

## Sudan Taskforce on the Engagement of Women Recommendations

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The Sudan Taskforce on the Engagement of Women (the Taskforce), is a group of peacebuilders. We are eminent civil society activists and leaders from political parties from diverse backgrounds with the shared objective of increasing the effectiveness of the peace processes. We believe this will happen through an inclusive process in which women and communities are consistently engaged. Through consultation and advocacy, the Taskforce supports inclusivity, serving as a conduit between policymakers and civil society, especially at the community level.

We met in Addis Ababa from January 27 to February 1, 2017 on the sidelines of the African Union Summit. We acknowledge progress made to date by our country's leaders on the difficult and complex issues of restoring peace and security, including the signing of the Roadmap Agreement of March, 2016. However, we express our concern about the current impasse over contentious issues that are impeding progress. Article 3.2 in the Roadmap states- *Accordingly they agree that the 7+7 committee of the National Dialogue referred to in paragraph 3 above should urgently meet, in Addis Ababa, the organization mentioned under 3.1 above to consider such steps as should be taken to achieve the inclusivity of the National Dialogue, which the parties agree is vital.*

We believe this meeting should be prioritized to move the process forward. To do that, we present the following recommendations:

### 1. US Proposal on Humanitarian Access:

- a. AUHIP and other international community actors should urge the SPLM-N to accept the US proposal on humanitarian access.
- b. In the process of trust building, as a first step to encourage the opposition to agree to the US proposal, a peace zone should be created – building on existing local initiatives in South Kordofan – in coordination with the local authorities and communities to test the recommendation.
  - i. The pilot will be monitored by the international community (TROIKA, AU, or other friendly partners) and a report produced to assess its effectiveness. The report will be disseminated to the parties; and
  - ii. If the pilot is successfully implemented as agreed upon by the parties, the opposition will agree to the US proposal.
- c. The international community **should provide support for the Taskforce** (including information sharing, funding, and logistical assistance) to meet with **key opposition leaders** and influencers to understand their issues and concerns, discuss recommendations, and solicit commitments for effective humanitarian access.

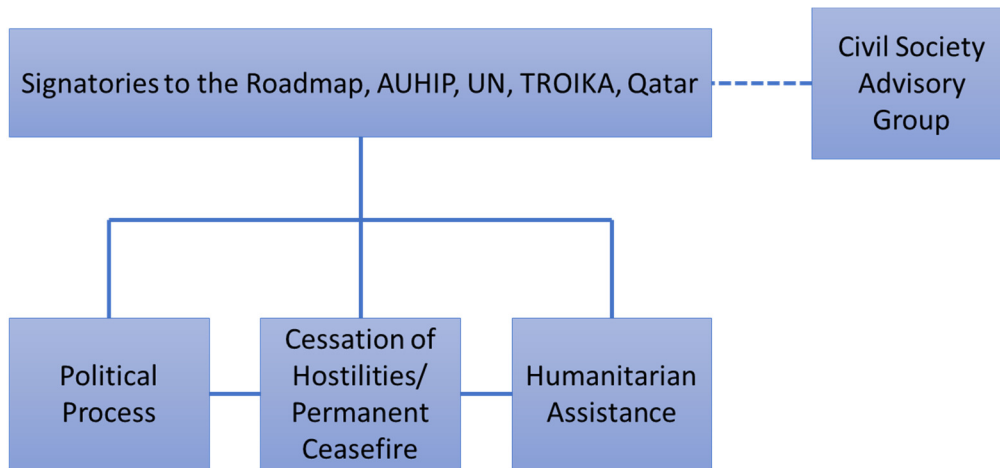
### 2. Synchronization:

We call for the urgent establishment of a **new Joint Coordination Committee to ensure the necessary synchronization** between the implementation of the cessation of hostilities leading to a permanent ceasefire, delivery of humanitarian assistance, and negotiations on relevant political matters called for in the Roadmap.

