

**Memorandum from the Sudanese Democratic Civil Forces:
Regarding the biased statement by the Chairperson of the African Union Commission**

**His Excellency President Joao Lourenco, President of the Republic of Angola and Chair of the African Union
H.E. Mr. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, Chairperson of the African Union Commission
Your Excellences, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the African Peace and Security Council
Your Excellency Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, Head of the Political Affairs, Peace and Security, African Union
Your Excellences, Ambassadors and Permanent Representatives of the Member States to the African Union
Peace and Security Council**

6th of January 2026

Subject: Concern and objection to the Statement of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and His Bias in favor of one party to the war in Sudan

Your Excellences and Highnesses,

With the utmost respect and appreciation for the esteemed institution of the African Union and its long-standing legacy of struggle in defense of freedom and dignity of the African peoples, we hereby submit this memorandum to express our objection and profound concern regarding the statement issued by H. E. Mr. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, on 30 December 2025. In his statement, Mr. Youssouf welcomed what he described as a “peace initiative” submitted by government of Port Sudan, the headquarters of one of the parties to the conflict in Sudan, to the United Nations Security Council.

We, the undersigned, represent a significant sector of Sudanese civil society, those who led and contributed to uprooting one of Africa’s longest and harshest experiences of oppression and dictatorship, which spanned nearly three decades, through a popular revolution that was celebrated worldwide and immortalized in its slogans of freedom, peace, and justice.

We were also at the forefront of civil forces that resolutely resisted the 25th of October 2021 military coup orchestrated by both warring parties in Sudan – the Sudan Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces. Further we remain proactive within the broadest civilian front, committed to halting and ending the April 15 war, whose egregious crimes continue to be perpetrated by both warring parties and their allies against the nation and its innocent civilians, as part of plans to abort and suppress the democratic civilian transition and the glorious December People’s Revolution.

The speech delivered by Mr. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, on December 30, 2025, came as a shock to the Sudanese civil society. It is not only celebrated and legitimized the roadmap of one of the parties to the war, implicitly endorsing its calls for continuing the conflict, threaten the country’s unity by supporting its division, perpetrate atrocities against Sudanese civilians, but also placed the African Union, its institutions and principles in opposition to the values of the Sudanese society and its democratic civil forces in their unwavering struggle for peace, justice, and democratic transition.

Consequently, the commission has lost our confidence in its leadership and in its capacity to play roles that prioritize the demands of the Sudanese people in peace. Thus, our concerns and objections regarding the statement of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Mr. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, are summarized as follows:

First: The statement stands in contradiction with the African Union's established institutional position

We vividly recall that, since the October 25, 2021, coup, the African Union institutions have not recognized any legitimate government in Sudan, and Sudan's membership in all AU activities has been suspended due to the coup against the transitional civilian rule. Therefore, the Chairperson of the Commission's welcoming and support of an initiative that is described as originating from a "transitional government" constitutes a blatant deviation from the AU's institutional resolutions. It confers undue legitimacy on one party to an armed conflict and undermines the principle of neutrality that any mediator must uphold amid an ongoing war.

Second: Ignoring regional and international consensus

The statement disregards the existing regional and international initiatives and efforts to unify them, foremost among which is the initiative of the Quad Mechanism, comprising the United States, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and the Arab Republic of Egypt. This initiative brought hope for halting the war and ending it through the proposed three phases. For this reason, it received support from the African Union itself, as well as from numerous countries and regional and international institutions. It was also endorsed beforehand by Sudanese civil society for its seriousness, clarity, realism, and enforceability. Consequently, promoting unilateral initiative – particularly one from a party to the conflict- obstructs efforts to consolidate mediation platforms by exacerbating negative competition and fragmentation among them, deepening divisions, and weakening, rather than fostering the prospects for peace.

