



# Security Council

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## Letter dated 24 May 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council

I have the honour to enclose herewith a copy of the briefing provided by Mr. Volker Perthes, Special Representative for the Sudan and Head of the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in the Sudan, as well as the statements delivered by the representatives of China, Estonia, France, India, Ireland, Kenya (on behalf of the A3+1: Kenya, the Niger and Tunisia, as well as Saint Vincent and the Grenadines), Mexico, Norway, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Viet Nam in connection with the video-teleconference on “Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan” convened on Thursday, 20 May 2021. A statement was also delivered by the representative of the Sudan.

In accordance with the procedure set out in the letter dated 7 May 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council (S/2020/372), which was agreed in the light of the extraordinary circumstances caused by the coronavirus disease pandemic, this briefing and these statements will be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Zhang Jun**  
President of the Security Council



**Annex I****Briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Sudan and Head of the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in the Sudan, Volker Perthes**

I thank you for this opportunity to brief the Council today on the situation in the Sudan.

I have just returned from the Paris Conference, which clearly demonstrated the continued international support for the Sudan's return to the international community. I want to thank the Government of France for having organized that conference, at which Member States announced bilateral debt forgiveness, helping the Sudan to clear its arrears with the international financial institutions and paving the way for the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative decision point.

I also want to thank the Sudanese — women and men, civil society and businesspeople — who articulated their vision of a new Sudan: one of freedom, justice and economic opportunity. Prime Minister Hamdok reiterated his commitment to peace and to creating an environment for business investments, while Lieutenant General Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan affirmed his pledge to a democratic transition and to the Sudan's good-neighbourly relations.

I encourage all the Sudan's international and domestic partners to continue supporting the country as it implements key economic and political reforms. The economic and political dimensions of the Sudan's transition are interdependent and inseparable.

Let me sketch out some of the recent developments in the Sudan — achievements as well as challenges — during the reporting period. That begins with the peace process.

On 28 March the Chairman of the Sudan's Sovereign Council, Lieutenant General Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan, and the Chairman of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement — North (SPLM/N), Abdelaziz Al-Hilu faction, signed a declaration of principles that will form the basis of the scheduled peace talks between the Government of the Sudan and the SPLM/N Al-Hilu in Juba next week. I commend both parties' courage in making important compromises to reach that stage.

I have met with Abdelaziz Al-Hilu, along with the Government and the South Sudanese mediation team, to discuss preparations for the upcoming peace talks. The United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in the Sudan (UNITAMS) will act as a facilitator, supporting South Sudan's mediation efforts and the parties when required. We are also working to ensure the meaningful participation of women in the process.

In Juba, I also discussed with Sudan Liberation Army leader Abdul Wahid Al-Nur the need to engage politically for a comprehensive peace in the Sudan that addresses the root causes of the conflict.

Let me also note the Government of the Sudan's continued efforts to advance the political transition. The adoption of legislation establishing the Peace Commission, the Anti-Corruption Commission and the Transitional Justice Commission is an important step. I urge the authorities to proceed rapidly in operationalizing those entities while ensuring that they reflect the diversity of the Sudan.

There are also delays. Most important, the formation of an inclusive and representative Transitional Legislative Council with at least 40 per cent representation of women has yet to be realized.

Moreover, the recent commemoration of the violent suppression of anti-regime protests in 2019 and the tragic deaths of two young men underscored the growing frustration with the unfulfilled expectations of the political transition, including the quest for justice and accountability.

While there is growing concern at the limited progress made in implementing the Juba Peace Agreement, there has been progress in some areas, such as the launch of the technical preparations for the governance conference and preparations for the establishment of the monitoring and evaluation mechanism. Other critical aspects remain unfulfilled, notably security arrangements and the establishment of the ceasefire and security committees.

Delays in establishing a joint protection force and the absence of integrated and united security forces have a direct bearing on stability and the protection of civilians.

Members will recall my most recent briefing here, in April, after the latest resurgence of intercommunal clashes in Darfur which left 144 dead, 232 injured and an estimated 65,000 newly displaced.

In response, the Government decided to implement eight critical security-enhancement measures, some derived from the Juba Peace Agreement, which include the establishment and deployment of the joint security forces; operationalizing transitional security arrangements and the related ceasefire committees; weapons management; and humanitarian relief.

Armed movements have named their representatives to the ceasefire committees and identified personnel for joint security forces, but deployments have yet to commence. Some delays are reportedly due to lack of resources; material international support for those joint forces, including housing and equipment, is certainly welcome.

I fear that without the speedy establishment of those joint forces and the implementation of the Sudan's National Plan for the Protection of Civilians, we could see incidents similar to the ones that took place in El Geneina repeated.

In my meetings with Government and security officials, I welcomed their commitment to implementing security-sector reforms. UNITAMS is ready to assist in that undertaking. I also continue to urge the establishment of the ceasefire committees and related mechanisms that the peace agreement foresees. UNITAMS is prepared to support those measures, not least so as a United Nations role in those mechanisms has been agreed upon in the agreement.

UNITAMS and the United Nations country team are supporting the Government's National Plan for the Protection of Civilians, focusing on three main outcomes: supporting prevention, providing support for physical protection and creating an enabling protective environment. That includes strengthening the judiciary, a United Nations priority. UNITAMS deployed three multifunctional teams to Darfur to support the Sudanese police in community policing, investigations and addressing gender-based violence and the protection of civilians. United Nations efforts towards the protection of civilians will continue to grow as the United Nations increases its capacity.

Sudanese women continue to demand the full realization of their rights, in line with the aspirations of the revolution and the Constitutional Declaration. A women's march on 8 April brought attention to disparities in women's safety, basic needs, legal rights and political participation.

I was deeply disturbed by continued reports of human rights violations against women and girls, including social media campaigns instigating violence. Women's

rights activists point to the fact that such gender crimes were unacceptable during the revolution and should be unacceptable now. I could not agree more.

The decision of the Government to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa was an important step forward, despite the reservations on core provisions, which Sudanese women's rights groups have criticized.

UNITAMS will continue to support women's rights groups and the Government in order to create an enabling environment for women to live free of fear for their safety and to exercise their full rights.

On regional matters, I continue to urge dialogue to address the differences and tensions between the Sudan and Ethiopia to preserve the Sudan's stability. Dialogue and cooperation are the only way to amicably resolve those differences.

With regard to international cooperation, I am pleased to report agreement on the establishment of what we call the Sudan National Development Forum as a donor assistance coordination mechanism. The Government intends to launch that forum in the coming month. The United Nations has also made significant progress in the development of benchmarks and indicators, which are annexed to the report of the Secretary-General (S/2021/470). The benchmarks will measure progress against strategic priorities across the four pillars of our mandate. We have had a first discussion with the Government and will launch a "roadshow" to discuss those benchmarks with civil-society actors in various parts of the country next month.

