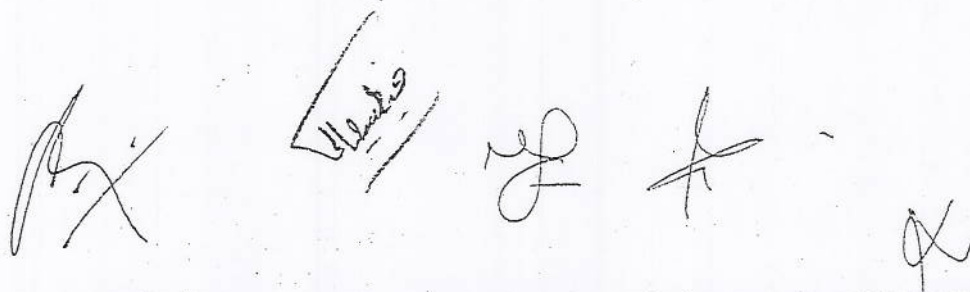


Khartoum Declaration

**On the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons across
the Neighboring Countries of Western Sudan**

Khartoum, 23/5/2012

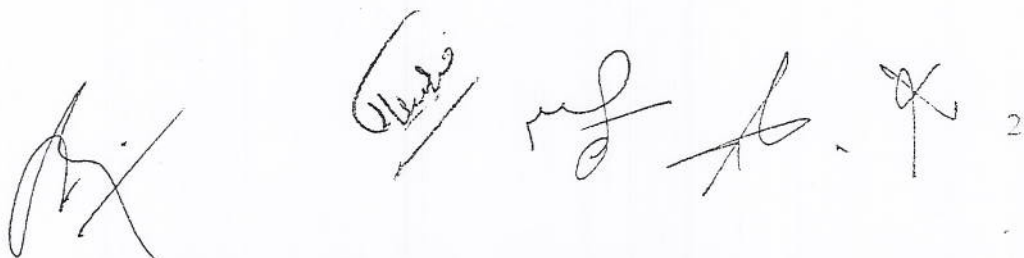


Declaration on the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)
across the Neighboring Countries of Western Sudan

We, Ministers responsible for internal security, and the delegations of the Republic of Sudan, the Central African Republic, the Republic of Chad, the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Republic of Libya, meeting in Khartoum, Sudan on the 22nd and 23rd of May 2012, as part of a strengthened cooperation and coordination effort in order to control the spread, flow, misuse and illegal circulation of SALW arms and light weapons (SALW) within and across the borders, and on the fundamental basis of our conventions and treaties, protocols, regional and international instruments, including , the, UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development the Nairobi Protocol for the Prevention, Control and Reduction of Small Arms and Light Weapons, the Kinshasa Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, their Ammunition, Parts and Components, Khartoum Declaration on the tripartite partnership between Sudan, Chad and Central African Republic for peace and development,

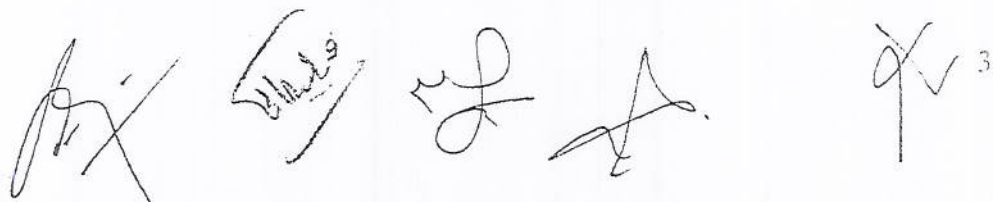
which reflect our responsibility towards the security and safety of our citizens;

- Gravely concerned with the problem of the spread and illegal trade of SALW, which aggravate conflict and political instability and incite terrorism and other serious crimes, affecting the internal and external security of the states and individuals,