Third: Exclusion of the democratic civilian voices

The ongoing war in Sudan since April 2023 is a conflict between two military factions, both of which have undermined the civilian democratic transition. These parties bear full responsibility for the ensuing humanitarian catastrophe and the grave human rights violations. Accordingly, any peace initiative proposed by either side lacks credibility, particularly as it neglects and excludes the democratic civilian forces – the true representatives of the Sudanese public and the primary actors in numerous peace efforts. Any initiative led solely by the warring parties is therefore destined to fail and will inevitably reproduce the political crises that have brought Sudan to the current state of war.

Fourth: Threat to the credibility of the African Union

The repeated statements of this nature by the Chairperson of the Commission, which we have been closely monitoring since he assumed office, inflict serious damage on the reputation and legacy of the African Union as a neutral and reliable mediator. They erode the trust of African populations in their continental institutions and weaken the Union's ability to play an effective role in resolving continental conflicts. Sudan is currently experiencing the largest war in Africa, with more than 150,000 deaths, more than 14 million internally displaced or seeking refuge, and total collapse of the essential services. This humanitarian catastrophe requires wise, influential, neutral, and inclusive African leadership, not leadership whose defining characteristic, thus far, has been overt bias and the deepening of divisions in Sudan.

Fifth: Our Demands

1. Address contradiction between the institutional position of the African Union and its resolutions on Sudan (including non-recognition of any government) and the welcoming statement of the Chairperson of the AU Commission of the "transitional government", which represents one of the parties to Sudan's war.

2. A clear commitment by all African Union officials to neutrality and independence, and to refrain from conferring any legitimacy by endorsing the positions or statements of any party to the conflict, whether in Port Sudan or Nyala.
3. Affirmation of the necessity for the full and effective inclusion of the democratic civilian forces in any peace and political efforts, as the legitimate representatives of the aspirations of the Sudanese revolution and the demands of the Sudanese people. The African Union Commission should prioritize and engage constructively with peace initiatives put forward by democratic civil forces.
4. Effective coordination with the Quad Mechanism and regional and international initiatives, and bolster efforts to unify them, rather than creating competing pathways, including working toward a resolution by the African Union Peace and Security Council that adopts and complements the Quad roadmap.
5. Ensuring clear accountability mechanisms within the African Commission to prevent the recurrence of individual positions that contradict the governing principles and collective resolutions of the African Union institution as a whole.

Sixth: Our message to the peoples of the African continent

We, the undersigned members of the Sudanese democratic civil forces, take this memorandum as an opportunity to also reaffirm our belief in the unity of African peoples and in their shared struggle against injustice, violence, and authoritarianism. We look forward to the African Union, its institutions and leadership, to be the voice of the peoples rather than of the regimes, a guardian of democracy rather than of military coups, and a supporter of just peace rather than fuels of war.

Sudan today is experiencing the largest humanitarian catastrophe in contemporary history. Our people are bleeding, our cities are being devastated, our social fabric is being torn apart, and the very integrity of the state is threatened by fragmentation and division. We are in urgent need of genuine and strong mediation, including by the African Union that fully understands the gravity of Sudan's reality; we do not need positions that deepen division and disintegration or prolong the existing catastrophe.

In Conclusion, we place our full confidence in the wisdom of the leadership of the African Union and its Member States, and we hope that this memorandum will receive the attention it deserves. The future of Sudan and the credibility of the African Union depend on our collective ability to transcend biases and narrow interests and to work in good faith toward a comprehensive and just peace.

