



*The African Centre for
Democracy and Human
Rights Studies*



Sudan Civil Society Consortium (SCSC)

Mandate, Policy Advocacy Strategy and Composition

August 2026

Background

As the human rights and humanitarian situation in Sudan continues to deteriorate, a group of experts representing some major African human rights groups, gender equality campaigns and peace movements convened the “Expert Workshop on Civil Society Policy Advocacy on Sudan” in Nairobi (Kenya) during the period 3rd to 5th August 2026. This event was co-sponsored by the African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies (ACDHRS), the Centre of African Legal Studies/le *Centre d’Etudes Juridiques Africaines* (CEJA) and the Sudan Knowledge Centre (SKC).

The Expert Workshop concluded that the human rights and humanitarian situation in Sudan is so dire and so acute that immediate action is required to save lives and regain peace and tranquillity in the country. It was observed that despite the ongoing efforts for peace as led by the African Union (AU) and the United Nations (UN) and other sub-regional organizations as well as several initiatives led by the QUAD countries (United States of America, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt), the situation remains dangerously precarious since the outbreak of the armed confrontations between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) on 15 April 2023.

It is disheartening that the warring parties are unable to sit at the negotiations table due to internal and external obstacles and the support that they receive and emboldens their political positions, notably SAF’s intransigence and continuous rejection of all attempts for a short-term ceasefire arrangement for humanitarian purposes, which is responsible for the ongoing stalemate. The regional and global interests and the active participation of state and non-state actors to different levels, including direct participation in military operations, funding of military capabilities, diplomatic and political backing to parties to the conflict are sustaining the fighting and prolonging the suffering of the victims. It was concluded that the two parties are equally responsible for the commission of serious and heinous atrocity crimes and violations of arrangements to spare lives and livelihoods in the country.

At the conclusion of the Expert Workshop, the participants decided to launch the Sudan Civil Society Consortium (SCSC) and to invite like-minded Sudan-focused organizations to join it. The objective of the SCSC is to follow up the developments, collect evidence and raise awareness about the situation at the national, regional and international levels. The SCSC is envisioned as an independent and impartial Sudanese-led umbrella group to harmonize efforts of its members, strengthen their policy advocacy capabilities and to take advantage of the wider outreach inherent in civil society networks.

The Consortium’s **mission** is to support efforts to reach durable peaceful solutions of armed conflicts in Sudan by addressing their root causes and proposing alternative policy options to entertain the different aspects of such conflicts. It endeavours to inject an independent and impartial civil society perspective supported by grassroots expert viewpoints, including information sharing about success stories from other parts of Africa and the world. SCSC’s **vision** is to see Sudan a peaceful, culturally and religiously tolerant, democratically vibrant and economically prosperous country, in peace with itself and friendly relationships with its neighbours. The population of this multi-ethnic, multi-cultural and multi-religious nation, have the fundamental right to live in peace and dignity and without discrimination on any ground as to racial, social or regional origins, skin complexion, creed, gender, language, birth or disability etc.

A 4-person strong Committee composed of – Ms. Hannah Forster (ACDHRS), Mr. Abdelbagi Jibril (SKC/ACDHRS), Ms. Fawzia Momahed Ali Elshaeb (SKC) and Mr. Adam Mousa Ibrahiem, Darfur Victims Support Organization (DVSO) – was formed and authorized to steer the work and prepare the necessary documentation and background material. The SKC/ACDHRS are mandated to provide the technical secretariat services for the Consortium.

Enhanced Civil Society Policy Advocacy Strategy

The present overall enhanced civil society policy advocacy strategy developed by SCSC shall be implemented through short, medium and long-term working plans to address the immediate needs to end the ongoing armed conflict through an informed negotiated peaceful settlement and to halt the associated devastating humanitarian crisis on the one hand. On the other, the strategy shall advocate for future action to address the needs for post-conflict peacebuilding and reconstruction of the destroyed livelihoods, economic infrastructure and the weakened and divided societal fabric.

