

RESEARCH

Legal and Institutional Frameworks for Accountability and Sustainable Development in Post-War Sudan

Dr Salahaldin Abdulkader Jebarah

Faculty of Business – Commercial and Business Law Program
Suhar University, Oman

Email: SAbdulkader@su.edu.om

ORCID: 0009-0001-0762-7821

ABSTRACT

PURPOSE: This paper examines Sudan's sustainable development and accountability systems post-war, highlighting how political turbulence obstructs peacebuilding, justice, and sustainability efforts.

DESIGN/METHODOLOGY/APPROACH: The review assesses international humanitarian law and transitional justice in post-conflict cases, recommending Sudan-specific solutions.

FINDINGS: Findings indicate that complete accountability has become limited by the widespread culture of immunity. Hybrid tribunals can still be created alongside peacebuilding, justice, and sustainability efforts despite existing obstacles.

ORIGINALITY/VALUE: The paper bonds localised conflict resolution plans with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), by providing guidance for legislators, civil society, and international stakeholders to tackle crises and establishing resilience capabilities.

RESEARCH LIMITATIONS/IMPLICATIONS: Instability hinders access to reliable data, forcing reliance on secondary sources. The proposed strategies serve as valuable models for other vulnerable countries.

PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS: Sudan can meet SDG targets by establishing independent judiciary institutions and promoting gender-inclusive policies with community engagement for better accountability.

KEYWORDS: Sudan; Conflict; Accountability; Transitional Justice; Sustainable Development; Institutional Reform

CITATION: Jebarah, S.A. (2025): Legal and Institutional Frameworks for Accountability and Sustainable Development in Post-War Sudan. *International Journal of Sudan Research (IJSR)*, Vol. 12, No. 2, pp.175-190.

RECEIVED: 8 May 2025 / **REVISED:** 30 July 2025 / **ACCEPTED:** 31 July 2025 / **PUBLISHED:** 1 August 2025

COPYRIGHT: © 2025 by all the authors of the article above. The article is published as an open access article by WASD under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>)

INTRODUCTION

No one anticipated the tragedy of the current war against the backdrop of the 2019 victory and subsequent joy. Sudan's 2019 revolution for freedom, justice and peace led to hopes that, after three decades of despotism, the military would face accountability and justice: to date, such hopes have not been realised. The swift improvement in conditions in Sudan and the potentially positive international and regional roles that government efforts towards accountability can play were abruptly halted by the war on 15 April 2023.

In the summer of 2023, over 75 national stakeholders from both parties were interviewed to assess the war's impact on accountability and sustainable development. The findings indicate that legal and institutional frameworks in Sudan are nearly non-existent due to the conflict. The war has dismantled civil society partners' capacity to operate independently or collaborate with government initiatives. Attacks on workshops aimed at auditing military and corrupt leaders have severely limited organisational capabilities, while other agencies lack the independence to engage with the judiciary effectively.

The current humanitarian crisis demands the immediate implementation of strong legal and institutional systems that can provide peace and punishment for culprits and further sustainable development goals (SDGs).

HISTORICAL CONTEXT AND LEGAL LANDSCAPE

Deep inequalities in Sudan stem from British colonial rule and subsequent authoritarian regimes; these fragmented the country into marginalised regions, especially after the civil wars from 1955-1972 and 1983-2005. The establishment of a centralised power structure post-independence excluded non-Khartoum communities, leading to social tensions exacerbated by the loss of southern oil resources after South Sudan's independence (Makori, 2024). Omar al-Bashir's 30-year rule saw a decline in state institutions, rampant corruption, and human rights abuses, undermining public trust and effective governance. Additionally, parallel security structures emerged, particularly the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), operating independently of traditional command with significant political influence. Effective security reform necessitates restructuring command under civilian oversight, integrating all armed groups into a coherent framework.

Former regimes created legal frameworks for public accountability, but enforcement was absent. Dictatorial governments routinely flouted the law, punishing efforts to enhance governance. They suppressed political dissent, stifled civil society, and marginalised the Department of Prosecutions. The business and mining sectors remain burdened with uncertainty in this unstable political environment (Schilling-Vacaflor and Gustafsson, 2024).

