



**Women's  
International  
Peace Centre**  
Amplifying Women's Voice and Power

# **SUDANESE WOMEN'S STATEMENT** AT THE 40TH GIMAC PRE-SUMMIT CSOS CONSULTATIVE MEETING.

14TH FEBRUARY 2024

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## Honorable GIMAC Network Members,

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1. We are here today, representing a wide platform of Sudanese women composed of more than 50 women's organizations, networks and collations, addressing the GIMAC Pre-Summit CSOs Consultative Meeting.
2. We recognize the pressing need to emphasize the importance of women's rights in tackling any conflict or crisis. This involves linking our efforts with a strong call for united action that prioritizes transforming education to promote gender equality in Africa. By placing this issue at the forefront of Africa's agenda, we aim to dismantle years of oppression and marginalization faced by women on our continent.
3. Today, we highlight and share the catastrophic and dire humanitarian and security unfolding in Sudan, from ten months of aggressive war between the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), and the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF).
4. At this moment, as I address you, the entire nation is plunging into a severe internet blackout, with phones disconnected and internet access interrupted. This blackout serves to conceal atrocities and disrupt crucial internet-based services such as banking transfers, which have been instrumental in saving the lives of millions of Sudanese.
5. Regrettably, education is not a top priority for us Sudanese this very moment. Our conversations are centered on the critical task of saving lives from the imminent threat of hunger and starvation. 3. Today, we highlight and share the catastrophic and dire humanitarian and security unfolding in Sudan, from ten months of aggressive war between the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), and the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF).
6. Sudan crisis has not been well documented or broadcasted in media for the globe to understand and recognize its magnitude as amongst the worst crisis in the century.

7. Sudan has been under regular wars since its independence. The 2018/2019 revolution and the short civil government, started to promote gender equality in the curriculum but interrupted by 2021 military quo.

## ESTEEMED GUESTS AND PARTICIPANTS,

8. Since the beginning of the war, systematic human rights violations, sexual violence, forced disappearance, forced child marriages, and massive killings have been recorded all over the country.
9. Sexual violence is rampant with over 4.2 million people are estimated to be at risk of sexual and gender-based violence and in need of services. 3. Today, we highlight and share the catastrophic and dire humanitarian and security unfolding in Sudan, from ten months of aggressive war between the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), and the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF).
10. Today, 14 million children – half of all children in Sudan – now require humanitarian assistance, including psychological trauma. Thousands have been killed and injured, and more are exposed to grave protection violations, including sexual violence and recruitment or use in the conflict. With most schools destroyed or struggling to reopen across the country. 19 million school-age children risk losing out on their education, where one year elapsed for them without schooling.
11. Main universities and educational institutions, have been destructed including looting of equipment and tearing of books in libraries. Universities and academic institutions dedicated to educate and empower Sudanese women in all academic fields, are now destructed, leaving thousands of young women at a risk to completing their education and diminishing home for the future.

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## ESTEEMED GUESTS AND PARTICIPANTS,

12. The unfortunate situation of Sudanese women and girls echoes the struggles faced by women throughout Africa, where they are often seen as expendable rather than as active participants in their destinies. They don't have access to be part of the peace negotiations, neither the political processes.
13. We cannot move towards adopting a comprehensive education transformation for gender equality agenda in a conflict setting, unless conflict in Sudan is terminated and democracy is restored. Militarism and gender equality are not compatible.

***As Sudanese women, we urge the members of the GIMAC network to amplify our voices in solidarity, calling for an end to the conflict in Sudan, advocating for a lasting ceasefire, and joining our broader campaign to end the war. We call for:***

- An immediate end to hostilities and establish a comprehensive ceasefire in Sudan that will eliminate all violence against civilians, ensure their safety, and prevent the destruction of remaining essential civilian infrastructure including schools, universities and educational institutions.
- Reaffirm the necessity of full, equal, meaningful, and secure involvement of Sudanese women and civil society as pivotal to any efforts to de-escalate the situation or construct a lasting peace, and put human rights at the forefront of all such endeavors.
- Provide immediate funding to respond to the worst humanitarian crisis in the world and allocate additional resources that would ensure the enrollment of women and girls in the formal and informal education.

- Support investigative and documentation efforts needed in backing up justice and accountability initiatives that hold both fighting parties accountable for their crimes during g this war.
- Call on all actors in Sudan to adhere and comply with their commitments to the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights; the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights; the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance; and the African Union Humanitarian Policy Framework and to respond immediately to the AU efforts to end Sudan armed conflict.

## ESTEEMED PARTICIPANTS

Finally, we hope that the network members should consider in their recommendations new ways and innovation to address education for gender transformation in conflict settings as we the Sudanese experience now.

*Thank you*