List of Signatories from the Sudanese Democratic Civil Forces

Political Organizations

1. Unionist Alliance, Babiker Faisal, Head of the Executive Office
2. Sudan People's Liberation Movement - Revolutionary Democratic Treand, Al-Radhi Daw al-Bayt, Secretary-General
3. Sudan Liberation Movement/ Army, Abdullah Haran, Vice President
4. Democratic Unionist Party- Original, Osama Hassouna, Deputy Head of the Organizational Sector
5. National Umma Party, Al-Wathiq Al-Bareer, Secretary-General
6. Umma Party, Mohammed Al-Mahi Al-Ansari, Head of Diaspora Official
7. Arab Socialist Ba'ath Party- Original, Wajdi Saleh Abdo, Member of the Leadership Council
8. National Ba'ath Party, Kamal Bolad, President
9. Sudanese National Alliance Party, Retired General Kamal Ismail, President
10. Republican Party, Asma Mahmoud Mohamed Taha, President
11. Sudanese Congress Party, Khalid Omar Youssef, Vice President
12. Nasserist Party, Intisar Al-Aqali, President
13. Unified National Unionist Party, Mohammed Al-Hadi Mahmoud, Secretary-General
14. National Unionist Party, Hamad Al-Neel Ali Abd Al-Baqi, Vice President

Civil Society

15. Civil Forces Coalition for East Sudan, Saleh Ammar
16. Network of Sudanese Women (dozens of women organizations, parties, and leaders)
17. Grassroots Civil Society Initiatives, Blue Nile, Shukri Ahmed Ali
18. Board of Trustees of the Sudan Democracy First Group SDFG, Abdul Rahman Al-Amin
19. Council of Professionals and Unions Coordination, Taha Osman Ishaq, Chairperson
20. Sudanese Group for Rights and Freedoms, Al-Sadiq Ali Hassan, Chairperson
21. Human Rights Defenders, Majid Maali
22. Sudan Knowledge Center, Abdul-Baqi Jibril
23. Organization of Families of December 2018 Martyrs, Saadia Saif Al-Din Mohamed Ahmed
24. Guardians Organization for Protection of the Revolution Values
25. Mothers of Sudan Organization, Blue Nile, Mona Bala Ibrahim
26. Kordofan Women's Organization for Human Rights

Academics and Researchers

27. Anwar Al-Haj, Researcher in Governance and Institutional Reform
28. Professor Hassan Bashir Al-Noor, Professor of Economics at Sudanese Universities
29. Dr. Ibrahim Ahmed Al-Badawi, Director of the Studies and Development Research Forum
30. Dr. Ahmed Malik Abu San, Development Expert
31. Dr. Asma (Buthaina) Ahmed Al-Naeem, Academic and Professor of Peace Studies
32. Dr. El-Obaid Ahmed El-Obaid, Legal Expert and International Human Rights Law Specialist
33. Dr. Bakri El-Jak, University Professor and Political Activist
34. Dr. Siddiqi El-Zaailai, Writer and Editor-in-Chief of Intellectual Issues Magazine

35. Dr. Salah Al-Amin, Expert on Humanitarian Issues in International Organizations
36. Dr. Issam Ahmed Abbas, University Professor and Data Analyst
37. Dr. Essa Hamid, UN Expert and Rural Development Specialist
38. Dr. Hisham Omer El-Noor, University Professor and Writer
39. Dr. Wajdi Kamel Saleh, Film Maker and University Media Professor
40. Dr. Amal Awad Mohamed Al-Hassan, Academic and Media Professor
41. Dr. Mawahib Abdel-Moneim Kamel Al-Din, Psychologist and Writer
42. Mawalana Abdul Qadir Al-Badawi, Legal Expert, Former Judge, and Lawyer
43. Madani Abbas Madani - Researcher in Development and Civil Society Issues

Diplomats

44. Ambassador Ibrahim Taha Ayoub, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs
45. Ambassador Ibrahim Bushra Mohamed Ali
46. Ambassador Al-Sadiq Al-Muqili
47. Ambassador Adil Ibrahim
48. Ambassador Adil Hussein Sharfi
49. Ambassador Ismat Qabani
50. Ambassador Omar Manis
51. Ambassador Mohamed Sharfi
52. Ambassador Mansour Bolad