THE DEVASTATING IMPACT OF THE SAF-RSF CONFLICT

The violent clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and RSF marked a concerning escalation sought by leaders Abdal-Fatah al-Burhan and Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo since the 2019 collapse of the al-Bashir regime. The RSF's actions, including extra-judicial killings and attacks on civilians, particularly affect the Zaghawa ethnic group. Early fighting saw the RSF targeting SAF troops in Khartoum, which the military junta exploited for coup attempts. Initially peaceful uprisings were suppressed, leaving a dysfunctional regime amidst widespread public discontent and demands for humanitarian aid and democracy. As both factions established military power, a temporary warfare state ensued. Meanwhile, a non-government organisation (NGO) initiative promoting democracy in Sudan sparked civil activism, mobilising a newly formed civil society to fill the leadership void left by previous rulers.

DESIGNING ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISMS

Accountability is vital for democratic governance and equitable development, enabling citizens to advocate for the common good and hold public power accountable. Effective political and fiscal accountability systems ensure public authorities remain legitimate, while well-functioning institutions monitor public behaviour, respond to citizens, manage resources, and enable redress. This is crucial for achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, especially in times of austerity (Irani *et al.*, 2023). Public accountability is seen as a global public good, requiring support through equitable partnerships. Strengthening is central to public financial management reforms; however, reforms need to address entrenched power relations, political loyalties, and financial interests to ensure integrity in development partnerships. This process involves practical steps to navigate the complexities of accountability debates, moving beyond conventional discussions. Creative thinking tools may help, but caution is needed to avoid reinforcing scepticism about reforms (Akinrinola *et al.*, 2024). A feasible interim strategy is a dual accountability model that emphasises independent audit functions while investigating complaints through an Office of Complaints Mechanism for Financing and Funders.

Establishing Independent Judicial Institutions

Courts, tribunals, commissions, and review agencies must be constitutionally established to protect Sudanese interests from nepotism, corruption, and arbitrary power. These judicial institutions need independence from executive and legislative influence to avoid politicisation (Irani *et al.*, 2023). Judicial independence is essential for impartiality, safeguarding judges from interference, providing job security, preventing salary reductions, and ensuring fair selection and discipline.

Judicial independence is absent from Sudan's political discourse and public discussions. In transitional contexts, there are few inclusive talks about governance or judicial integrity, with

criticism often unconstructive (Mansoor, 2024). To protect judicial integrity, concepts such as “social contract” and “checks and balances” are essential. Unfortunately, these concepts are foreign to Sudan’s leaders, as institutions lack a clear grasp of civilian oversight, preventing mechanisms to curb abuses of power and resources.

Promoting Truth and Reconciliation

Peace and stability are essential for development. Peacebuilding and post-war reconciliation are critical for revitalising social and economic life and fostering growth. Initiatives should address grievances, restore hope, tackle root causes of conflict, and prevent future violence, starting with the cessation of hostilities and requiring international backing (Mohamed, 2024). Promoting democracy, the rule of law, and establishing necessary institutions is key. The role of civil society is important but often overlooked and should be included in the dialogue. Frameworks such as Truth and Reconciliation Commissions (TRCs), local courts, and observer commissions can address humanitarian law violations, enhance democracy, and empower victims.

Strengthening Governance Structures

The political economy of modern Sudan is characterised by:

- the rent-seeking political elite;
- a shadow economy dominated by the military-security complex, leading to rampant corruption;
- predominantly non-institutionalised politics in which both war and peace have been militarised, leading to state fragility; and
- a civil society increasingly liberal, domestically and transnationally, yet co-opted by the authoritarian state and hijacked by violence (Nimieri, 2024).

An analytical framework that links these four interactive elements, exogenous factors relating to outside social, economic, and political interests, domestic structural independence, local state-society prisons and agency networks, has accordingly been advanced and operationalised. No engagement paradigm can successfully think-tinker the manipulated social, economic, and political realities on the ground without then creating more space for agency change (Cuomo, 2022).

Drafting a New Constitution

On 25 October 2021, military generals in Sudan suspended the transitional government, seizing power from civilians amid political strife and a national crisis. Mass protests erupted against this coup, leading to violent crackdowns that resulted in over 120 deaths and thousands injured; by 19 January 2022, close to 1,000 protesters had been arbitrarily detained. A peace agreement was signed on 3 August 2022, addressing civil wars in Darfur and growing opposition to military rule.

