

**African  
UNYD**



# **Sudanese Youth Delegates Mandate**



---

Youth voices created the opportunity. They are now essential for securing peace and restoring the path to a sustainable democracy in Sudan.



---

## **Executive Summary**

As the youth delegates of Sudan to the UNGA for the year 2023, our mission is to empower the approximately 35 million young people across the nation in addition to amplifying the voices of Sudanese youth on the global stage, ensuring their representation at events like the UNGA. We aim to serve as a voice for the diverse Sudanese youth, representing their varied origins, cultures, religions, social backgrounds, and interests. This Document is the collective effort of the four Sudanese youth delegates, and it has been enriched by the contributions of over 30 youths and youth activists from every state in the country.

This document is the summary of our demands as Youth Delegates and youth representatives regarding the 2023 Sudan conflict. It was created after extensive discussions with young people from Sudan, who come from different backgrounds and areas affected by the April 2023 conflict. The document includes outputs from online questionnaires, open discussions, and virtual meetings with youth-led initiatives, capturing the collective voices and aspirations of Sudanese youth during these challenging times. Our vision for Sudan is a peaceful, inclusive nation where youth empowerment is central. To achieve this, we advocate for robust monitoring mechanisms for human rights violations, comprehensive transitional justice processes, and capacity-building support for local institutions. Youth involvement is emphasized across all these areas. By focusing on these areas, we aim to create a multi-dimensional approach to resolving the conflict in Sudan, ensuring justice, accountability, and the promotion of human rights. This document calls for both internal reforms and international support, emphasizing the need for long-term solutions that address the root causes of conflict and promote democracy.

# Executive Summary

The conflict in Sudan is a multifaceted issue stemming from historical, political, economic, social, and ethnic factors. One pivotal moment was the 2018 Sudan Revolution led by the youth and the Forces of Freedom and Change (FFC), who aimed for a civilian government and the military's withdrawal from politics. Despite difficulties, they persevered, engaging in tense negotiations with the military to bring about significant change.

The international community, including the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission (UNITAMS) and regional actors, pursued a cautious approach to Sudan's democratic transition. However, in 2021, a military coup occurred, dissolving the transitional civilian government. This setback disrupted the democratic progress and heightened power struggles, particularly among factions that had benefited from the previous regime.

The international community's response to the political situation in Sudan has been lackluster, with statements in support of peace but limited financial assistance. This has left the civilian government ill-prepared to address Sudan's economic and social challenges, making it vulnerable to military influence. In the short term, this inaction was to lead to national instability, and in the long term, it may worsen issues like poverty and corruption, affecting regional stability. The December agreement between civilian and military forces aimed to distance the army from politics and integrate various armed forces into a unified, professional army. While the agreement laid the groundwork for essential reforms, its full implementation required ongoing dialogue and practical steps from all stakeholders.

The shortcomings of the international community in addressing the situation are multi-faceted and encompass a range of issues. These include insufficient financial support to the civilian government, a perceived lack of urgency in restoring civilian rule, and the exclusion of civil society, youth, and marginalized regions from meaningful participation in political processes. These factors have contributed to deepening divisions and fostered feelings of marginalization among affected populations.

In 2021, a coup in Sudan ended the civilian transitional government. The transition aimed for civilian elections by the end of 2023. However, tensions between the Sudanese army and the paramilitary group Rapid Support Forces escalated on April 15, 2023, resulting in widespread clashes across Sudan, particularly in Khartoum. This violence has led to over 100,000 people fleeing Sudan, while 300,000 are internally displaced, exacerbating the current crisis.

## Our Vision



Our vision for Sudan is a country that is peaceful, prosperous, and inclusive. Our vision amidst its current challenges and conflicts is to empower the youth as the driving force for positive change. By fostering education, entrepreneurship, and inclusive governance, we can create a united Sudan that thrives through diversity, embraces peace, and unlocks its full potential as a beacon of hope in the region.

We envision a Sudan where youth have acquired tools and opportunities that have enabled them to lead and shape their own future. We see a country where young people are actively engaged in decision-making processes at all levels of society, and where their contributions are valued and respected. We believe that investing in youth empowerment and partnership is crucial to building a sustainable peace and democracy in Sudan.