I also thank the Government for its diligent work, which has led to the successful completion of discussions on the status-of-mission agreement, which is now ready to be signed.

The Sudan's fragile transition can succeed in realizing the aspirations of the Sudanese people, men and women, only if there is a continuation of the same spirit of unity, partnership and collaboration that started the revolution. I have continued my outreach with diverse stakeholders: the Government, political parties, armed movements, civil society and others across the Sudan to address the scepticism that we have encountered among parts of the political and societal spectrum at the outset and to build confidence that UNITAMS works for all of the Sudan.

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**Annex II****Statement by the Deputy Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations, Dai Bing**

[Original: Chinese]

I thank Special Representative of the Secretary-General Volker Perthes for the briefing and welcome the representative of the Sudan to this meeting.

The situation in the Sudan has been making positive progress for some time. The international community must continue to lend targeted support to help the Sudan become a leader in Africa when it comes to silencing the guns and post-pandemic recovery.

I wish to make the following points.

First, we must maintain the current momentum and push forward the political process. Recently the Sudanese Government increased the number of members of the Sovereign Council, completed the restructuring of the transitional Government, established the National High Committee for Monitoring the Implementation of the Juba Peace Agreement and signed a declaration of principles with the Sudan People's Liberation Movement — North Al-Hilu faction, demonstrating its political will by taking concrete action to advance the political process. China encourages the Sudanese parties to press ahead with such important transitional tasks as setting up the Transitional Legislative Council and preparing for the general election, and it calls on those factions that have not signed the peace agreement to join the peace process as soon as possible so as to keep the Sudanese political process moving in the right direction.

Secondly, it is key to strengthen capacity-building and maintain peace and stability. Since the initiation of the withdrawal of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), intercommunal conflicts have taken place from time to time in Darfur, causing heavy casualties and displacing civilians. In response, the Sudanese Government has taken some proactive measures, which China appreciates. The international community should step up its support for the capacity-building of the Sudanese Government and in particular enhance its capacity to protect civilians. The Council should carefully study the impact of the arms embargo on the efforts of the Sudanese Government to protect civilians and take effective measures to eliminate it.

The intercommunal conflict in Darfur, a persistent problem, requires a combination of good offices, reconciliation and the rule of law to tackle the root causes by developing the economy and improving people's livelihoods.

Thirdly, we must promote development cooperation and stabilize the Sudanese economy. Affected by armed conflict, the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), natural disasters and other factors, the Sudanese economy is facing severe difficulties, and tens of millions of people are in need of humanitarian assistance. China calls on Member States to scale up inputs in the Sudan's post-conflict peacebuilding and increase aid and investment. China welcomes the assistance from United Nations agencies such as the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization. China participated in the Paris Conference and, in support of the Sudan's transition, has already reduced or cancelled part of the Sudan's debts at the bilateral level. It is our hope that the World Bank and other international financial institutions will soon reduce or forgive altogether the Sudan's debts so as to create an enabling environment for the Sudan to achieve post-COVID recovery and economic development.

Fourthly, it is key to ensure a smooth handover and transition and fully leverage the role of the United Nations. As the withdrawal of UNAMID will soon be completed, the United Nations and the Sudanese Government should work closely with each other to ensure a smooth and orderly withdrawal process and jointly safeguard the safety and security of personnel and property. In order to measure progress in the implementation of the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in the Sudan (UNITAMS), the Secretary-General has developed related benchmarks and indicators covering all aspects of the Sudan's political process and nation-building. It is hoped that in the process of employing those benchmarks and indicators, UNITAMS will give adequate consideration to the priorities of the host country and fully heed its views.

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## Annex III

### **Statement by the Permanent Representative of Estonia to the United Nations, Sven Jürgenson**

I join others in thanking the Special Representative for the Sudan, Mr. Volker Perthes, for his insightful briefing, as well as the chargé d'affaires of the Sudan for his statement.

Estonia welcomes the progress that the Sudan continues to make in its historic transition despite the multiple challenges that the country is facing. For the transition to stay on course, as envisioned by the revolution and the Constitutional Declaration, the importance of institution-building cannot be overemphasized. Therefore, we urge the transitional authorities to expedite the formation of the Transitional Legislative Council, with 40 per cent representation of women. Similarly, we call for the establishment of the Human Rights Commission, the Transitional Justice Commission and the Anti-Corruption Commission.

In order to ensure the success of the Sudan's transition, it is also crucial to ensure women's full, equal and meaningful participation in decision-making bodies. On that note, allow me also to express Estonia's concern about the level of violence against women and girls and to urge the Government to take additional steps to create a protective environment that respects their full and equal rights.

Estonia also welcomes the efforts to implement the Juba Peace Agreement, including the establishment of the National High Committee and subcommittees to follow up on the implementation of the agreement. There is a need to accelerate implementation in order to respond to the hopes of the population to live in peace. For that reason, we urge the transitional Government to prioritize the implementation of the security arrangements set out in the Juba Peace Agreement, including the operationalization of ceasefire mechanisms. Estonia welcomes the declaration of principles signed by Abdelaziz Al-Hilu's Sudan People's Liberation Movement — North and calls on parties that have not yet joined the peace agreement to do so urgently. Estonia also continues to encourage cooperation with the International Criminal Court.

The socioeconomic situation unfortunately continues to impose significant hardship on the Sudanese people, but we commend the important steps that the transitional Government has taken to put the country on the path towards economic recovery. Estonia welcomes the recent Paris Conference on the Sudan and hopes that the Sudan can reach the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative decision point soon.

Despite this progress, one persistent concern is the precarious security situation in some parts of Darfur and the devastating consequences of intercommunal violence. We know that the Darfuri people had fears about the departure of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, and we cannot stand by as those fears seem to materialize. Efforts must be redoubled to ensure the safety of civilians, including women and children. Perpetrators of violence must be held accountable. We therefore urge the transitional Government to accelerate the implementation of its National Strategy for the Protection of Civilians. We call on the Sudan to cooperate with the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS) in order to build up the necessary capacities to ensure protection for all civilians. On that note, we welcome that the Minister of the Interior has requested the deployment of additional United Nations police officers. We also call for the urgent deployment of the joint protection force.

UNITAMS was intentionally given a broad mandate in order to ensure that it could provide assistance in the many areas in which the Sudan might need help.

However, in order to make tangible progress in the areas where progress is most urgently needed, it might be useful to prioritize some objectives for the coming year while still maintaining the broad mandate. Tracking progress will be crucial. Estonia therefore welcomes the development of benchmarks and indicators that will help to monitor the progress of UNITAMS against its strategic objectives. We also welcome the news that the status-of-mission agreement is ready to be signed.