The ongoing instability is compounded by conflicts between military leaders and deteriorating rule of law and human rights, causing severe displacement. The agreement seeks to reform the security sector, promote national dialogue, and implicate stakeholders in a democratic transition.

Article 1 emphasises national sovereignty, self-determination, and respect for the rights and obligations of all citizens, aiming for diversity, equity, justice, and equality among various groups. The 2014 constitution failed to address emerging realities, making it detached from political, cultural, and historical contexts. This necessitated a careful review of its legality, appropriateness, and the choices required for effective constitutional reform.

Judicial Accountability

Judicial accountability mechanisms, such as courts and oversight bodies, are essential for upholding the rule of law and addressing misconduct. Strong legal frameworks and proper procedural rules are crucial for ensuring independence and judicial competency in these institutions.

Efforts to enhance human rights inquiries in Sudan should leverage the current legal accountability framework and prior suggestions. This includes focusing on Security Council Resolution 2599, the Rome Statute, and Universal Jurisdiction, which need political and public support (Mohamed, 2024).

Non-Judicial Accountability

To complement Sudan's transitional justice, non-judicial mechanisms must address the accountability gap from the war and the 2021 coup through forgiveness, truth-telling, and institutional reform: these measures can aid in healing conflict-damaged relationships. Sudan's focus can shift from punitive international models to restorative justice, emphasising a Sudanese-led vision that includes community calls for reconciliation and political accountability. However, the current draft adopts a top-down international approach, neglecting local contexts and healing processes (Hirono, 2023). Engaging affected parties as active partners is crucial. Critics highlight the lack of restorative justice mechanisms in the peace agreement, denying victims a voice and reparations. Therefore, transitional justice should minimise a punitive environment, balancing judicial and non-judicial measures to promote truth, accountability, reparations, and reconciliation needs for both victims and aggressors (Al-Shuwaiter, 2024).

Reforming the Security Sector

Sudan faces significant security issues, including violence and political unrest, threatening peace and democracy. A robust security sector is crucial for sustainable development. Reform must encourage pluralism, tolerance, and public welfare, as mere legislative discussions will not ensure real change (TI, 2023).

Assistance is crucial for consultative reform processes, unifying ownership of security sector reforms, legislative actions, and addressing security issues. The international community must promote transformative change in Sudan's security sector. Critical assessments are needed for resource allocation to empower civil society. Immediate support for outlining reform steps in Sudan is vital.

The reform of territorial security and intelligence must include controlling programmes' use and movement, redesigning tasks of the police, and instituting checks for accountability. A clear accountability structure for command and individual responsibility for human rights violations is necessary. These measures aim to meet the goals of political actors and donors for transforming Sudan's security sector.

LESSONS FROM POST-CONFLICT SOCIETIES

A thorough examination of post-conflict states can supply Sudan with essential information needed for planning its recovery strategy. By observing Rwanda and Sierra Leone, Sudan can gain knowledge about achieving justice through reconciliation and connecting native and international standards and investigating fundamental conflict causes.

Rwanda: Truth, Justice, and Reconciliation

The case of post-genocide Rwanda demonstrates the essential role that combines true reconciliation with justice and the revelation of historical facts for building a fractured nation. Nearly one million people lost their lives while the genocide destroyed the nation's entire social structure (Hillier-Smith, 2024). The Rwandan government established an integrated system through which they mixed national legal proceedings with neighbourhood systems to handle extensive violent offences.

Truth Commissions and Gacaca Courts

Rwanda rebuilt through the implementation of Gacaca courts as community-based tribunals that became the prosecutorial tool for nationals involved in minor genocide crimes. The court system worked jointly with the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) yet pursued different targets through separate cases. At Gacaca courts members from the local community acted as part of the justice system to ensure both accountability and reconciliation. Defendants who participated in these courts had to reveal their actions in public while rendering apologies to their victims and completing community service obligations (Nwoye, 2014).

