

Sudanese Women Groups Appeal to the Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)

Geneva, 25–29 August 2025

The ongoing brutal conflict in Sudan continues to claim thousands of lives, tear apart communities, displace millions, and threaten Sudan's very existence as a stable and influential state within its regional and international environment.

We, Peace for Sudan Platform, issue an urgent and unequivocal appeal to the Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT):

Halt the uncontrolled flow of arms into Sudan, as it is the fuel that perpetuates this humanitarian catastrophe and extinguishes any prospects for peace.

Grave Violations of the Spirit of the Treaty

- Since 2022, Serbia has exported massive quantities of small arms and light weapons, including assault rifles and ammunition, despite clear indications that these arms are being used in the conflict.
- China has supplied Sudan with military equipment and technologies that have directly contributed to escalating violence.
- The United Arab Emirates has become a major transit hub for arms shipments, circumventing international oversight.
- Neighboring countries have facilitated the flow of arms across porous borders.

These practices constitute a direct violation of Article 7 of the ATT, which prohibits arms transfers when there is a clear risk they will be used to commit serious violations of international humanitarian law and human rights.

Consequences of Unchecked Arms Flows

The unregulated arms flow has not only prolonged the war but has dangerously expanded the militarization of civilian populations, including women and children, deepening violence and accelerating the breakdown of social fabric.

The Human Cost

More than four million Sudanese have been internally displaced or forced to flee across borders. Women and children bear the heaviest burdens of sexual violence, indiscriminate attacks, and destruction of livelihoods. Families have been shattered, communities devastated, and hopes for peace severely diminished.

Our Direct Demands

We call upon the Conference of States Parties to take clear and decisive action:

1. Call upon state parties to effect an immediate and comprehensive cessation of all arms transfers to conflict actors in Sudan.
2. Call upon the UN Security Council to expand Resolution 1556 to cover the entire territory of Sudan.
3. Establishment of an independent monitoring and investigative mechanism to track arms flows and hold violators accountable.
4. Enhanced transparency and information sharing among States Parties regarding any arms exports or re-exports linked to Sudan.
5. Support for Sudanese civil society organizations, especially women-led peacebuilding and reconciliation initiatives.

6. Strengthened regional cooperation to control borders and prevent illicit arms trafficking.

A Call to the International Community

The conflict in Sudan is not isolated; it threatens regional and global peace and security. Failure to act decisively will only prolong the suffering of innocent civilians and betray the very purpose of the Arms Trade Treaty.

We, the women of Sudan who live this tragedy every day, urge all States Parties to demonstrate courage and fulfill their commitments. Every weapon stopped is a life saved. Every effective arms embargo is a step toward peace.

We stand ready to collaborate with the international community to build a safe, violence-free Sudan where all can live with dignity and hope.

The time to act is now.

Peace for Sudan Platform

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