This Committee **should be accountable to the African Union Security Council** and include the signatories to the Roadmap and representatives from the AUHIP, United Nations, TROIKA, Qatar, and the peace process' three tracks (political process, humanitarian access, and permanent ceasefire). Civil society groups, including the Taskforce, should be granted an **official advisory group**. All bodies should ensure gender parity. Members should be responsible for the following:

- a) Establishing a **timetable and agenda** for the implementation of the Roadmap Article 6;
- b) **Monitoring progress of the three tracks** (cessation of hostilities/ceasefire, humanitarian assistance, political process); and
- c) **Disseminating updates and reports** on the process to all actors, including civil society organizations.

### Joint Coordination Committee (JCC)



### 3. Additionally, we present the following recommendations on two of the three tracks:

#### a. **Cessation of Hostilities (CoH):**

- i. Establish an independent monitoring committee to oversee implementation of the CoH.
- ii. Design a Monitoring and Verification Mechanism that includes both national and international technical experts that work at all levels including the community, state, and national. The mechanism should have gender parity.

#### b. **Political Track:**

##### i. **The international community should:**

1. Convene and facilitate (TROIKA, AUHIP, and friendly states like Germany) two preparatory workshops, one with the Sudan Call and the other with the 10+10, to discuss the procedures needed for an inclusive National Dialogue in consideration of the current context.

- 2. Support the Taskforce to act as a technical advisory body to the workshops.
- 3. **Provide support to the AUHIP by:**
  - a. Ensuring the appointment of a high-level gender advisor who is experienced with the intersection of gender and peacebuilding.
  - b. Bolstering the Panel’s administrative staff (its number and capacity) to strengthen operational aspects of the mediation efforts.
- 4. **Support the establishment of women’s peace tables/conferences** to introduce substance, create solutions, and disseminate information about the peace process

ii. **The AUHIP should:**

- 1. Draft and disseminate all materials in Arabic;
- 2. Ensure effectiveness and inclusivity of the meeting (article 3.2) that is proposed in AUHIP’s Roadmap by:
  - a. Seeking input prior to the meeting from civil society on the topics of discussion;
  - b. Providing immediate reporting on the progress of the discussions;
  - c. Conducting a regular briefing in English and Arabic to the media by a Panel member, disseminated via social media and other media outlets;

iii. **The government should ensure** that the new 10+10 structure includes 50% women (quota system).

iv. **The opposition groups should** ensure 50% women representation in their delegations.

**4. Creation of a conducive environment:**

Following is the **list of specific actions that the** Government and opposition should undertake in order to build trust and confidence:

<b>Government</b>	<b>Armed Movements</b>
<b>Release of Detainees</b>	
The government must release all political detainees	The opposition must release all prisoners of war
<b>Freedom of Expression/Independent Media</b>	
Amend the Media and Publication Law to streamline and accelerate the approval of media licenses.	Ensure media houses in opposition held territory are free to operate independently.
End censorship and stop the confiscation of newspapers	

<b>Freedom of Movement</b>	
Allow unrestricted movement for all citizens, especially politicians and civil society activists.	
Stop unwarranted arrests by National Intelligence Security Services. The police force should be authorized to make arrests only when a clear reason is defined and the perpetrator is given an explanation.	Allow access for United Nations and other international humanitarian organizations to deliver vaccinations and other critical services.
Allow all Sudanese citizens to travel without restrictions, inside and outside of Sudan	
Stop forced disappearances; ensure due process and provision of legal assistance	
<b>Space for Civil Society</b>	
Allow CSOs to work on the mission of their choosing including peace issues. Facilitate the re-opening of the previously closed NGOs.	
Allow free access to information for civil society via internet, radio, etc.	
<b>Legal Reform</b>	
Ensure all restrictive laws are in conformity with the Constitution and put in accountability measures if violated. For example, reform the National Intelligence and Security Services law to restrict their mandate to intelligence gathering only.	
Establish a committee to draft the Permanent Constitution after the new freely elected government is in place in 2020.	
<b>Access to Information</b>	
Regularly disseminate updates on the status of the peace process through diverse media outlets including local radio stations – in collaboration with youth groups, women’s groups, etc. - newspaper, and the internet.	