Lessons for Sudan

An appropriate justice system for Sudan should merge international war crime courts with traditional native tribunals while maintaining independent investigations to achieve both objective leadership and respectful indigenous practices. Truth commissions can record all atrocities performed by parties involved in the conflict, thus preventing any side from preserving its impunity. Through monetary or symbolic reparations programmes the affected groups can receive recognition for past injustices together with a demonstration of redress efforts. To stop violence from recurring between local communities it will be fundamental to establish open discussions between conflicting parties.

Sierra Leone: Hybrid Courts and Disarmament, Demobilisation, and Reintegration (DDR) Programmes

From 1991 to 2002, Sierra Leone's civil war was marked by severe human rights violations, leading to mass amputations and the recruitment of child soldiers. The government implemented accountability measures alongside reintegration programmes, including hybrid courts and disarmament, demobilisation, and reintegration (DDR). In 2002, the Special Court for Sierra Leone was established through a partnership between the Sierra Leonean government and the UN, focusing on prosecuting war crimes, including the conviction of former Liberian President Charles Taylor. DDR programmes provided vocational training and psychological support for ex-combatants, particularly children, to facilitate their transition to civilian life (Ducasse-Rogier, 2022).

Disarmament, Demobilisation, and Reintegration (DDR) Programmes

DDR operations in Sierra Leone operated as parallel initiatives to judicial programmes through focused initiatives for ex-combatant civilian transition. Through these programmes, ex-combatants received vocational training alongside psychological support and gained access to new livelihoods that minimised the odds of fresh hostilities (Ducasse-Rogier, 2022). Children involved in armed conflicts needed specific programmes that treated their trauma condition while working to bring back their families.

Lessons for Sudan

The establishment of hybrid courts represents a beneficial mechanism that Sudan could use to try significant cases related to war crimes and crimes against humanity. Local context-specific DDR programmes should strive to welcome back former combatants of both the SAF and RSF. The prevention of new violent outbreaks depends heavily on solving the fundamental socio-economic elements that fuel warfare throughout the affected areas. Programmes that empower local communities in their development and implementation become more effective since inhabitants demonstrate increased commitment.

Case Studies

On 28 October 2021, Sudan faced a coup, highlighting the need for actionable reform recommendations through the UN and international financial institutions. The regime's fear of public demands for accountability for political violence resulted in efforts to weaken organisations challenging state violence. The mid-1990s saw powerful war criminals entwined in the state, leading to models of stateless accountability and victim mobilisation; these are now fuelling an unprecedented fight for justice (Moro *et al.*, 2017).

Before the fishbowl sessions, experts discussed the Sudanese diaspora's contribution to generating transnational pressure on the regime, especially from civil-society activists. Key organisations focused on channelling solidarity into local political mobilisation. Additionally, the involvement of Sudan's Arab partners was highlighted for promoting peaceful efforts and building networks to reduce human suffering. Despite this, contradictions continued in the narratives surrounding Sudan's violence and external roles. Fragmentation among stakeholders and narratives between state and non-state actors was only partially addressed in efforts to encourage the UN to remain involved.

One participant elaborated on the post-2021 discourse and its implications, noting that the harsh reality shaped by the coup should not be overlooked. The “sin-logi” and “gathering of the architecture” analogies were discussed, together with efforts around the “reciprocal” remnants as generative narratives. However, concerned parties are wary of a “non-government”, as displacement and fragmentation threaten unifying visions.

United Nations Involvement

The UN plays a crucial role in creating legal frameworks for accountability and sustainable development in Sudan, requiring broader international support. For effective victim-centred transitional justice, fact-finding is necessary to comprehend past events, engaging local government and stakeholders. Collaborating with Sudanese governments, political groups, religious institutions, and civil society is vital to foster inclusive institutions and provide context-sensitive aid (Claire, 2024). If local efforts fail, the UN might rely on independent external institutions, ensuring neutral funding to maintain credibility. This institutional building demands long-term commitment, with a need for scrutiny over the credibility of UN efforts, especially regarding the neutrality of Security Council members (Velte, 2023). Assessing international organisations' financial support with ties to Sudan's conflicts is also critical, highlighting the importance of establishing umbrella organisations for comprehensive truth-gathering among various stakeholders.

