



**FRAMEWORK OF COOPERATION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE SUDAN AND THE UNITED NATIONS
ON THE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE TO SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT**

10 March 2020

1. Preface:

This Framework of Cooperation builds on the visit of the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict to the Republic of the Sudan from 18 to 25 February 2018.

The visit was undertaken at the invitation of the Government of the Republic of the Sudan within the framework of United Nations Security Council resolutions 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1960 (2010), 2106 (2013) and 2467 (2019) on sexual violence in conflict. The term conflict-related sexual violence refers to rape, sexual slavery, forced prostitution, forced pregnancy, forced abortion, enforced sterilization, forced marriage and any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity perpetrated against women, men, girls or boys that is directly or indirectly linked to a conflict.

This Framework of Cooperation is signed in accordance with Security Council resolution 2106 (2013) whereby the Security Council in operational paragraph 1 *affirms that sexual violence, when used or commissioned as a method or tactic of war or as a part of a widespread or systematic attack against civilian populations, can significantly exacerbate and prolong situations of armed conflict and may impede the restoration of international peace and security; emphasizes in this regard that effective steps to prevent and respond to such acts significantly contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security; and stresses women's participation as essential to any prevention and protection response.*

Furthermore, operational paragraph 1 of resolution 2467 (2019) outlines a number of prevention measures calling for parties to conflict to combat sexual violence including, *inter alia, issuance of clear orders through chains of command and development of codes of conduct prohibiting sexual violence and establishment of related enforcement procedures to ensure accountability for breaching these orders, commitments by individual commanders, investigation of all credible allegations including on the basis of information reported by relevant UN entities and accountability for those responsible, unimpeded access for monitoring and provision of services and humanitarian assistance in areas under their control.*

For the purposes of this Framework, the measures outlined above will be undertaken in collaboration with pertinent Government entities.

This Framework of Cooperation also 1) acknowledges Security Council resolutions 2363 (2017) and 2429 (2018) which make specific reference in operational paragraphs 27 and 35 respectively to resolution 2106 (2013) and the prevention measures outlined therein, and resolution 2495 (2019) that welcomes the signing of the Constitutional Declaration and indicates the overall improvement in security and humanitarian conditions in Darfur and the downsizing of the military and police component of UNAMID; 2) welcomes the Sudan Government's effort in



achieving just and comprehensive peace and; 3) addresses the vulnerability of women and girls particularly in the context of inter-communal conflict, internal displacement and the challenges related to daily livelihood activities.

Furthermore, in line with operational paragraph 15 of resolutions 2106 (2013) in which the Security Council requests the Secretary-General to continue to strengthen efforts to implement the policy of zero tolerance on sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations personnel, any relevant information that comes to light in this regard in the course of monitoring shall be shared with the Secretary-General's Special Coordinator on improving the United Nations response to sexual exploitation and abuse, as well as with the Victims' Rights Advocate.

The Government of Sudan, as acknowledged by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict during her visit to the Republic of the Sudan, has adopted a national strategy for combating violence against women (2015 - 2032) in which it emphasizes the zero-tolerance policy against all forms of gender-based violence, including conflict-related sexual violence, and outlines a number of multi - sectored policies and programmes, initiatives, measures and mechanisms that have been undertaken to prevent and respond to such violations. These included: the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC), the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) Commission, the National Council for Child Welfare (NCCW) and the Unit for Combating Violence against Women and Children, as well as the Family Police Units. Training and capacity building have also been undertaken by the Government of Sudan to meet these challenges.

2. Purpose of the Framework of Cooperation:

Under this Framework of Cooperation, both parties seek to strengthen bilateral relations, through preparation of joint programmes to maintain protection from sexual violence in conflict (prevention and response) and strengthening and supporting established national mechanisms according to their needs, as well as enhancing capacity building programmes to service providers, prosecutors and law enforcement personnel, in addition to raising awareness of local communities regarding the reporting on sexual violent crimes and countering stigmatization of survivors.

The parties also reaffirm cooperation in the field of rule of law and accountability according to relevant regional and international agreed norms.

This Framework of Cooperation aims by the end of its duration to ensure that effective accountability and other prevention measures are in place as well as enhanced access of survivors to services, which will be part of the determination of the delisting of state actors in Sudan from the list of the Secretary-General of the parties credibly suspected of committing or being responsible for patterns of rape or other forms of sexual violence in situations of armed conflict on the agenda of the Security Council.