Working with continental and global inter-governmental and non-governmental institutions is a key pillar of this enhanced policy advocacy strategy. Coordinated collective action by independent Sudanese civil society groups have been disproportionately weak during the major AU's fora in Addis Ababa and elsewhere on the continent of Africa, especially events during which the situation in Sudan is addressed. Sustained presence of independent Sudanese civil society groups will enable them to take advantage of the potential of working with the AU's organs, influencing the decision-making process and ultimately playing a positive role in shaping action undertaken by regional and global decision-makers. It is, therefore, crucial that independent Sudanese and Sudan-focused civil society groups maintain close institutional links with the AU political and executive organs and strengthen cooperation. Sub-regional organizations such as the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and other institutions like the Pan-African Parliament are potential venues for effective civil society policy advocacy.

The UN, with its vast system of charter-based and treaty-based bodies as well as its specialized agencies and programmes represents another important arena to be used by Sudanese groups and Sudan-focused regional and international civil society organisations. The UN human rights system, both charter-based and treaty-based bodies, notably the triannual sessions of the Human Rights Council, represents the main forum where civil society can bring up matters of concern. Occasional participation of civil society at the UN Security Council, the Committee on the Status of Women etc. are important opportunities for policy advocacy with high-level officials and government delegations.

At this phase of work, the strategy shall be centred on support of efforts to end the present armed conflict through peaceful means, notably the initiatives undertaken by the QUAD countries and the QUINTET (African Union, Intergovernmental Authority on Development, League of Arab States, European Union, and the United Nations). It calls for unification of both initiatives and combine their goals into one peace proposal to be endorsed by members of the AU Peace and Security Council (AUPSC) and the UN Security Council (UNSC). The enhanced civil society policy advocacy strategy is built on four layers *viz.*, 1. What are the issues to be addressed? 2. What are the key advocacy messages and tools? 3. What are the targets and power structures; and 4. What are the proposed activities? The answers to these questions are summarised below and further explained in 4 clusters of diagrams.

Sudan is a failed state amidst an all about destructive internal war and, consequently, there is a myriad set of immediate issues to be addressed as a matter of top priority. These urgent issues include short-term cessation of hostilities to ease the humanitarian crisis and prepare the ground for permanent ceasefire concurrent with full-blown peace negotiations to reach a durable peaceful settlement. Other matters of priority that require interventions are the massive violations of human rights law and the geopolitical and economic interests that drive negative external interferences in the affairs of the country. The end of the war must be followed by the return to a civilian-led transitional government and the rebuilding of the state institutions as two of the necessary guarantees for peace and revival of socio-economic development and rebuilding of the destroyed livelihoods. For detailed analysis of the issues to be addressed see the diagram entitled Cluster 1 – Issues to be Addressed, pages to

On the existing policy advocacy narratives, it is observed that different external and internal stakeholders, state and non-state actors, including civil society groups, send conflicting messages about the dynamic of the situation in Sudan and the necessary steps to end the armed conflict. It has also been observed that some of the advocacy messages weaponize the suffering of the victims for sheer geopolitical interests and the quest for selective condemnations, which obscure the reality of the situation. The Sudan Consortium shall, therefore, develop factual, impartial and honest advocacy messages and tools to reinvigorate initiatives for a negotiated peaceful settlement, put a speedy halt to the war and end the humanitarian suffering and effectively address the concerns of the victims with regard to their immediate and urgent needs. For simplified samples of the possible advocacy messages and tools, please see the diagram entitled Cluster 2 – Advocacy Messages and Tools, pages ... to

The AU has been at the vanguard of action on issues of armed conflicts in Sudan and it is expected to continue taking leadership roles in addressing the situation in the years to come. The AU is better placed to propose and inspire collective action by regional and international stakeholders, including civil society groups. The AU should, therefore, be supported and encouraged to continue its efforts on Sudan and to go the extra mile in the long road to peace, political stability, economic prosperity, justice, and eventually the respect of the rule of law and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The AU Peace and Security Architecture, especially the Peace and Security Council (PSC), the Panel of the Wise, and the Continental Early Warning System (CEWS) are main targets of policy advocacy. Special efforts should be made with the IGAD, which is the sub-regional building block of the Peace and Security Architecture in charge of the situation in Sudan. Since the AU works in synergy with the UN on matters of peace, it is, therefore, imperative that the same advocacy methodology be used with both. Support to the AU and UN should envisage work plans that targets the main actors, including the institutions and the individuals that lead their work. For detailed break-up of the action points on targets and power analysis, please see the diagram entitled Cluster 3 – Targets and Power Analysis, pages ... to