African Union's Role

Chapter VIII of the UN Charter gives the African Union (AU) the responsibility to mediate disputes among member states before involving the UN. However, the term “dispute” is ambiguous, and the AU has struggled to utilise its authority effectively to prevent conflicts. The Merowe Dam Report pointed out the AU’s negligence but was kept confidential (Ajawaila, 2024). For credibility, the AU must be transparent in its interpretation of “dispute” and clarify how its Strategy for the Great Lakes Region will address Sudan’s challenges affecting Uganda, Kenya, and other East African nations.

Modifying the Convention to transform the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) into the AU is timely. It instructs the Peace and Security Council to refer disputes to the International Court of Justice within six months of notifying state parties. This would clarify the AU’s mandate and the term “dispute”, assessing human rights and self-determination balance. Expert opinions could enhance resolution effectiveness, underlining NGO involvement in accountability.

Transitional Justice Mechanisms

Transitional justice seeks to hold former regimes accountable, acknowledge victims, and strengthen the rule of law via prosecutions, truth commissions, reparations, and reforms. These strategies emerged from global responses to conflicts such as World War II and apartheid, with similar initiatives noted in the former Yugoslavia and elsewhere in the 1990s and 2000s (McAuliffe, 2021). Recently, attention has turned to non-state actors and corruption, exposing the gap between international expectations and local realities. The interplay of prosecution, truth rights, reparations, and consultations add complexity. While aimed at fostering peace, these processes can incur costs and provoke debates on best practices, with stakeholders occasionally manipulating mechanisms for their own interests (Wilson, 2024).

CHALLENGES TO ACCOUNTABILITY IN POST-CONFLICT SUDAN

In Sudan, local and geopolitical factors hinder accountability efforts, while alternative narratives and conflicting ideologies obscure justice perceptions. Security Council resolutions call for ending impunity but lack implementation clarity.

Entrenched Impunity

Corruption, impunity, and the quest for accountability are critical issues in Sudan, characterised by corrupt practices in politics and administration. Corruption is the misuse of public office for private gain, and accountability has evaded Sudan’s tumultuous regimes. In Sudan, systemic corruption and repression hinder accountability, threatening survival despite evidence against

officials. Disillusionment with the former ruling party, frustrations from peaceful protests prior to April 2019, and ineffective strategies to gain international legitimacy have protected Omar Bashir and his associates from facing repercussions.

Political Instability

Politics, public authority, and governance legitimacy are crucial in Sudan's instability, and local differences and historical conflicts drive grievances regarding state formation. Ethnic discrimination exacerbates these issues, mobilising local groups into conflict. While elite dynamics matter, public discontent largely stems from interactions among culturally distinct groups patterns (Madut, 2023). Recently, the study of state legitimacy has gained traction among scholars and policy-makers. To evaluate the legitimacy of Sudan's governance, it is important to analyse how increasingly competitive politics of the struggle for control of states and distribution of resources identified the North-South divide, and how violence and politics were affected by colonial remnants and Cold War influences.

Lack of Resources

Although Sudan has obligations under various governance and human rights treaties, political will for implementation is absent. Many argue for the involvement of international entities, such as the International Criminal Court, and stress the roles of the UN and AU in governance. Concerns persist about fund misappropriation and this hampers reconstruction and public service efforts. An effective accountability mechanism is essential to ensure resources reach vulnerable groups (Abdelrahim *et al.*, 2023). Current systems are seen as inadequate, misaligned, and prone to misuse, benefiting elites while the legal system is weak and biased against the disadvantaged.

Deep societal divisions and fear of retaliation impede accountability, while the involvement of various armed groups complicates assigning responsibility and hampers investigations into atrocities.

Aligning Accountability with Sustainable Development

SDG 16 advocates for inclusive, participatory decision-making, requiring active public participation and accountability processes for vulnerable populations to drive their empowerment. Effective accountability mechanisms must be paired with internationally recognised civil, political, and social rights, which should be reflected in monitoring data (Ahmad and Islam, 2024). Agency accountability is crucial for SDG 16, focusing on the international community's responsibilities, including UN agencies and the World Bank. Their involvement in Sudan has been inconsistent and fragmented. This accountability aspect is vital, particularly since some funding is tied to

the fragile peace and economic growth initiatives established by the World Bank; these control critical information regarding aid and peacebuilding efforts, facilitating participatory monitoring (Alawattage and Azure, 2021).