We envision a Sudan that is free from violence, conflict, and discrimination, where people can live in safety and security.

We see a country that is committed to environmental sustainability and the protection of its natural resources. Our vision for Sudan is one of hope and possibility, where the challenges of the past are overcome through collaboration, innovation, and determination. We believe that by working together, we can build a brighter future for all Sudanese people!



# **Demands**

The demands are structured in three categories: responding to the conflict, building peace and democracy, empowering the youth.

## **Responding to the Conflict**

---

### **1. Documenting Violations and Holding the Perpetrators Accountable**

To address the conflict in Sudan effectively, it is essential to establish robust monitoring mechanisms for violations committed by the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). These mechanisms should track actions that violate international law charters and resolutions. Independent observers, such as the hypothetical Youth Citizens Observers Network (YCON), can be deployed to document incidents on the ground. The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) and other international organizations should also play a role in investigating and documenting human rights abuses, issuing resolutions, and calling for accountability.

In addition to monitoring, the International Criminal Court (ICC) should hold perpetrators accountable and deliver justice to victims. To demonstrate their commitment to human rights standards, we urge the Sudanese government to ratify the Rome Statute and fully cooperate with the ICC. Supporting local institutions, civil society, and human rights defenders is crucial. They need capacity-building support to effectively monitor, report, and address human rights abuses.

Member states should provide financial assistance for training programs, procurement of necessary equipment, and operational costs. It is important to advocate for the establishment or strengthening of local institutions dedicated to human rights monitoring and reporting.

Additionally, independent and impartial mechanisms must be established to investigate and prosecute those responsible for human rights violations. These mechanisms should be free from political interference and adequately resourced. As for the participation of youth, their role should focus on documenting violations and holding perpetrators accountable, rather than advocating for specific mechanisms or participating as witnesses.

By focusing on these demands, we can promote the effective documentation of violations and ensure the accountability of those responsible for human rights abuses in Sudan.

In line with the Council's mandate to prevent violations and respond promptly to human rights emergencies, we strongly urge the Human Rights Council to strengthen its action on Sudan. We propose that during its upcoming 54th session (11 September-13 October 2023), the Council adopts a resolution without further delay to establish an independent mechanism with a comprehensive mandate. This mechanism should undertake the following elements:

- A. Conduct a thorough investigation into all alleged violations and abuses of international human rights law, violations of international humanitarian law, and related crimes in Sudan, including those constituting crimes under international law.
- B. Establish the facts, circumstances, and root causes of these violations and abuses.
- C. Collect, consolidate, analyze, and preserve evidence, including evidence of sexual and gender-based violence and ethnic violence, to end impunity and provide support for future legal proceedings.
- D. Identify, whenever possible, individuals and entities responsible for these violations and abuses.
- E. Provide guidance on justice, including criminal accountability, reparations, and guarantees of non-recurrence. To ensure the effectiveness of the mechanism, it should be provided with all necessary administrative, technical, and logistical support, as well as personnel.

This will enable the mechanism to carry out its mandate effectively, particularly in areas such as fact-finding, legal analysis, translation and interpretation, and evidence collection and preservation, including specialized expertise in sexual and gender-based violence and forensic analysis.

Throughout its work, the mechanism should integrate a gender perspective and adopt a survivor-centered approach. It should also ensure complementarity and coordination with other United Nations entities, the African Union, and relevant regional and international organizations. By establishing this mechanism and providing the necessary support, the Human Rights Council can play a crucial role in addressing the violations and abuses in Sudan, promoting justice, accountability, and sustainable peace.

## **2. Youth Involvement**

Integrating youth, particularly members of resistance committees, into transitional justice processes is an urgent demand. We advocate for at least 40% representation of youth in any transitional justice committees formed. These committees have played a pivotal role in advocating for a transition to a civilian-led government committed to democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. To truly address the needs and aspirations of the younger generation, it is imperative that they have a significant voice and presence in these crucial processes. Their perspectives, experiences, and demands should be at the forefront of decision-making.

# **Building Peace and Democracy**

---

## **1. Transitional Justice & Peace**

The United Nations can coordinate humanitarian aid efforts, working with local and international organizations to deliver essential resources and services to affected communities.