In conclusion, we welcome the progress that the Sudan has made, but also acknowledge that a lot remains to be done. While the Sudan has a long road ahead, it is important to emphasize that it will not be alone on that journey, as the international community stands firmly behind its historic transition. I reiterate Estonia's full support for the Sudanese people in their efforts to achieve democracy, peace and prosperity.



**Annex IV****Statement by the Minister Counsellor of France to the United Nations,  
Sheraz Gasri**

[Original: French]

I would like to thank Special Representative Volker Perthes for his briefing and welcome the representative of the Sudan. You have our full support.

I would like to stress four points.

First, we support the democratic transition in the Sudan. The Paris conference to support the Sudanese transition, held this week at the initiative of President Macron, clearly demonstrated that the Sudanese authorities are determined to preserve the momentum generated by the December 2018 revolution. The conference also confirmed the Sudan's return to the concert of nations, along with an unprecedented effort by the Sudan's international partners to support its democratic transition. France intends to play its part and will provide a \$1.5 billion bridging loan that will enable the Sudan to repay its arrears to the International Monetary Fund. We call on all of the Sudan's bilateral creditors — whether or not they are members of the Paris Club — to participate in a coordinated and equitable manner in debt relief for the Sudan. France reiterates its commitment, under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries initiative, to cancel the Sudan's nearly \$5 billion in bilateral debt.

Secondly, reform efforts must continue, particularly in the areas of human rights and the rule of law. The formation of the transitional legislative council, with at least 40 per cent representation for women, cannot wait any longer. The ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment is an important step forward. We call on the Sudanese authorities not to reduce the scope of such ratifications. We also call on the Government to continue its efforts to enable the National Human Rights Commission to fulfil its mandate, to establish the Transitional Justice Commission without delay and to fight against corruption, with the support of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, whose cooperation with the Sudan we welcome. We also hope that the dialogue with the International Criminal Court envisioned by the Sudanese authorities will lead to concrete results in the fight against impunity for crimes committed in Darfur.

Thirdly, we reaffirm the importance of the peace process and the protection of civilians. The recurrence of large-scale intercommunal violence in Darfur confirms the fragility of the security situation. France welcomes the political will shown by the Sudanese authorities on this occasion and recalls the importance of the return of the Sudanese Administration to Darfur. We call on the Government to speed up the implementation of the Juba agreements, with the support of the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in the Sudan (UNITAMS), and to deploy the joint protection force provided for in those agreements as quickly as possible. The protection of civilians, including humanitarian workers, and the guarantee of humanitarian access must remain priorities. Effective dispute settlement mechanisms are also needed to avoid escalation. In that respect, France welcomes the dialogue established between the Mission and the Ministries of the Interior and of Justice.

Peacebuilding, of course, is a shared responsibility. We also call on all armed groups that signed the Juba agreements to return to the Sudan and to stop recruiting new fighters, especially children. Furthermore, we encourage those actors who remain outside the peace process to join it without delay. In that regard, we welcome

the declaration of principles between the Chairperson of the Sovereign Council and the party of Abdelaziz Al-Hilu.

Finally, France supports the rapid operationalization of UNITAMS in order to ensure the Organization's support for the Sudanese transition. That requires, first of all, that the Sudan rapidly finalize the agreement on the status of the Mission. UNITAMS has a broad mandate that will enable it to support the efforts of all the Sudanese authorities in order for the country to meet the challenges posed by the transition. That will be key, particularly in the area of capacity-building.

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**Annex V****Statement by the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, T.S. Tirumurti**

Let me begin by thanking Mr. Volker Perthes, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, for his detailed briefing on the activities of the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan centred around the Mission's four strategic and interrelated pillars.

The Sudan, as illustrated by the positive developments in the past three months, is making confident and steady progress in its democratic transition. The authorities have outlined broad parameters of the federal system, in line with the Constitutional Document and the Juba Agreement for Peace in the Sudan. The expanded transitional Government has also announced its strategic vision, focusing on five priority areas. Furthermore, the Sovereign Council has established the National High Committee for Monitoring the Implementation of the Juba Peace Agreement. It is encouraging that another Sudan Liberation Movement faction has joined the Juba Peace Agreement. The non-signatory groups, such as the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North Abdelaziz Al-Hilu faction, have agreed to engage in negotiations. The Sudan Liberation Army-Abdul Wahid faction has also shown willingness to engage in peace talks. We recognize the important role of South Sudan in these efforts.

Nonetheless, there have been delays in the implementation of the transitional agreements, particularly the establishment of the Transitional Legislative Council, and there has been limited progress in the implementation of the Juba Peace Agreement, particularly with respect to the security arrangements. We hope that they will soon be resolved and that the threshold of 40 per cent representation by women in the Transitional Legislative Council will be met.

On the economic front, we welcome the reforms undertaken and hope they will bring stability to the economy and address social issues effectively. The Sudanese authorities have also launched a cash-transfer programme — a noteworthy development — to shield the most vulnerable segments of the population from the impact of the removal of subsidies. The support of the international community will be crucial in ensuring the Sudan's peaceful and sustainable future. In that regard, we welcome the financial assistance extended by the Sudan's international partners. We also welcome France's hosting of an international conference earlier this month to support the Sudanese transition. With domestic reforms under way to improve the Sudan's investment climate, there are real opportunities emerging in infrastructure, mining, regional connectivity, agriculture, food industries and energy.

On the security front, the transitional Government has been swift in addressing the continuing and worrisome intercommunal clashes in Darfur. It has also enhanced security measures, including through the deployment of joint security forces. These are positive developments that reflect the broadening of governance structures and the sustained commitment of the authorities to implement the National Plan for the Protection of Civilians. During the most recent reporting period, there were incidents of criminality targeting the United Nations and its personnel. We encourage the transitional Government to take measures to ensure the safety and security of United Nations personnel and its premises.

With respect to the drawdown of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), we take note of the high level of coordination between the Sudanese joint task force and UNAMID, as well as the commitment to facilitate the administration process. We hope that all efforts will be made by the Sudanese authorities — at both the central and state levels — to make this drawdown

and liquidation an example of effective collaboration between the United Nations and the Sudan.

India supports the rapid operationalization of the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS) as part of continued United Nations support for the Sudanese transition. With an integrated country team and in collaboration with partners like the African Union, UNITAMS should remain committed to working closely with all components of the transitional authorities.