This paper reflects key issues, including:

- the need for a broader, de-colonial understanding of accountability;
- a stronger focus on national accountability for integrating human rights and sustainability across government levels;
- addressing intersectional discrimination and inequality related to gender, age, class, and ethnicity.

The concept of “accountability” is often defined narrowly as a given “holder’s” responsibility to fulfil commitments to a particular “seeker”. It requires broader interpretation, considering power hierarchies that shape accountability obligations. Furthermore, options for “civil” accountability must be expanded to include the most marginalised (Novelli, 2024).

INTEGRATING SDGS INTO PEACEBUILDING EFFORTS

Agenda 2030, adopted at the conclusion of the UN summit on sustainable development in September 2015, places the SDGs at the forefront of Africa’s peace and security. In Resolution 2015/32, the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), requested the UN Secretary-General to work with all stakeholders to provide an overview of potential approaches to implement and monitor Agenda 2030 effectively. The need to localise the SDGs was emphasised as follows: (a) by involving local governments and relevant stakeholders in their development and implementation, ownership of policies for the achievement of the SDGs would be built, and (b) by co-ordinating action and building partnerships at the sub-national level, resource mobilisation and efficient implementation of national strategies to achieve the SDGs would be promoted (Soergel *et al.*, 2021). It was resolved that local authorities and relevant stakeholders be involved in the review and implementation of Agenda 2030.

In their reflection on how the SDGs can be integrated into current peacebuilding efforts in Sudan, experts highlighted the strong relationship between the SDGs and resolving the conflict in Sudan, specifically SDG 1 (end poverty), SDG 2 (zero hunger), SDG 4 (quality education), and SDG 5 (gender equality). If these SDGs are met, it would help with a system of equitable governance in the country.

Challenges to Achieving SDGs

The commitment to ensuring no one is left behind has highlighted marginalised groups in development discussions, leading to legally binding accountability mechanisms that connect

human rights and environmental laws with the SDGs. Nevertheless, many countries struggle with inequalities, face unmet challenges in data disaggregation, and encounter issues with alignment between domestic laws, budgets, and SDGs (Alawattage and Azure, 2021). A lack of legislative oversight and engagement has hindered effective national accountability efforts for transformative change.

This collection highlights the need for relevant legal and institutional frameworks and accountability efforts for sustainable development in Sudan, a challenge also faced by various countries. Researchers argue for a new narrative that transcends the existing language and processes, emphasising that accountability must address injustices linked to the ongoing war and the prevailing culture of impunity. Moreover, it is essential to critically examine the framing of accountability, the roles of political actors, and the emerging processes to foster genuine progress.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Together with legal accountability frameworks, sustainable development should be developed through a comprehensive multidimensional institutional strategy in post-war Sudan. The following post-conflict recommendations draw their approach from the experiences of Rwanda and Sierra Leone and other nations that have recovered from conflict.

Establish Independent Judicial Institutions

Develop sustainable, accountable frameworks for post-war Sudan, inspired by post-conflict recoveries such as Rwanda and Sierra Leone. Focus on establishing independent judicial institutions with native knowledge units and international standards, prioritising transparency and impartiality. Ensure judicial independence through non-partisan appointments, adequate funding, and training programmes for judges. Create specialised units to investigate corruption, human rights abuses, and economic crimes from the conflict.

Promote Truth and Reconciliation

Establish Truth Commissions for evidence collection on conflict crimes by all parties. Engage local communities and stakeholders, provide reparations through acknowledgment and financial or symbolic means, and support formal justice with community-based methods for cultural understanding and issue resolution.

Strengthening Governance Structures

A new constitution should involve marginalised groups, guarantee fundamental freedoms, and decentralise power. Security sector reform is needed to unify military command and oversee all armed groups, preventing security forces from interfering in politics.

Aligning accountability frameworks with SDGs in peacebuilding operations addresses peace threats through anti-corruption, electoral systems, and investments in education and healthcare.

Empower Marginalised Groups Gender-Sensitive Policies

Promote gender equality by integrating women into decision-making processes at all levels. Youth Engagement calls for creating youth councils and platforms that will strengthen young people to shape governance approaches and peacebuilding initiatives. Investing money into education and skills programmes helps young people build the ability to transform themselves into leadership figures.

