

DECLARATION OF THE SUDANESE WOMEN ON IMPLEMENTING

THE PLAN OF ACTION FOR WOMEN IN COMMUNITIES TO COUNTER HATE SPEECH AND PREVENT INCITEMENT TO VIOLENCE THAT COULD LEAD TO GENOCIDE AND RELATED CRIMES “THE NAPOLI PLAN OF ACTION”

WE, met as women from Sudan, In Kigali, Rwanda, being mediators, activists, lawyers, experts and practitioners in the field of peace and security, committed to ensuring the voices of women and communities are engaged in ending the war in our country,

1. **Gathered** in Kigali, Rwanda from 4 to 5 November 2024, to explore concrete ways to implement the Plan of Action for Women in Communities to Counter Hate Speech and Prevent Incitement to Violence that Could Lead to Genocide and related Crimes “The Napoli Plan of Action” through enhancing the role of women with a particular focus on defining our common priorities for the future and peaceful co-existence of our ethnic and religious communities in Sudan,
2. **Expressing our deep gratitude** to the Government of Rwanda for hospitality and support for the Workshop,
3. **Applauding** the United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide for the commitment to mitigate risks of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity in Sudan including efforts in convening the women of Sudan,
4. **Commending the efforts** of the international community, including United Nations Secretary-General’s Personal Envoy for Sudan, Ramtane Lamamra, and the African Union (AU), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the League of Arab States (LAS), among others, to protect the Sudanese civilians and create a conducive environment for a durable and peaceful resolution of the crisis, and for the protection of all vulnerable civilians being directly affected and impacted by this crisis,
5. **Recognizing** the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action; the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security; and the Communiqué adopted at the Sudan Women’s Dialogue convened by the AU Commission through the Office of the Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security, under the leadership of the AU High Level Panel on Sudan in Kampala, Uganda on 4 July 2024,
6. **Reiterating** the Protection of Women in Emergency and Armed Conflict remains critical in the current context of rampant gendered impact of this crisis, and calling for the strict observance of the Declaration by all Member States that women belonging to the civilian population and finding themselves in circumstances of emergency and armed conflict, whereby women shall not be deprived of shelter, food, medical aid, education or other inalienable rights, in accordance with the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Declaration of the Rights of the Child or other instruments of international law,





7. **Noting** that the security environment in Sudan continues to be characterized by a humanitarian crisis shared by all civilians across ethnic and religious lines, resulting in deaths and displacements affecting all our communities,

8. **Emphasizing** the critical importance of equal and effective participation of women at all levels, at all stages and in all aspects of conflict prevention, transformation, and resolution, and noting that the resolutions also recognize the importance of gender expertise for all mediators and their teams, and gender advisory committee and the need for gender sensitive conflict analysis, including on sexual violence in conflict (SVC),

9. **Recalling** General Assembly Resolution A/RES/70/262 on the UN peacebuilding architecture and reaffirming the role of women in peacebuilding and the substantial link between women's full and meaningful involvement in efforts to prevent, resolve and rebuild from conflict and those efforts' effectiveness and long-term sustainability,

10. **Welcoming** the UN Secretary-General's recommendations to protect civilians in Sudan as outlined in his report (S/2024/759) and **supporting** the UN Secretary-General's 'Common Pledge to Increase Women's Full, Equal, and Meaningful Participation in Peace Processes,' launched on 24 October 2024,

11. **Guided** by the UN Framework of Analysis for Atrocity Crimes; the UN Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech; and the Plan of Action for Women in Communities to Counter Hate Speech and Prevent Incitement to Violence that Could Lead to Genocide and Related Atrocity Crimes,

DO SOLEMNLY DECLARE AS FOLLOWS:

12. **We affirm** the critical role of women in sustainable prevention of genocide and related crimes (War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity) from early warning to conflict resolution, promotion of tolerance, non-discrimination, and reconciliation, countering denial and addressing and countering hate speech and preventing incitement to violence,

13. **We have identified**, in these past two days, relevant risk factors and indicators of genocide and related crimes in Sudan and have conducted substantive exchanges on our experiences in preventing these heinous crimes, from which lessons for prevention can be drawn and initiatives in this direction implemented,

14. **We strongly condemn** the persisting fighting and systematic and indiscriminate attacks perpetrated by all warring parties against innocent civilians, entailing the commission of serious violations and abuses of international human rights and humanitarian law, which may amount to genocide, war crimes or crimes against humanity, including a disturbing rise in cases of conflict-related sexual violence,

15. **We express concern** that risk factors and indicators of genocide, as per the Framework of Analysis of Atrocity Crimes, are present and aggravating on a daily basis in Sudan,