The short, middle and long-term activities entailed in this strategy will be adjusted and developed as the situation evolves. Building strategic partnerships and mobilizing the needed resources to maintain SCSC are the building blocks on which the success of the project largely depends. Regular consultations among SCSC's members are key elements to develop harmonized policy advocacy work plans and messages and to initiate collective activities to keep the momentum around issues that come to the fore. Regular engagement shall strengthen strategic partnerships and co-operation. Mobilizing the public opinion of African governments and nations to prioritize an end to conflicts in Sudan is an important element for change in the long run. Efforts shall focus on generating stronger African political will and building momentum around a holistic approach to address bigotry and conflicts in Sudan and ensure durable peace that address the root causes of conflicts and adequately meet the aspirations of the people without discrimination on any ground. See Cluster 3 – Short, Middle and Long-term Activities pages ... to

Implementation

Successful implementation of this strategy rests on the active involvement of SCSC's members and associates and their networks. Major policy advocacy movements, campaigns and organizations such as GIMAC, SOAWR, ACDHRS and Equality Now shall be requested to include special sessions on Sudan during the biannual and other main gatherings of African civil society they organize every year. On these occasions, several hundreds of their members and partners will be updated about the developments of the situation and the required advocacy actions to fill the early-warning early-action gaps. The strategy shall be time-bound and built on people-centric narratives that generate constructive emotional response

and simple and clear calls to action using multi-channel engagement and other relevant techniques. Frequent reviews to ensure that the strategy and work plans are 'fit for purpose' will be conducted,

List of Participants – Expert Workshop on Policy Advocacy on Sudan

1. Ms. Hannah Forster, African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies, (ACDHRS)
2. Mr. Patrick Ghislain Lessène, Centre for African Legal Studies /*Centre d'Etudes Juridiques Africaines* (CEJA)
3. Mr. Sadikh Niass, Afrika Jom Centre
4. Ms. Pusetso Morapedi, Botswana Centre for Public Integrity
5. Ms. Joanna Latilewa Forster, ACDHRS
6. Ms. Nana Kegya Appiah-Adu, Institute for Law and Development (ILAD), Women's Forum, Ghana Bar Association
7. Mr. Marcel Mani Epee, Central African Network of Human Rights Defenders/*Réseau des Défenseurs des Droits de l'Homme de l'Afrique Centrale* (REDHAC)
8. Ms. Ruth A A Epse Besong, Africa Program – Global Network of Women Peace Builders
9. Ms. Elisah Mbiza, Gender is My Agenda Campaign (GIMAC)
10. Ms. Marieme Diop, Plateforme des Veille des Femmes pour la Paix et la Sécurité, (Ètu Jamm)
11. Ms. Ms. Gicuku Karugu, Equality Now/Solidarity African Women Rights (SOWAR)
12. Mr. Edmund Yakani, Community Empowerment for Progress Organization/South Sudan Human Rights Defenders Network
13. Ms. Nafisa Elnour Mahmoud Hagar, Darfur Bar Association
14. Ms. Rihab Mubarak Sidahmed, Emergency Lawyers
15. Mr. Gafer Mohamdin Abden, *Moutamar Al-Kanabi* “Camps Congress”, Gezira State
16. Mr. Adam Mousa Eshag Ibraheim, Darfur Victims Support Organization
17. Mr. Nasreldeen Mufarih A Mohammed, former Minister of Religious Affairs and Endowment
18. Ms. Fawzia Mohamed Ali Ahmed Elshayeb, Executive Secretary, Sudan Knowledge Centre
19. Mr. Abdelbagi A. M. Jibril, President, Sudan Knowledge Centre
20. H.E. Ambassador Ali Ibn Abi Taleb Mahmoud (SKC) online participation.