The African Union and Intergovernmental Authority on Development should mediate disputes and co-ordinate aid, while UN agencies and donor countries must partner for technical support and funding to ensure coherent reconstruction efforts.

CONCLUSIONS

Sudan has become spiritually destroyed by the SAF-RSF conflict that has forced millions into displacement, destroyed all economic sectors and eliminated public institution legitimacy. As Sudan transitions into peace, the establishment of strong legal systems and institutional structures for sustainable development and accountability must be prioritised (AU-PSC, 2023). Any fragile and unsustainable recovery plan will persist because the nation fails to address fundamental problems such as corruption and militarisation and exclusionary policies.

This discussion evaluated the lessons Sudan can benefit from by studying post-conflict developments in nations such as Rwanda and Sierra Leone. The presented case studies demonstrate why combination methods between conventional and modern institutions work best while promoting universal participation and using transitional justice to create development plans. Sudan's long-term peace and resilience can emerge through the implementation of hybrid tribunals and truth commissions, together with governance reforms and empowerment of neglected groups.

The path to success relies on extensive unity between people at all levels who strive for Sudan to evolve into a unified prosperous nation instead of one consumed by ongoing turmoil. These structured guidelines serve as specific directions for policy-makers as well as civil society groups

and international supporters who must reconstruct Sudan. When properly executed, such targeted measures will establish Sudan as a source of inspiration through which broken societies recognise they can heal and prosper again.

Through acceptance of accountability, together with reconciliation efforts and sustainable development alignments, Sudan faces prospects to create an improved path towards a future that respects past hardships yet develops opportunities for future generations.

REFERENCES

- Abdelrahim, R.A., Otitolaiye, V.O., Omer, F. and Abdelbasit, Z. (2023): Scoping review of the occupational health and safety governance in Sudan: the story so far. *Safety and Health at Work*, Vol. 14, No. 2, pp.174-184.
- African Union Peace and Security Council (AU-PSC) (2023): *Report on Regional Cooperation and Accountability Challenges in Sudan*. Addis Ababa: AU Commission.
- Ahmad, I. and Islam, M.R. (2024): Empowerment and participation: Key strategies for inclusive development. In: Ahmad, I. and Islam, M.R. *Building strong communities: Ethical Approaches to Inclusive Development* (pp.47-68). Emerald Publishing Limited.
- Ajawaila, D.P. (2024): Indonesia's Position as Mediating State in Handling the Conflict Russia-Ukraine Conflict Based on the Concept of Responsibility to Protect (R2P). *Widya Pranata Hukum: Jurnal Kajian dan Penelitian Hukum*, Vol. 6, No. 1, pp.109-117.
- Akinrinola, O., Okoye, C.C., Ofodile, O.C. and Ugochukwu, C.E. (2024): Navigating and reviewing ethical dilemmas in AI development: Strategies for transparency, fairness, and accountability. *GSC Advanced Research and Reviews*, Vol. 18, No. 3, pp.050-058.
- Alawattage, C. and Azure, J.D.C. (2021): Behind the World Bank's ringing declarations of "social accountability": Ghana's public financial management reform. *Critical Perspectives on Accounting*, Vol. 78, p.102075.
- Al-Shuwaiter, M. (2024): *The Role of the Judiciary in Achieving Transitional Justice and Reconciliation in Yemen*. The Yemen International Forum. Available at: <https://sanaacenter.org/publications/22598>
- Claire, K. (2024): *Examination of the Legal and Institutional Framework Relating to United Nations Peacekeeping Operations in South Sudan*. Doctoral dissertation, Kampala International University.
- Cuomo, F. (2022): Urban Living Lab: An Experimental Co-Production Tool to Foster the Circular Economy. *Social Sciences*, Vol. 11, No. 6, p.260.
- Ducasse-Rogier, M. (2022): *Resolving intractable conflicts in Africa: a case study of Sierra Leone*. Netherlands Institute of International Relations, Clingendael Institute, Conflict Research Unit. Available at: https://www.clingendael.org/sites/default/files/2016-02/20040900_cru_working_paper_31.pdf 74pp.

