

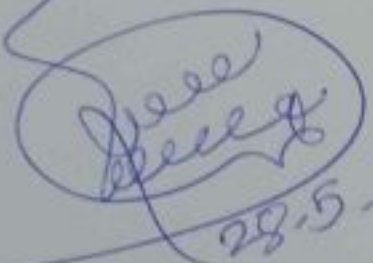
Joint Statement on the Situation of Children in Darfur


Under the auspices of the Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution (ASPR) in coordination with the African Union-United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (SRSG-CAAC), UNAMID Joint Special Representative (JSRa.i) and the leadership of three Movements (The Sudan Justice and Equality Movement/ JEM), Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/AW), and Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A/MM) held consultations in Stadtschlaing, Austria, 27 - 28 of May 2015.

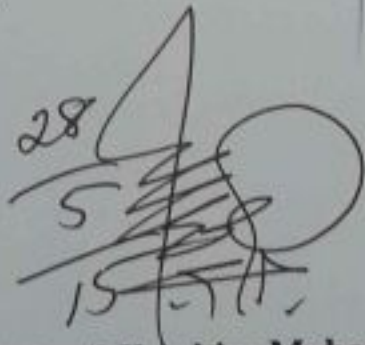
- 1) We, The leadership of SLM/AW; SLM/A/MM and JEM, acknowledge that, as parties to the conflict in Darfur/Sudan, we have a moral and legal obligation to respect, protect and promote the rights of children. An end to the conflict and restoration of lasting peace is the cradle of hope for the future of children in Darfur and the entire Sudan.
- 2) We, The leadership of JEM, SLM/A/MM, SLM/AW, acknowledge that children have borne the brunt of the enduring armed conflict in Darfur/Sudan. Generations of children have missed the privilege and right to live a peaceful childhood and enjoy the opportunity to grow up in an environment without fear of the gun and reminiscence of war.
- 3) We, The leadership of SLM/A/MM; JEM, and SLM/AW, acknowledge that, even when not specifically targeted, children are victims of fighting between the warring parties and are killed, maimed and seriously injured from stray bullets or unexploded ordinance (UXO). They also suffer from collateral or deliberate damages caused to health and educational infrastructures, such as schools and medical centres. The continued fighting results in mass displacement, which deepens the deprivation and hardship of communities, especially children.
- 4) We, The leadership of SLA/AW; SLM/A/MM and JEM, acknowledge that, as parties to the conflict, we also bear responsibility for the protection of children in Darfur/Sudan. We therefore pledge to continue to make every effort necessary to prevent members of our Movements from perpetrating any grave violations against children. We hereby renew our commitment to adhere to the applicable international legal standards and norms including Security Council resolutions on children and armed conflict.

- 5) Protecting children is an individual and collective responsibility and should be part of an early engagement and not await a formal comprehensive peace agreement by all parties to the conflict. An effort by all parties to the conflict to agree on measures that will truly protect children would serve as a platform to build trust and ultimately lead to fruitful negotiations for peace in Darfur/Sudan. The suffering of children in Darfur/Sudan will continue as long as the conflict continues. Meanwhile, such suffering can and should be alleviated as part of efforts to reach lasting peace. In this regard,
- 6) The parties are prepared to remain actively engaged in follow-up consultations including with the participation of other actors until a comprehensive peace agreement is realized.
- 7) We, The leadership of SLM/A/MM, JEM and SLM/AW, hereby express our deep appreciation to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (SRSG-CAAC), to UNAMID JSR a.i. and to the Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution (ASPR) for their dedication and keen follow-up on the situation of children in Darfur /Sudan and for hosting and facilitating these consultations. Our appreciations are extended to the Government of Austria for supporting these consultations.
- 8) Children are the heart and soul of our country, Sudan.

Stadtschlaining, Austria, 28 May 2015


28.5.2015
Abdul Wahid al-Nur
Signature:


Minni Arko Minnawi
Signature:


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Gebreil Ibrahim Mohamed Fediel
Signature: