

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 28 January 2020 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to attach herewith a letter dated 27 January 2020 from Abdalla A. Hamdok, Prime Minister of the Republic of the Sudan, addressed to the Secretary-General, on the recent developments in the Sudan and the position of the Government of the Sudan on a mechanism that may follow the drawdown of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) (see annex).

Having brought this matter to your kind attention, I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Murtada Hassan Abuobeida **Sharif**
Chargé d'affaires, a.i.



Annex to the letter dated 28 January 2020 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Letter dated 27 January 2020 from the Prime Minister of the Sudan addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to provide an update on the recent developments in Sudan, and as the Security Council deliberates on the United Nations footprint subsequent to the drawdown of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), I would like to convey the position of the Government of Sudan.

Sudan today is at a historic crossroads. December 2018 witnessed the beginning of months of peaceful demonstrations by millions of Sudanese demanding liberty, peace and justice. During the following months, civilians were subjected to violence and killing, and the country witnessed political turmoil. Despite these developments, the revolution remained peaceful, and the will of the Sudanese people triumphed. The repressive regime of 30 years fell and on 17 August 2019 the Sudanese parties signed the Constitutional Declaration for the Transitional Period.

The Constitutional Declaration enshrines a uniquely Sudanese model for transition. A model that is innovative, complex and non-linear. It builds on a calibrated partnership among the Sudanese stakeholders with one key goal: to fulfil the legitimate aspirations of the Sudanese people to live in peace and prosperity, ruled by a Government of their choosing within a state that respects and upholds their individual and collective rights. The Declaration provides a road map to achieve this democratic transition, including mechanisms – such as a national constitutional process and nationwide elections – to transform the Sudanese state to a fully civilian, democratic and representative system. Since the signing of the Constitutional Declaration there have been several key achievements. At the national level, these include: the swearing-in of the Cabinet, with unprecedented levels of gender and geographical representation; the launch of the peace talks with the armed groups in Juba; and the adoption of the first national budget based on the Sustainable Development Goals, with free basic health care and education. Internationally, Sudan is assuming its role as a constructive and responsible member of the community of nations. Bilateral relations with partners and friends have improved. Sudan has assumed the Presidency of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and was elected as Chair of the Ottawa Convention and as a member of the Human Rights Council.

The transition in Sudan is unfolding amidst complex political, economic and security challenges. Peace has not yet been fully realized in Darfur, southern Kordofan and Blue Nile State. While the Sudanese parties, including the armed groups – many who are an integral part of the transition – continue to engage constructively in negotiations in Juba, progress remains slow, and time is of the essence. Following my visit to Kauda in southern Kordofan, I am more convinced than ever of the urgent need to provide communities living in conflict-affected areas with the peace, security and development they deserve. Contingent upon the peace process are multiple other processes, including the establishment of the Legislative Assembly and the appointment of key executive positions, including civilian State Governors.

The economic situation is in a downward spiral. The Sudanese people are confronted with soaring prices of basic items, a rising exchange rate and a series of crises triggered by the scarcity of basic commodities. The reasons for the economic crisis are complex but fundamentally relate to decades of economic mismanagement

and rampant corruption. The situation is dire, as purchasing power dwindles and savings are being wiped out by rising inflation.

Over the previous decades, the international community has stood by the Sudanese people, providing much needed political, economic and humanitarian support. I note with much appreciation the positive role played by the African Union and IGAD, together with Sudan's neighbours and international partners in supporting the Sudanese transition, including the signing of the Constitutional Declaration. We look forward to the continued engagement of the African Union, including in the implementation of the Constitutional Declaration. Similarly, I would like to register my immense appreciation for the role UNAMID, as the first United Nations-African Union hybrid mission, has played in Darfur over the years. The mission has provided important peace dividends that must be safeguarded, deepened and expanded.

As Sudan undergoes this complex transition, the reconfiguration of the United Nations footprint must assist and complement Sudan's priorities and support Sudan in achieving the full democratic transition throughout the transitional period, ending in November 2022.

Based on the above, Sudan hereby requests the United Nations to seek a Security Council mandate to establish, as soon as possible, a Chapter VI peace support operation in the form of a special political mission with a strong peacebuilding component. The prospective mission's mandate should cover the entire territory of Sudan and its approach needs to be innovative, agile, coordinated and light. Such building blocks and a modular approach should be followed when designing the United Nations footprint. For example, what should be urgently deployed are capacities for good offices and mediation support to assist in the Juba peace negotiations and to help Sudan mobilize international economic assistance, including by supporting the upcoming donor conference.

Some of the key building blocks to be included in the special political mission mandate are:

- (a) Support for the implementation of the Constitutional Declaration; regular monitoring of the implementation of its key benchmarks;
- (b) Good offices support for the ongoing peace negotiations and support for the implementation of peace accords. Particular attention should be given to the Juba process and its implementation in Darfur, southern Kordofan and Blue Nile State, as required. Monitoring and technical support for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former fighters; ceasefire monitoring; and the collection of small arms and weapons;
- (c) Help to mobilize international economic assistance for Sudan, and to facilitate the coordination of effective humanitarian assistance across Sudan;
- (d) Technical support for constitutional making, legal and judicial reform, civil service reform and security sector reform;
- (e) Help to consolidate the gains in Darfur through peacebuilding, humanitarian assistance, development initiatives and the restoration of state authority, with additional emphasis and engagement in Blue Nile and southern Kordofan. Support for the continuation and expansion of the State liaison functions mechanism in Darfur and across other relevant parts of Sudan;
- (f) Support for: the repatriation and reintegration of internally displaced persons and refugees; reconciliation among communities; peace dividends; transitional justice, the protection of civilians and capacity-building of the national police force, including through deployment of United Nations, African Union and

other police advisers, as appropriate. Human rights monitoring and capacity-building for national institutions.

Sudan welcomes the Secretary-General's reforms of the United Nations peace and security, management and development pillars. In the spirit of these reforms, the United Nations footprint in Sudan should be integrated and strategically aligned and under one leadership. The United Nations country team in Sudan must expand its operations in scale and scope. To be fit for purpose, the country team must shift its approach from project-based and short-term assistance to longer-term development programming that helps Sudan achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Priority of emphasis must be given to strengthening national service provision systems and to ensuring peace dividends and support to the areas worst affected, particularly in Darfur, southern Kordofan, Blue Nile State and eastern Sudan.

The Government would be willing to welcome the mission as soon as possible. An initial footprint under the leadership of a Khartoum-based Special Representative of the Secretary-General should be deployed to support the Juba peace process and the upcoming donor conference, and could also support the design and formulation of the United Nations footprint for the transitional period.

The Sudan transition model has all the ingredients for success; the risks are also clear and present. The international community, including the United Nations, must step forward now, to help with the urgent issues at hand and to help lay the foundation for Sudan's trajectory towards peace and prosperity.

(Signed) Abdalla A. **Hamdok**
Prime Minister