Resistance Committees, Political and Civil Actors

53. Abu Al-Qasim Fadl el-Sayyid, Resistance Committees of the City of Rabak
54. Ahmed Jamil, Resistance Committees of Qadarif Locality
55. Ismail Ahmed, Resistance Committees of Blue Nile
56. Asia Sharif Mohamed, Women's Rights Defender
57. Eman Khalifa, Geologist and Civil Society Activist
58. Hassan Al-Aqib Hassan, Resistance Committees of Al-Rousayris
59. Hamad Musa, National Ba'ath Party
60. Dalia Al-Kabashi, Doctor and Civil Society Activist
61. Rehab Mubarak Sayed Ahmed, Lawyer and Human Rights Defender
62. Rahma Atik, Leader in the Women's Movement
63. Sharif Mohamed Osman, Political Secretary of the Sudanese Congress Party
64. Shihab Ibrahim Al-Tayeb, Head of Foreign Relations, Sudanese National Alliance Party
65. Abdul Rahman Mohamed, Resistance Committees of Atbara
66. Abdul Karim Saleh Hassan, Spokesperson for the Central Resistance Committees, Omdurman
67. Osman Al-Sheikh, Sudanese National Alliance
68. Fatima Habib Hussein, Leader in the Women's Movement
69. Limya Abdul Aziz Al-Tahir, Unionist, Doctor
70. Mohamed Salah Al-Haj, Civil Activist
71. Mohamed Abdul Hamid Bakheet, Unionist, Architect
72. Mohamed Markaz Boushi, Political Researcher and Civil Society Activist
73. Mudathir Tayser Mudathir, Leader of the Change Now Movement
74. Misbah Ahmed Mohamed, Head of the Media, the National Umma Party

75. Musab Mohamed Adam, Resistance Committees of Abu Hajar
76. Muawiya Babiker Ahmed Ali, Political Activist
77. Mai Elnaw, Civil Society Activist and Women's Rights Defender
78. Nabil Shakur, Media of the Sudanese Congress
79. Najla Sayed Ahmed Al-Sheikh, Secretary-General of the Sudanese Resistance Committees
80. Nihal Mohamed Ibn Idris, Leader in the Women's Movement
81. Nour Babiker, Spokesperson of the Sudanese Congress Party
82. Hadeya Hasab Allah, Leader in Civil Society and the Women's Movement

Artists

83. Abu-bakr Sayed Ahmed, Musician and Singer
84. Azhari Muhammad Ali, Writer and Poet
85. Anas Wardy, Artist and Singer
86. Hussein Khalil (Halfawi), Visual Artist and Radio Journalist
87. El-Tayeb Daw al-Bait, Visual Artist
88. Abdul- Baqi Mukhtar (Buqqah), Theater and Visual Artist
89. Wiam Kamal, Poet and Writer

Journalists and Writers

90. Ahmed Mohamed Khair, Journalist
91. Al-Haj Warrag, Writer and Journalist
92. Hussam Badawi, Journalist
93. Dalia Mohamed Al-Rubi, Media Producer
94. Rashid Said Yaqub, Journalist
95. El-Sharif Al-Hamdabi, Media Influencer
96. Shawqi Abdul- Azim, Journalist
97. Sabah Mohamed El-Hassan, Journalist
98. Salah Jalal, Writer and Journalist
99. Tahir Mu'tasim, Journalist
100. Osman Fadl- Allah, Journalist
101. Faisal Mohamed Saleh, Journalist
102. Al-Kabashi Ahmed Abdul Wahab, Writer
103. Kamal Abdul- Rahman Mukhtar, Journalist
104. Maher Abu Al-Jwkh, Journalist
105. Mohamed Al-Amin Abdul- Nabi, Writer and Journalist
106. Mohamed Abdul- Hamid, Journalist
107. Mohamed Latif, Journalist
108. Mustafa Sari Suleiman, Journalist
109. Yasser Abu Shamal, Journalist
110. Yasser Qasim, Journalist