In conclusion, as the Sudan makes confident strides towards a brighter future, let me recall an important aspect of India's long-standing bilateral relations with the Sudan. At India's National Defence Academy, in Pune, the administrative block named "the Sudan Block" — constructed in the 1950s — stands tall to this day as a testimony of historical ties with the Sudan. It was gifted by the Government and the people of the Sudan. Over the years, India has implemented several projects in the Sudan in the sectors of energy, transport and agro-industry through concessional lines of credit. We have also assisted in capacity-building through our scholarship programmes and have extended humanitarian assistance by supplying food and life-saving drugs. India remains committed to supporting the Sudan and its people in this important phase of political transition.

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## Annex VI

### **Statement by the Counsellor of Ireland to the United Nations, Martin Gallagher**

I want to also thank Special Representative of the Secretary-General Perthes for his briefing. Let me also welcome the Ambassador of the Sudan to the Security Council this morning.

The Sudan is in the midst of a historic transition, with an unprecedented opportunity to build lasting peace and prosperity for its people. The progress made by the Sudan and the significant reform efforts undertaken by the Government are very welcome.

However, let us be frank. As we just heard from others, much work remains to be done. It is therefore vital that urgent, key aspects of the political transition, such as the establishment of the Transitional Legislative Council and other remaining institutions, be completed.

The Sudanese society is rich in its diversity. But we cannot expect real buy-in from across the country if that diversity is not reflected in its Government's make-up and actions. We therefore encourage the Government of the Sudan to be as inclusive as possible during this transition, while listening carefully to the views of women, young people, civil society and internally displaced persons and striving to ensure that their priorities are understood and integrated as appropriate.

The transition, furthermore, cannot be considered a success unless commitments towards the meaningful and safe participation of women throughout society are met, including through a 40 per cent female representation in the Transitional Legislative Council. I want to underline that this percentage should be considered a baseline, not a ceiling.

The establishment of the National High Committee for Monitoring the Implementation of the Juba Peace Agreement is very welcome, but it is regrettable that progress remains slow overall. Its swift implementation is urgent, in particular regarding the security arrangements and ceasefire mechanisms. As envisaged by the parties, the participation of witnesses and guarantors in these structures will contribute to confidence-building. Seeing those commitments implemented will bring hope and encouragement to the communities on the ground.

We join the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in welcoming the declaration of principles signed between the Government of the Sudan and Abdelaziz Al-Hilu's Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North. We sincerely hope for a positive outcome from the peace negotiations starting on 24 May. The successful conclusion of the talks will be another milestone for peace in the Sudan and a beacon of hope in a region undergoing conflict and upheaval. We urge all remaining non-signatories to the Juba Peace Agreement, including the Sudan Liberation Army-Abdul Wahid faction, to join the peace process.

The Sudan's transition, of course, is taking place against a backdrop of a stark economic crisis. That is further exacerbated by the impact of the coronavirus disease pandemic and, as in so many situations on the Security Council's agenda, the threat of the climate crisis also looms large. Given the scale of these challenges, we commend the commitment of the Government of the Sudan to implement difficult, but necessary, economic reforms. As a supporter of the Sudan's debt-relief process, we hope that others will join the Sudan on its path to reaching the Highly Indebted Poor Country Debt Initiative decision point next month, we hope.

Despite the progress being made in the Sudan, the security situation in many parts of the country remains deeply concerning, particularly in Darfur. Recent

clashes have caused large-scale casualties and displacement. While the renewed commitment by the Sudanese authorities — as we heard today from the Sudan — to address the security situation is welcome, we urge the swift implementation of the National Strategy for the Protection of Civilians. The deployment of the joint protection force is an important part of this, but consideration will need to be given to appropriate training and vetting, safeguards and oversight and, importantly, community consent.

As we heard this week from Special Representative of the Secretary-General Virginia Gamba de Potgieter, the killing and maiming of children in Darfur continues with impunity. That is utterly unacceptable. We strongly support the vital role played by the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS) in ensuring that child protection concerns are central to the ongoing peace process. I would add that children's needs and rights should be considered during all phases of conflict — from prevention to mediation through to recovery and sustainable, inclusive peace.

Likewise, reports of sexual and gender-based violence across the Sudan are also deeply disturbing. If we are to break this recurring cycle of violence, perpetrators must be held accountable. Strengthened reconciliation efforts and the establishment of transitional justice mechanisms to address the root causes of the conflict are also vital.

Tensions are high in the wider Horn of Africa region, with numerous ongoing crises. In this context, we urge the peaceful resolution of the Sudanese-Ethiopian border crisis. All parties must avoid further escalation and reach a peacefully negotiated settlement. The Sudan has shown great warmth and generosity by welcoming over 70,000 refugees displaced by the conflicts in the Tigray and Benishangul-Gumuz regions of Ethiopia.

Finally, the transition in the Sudan from the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur to UNITAMS is among the most complex transitions that this Organization has ever undertaken. We look forward to the UNITAMS mandate renewal and welcome the proposed prioritization of the Mission's objectives as well as the mission's new benchmarks, which will allow us to measure progress on strategic objectives. The Mission has Ireland's full support in achieving these critical objectives and in supporting the Sudan's transition.

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## Annex VII

### **Statement by the Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations, Martin Kimani**

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of three African members of the Security Council — Kenya, the Niger and Tunisia — as well as Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (A3+1).

We are grateful to the Secretary-General for his report highlighting the activities of the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in the Sudan (UNITAMS) (S/2021/470) and recent developments in the country. We also thank Special Representative for the Sudan, Mr. Volker Perthes, for his briefing (annex I) and welcome the participation of the representative of the Sudan in today's meeting.

The A3+1 commends the transitional Government of the Sudan for the progress made in implementing the political, governance, economic, legal and structural reforms outlined in the Constitutional Declaration and the Juba Peace Agreement (JPA). The A3+1 wishes to underscore four imperatives: for peace, stability, democratic governance and economic growth in the Sudan.

The first imperative is sustaining the peace process to entrench it in all parts of the country. It is notable that since the signing of the historic Juba Peace Agreement, the ceasefire continues to hold in Darfur, as well as in South Kordofan and Blue Nile states. We urge the parties to remain committed to the peace process and expedite implementation of all aspects of the JPA in order to deliver tangible benefits to the citizenry and avoid any relapse.

The A3+1 welcomes the signing of the declaration of principles by the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North faction of Abdelaziz Al-Hilu, in which it committed to the Juba Peace process, and the signing of the JPA by the Sudan Liberation Movement faction led by Mostafa Tambour. We appeal to the remaining armed groups to join the peace process expeditiously and unconditionally.

The A3+1 is concerned at the recurrent violent intercommunal clashes in Darfur. We appeal for prompt implementation of the National Plan for Civilian Protection, as well as promotion of dialogue and reconciliation among the different ethnic communities. We note that the Sudan has already demonstrated notable success in its journey to peace and stability and that this is a matter of internal focus and competence.

The second imperative is advancing democratic governance and institutional reforms. The A3+1 commends the transitional Government for the adoption and implementation of policies to broaden democratic governance as defined by the Constitutional Document and the JPA. We urge the Government to expedite the formation of outstanding transitional institutions, including the Transitional Legislative Council.

The A3+1 also wishes to reiterate the importance of ensuring that all transitional mechanisms and related institutions are inclusive. Special consideration should be given to creating opportunities for women and youth, who were the pillars of the 2019 revolution. In this regard, we welcome the Sudan's recent ratification of the Maputo Protocol and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

The third imperative is reviving the economy and addressing the humanitarian situation. The deteriorating economic state of affairs, compounded by the humanitarian situation and the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, can exacerbate

fragility. In addition, the adverse effects of climate change continue to take their toll on the socioeconomic, humanitarian and security situation. Accordingly, we express our appreciation for the efforts of UNITAMS aimed at addressing climate-related security risks and building resilience of the Sudanese states.

The revival of the economy is a critical component of efforts to reduce poverty, minimize inequalities, improve social protection, enhance cohesion and achieve sustained peace. The A3+1 commends the transitional Government for its steadfast commitment to implementing difficult but necessary economic and structural reforms and encourages further efforts aimed at attaining the requirements for the Highly Indebted Poor Country Initiative decision point.

The A3+1 appreciates the continued assistance of international partners and international financial institutions in facilitating the clearance of the Sudan's loan arrears and in providing social protection. We welcome the International Conference to Support the Sudanese Transition, which was recently hosted by France, as a significant step in this regard. We have a responsibility to help the Sudan consolidate its democratic transition, rebuild its economy and deliver sustainable peace and development for all members of its diverse society.

The fourth imperative is consistent international support. The A3+1 commends the efforts of international partners and friends of the Sudan, which have thus far provided the much-needed financial resources and investment and have also addressed humanitarian challenges. We urge the international community to do more by extending much-needed diplomatic, technical, financial and logistical support in favour of the implementation of the Constitutional Document and the JPA.

Additional support is also needed to boost the humanitarian emergency response, arrest the COVID-19 situation and confront climate challenges. In this respect, we encourage the international community to honour its climate financing pledges so that the Sudan can bolster its adaptation and mitigation efforts.

In conclusion, the A3+1 wishes to commend the progress made in the establishment of UNITAMS, as well as the creation of benchmarks, plans and programmes for implementation. We call on UNITAMS to continue working closely with the transitional authorities to facilitate the expeditious implementation of the reform agenda.

We wish to underscore that all programmes and initiatives must be Sudanese-owned and Sudanese-led. We also reaffirm our solidarity with the people of the Sudan during the current period of their history, and we will continue to support their endeavours to achieve sustainable peace, security and greater economic development.



## Annex VIII

### **Statement by the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations, Juan Ramón de la Fuente Ramírez**

[Original: Spanish]

Mexico thanks Special Representative Perthes and acknowledges his work at the helm of the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in the Sudan (UNITAMS) in this initial period of operation and welcomes the representative of the Sudan.

The Sudan has seen great changes in the last year, and the signing of the Juba Peace Agreement (JPA) is the foundation on which sustainable peace and inclusive development in the country will be built. Just over seven months after its signing, the Agreement's implementation remains a priority for the transitional Government.

We welcome the establishment of the Sovereign Council and four of the five subcommittees that will follow up on it. We hope that they will speed implementation of the JPA, especially such security provisions as the establishment of ceasefire mechanisms and the Transitional Legislative Council and respect the 40 per cent quota for women provided for in the Constitutional Document.

We also commend the decree on the general outlines of a federal system of government in the country and call for progress in the three-step preparation for the conference on the governance system. This process must involve broad civic participation, including the plurality of Sudanese voices, especially those of women, youth and minorities. Furthermore, we welcome the Conference on the Sudan held by France.

Mexico acknowledges the adoption by the Council of Ministers of the Maputo Protocol and the Banjul Charter and its ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), even though reservations will apply to CEDAW articles on the elimination of violence against women and access to justice. It is also essential to push for the establishment of legal reforms and the of Gender Equality Commission, especially in the light of reports of violence against women in both public and private spheres.

We reiterate that the full effectiveness of the JPA depends in part on all armed groups signing onto it. We therefore welcome the signing of the declaration of principles between the President of the Sovereign Council and the Al Hilu faction of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement, and we will closely follow the negotiations that will soon begin.

Mindful of the immense challenge for the Sudan in implementing the National Plan for Civilian Protection, especially with the outbreaks of intercommunal violence in some regions of Darfur since January, we urge the Sudanese authorities to spare no effort in the Plan's implementation. We welcome the eight additional measures in the Plan and call for ensuring that the joint protection forces are deployed without delay.

Mexico stresses the importance of avoiding creating gaps in the protection of civilians. Despite the efforts of the Sudanese Government, the impact of the conflict on children is alarming, especially in Darfur and South Kordofan and Blue Nile states. We call for the implementation of the Plan, the development of a national prevention plan and a redoubling of efforts aimed at ensuring accountability for grave violations, as a large number of perpetrators of crimes against children remain unidentified.

We follow with concern the tensions in the Fashaqah border area and the strained regional dynamics and encourage the parties to de-escalate the situation

and seek a peaceful and negotiated solution to resolve their differences. The consequences of regional instability are multidimensional and particularly acute on the humanitarian side. Approximately 2.5 million Sudanese are displaced, and the country continues to receive a significant influx of refugees from neighbouring countries. The severe conditions of displacement exacerbate the protection risks of civilians and heighten their vulnerability.

I would like to conclude by acknowledging the identification of benchmarks and related indicators, which will allow for monitoring the four strategic pillars that constitute the UNITAMS mandate. We will closely follow the establishment of the baseline and targets against which the Mission's work will be assessed.

## Annex IX

### **Statement by the Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations, Mona Juul**

I thank Special Representative of the Secretary-General Perthes for his comprehensive and positive briefing today (annex I). Let me congratulate the Sudan on the successful outcome of the Paris conference earlier this week. The message was clear: we must stand together to make the transition irreversible, even though many challenges remain.

The Sudan now has a unique opportunity to create conditions for sustainable growth. The success of the transition process can — and should — be measured by two main criteria: first, how well the transitional Government manages diversity based on the principle of equal rights; and secondly, how the people as a whole benefit from economic development. It is inclusive policies that bring both of these criteria together.

In our view, success will also depend on how well the Government — and we the partners — follow the script of transition laid out in the Constitutional Document and in the Juba Peace Agreement. The Transitional Legislative Council should be formed without further delay, and the Sovereignty Council in the Sudan must prepare for the transition to a civilian chairperson.

Security sector reform also cannot wait. Assisting these processes are at the core of the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in the Sudan (UNITAMS). Norway remains deeply concerned at the security situation in Darfur in particular and at the critical gaps in the protection of civilians, especially the lack of effective measures against sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls. The humanitarian situation — compounded by climate change — is dire, and the number of persons displaced by conflict in Darfur is increasing. In this respect, we welcome the transitional Government's announcement of eight measures to address violence in West Darfur and call for their speedy implementation.

Several of these measures are derived from the Juba Peace Agreement (JPA), in which the United Nations — represented by UNITAMS — is given specific and critical roles. Going forward, operationalizing and clarifying these roles is a key task for UNITAMS and of great importance to the implementation of the JPA. In this context, ceasefire monitoring is vital.

The peace process is not complete until all armed groups have signed on. We are encouraged by the signing of the declaration of principles between the Government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North faction of Abdelaziz Al-Hilu. Negotiations on the substantive issues should be swift.

Furthermore, ongoing and future talks must be inclusive. The full, equal and meaningful participation of women must be a top priority for all. Norway stands ready to support the process in close coordination with: the negotiating parties, the Government of South Sudan, UNITAMS and other relevant actors.

Pending final Government approval, Norway is planning to contribute personnel to the specialized police team in UNITAMS in order to help to enhance the capacity of the Sudan Police Force to conduct community policing and investigate sexual and gender-based violence, which is an important step towards strengthening the protective environment in the country. We are also considering putting forward a candidate for the post of Military Advisor to Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNITAMS.

Norway commends UNITAMS for progress achieved thus far with limited resources, and we applaud the Special Representative's commitment to making

UNITAMS's efforts relevant to the whole of the Sudan. The four strategic goals remain relevant and should not change. Yet, on a daily basis, it is necessary to prioritize tasks. Benchmarks are useful when they relate to measurable results. Indicators should be agreed upon in dialogue with the full range of interested parties — Government bodies as well as civil society — at the national and local levels.

A continued positive trajectory in the Sudan's transition depends on constructive dialogue and partnership among the Government of the Sudan, UNITAMS and the Security Council. We are ready to play our part.

**Annex X****Statement by the Deputy Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations, Anna Evstigneeva**

[Original: Russian]

Before I start, let me draw everyone's attention to how important it is for the Security Council to return to having in-person meetings. The Council Chamber has been equipped to accommodate them. The improving epidemiological situation in New York and the relaxation of related restrictions indicate that life is slowly getting back to normal.

We thank Special Representative of the Secretary-General Volker Perthes for briefing us on the developments in the Sudan (annex I). We also thank the representative of the Sudan for his statement (annex XIV).

The internal political situation in the Sudan remains complicated. It is negatively impacted by the developments in neighbouring Libya, the growing number of internally displaced persons and refugees from adjacent African States, as well as the spread of the novel coronavirus disease infection. Against this backdrop, the escalating economic crisis and social tension are cause for particular concern. Over 9 million Sudanese need humanitarian assistance, and over 7 million people experience food insecurity. We therefore expect that the activities of the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in the Sudan (UNITAMS) will sustain Khartoum's potential in such important areas as peacebuilding, socioeconomic transformation, the maintenance of domestic peace and the legal order.

The Juba peace agreement, which the Sudan's transitional Government and the Sudanese Revolutionary Front signed in October last year, was a meaningful step towards lasting stabilization in the country and solving many of its urgent problems. We call upon all armed groups that so far have remained outside the peace process to join the agreement. We regret that Abdul Wahid Al-Nur refuses to engage in a dialogue with Khartoum. Those who can influence this irreconcilable oppositionist should exert the required pressure on him.

We look forward to the launching soon of negotiations between the authorities and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North/Abdelaziz Al-Hilu faction on the basis of the declaration on principles that the sides signed earlier. We trust that UNITAMS will render the required assistance to that process.

We welcome Khartoum's commitment to thoroughly address the root causes of conflicts and intercommunal disputes in various regions of the Sudan. The prompt implementation of the National Plan for the Protection of Civilians and the eight critical security measures announced by the Government will help achieve that.

The Sudan faces numerous challenges. The implementation of initiatives for economic recovery and the peacebuilding agenda need to gain momentum. Against that backdrop, we attach great importance to maintaining well-balanced contacts with all Sudanese authorities and supporting their efforts to implement the Constitutional Document, of 17 August 2019, in order to stabilize the domestic situation.

The situation in Darfur is getting back on a peaceful track. Sporadic intercommunal clashes in some states do not change the overall dynamic. A well-coordinated response by the authorities to all incidents proves the eagerness of Khartoum to take a comprehensive approach to stabilization.

We were glad to hear the Secretary-General's assessments that the drawdown of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur has been successful

in carrying out all its tasks and is proceeding as planned and that there is close interaction among the personnel of the United Nations, the African Union and the Sudanese side. In that regard, we commend the relevant efforts of the management of the Secretariat.

In conclusion, we would like to say a few words about the upcoming renewal of the UNITAMS mandate. A special political mission deployed under Chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations can complete its mandated tasks only if it engages in well-coordinated interaction with the host country. Therefore, we would expect official Khartoum to comment on what tasks the Sudanese authorities believe should be prioritized in the activities of UNITAMS. The Sudanese invited the United Nations Mission to their country, so it is they who should determine the major tracks of the international efforts there.

## Annex XI

### **Statement by the Deputy Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations, Jonathan Allen**

I thank Special Representative Perthes for his briefing today. It is very good to see my friend the Chargé d'Affaires of the Sudan here as well today and to have him participating in our meeting. And, although it's a little late, let me say Eid Mubarak to you and to all the Sudanese people.

The United Kingdom wants to commend the continued progress made by Prime Minister Hamdok and his Government towards delivering all aspects of the Sudan's transition. Progress on difficult economic reforms is particularly notable, with the Sudan passing a second International Monetary Fund (IMF) review this month and being on-track to reaching the first milestone of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative. The United Kingdom is committed to supporting these efforts, including commitments to helping the Sudan clear its arrears at the World Bank, the African Development Bank and the IMF, unlocking access to much-needed international finance.

On the peace and security side, I want to welcome the signing of a declaration of principles with the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North Abdelaziz Al-Hilu faction and the planned return to negotiations next week.

I also want to recognize the progress made by the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) in completing the closure and handing over of sites within a challenging context, as well as the efforts of the Government of the Sudan to secure the sites handed over to them by UNAMID. As this is the final Security Council meeting before UNAMID closes on 30 June, let me take this opportunity to thank all the personnel who contributed so much over the years to UNAMID's efforts to support peace and stability in Darfur.

Notwithstanding significant progress, many challenges remain. We are concerned by use of violence against protesters in Khartoum on 11 May. And I want to welcome the swift action taken by the Sudanese authorities to investigate. But this incident is a reminder that accountability for crimes committed before, and during, the revolution needs to be delivered if the Sudan's transition is to succeed. It is vital that progress be made in this area, alongside progress on implementing the Juba Peace Agreement, good governance and constitutional reform. Only with such progress will all citizens across the Sudan be empowered and will benefit from the transition.

I want to echo the Secretary-General's concerns about increasing intercommunal violence. We must prioritise peace and the protection of civilians, and I call on the Government to accelerate the implementation of the Juba Peace Agreement and the National Plan for the Protection of Civilians. The United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in the Sudan (UNITAMS) can play an important role in supporting these efforts.

As the Council discusses the renewal of the UNITAMS mandate, I want to really commend the work of Special Representative Perthes and his team in recent months. UNITAMS is a partnership between the international community and the Sudan, and we are really encouraged by the positive engagement and commitment of the Government of the Sudan in working with UNITAMS in support of the transition. It was good to hear today that the status-of-mission agreement is ready for signing. Let us hope that can be done as soon as possible.

We hope the Council will renew the UNITAMS mandate in the coming weeks, enabling continued support in line with the four strategic objectives identified in

resolution 2524 (2020). I believe that Council members will want to ensure that the support of UNITAMS to the Government of the Sudan's own priorities has the maximum impact over the coming year. We should ensure a prioritized and focused mandate to support UNITAMS in implementing its strategic objectives. The support of UNITAMS to the Sudan should be underpinned by a whole-of-United-Nations approach, and I call on all to coordinate across the United Nations system, and indeed with the international financial institutions (IFIs).

This will be the last time that I speak on the Sudan in the Council. I want to reflect on the enormous changes that I have seen in my four years here. The Sudanese people showed incredible bravery and determination in their revolution to remove a military dictatorship. The African Union played a critical role. Not all permanent members of the Council supported the people of the Sudan and the African Union in their desire for freedom, but I am proud that the United Kingdom stood with the people of the Sudan throughout, and it does so now.

But navigating a successful transition, with all the many priorities faced by the Government, also requires courage and determination. Democracy and civilian rule remain fragile. And so I believe that it is more important than ever that the United Nations, both UNITAMS and the agencies, funds and programmes, prioritize support for the Sudan. It is vital that the international community works in partnership, especially with the IFIs and non-governmental organizations.

Finally, those of us who celebrated with the Sudanese people when they threw off dictatorship; those of us who believe in democracy, human rights and the rule of law; those of us who saw the Sudan as a bright spot on this Council's agenda, must not be complacent. We must not be distracted. We must not lose focus. We must work to support the Sudan's transition. We must not let the Sudan's people down. And we must not let down all those across the world striving for their own freedom and measuring our determination in our response in the Sudan.



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**Annex XII****Statement by the Deputy Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, Richard Mills**

I thank you, Special Representative Perthes, for your briefing and your efforts to deliver on the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in the Sudan (UNITAMS). The United States supports your work. We are committed to giving you the necessary tools from the Security Council to deliver on your mandated tasks.

Before I turn to the UNITAMS mandate, let me join with others who have spoken before me to express the United States concern about the killing of two protesters on 11 May in Khartoum. The United States notes the commitment of the Sudanese Government to hold accountable those who were responsible for a previous attack on protesters in June 2019. As others have said, these incidents demonstrate the need for further reform and for further restrictions on the use of lethal force.

Let me also extend my delegation's thanks to the United Kingdom for its efforts to bring the Security Council closer to consensus on the next UNITAMS mandate. We strongly support the draft mandate. We believe prioritizing tasks is key in order for UNITAMS to have maximum impact and support the Government's priorities. The United States firmly believes the Council can deliver a strong mandate for you, Special Representative Perthes, for the civilian-led transitional Government and, most important, for the Sudanese people.

The Security Council last discussed the developments in Sudan two months ago (see S/2021/267). The United States remains concerned, as we were then, with the transitional Government's efforts and its ability to carry out its most fundamental responsibility, namely, protecting its own people. We have seen recurrences of violence in Darfur, particularly intercommunal violence, which has caused thousands of new displacements — the most Darfur has witnessed since 2015. We cannot let continued violence destroy the Juba Peace Agreement's prospects for effective peace in Darfur. The fulfilment of the Agreement is needed for a successful transition to democracy and stability in the Sudan.

We strongly encourage the civilian-led transitional Government to commit with conviction to ensuring that all Sudanese feel safe and secure in their communities and their livelihoods. That can be achieved by expanding police presence and capacity, by supporting community reconciliation and conflict resolution and by implementing the Juba Peace Agreement's sections on security arrangements, land reform, gender equality and justice, among others. We also continue to encourage the implementation of the Sudanese national action plan on women and peace and security, in line with resolution 1325 (2000).

Despite these concerns, let me be clear that the United States commends the progress on mediation efforts that have occurred under the auspices of the South Sudanese Government aimed at building upon the Juba Peace Agreement and bridging divides between the Government of the Sudan and armed opposition groups. We also appreciate Special Representative Perthes' engagement with the South Sudanese Government and the armed groups that have not yet signed the Juba Peace Agreement. We urge the Government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North Abdelaziz Al-Hilu faction to conclude their negotiations and arrive at an agreement that addresses the root causes of their conflict and makes way for the full participation of the Movement in Sudan's transitional process.

We are disappointed that, despite the Special Representative's recent engagement, the Sudan Liberation Army-Abdul Wahid Al-Nur faction continues to

refuse to join mediation efforts, or to engage constructively in peace negotiations. Such intransigence defies the calls of the millions of brave Sudanese who demanded peace during the revolution. It also undermines the transitional Government's efforts to achieve a negotiated comprehensive peace agreement in accordance with the transitional Constitution.

Finally, commitment to the well-being of the Sudanese people, we believe, extends to the turnover of team sites from United Nations hands to Government hands. These spaces were for years investments by the United Nations in the Sudanese people, aimed at protecting Sudanese and giving them a sense of stability. The failed turnover of multiple sites, which has included violence and ransacking, has severely diminished the appearance of commitment by local leaders to maintain these spaces as sites for good. We call on Sudanese authorities to responsibly transition these team sites to Government control and ensure that they do not fall into the wrong hands.

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**Annex XIII****Statement by the Deputy Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations, Pham Hai Anh**

I would like to start by thanking Special Representative of the Secretary-General Volker Perthes for his comprehensive briefing. I also welcome the representative of the Sudan to our meeting today and thank him for his statement.

The Sudan is in a critical period of transition from peacekeeping to peacebuilding. In the light of the recent developments in the country, I wish to highlight the following three points.