16. **We are deeply concerned** about the ethnic-based attacks and mobilization across the country, where women and girls are further faced with the rampant use of rape and other forms of sexual violence as weapons of war, and about pervasive and long-lasting trauma inflicted on women who are victims of these acts;



17. **We note with regret** that the United Nations Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide has on multiple occasions expressed public concern about the presence of such risk factors and indicators, and has called for all those in position to take action to mitigate them, at the national, regional and international levels, to spare no efforts in this direction, and that such call has not led to effective prevention response; such risk factors include situations of armed conflict or other forms of instability; record of serious violations of international human rights and humanitarian law; weakness of State structures; motives or incentives; capacity to commit atrocity crimes; absence of mitigating factors; enabling circumstances or preparatory action; triggering factors; intergroup tensions or patterns of discrimination against protected groups; signs of an intent to destroy in whole or in part a protected group; signs of a widespread or systematic attack against any civilian population; signs of a plan or policy to attack any civilian population.

18. **We deplore** the proliferation of hate speech and incitement to violence preceding and accompanying these heinous attacks and their impact on social fabrics amid the deeply entrenched identity-based cleavages in Sudan,

19. **We regret** the slow progress in ensuring accountability for the serious international crimes committed in Darfur, South Kordofan, Blue Nile and the country, both 20 years ago and now in Gazira and Khartoum in a context in which impunity is directly contributing to the vulnerability of civilians and to the commission of further crimes, and where we see increasing risk factors for genocide and other serious international crimes, including raising intercommunal tensions, the presence of armed groups, including with mobilization of youth based on ethnicity displacement of population; systematic attacks against civilians, gender-based violence and the use of rape and force marriage as a weapon of war; trends of hate speech and incitement to violence; and denial of previous serious international crimes,

20. **We demand** that the warring parties protect civilians in accordance with their obligation under the international human rights and humanitarian laws, as well as the Declaration of Commitments to Protect the Civilians of Sudan, signed in Jeddah on 10 May 2023,

21. **We call** on the warring parties to immediately halt the hostilities and engage seriously in the ongoing efforts to bring forth durable peace in Sudan,

22. **We reaffirm** the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peace-building, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and in post-conflict reconstruction and stress the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security,

23. **We urge** continued endeavors and support towards ensuring accountability for these heinous crimes at all levels, as well as continuing documentation to support future accountability efforts with the aim of preventing the commission of further crimes,

24. **We call on** international and regional partners of Sudan to engage the voices of ordinary Sudanese women as an integral part of all mediation, humanitarian, peacebuilding, and communication efforts, as well as justice, truth, and reconciliation processes, to promote sustainable peace and stability in Sudan,



25. **We strongly urge** the international community to enhance their financial and other support for the prevention of genocide and related crimes, as well as the de-escalation of the risk factors that have been identified,

- a. **An immediate ceasefire in Sudan and the establishment of an arms embargo;**
- b. **Immediate access to fact-finding missions and international, regional and national observers to observe the situation and the preservation of critical evidence for future accountability measures,**
- c. **The provision of adequate humanitarian aid to internally displaced people, including in the area of education and health,**
- d. **Protection of civilians by a neutral peacekeeping force given the inability or unwillingness of warring parties to discharge their obligation under international human rights and humanitarian law as well as the Declaration of Commitments to Protect the Civilians of Sudan, signed in Jeddah on 10 May 2023,**
- e. **Immediate cessation of the use of rape and sexual violence as weapons of war and provision of psychosocial and trauma healing support to the victims thereof,**
- f. **Support from social media companies to address hate speech and prevent incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence on their platforms.**
- g. **Engage women, especially from civil society and local communities in decision making positions in peace processes.**
- h. **Ensure community sensitization by translating and disseminating on going peace efforts into local languages, keeping in mind the importance of oral communication.**
- i. **Recognize inherent security risks to civilians reporting violations and ensure robust mitigation measures.**
- j. **Ensure safe passage of humanitarian goods, protect aid workers and increase the delivery of gender-specific materials to address the needs of women and girls.**
- k. **Ensure that all peace processes are linked to local communities and traditional reconciliation mechanisms.**

26. **We reaffirm** our collective commitment as women, as part of the local, regional, and global network of women at the forefront of prevention, to continue mitigating the risks of genocide and related crimes in Sudan, to address and counter hate speech and incitement to violence, promote accountability and therefore to advance towards peaceful, inclusive, and just society,

27. Finally, **we implore** the international community to keep the current conflict and crisis in Sudan its urgent priorities.

on 5 November 2024
Kigali Genocide Memorial
Rwanda