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- Emphasizing the inherent right of governments of individual or collective self-defense, as stated in Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations,
- Condemning the destructive effects of armed conflicts on women and children, particularly the illegal exploitation of children in armed conflict and sexual abuse,
- Recognizing that the reduced capacities of States in the region to effectively, and in collaboration between neighboring States, observe and effective control its borders have greatly contributed to the illegal proliferation of SALW,
- Considering that the phenomenon of SALW illegal proliferation in this region has been aggravated by internal political conflicts and acute poverty,
- Highlighting that the solution of this problem needs effective and coordinated regional efforts, as well as international support and understanding,
- Acknowledging the existing international and regional agreements and commitments to combat the proliferation of SALW and to reduce armed violence, as well as ongoing efforts of the United Nations, African Union, and of other international and regional organizations in addressing the problems associated with illegal SALW and light weapons,
- Recognizing that free availability of SALW and their illicit trafficking leads to serious violations of international humanitarian law and human rights and impedes delivery of humanitarian assistance;



- Bearing in mind that the problem of crime, insecurity and armed conflict in the region is also aggravated by the proliferation of SALW, which emanate from outside the region,
- Acknowledging that peace, stability and security are essential prerequisites for sustainable development,
- Recognizing the relationship between security and development and the need to develop comprehensive and effective approach which includes peace building, social cohesion, strengthening rule of law, inclusive governance and other measures intended to help eradicate the consequences of SALW in the region,
- Confirming that in order to achieve sustainable solutions to the ongoing conflicts in the region a comprehensive response on the basis of contextual analysis and understanding of actual and perceived historical, political, social, economic and security dynamics is required;
- Stressing the need to pursue negotiated solutions for conflicts in order to assure their peaceful resolution and reconciliation, to promote a culture of peace, and to raise awareness on the problem of illicit weapons involving all sectors of the society;
- Recognizing the difficulties of facing illegal trade issues and illegal accumulation of arms attributed to different situations in the countries of the region.
- Stressing the need for enhanced border management to address SALW flows across the region
- Welcoming the initiative of Khartoum on the effective control of SALW as an important step to confront the problem and achieve security in the



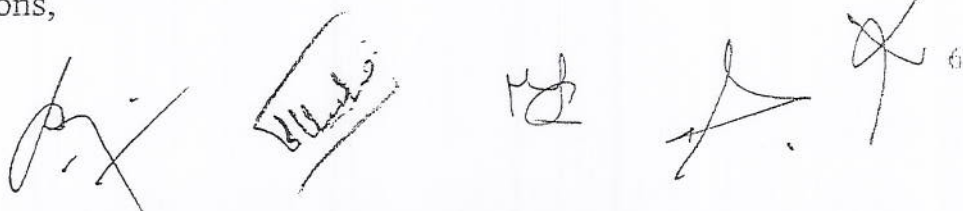
region, creating a positive impact on the social, economic and political spheres;

Having extensively discussed the subject, have agreed to:

1. Continue the efforts for the peaceful resolution of conflicts in the region, address the problems of SALW proliferation and smuggling that exacerbated these conflicts, and commit to track down uncontrolled arms and organized criminal groups across the borders in cooperation with other appropriate mechanisms,
2. Commit to strengthening national capacities and institutions to develop and implement comprehensive SALW control strategies, National Action Plans and interventions, including physical stockpile security management (PSSM) of State-held SALW and ammunition, in accordance with international standards ,
3. Mainstreaming of SALW arms control strategies into broader national development strategies;
4. Urgently develop and implement a coordinated and integrated regional arms control strategy which emphasizes the link between arms control and sustainable development and the importance of addressing both the supply and the demand side of SALW ,
5. Commit to the inclusion and empowering of local governments, CBOs/CSOs, communities vulnerable groups, community leaders in the whole process of arms control;