3. Coordination between Parties:

The parties shall coordinate together to strengthening the monitoring, analysis, documentation and information sharing on sexual violence, as a basis for prevention initiatives and programmatic responses at all levels.

4. Areas of Cooperation between Parties:

- I. Cooperating together to unify conceptual understandings on sexual violence in conflict according to agreed international laws, norms, criteria and the conceptual and

- analytical framework on conflict-related sexual violence of the United Nations Secretary-General.
- II. Working together to support national policies, legislation, programmes on prevention and response to strengthen protection.
 - III. Cooperating together to ensure provision of comprehensive services to victims of sexual violence in conflict by strengthening access of survivors of sexual violence to medical, psychosocial, legal and socioeconomic services.
 - IV. Collaborating together to strengthen national health, justice / legal and security systems or departments, in addition to the provision of continued training and capacity building to all relevant departments to prevent and respond to sexual violence in conflict, including the strengthening of the Codes of Conduct of security sector actors as well as supporting documentation, investigation and prosecution to reinforce individual and command responsibility and accountability for sexual violence. Such training and capacity building may include areas such as a) criminal investigations and prosecutions; b) military justice; c) legislative reform d) protection of victims and witnesses; and e) reparations for victims. Further elaboration will be made through a joint assessment to define the specific support required, which will inform an Implementation Memorandum mentioned below.
 - V. Engagement with tribal and religious leaders and civil society, including women and youth led organizations to prevent sexual violence, encourage reporting, facilitate reintegration of survivors and their children born of rape, and develop evidence-based advocacy to raise awareness of sexual and gender-based violence with the aim of deepening public knowledge and engagement on sexual and gender-based violence.
 - VI. Working together on any further agreed areas of cooperation.

The United Nations, through the Office of the Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict (including the Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict established pursuant to resolution 1888 (2009) and the inter-agency network United Nations Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict); the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and its follow-on presence; and the United Nations Country Team in Sudan, will continue to support efforts of the Government to develop together an Implementation Memorandum on the basis of the priorities outlined by this Framework of Cooperation, and strive to mobilize international assistance for its implementation.

The Government of the Republic of the Sudan shall appoint a High-Level Focal Point to lead and coordinate the Government's efforts and work with the Office of the Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict and other relevant United Nations entities and partners in the development and operationalization of the Implementation Memorandum. In order to facilitate this process the Government of Sudan will also establish an Inter-Ministerial Working Group composed of senior officials from relevant Ministries and institutions, including Labor and Social Development, Defense, Interior, Justice and Office of the Attorney General, which will be chaired and convened by the High-Level Focal Point.

5. Implementation / Renewal:

To facilitate the implementation of this Framework of Cooperation the Government of Sudan and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence



in Conflict agree to develop an Implementation Memorandum to direct the implementation process. This will be reviewed periodically to ensure that it adequately reflects the evolving situation on the ground.

6. Resource Mobilization for Implementation:

The international community and donors are strongly encouraged to provide financial and technical support to the Government of the Republic of the Sudan towards the operationalization of the Implementation Memorandum developed on the basis of this Framework of Cooperation.

7. Time/ Duration:

The duration of the present Framework of Cooperation is for two years, during which time an assessment of progress will be made as part of the determination of the delisting of Sudan state parties from the Secretary-General's list of state and non-state actors that are credibly suspected of committing or being responsible for patterns of rape or other forms of sexual violence in situations of armed conflict on the agenda of the Security Council, and further adopting a nationally owned prevention plan at its termination to combat sexual violence in Sudan.

8. Entry into Force:

This Framework of Cooperation shall enter into force on the date of its signature by the parties.

9. Amendments:

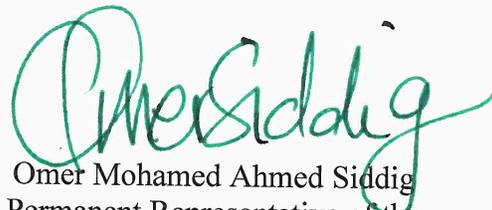
This Framework of Cooperation may be amended upon mutual consent of the parties.

10. Versions/ Language:

The Arabic and English versions of the present framework of cooperation are equally authentic.



Pramila Patten
Under-Secretary-General and
Special Representative of the
Secretary-General
on Sexual Violence in Conflict



Omer Mohamed Ahmed Siddig
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of the Sudan
to the United Nations