. The FRRA is fully responsible for ensuring compliance with this agreement by the local authorities and communities.</p> <p>Page 6, F. Implementation of this agreement</p> <p>4. Joint Relief and Rehabilitation Committees established in all relief centres and involving all relevant actors should meet together on a regular basis to plan, implement and monitor the delivery of humanitarian assistance. These committees will be regarded as the custodians of the principles of this agreement at local level and responsible for ensuring that the rules are upheld and respected by all sides.</p> |
| Related cases         | No specific mention.   |
| Source                | ReliefWeb,. 'Reliefweb'. N.p., 2015. Web. 26 Oct. 2015.  |

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