First, it is imperative to further advance the transitional process in line with the Juba Peace Agreement. Viet Nam commends the progress achieved so far in the transitional process, with the participation of women. It is our sincere hope that the Sudanese parties will continue to resolve their differences to implement the remaining provisions of the Agreement. We also call on remaining armed groups in Darfur to join the peace talks as soon as possible.

Furthermore, the synergy among the United Nations, the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in the Sudan (UNITAMS), the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, neighbouring countries and other international partners in supporting the peace process in the Sudan will remain crucial. It is encouraging that neighbour South Sudan continues to agree to host the Darfur peace talks on 25 May. More confidence-building measures and dialogue opportunities should be promoted in this regard.

We also reiterate our strong support the active participation of women and youth in all stages of the transitional period and beyond.

Secondly, we call on the Government of the Sudan to continue strengthening its primary responsibility in the protection of civilians. We note the Government's efforts to address the violence in West Darfur in April 2021 and call upon it to exert best efforts to prevent such incidents in the future. It is critical to ensure the full implementation of the National Plan for the Protection of Civilians and to find more comprehensive solutions to address the root causes of intercommunal violence in Darfur in a sustainable way, including through reconciliation among different tribes and communities. More efforts should be focused on ensuring the protection of vulnerable groups, especially women and children.

In addition, we commend the cooperation between UNAMID and the Government of the Sudan in ensuring a safe and orderly withdrawal of the mission's personnel and assets. We call on the Government to further facilitate this process in line with resolution 2559 (2020).

Thirdly, it is essential to further address the economic and humanitarian challenges in the Sudan due to the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and natural disasters. As the Sudan's economy is facing many difficulties, we call for further facilitation of the country's access to international financial institutions.

It is concerning that there is a high number of people in need of humanitarian assistance in the country, including over 9.6 million people facing acute food insecurity. Food prices increased by 206 per cent in February 2021, as compared with the same period a year ago. The international community should continue to support the Sudanese Government in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the current socioeconomic challenges.

In conclusion, Viet Nam re-emphasizes our firm commitment in supporting the Sudan in this transitional chapter towards long-term peace and stability. We commend the work of UNITAMS and support the renewal of its mandate to continue to facilitate the transitional process in the country.

**Annex XIV****Statement by the Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the United Nations**

[Original: Arabic]

At the outset, I should like to congratulate your country, and you personally, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council this May, and express our appreciation of your great efforts in steering the work of the Council in the midst of the many challenges and crises that require its attention. I also applaud the efforts of the representative of Viet Nam during his presidency of the Council last month.

I would also like to thank Volker Perthes, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in the Sudan (UNITAMS), and Atul Khare, Under-Secretary-General for Operational Support, for their briefings today.

The Government of the Sudan has been working tirelessly to bring to realization the objectives of the transitional period set out in the Constitutional Declaration and the Juba Peace Agreement. The Government has made considerable strides towards meeting the requirements of national reconstruction, in line with its firm commitment, reiterated on numerous occasions, to silence the guns, establish the foundations of a democratic transition, eliminate structural deficiencies in the Sudanese economy and restore the standing of the Sudan as an active member of the international community. It was in that spirit that the Transitional Government concluded the Juba Peace Agreement with the Revolutionary Front and the Sudan Liberation Movement-Minni Minawi. It is a comprehensive agreement that addresses the causes of the conflict not only in Darfur, but also in the Two Areas and other parts of the country. The Transitional Government will not rest until movements that have yet to join the peace process do so. A declaration of principles has also been signed between the President of the Sovereign Council and Abdelaziz Al-Hilu. It lays the groundwork for negotiations that are slated to begin at the end of this month under the generous auspices of South Sudan. We hope that Abdul Wahid Al-Nur will also engage with the repeated calls by the Government for issues related to security, stability and peace, in Darfur in particular and in the Sudan in general, to be handled constructively.

Now that the Juba Peace Agreement has been signed and the armed opposition movements are taking part in the governance structures of the Sudan, the arrangements under way to form a joint force to protect civilians and the participation of armed opposition forces in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes will transform the security situation in Darfur. In spite of certain security challenges having to do with the tribal conflicts in Darfur, the Government is determined to defuse tribal tensions, bring about reconciliation between different groups, strengthen the rule of law and deliver restorative and criminal justice.

In terms of finalizing transitional governance structures, transition partners are working to form the Transitional Legislative Council, a supervisory and oversight body to monitor the performance of the governing bodies. Efforts are under way to set up the commissions provided for in the Constitutional Declaration and the Juba Peace Agreement. Laws establishing those commissions have been drafted and will be enacted.

With regard to the protection of civilians, the promotion of human rights and the rule of law, the Transitional Government continues working to undertake institutional and legal reforms, strengthen and protect human rights frameworks

and achieve justice. In late April the Sudanese Cabinet approved the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and technical and administrative measures are being taken in preparation for its ultimate ratification. The Cabinet also approved the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa. These steps are being taken to improve the situation of women in the Sudan, in recognition of the role that Sudanese women played in the glorious December revolution. In order to deliver justice for the victims of the Darfur war, an International Criminal Court (ICC) delegation paid another visit to the Sudan last April. The topics of discussion during the visit included the implementation of the memorandum of understanding signed last February to strengthen cooperation between the Sudan and ICC and arrangements for a visit by the ICC Prosecutor to Darfur. The Government is continuing to implement the National Plan for the Protection of Civilians, aware of its responsibility for the safety and security of its citizens. In cooperation with UNITAMS and other partners, it will do everything in its power to create a secure environment in Darfur and ensure that its people can live in security and dignity.

Recently, many laws and policies have been reformed to stimulate and promote economic growth and attract investment. The Sudan looks forward to receiving the continued support of friendly countries and international and regional partners to create economically beneficial partnerships that yield returns, thereby helping to alleviate the country's external debt burden. We express our heartfelt gratitude to the President of France, Emmanuel Macron, and his Government for the economic conference to support the democratic transition in the Sudan held earlier this week, and take this opportunity to thank all friendly countries and international financial institutions for their support for the Sudan during the conference and for pledging to work to cancel the country's debt and improve the Sudanese economy.

The Sudan reiterates that it is cooperating fully with UNITAMS to achieve the mission's four strategic objectives, set out in resolution 2524 (2020). Those objectives include assisting the political transition and progress towards democratic governance and protecting and promoting human rights; providing technical assistance to the electoral preparation and constitution-drafting processes; helping to establish and build a comprehensive peace; and mobilizing economic and development assistance in order to achieve those goals, in line with the principle of Sudanese national ownership of the Mission's work. We also stress that we are cooperating fully with the United Nations Secretariat in order to ensure an orderly and safe drawdown and liquidation of UNITAMS.