- Hillier-Smith, B. (2024): *The Ethics of State Responses to Refugees*. Routledge.
- Hirono, M. (2023): China's Peacebuilding in South Sudan: "Top-down" Adaptation and Its Effectiveness. In De Coning, C., Saraiva, R. and Muto, A. (Eds): *Adaptive Peacebuilding: A New Approach to Sustaining Peace in the 21st Century* (pp. 237-262). Cham: Springer International Publishing.
- Irani, Z., Abril, R.M., Weerakkody, V., Omar, A. and Sivarajah, U. (2023): The impact of legacy systems on digital transformation in European public administration: Lesson learned from a multi case analysis. *Government Information Quarterly*, Vol. 40, No. 1, p.101784.
- Madut, K.K. (2023): Why did governance and institutional establishments fail in Sudan and South Sudan? *The Journal of North African Studies*, Vol. 28, No. 3, pp.666-678.
- Makori, D. (2024): *Defend or defect?: Military Responses to Popular Uprisings in Wartime*. Student Thesis. Uppsala University.
- Mansour, A.A. (2024): Applying the Conditions Required for the Complementary Role of the International Criminal Court on the Case of Sudan. *Sultan Qaboos University Legal Studies Journal*, Vol. 3, No. 1, p.8.
- McAuliffe, P. (2021): Transitional justice, institutions and temporality: Towards a dynamic understanding. *International Criminal Law Review*, Vol. 21, No. 5, pp.817-847.
- Mohamed, A.A. (2024): Urban Reconstruction in Post-War Cities by the Approach of Collective Memories. *International Journal of Sustainable Development & Planning*, Vol. 19, No. 8, p.3105.
- Moro, L.N., Snatschi, M., Gordon, R., Dau, P. and Maxwell, D. (2017): *Statebuilding and Legitimacy: Experiences of South Sudan*. Sudan: Secure Livelihoods Research Consortium. London, UK.
- Nimieri, G.M. (2024): *The Effect of Globalization in Shaping South Sudan's Political and Economic Relations*. Doctoral dissertation, University of Nairobi.
- Novelli, C., Taddeo, M. and Floridi, L. (2024): Accountability in artificial intelligence: what it is and how it works. *AI & Society*, Vol. 39, No. 4, pp.1871-1882.
- Nwoye, L.C. (2014): Partners or Rivals in Reconciliation: The ICTR and Rwanda's Gacaca Courts. *San Diego International Law Journal*, Vol. 16, p.119.
- Schilling-Vacaflor, A. and Gustafsson, M.T. (2024): Towards more sustainable global supply chains? Company compliance with new human rights and environmental due diligence laws. *Environmental Politics*, Vol. 33, No. 3, pp.422-443.
- Soergel, B., Kriegler, E., Weindl, I., Rauner, S., Dirnaichner, A., Ruhe, C., Hofmann, M., Bauer, N., Bertram, C., Bodirsky, B.L. and Leimbach, M. (2021): A sustainable development pathway for climate action within the UN 2030 Agenda. *Nature Climate Change*, Vol. 11, No. 8, pp.656-664.
- Transparency International (TI) (2023): *Corruption and Impunity in Post-Conflict Settings: The Case of Sudan*. Berlin: TI Publications.
- United Nations Security Council (UNSC) (2023): *Resolution 2682: Addressing Impunity for Violence Against Civilians in Sudan*. New York: UNSC Publications.

Velte, P. (2023): Which institutional investors drive corporate sustainability? A systematic literature review. *Business Strategy and the Environment*, Vol. 32, No. 1, pp.42-71.

Wilson, L.K. (2024): *Reckoning with Truth Commissions: Implication in Transitional Justice and Settler Colonialism*. Doctoral dissertation, Carleton University.

BIOGRAPHY



Dr Salahaldin Abdulkader Jebarah is a seasoned legal scholar and practitioner with extensive academic and professional experience across Sudan, the Netherlands, the UK, and the Gulf region. He holds a PhD in Commercial Law from the University of Wolverhampton and an LLM in International Business and Commercial Law from the University of West London; he has practiced as a solicitor in the UK. Dr Jebarah has served as a judicial trainer for the Sudanese Ministry of Justice and previously led the College of Law at Gulf University in Bahrain. He is currently expert of the Commercial Law Department at the College of Business, Sohar University, Oman. He has published widely in the fields of commercial law and dispute resolution