



## STANDING IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE WOMEN OF SUDAN

We, the representatives of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Women Peace and Security Forum (IWPSF) from IGAD Member States of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, and Uganda, with the facilitation of the IGAD Peace and Security Division gathered in Machakos, Kenya from the 15-16 August 2023 to deliberate on the operationalization of IWPSF are:

1. **Cognizant** of the ongoing efforts of IGAD Member States in striving to maintain stability in the region and commend their collaborative actions in countering the interconnected and crosscutting challenges of peace and security;
2. **Extremely troubled** and deeply concerned by the devastating development of conflict in Sudan, the massive displacement, spike in sexual violence against women and girls, loss of lives, gross human rights violations, use of child soldiers, infrastructure destruction and its consequences on the political, economic and social fabric of the country;
3. **Disturbed** by the traumatic reports of sexual violence against women and girls in Khartoum, the Darfur region and other states in Sudan and its long-term impact amidst increased protection risk and limited access to services;
4. **Against** the normalization of insecurity, lack of basic needs, and services in Sudan. The dire humanitarian conditions must be urgently addressed;
5. **Urging** the warring parties to call for immediate cessation of hostilities and open channels of communication to enable dialogue and safe passage for humanitarian support as a means of resolving disputes and prioritizing the safety and prosperity of the people of Sudan;
6. **Calling** on IGAD, AU, UN and other humanitarian actors to double their efforts in providing life saving services to the people of Sudan and particularly the women and children suffering in Khartoum, Darfur region and other states;
7. **Calling** on neighbouring countries to provide unfettered support and facilitate safe passage for those fleeing the conflict and **ease visa requirements** and processes.



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8. **Acknowledging** the mediation efforts by IGAD, AU and other actors working to end the conflict in Sudan, we urge all to remain steadfast given the complexity of the conflict. It is crucial that any process must be inclusive and recognize the different actors and stakeholders in Sudan and particularly women.

**In conclusion**, we, the representatives of the IWPSF commit to further collaboration, advocacy, and action to ensure lasting peace, security, and development in the region. This document is an attestation of our shared goals and unwavering dedication to fostering peace and stability in the region.

