

A Joint Ecumenical Statement on The Situation in the Sudan Issued on 24th June 2023

1.0 Preamble

We, members of the different ecumenical organizations based in Africa and international partners, including the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC), the Association Member Episcopal Conferences of Eastern Africa (AMECEA), the Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa (FECCLAHA), the ACT Church of Sweden (CoS), Bread for the World (BfW); and the World Council of Churches (WCC), having participated in a virtual meeting on 25 May 2023:

Having listened to the current and evolving situation the Sudan and especially receiving updates on how our local partners continue facing threats and their institutions are daily destroyed;

Bearing in mind and fully aware that Sudan is a party to many protocols and conventions that promote human rights for all without discrimination, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), as well as the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) and the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CED);

Cognizant that Sudan is a member of the Arab League, the African Union and the United Nations - all of whom have, in their principles of establishment and in different formats, principles for the peaceful settlement of disputes within and among members;

Deeply concerned that the conflict that started on 15 April 2023 and which has so far displaced hundreds of thousands and killed hundreds of people, and which seems to have no immediate prospect of ending;

Further concerned that there are reports of unwarranted destruction and looting of civilian and public infrastructures including schools and hospitals; and the continued use of citizens and civilian as human shields therefore exposing them to grave dangers;

Recalling that every state and actor in armed conflict has obligations under international humanitarian law for the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure;

Calling on the civil society and the civilians to reject all forms of hatred and incitement to hatred oration in the different mass media;

Recalling that every state and actor in armed conflict has obligations under international humanitarian law for the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure;

Appreciating and joining with past messages and initiatives of peace and solidarity from, among others, state, inter-state, faith-based, and ecumenical agencies including the AACC, FECCLAHA and the WCC;

Further appreciating and echoing a heartfelt appeal of Pope Francis to the warring parties to lay down arms and call for dialogue; and a call to the international community to spare no effort to ensure that dialogue might prevail and the suffering of the population be alleviated;

Reaffirming our commitment to pray for peace and support all efforts for sustainable peace and stabilization of the country;

Further reaffirming the inalienable right of citizens to choose their government in a free and fair democratic space, and *deploring* military coups that deprive citizens of this right; and

Echoing calls by the AACC and WCC for respect for life, justice, truth, peace and dignity

2.0 Our Call to Action

We strongly *condemn* all forms and acts of violence by all parties, because such acts are against the fullness of life of God's people, and *call* on the following:

2.1 Sudanese Citizens:

- 2.1.1 To remain vigilant against being instrumentalized for conflict and division, and to reject all forms of violence;

- 2.1.2 To stand up and collectively and peacefully demand sustainable solutions to end the current violence; and
- 2.1.3 To continuously extend the hand of mercy and love to all, and especially to those who have gravely suffered the consequences of violence, irrespective of their social, ethnic, religious and political identity and affiliation.

2.2 SAF and RSF

- 2.2.1 To Commit and return to the negotiation table by relooking at the divergent points between the 2019 Charter and 2021 Juba Agreement with the purpose of determining the common areas of actions; and
- 2.2.2 To stand steadfast and protect the children, women and people with disability from all forms of harm;
- 2.2.3 To respect and protect the places of worship; and condemn all acts of violence and destruction that have been targeting churches and church-based institutions;
- 2.2.4 To ensure that places of essential services including health centers and schools are not targeted;
- 2.2.5 To facilitate speedy, structured and all-acceptable return to civilian rule in the country

2.3 Regional Inter-Governmental Bodies; and Governments

2.3.1 *AU and IGAD:*

- a) To apply all the existing mechanisms for peace interventions to facilitate constructive intra Sudanese engagements for the purpose of finding local solutions;
- b) To define and apply appropriate diplomatic pressure including selected sanctions and membership suspension of Sudan;
- c) To work together with the Arab League, to reignite the Juba peace process; and
- d) Take immediate action to stop repetition of genocide in Darfur and other war crimes and crimes against humanity

2.3.2 *Regional Governments*

- a) To facilitate unrestricted movement of and support to the refugees;
- b) To work with the AU and IGAD to fast track the peace process and push for a return to democratic civilian rule; and


- c) To build and create alternative spaces for civil society and other non-state actors to help in bringing sustainable solutions to the situation in Sudan.

We adopt the statement as our collective voice on the situation in the Sudan; and

Accept the below signatures as our official representatives:

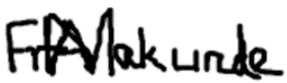
- 1. The All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC):

Name: **Rev. Dr. Lesmore Gibson Ezekiel, Director of Programmes**

Signature: 

- 2. The Association Member Episcopal Conferences of Eastern Africa (AMECEA)

Name: **Rev. Fr. Antony Makunde, Secretary General,**

Signature: 

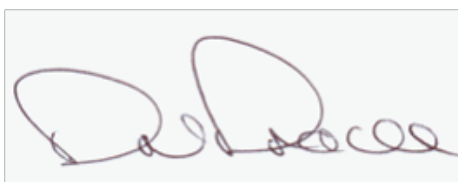
- 3. The Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa (FECCLAHA)

Name: **Rev. Fr. James Oyet Latansion, Chairperson**

Signature: 

- 4. The World Council of Churches (WCC)

Name: **Dr. Peter Prove, Director, Commission of the Churches on International Affairs (CCIA)**

Signature: 

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