

**Sudan's Arms Collection Project – concept,
Justifications, and Implementation Modalities.**

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1. Preamble:

The collection of arms and arms control is a process that involves local, regional, and international dimensions due to the threat of Arms posed to global peace and security. The spread of arms goes back to the colonial era in Sudan since the last century. Different factors have contributed to the spread of arms across Sudan, particularly in Darfur, Kurdufan, and the Blue Nile coupled with the political conflicts in the neighboring countries such as Chad, Central Africa, and Congo. Furthermore, the negative impact of the Libyan and Chadian clash in the Ouzu triangle and the unrest in Libya before and after the assassination of President Colonel Muammar Al-Gadhafi of Libya. The conflict of interests of the international and regional political actors has also negatively impacted the situation and at the same time led to arming the rebel movements in Southern and Western States of Sudan. Furthermore, the local intercommunal clashes over the natural resources and along the cattle migratory routes have encouraged civilian arms ownership; additionally the infiltrated arms from Sudanese Armed Forces due to inadequate stockpile management and weak control system sometimes plus the unexploded ordinance and other military-related weapons had aggravated proliferation of arms in the region.

The illegal ownership of the weapons has created a violent atmosphere in which local communities' and civilians' human rights and dignity are violated.

It is against this background, the Government of Sudan has exerted serious efforts to cease the proliferation of arms and illegal arms trafficking, therefore it issued among others the decree number 419 for the year 2017 establishing the High Committee for Arms Collection and regularization of unregistered vehicles. The committee which is led by the Vice-President Mr. Hassabo Mohamed Abderhaman will have to implement the decree.

The government project on arms collection is aimed to collect legal and unregistered arms within communities through established government official tools. The process has two folds, while phase one will undergo voluntary handover of arms phase two will implement forceful collection exercise.

2. Reasons justifying Arms collection:

- The collection process comes as a requirement for national security, peace, and stability which confirms as well the State sovereignty.
- Illegal arms possession jeopardized most of the efforts exerted at the local, regional, and international levels to bring about comprehensive peace in Sudan and create a conducive environment for the voluntary return of IDPs and refugees.
- The improving security situation in Sudan, is giving the leadership advantage to plan for arms collection exercise which is predicted to put an end to the unstable situation.
- The spread of arms among the tribesmen become the main trigger for the intercommunal clashes which in turn had negative consequences and impact on the ground in terms of social cohesion.
- The presence of Arms has negatively impacted the progress of the social and economic development process led locally and internationally. It also hinders the provision of basic services for the communities as per most of the allocated budget is spent on security matters.
- Collection of Arms is one of the National Dialogue provisions as well as that of DPA and the subsequent agreements in Darfur and Eastern Sudan.
- The Government decision on arms collection exercise was also upon the request of all community segments include CSOs, political parties, tribal leaders,

IDPs, refugees, women groups, and youth on different occasions and events calling for the promotion of rule of law and good governance and order in place.

3. The objectives of the Arms Collection Process:

The main objective: to enforce rule of law and promotion of social peace and justice as well as improving Human Rights all over Sudan.

Sub-objectives:

- Stop banditry and intercommunal conflicts and promote law and order;
- Address the security threat and its socio-economic and cultural dimensions;
- Fight against arms-related activities such as goods and drug.