6. Ensure that SALW control strategies include adoption of a joint-assessment and early warning system to assess the scale, distribution and availability of SALW and the impact of SALW on security;
7. Commit to promote joint initiatives in border security by improving infrastructures, providing appropriate equipment, using modern technology in the field of border control and strengthen joint law enforcement agencies,
8. Establish a national database for SALW and create an effective information-sharing system at regional and bilateral- levels including the promotion registration, close collaboration and information-sharing between law enforcement agencies and civil society organizations and community representatives across the borders and commitment to comply with international and regional reporting mechanism;
9. Promote the development of joint training programs to improve the capabilities and capacities of law enforcement agencies and of other stakeholders in the wider area of arms control,
10. Building on existing commitments to strengthen and harmonize and enact national laws regulating SALW amongst countries, including on matters relating to cross border trafficking and crime;
11. Urge to create or develop organizational structures for SALW control, supported by technical and administrative specialists in each country to achieve and consolidate peace and security; in particular coordination offices, national agencies, and experts on organization and management of weapons, and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration commissions,

The block contains five handwritten signatures and a rectangular stamp. From left to right: a signature with a large 'X' over it; a rectangular stamp with illegible text inside; a signature that appears to be 'HJ'; a signature that appears to be 'A'; and a signature that appears to be 'K' with a small '6' to its right.

12. Support public information and awareness-raising efforts to educate local communities across the border on the impact and risks of illicit proliferation of SALW and their destructive effects on lives and property, and to encourage initiatives that involve community political leaders and law enforcement agencies in inviting their communities to abstain from carrying weapons and in controlling their use, and preparing for eventual weapons collection and destruction;
13. Encourage activation of a culture of peace and peaceful coexistence by including SALW control in the school curriculum and by implementing public information, awareness-raising, guidance and counseling programs,
14. Work to promote development and create joint economic markets on the border, and to establish infrastructure and social, cultural and economic facilities, providing particular attention to youth and women, as well as to pastoralists and nomads, giving them alternative livelihood opportunities that will help control SALW and reduce transnational and organized crime,
15. Encourage human rights institutions, civil society organizations, and research institutes to take more active role in advocating studies that address SALW issues in the context of human security and their negative impact on social peace and peaceful coexistence,
16. Commit to establish a joint mechanism/executive secretariat, with the name of sub-regional arms control mechanism, for the implementation and monitoring of the outcomes of this conference complementing existing regional and sub-regional mechanisms, policies and strategies,



17. Identify a leading Government institutions at national level to coordinate efforts for the implementation and monitoring of the work of the joint-mechanism,
18. Establish a Ministerial Council at the level of Ministers of Interior and Ministers responsible for internal security of the Member States, to carry out the functions of strategy development, to periodically meet for following up the implementation of the recommendation of this conference and progress made, and to provide the required support for the follow-up mechanism,
19. Commit to submitting the proposed draft protocol to executive, legal and constitutional institutions in our countries for the approval and ratification within a period no longer than 6 months from the signature date of this declaration;
20. Urge our governments to allocate resources from the national budgets to contribute to the running of the joint mechanism to provide national expertise for the programs' implementation, and to attract the support of local donors and the private sector,
21. Call upon the UN system in the region to coordinate amongst themselves in the provision of support to the joint mechanism
22. Call upon UNDP, Peacekeeping missions, other UN agencies, the AU and other regional and international organizations to provide technical and financial support in coordination with the international community to implement the outcomes of this conference and all subsequent activities and initiatives to address the SALW in each country ,
23. Work on implementing this declaration through the proposed joint mechanism and transforming the declaration to a binding protocol



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obliging the Member States on the basis of the already signed and ratified protocols,

24. Approve the initiation of a Conference for the Heads of States in the region to provide more support, management and political patronage,

25. Assure all the speeches offered by their Excellency the Ministers of Interior and other heads of delegations as part of the commitment of their respective countries for the control of SALW.

Done in Khartoum 23/5/2012

For Central African Republic

Mr. Claude Richard Gouandjia – Minister of Security, Intelligence and emigration, immigration and order and justice

For the Republic of Chad

Mr. Ahmat Mahamat Bachir – Minister of Public Security and Immigration

For the Democratic Republic of Congo

Mr. Ismail Ndiama Arama – Governor of Province Orientale

For the Republic of Libya

Mr. Fawzi Abdalaal – Minister of Interior

For the Republic of the Sudan

Mr. Ibrahim Mahamoud Hamid – Minister of Interior