Regional organizations such as the African Union and the Arab League are also instrumental in this process. They can provide diplomatic support, mediate between conflicting parties, and even deploy peacekeeping forces to maintain stability and protect civilians. The focus should be on involving civilians, particularly youth and resistance committees, in all negotiations aimed at halting the war and transitioning to democracy. These groups, rather than political elites, truly represent the aspirations of the Sudanese people.



Transitional justice is a multi-pronged approach aimed at addressing past human rights abuses and violations. This involves criminal prosecutions, truth commissions, reparations, and institutional reforms. Given that Sudan is still embroiled in conflict, laying the groundwork for these processes is essential. This may involve creating specialized courts or tribunals, training judges and prosecutors on international criminal law, and providing resources for effective investigations and trials. A Truth Commission can provide a platform for victims to share their experiences and for perpetrators to confess to their crimes.

Civil society and affected communities must be actively involved in the design and implementation of these mechanisms. This includes ensuring that victims have access to legal representation and support services, and that their voices are heard in decision-making processes. The youth can play a critical role in promoting transitional justice and accountability through social media campaigns, peaceful protests, and other forms of activism.

## **2. UN Special Envoy**

We recommend that a UN special envoy or mediator for Sudan be tasked with ensuring the inclusion of these grassroots voices in decision-making processes at both national and international levels. Working in tandem with other UN entities like the UN Development Programme and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, a comprehensive approach can be developed to support these committees and contribute to lasting peace in Sudan.

## **3. Consequential Political Action**

Furthermore, any political actors representing the Sudanese Armed Forces or the Rapid Support Forces should be considered illegitimate. Transparency and accountability must be enforced, potentially through targeted sanctions, to pressure regional actors whose interests have undermined democratic efforts in Sudan. Youth-led organizations, such as the Youth Network for Civilian Observation, should collaborate to form a united front advocating for transparency and accountability. This collective effort can help develop clear demands and action plans, including targeted sanctions and the nationalization of resources, to pave the way for a democratic, peaceful Sudan.



# Youth Participation

---

## 1. Youth Involvement in Recovery

In the wake of post-conflict recovery, there's a pressing need to focus on the empowerment and engagement of Sudanese youth. One immediate step could be the establishment of a special envoy or mission for Sudanese youth and civil society at the United Nations. Until a civilian, democratic government is in place to send a legitimate youth delegation, an invitation for Sudanese youth should be extended by the UN Secretariat.

## 2. Training and Capacity Building

The importance of training and capacity building in youth engagement and empowerment is crucial. Initiatives like CRISP's AUNYD project (2023-2024) have recognized this need and laid the foundation for sustainable progress. As AUNYD nears its conclusion, establishing a UNA and UN Youth Delegate program in Sudan is essential to bridge the gap for effective youth involvement. However, these programs are just the beginning. Comprehensive training should go beyond the basics, equipping young individuals with essential skills in conflict resolution, negotiation, and mediation. These skills empower youth to contribute to peace-building processes and drive positive change in their communities.

Sustainability depends on strengthening local institutions' capabilities to engage with youth effectively and provide training and resources. This collaborative effort between youth empowerment and institution-building promises a brighter future for Sudan and its vibrant youth population.

## 3. Civic and Political Awareness

Additionally, civic education and political awareness programs should be conducted to educate youth about their rights, democratic principles, and political processes. This will enhance their understanding of governance structures and the importance of active citizenship. Lastly, offering UN internship opportunities can provide practical experience and further engage Sudanese youth in global governance.

This project was executed by CRISP e.V. in cooperation with SUDIA, UNA Ethiopia, UNA South Sudan, UNA Uganda, SDGs Kenya Forum and UNA Tanzania.

The project was funded by the Federal Foreign Ministry of the Federal Republic of Germany.



# African UNYD

**Email**

[board@crisp-berlin.org](mailto:board@crisp-berlin.org)

**Phone**

+49 30 634 133 76

**Website**

[www.crisp-berlin.org](http://www.crisp-berlin.org)

**Address**

Ringbahnstraße 54  
12099 Berlin - Germany