



UNSC Briefing on the International Criminal Court, Sudan, 25 January 2023

Malta Statement delivered by Ms Francesca Gatt, Deputy Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations, New York

President

We thank Prosecutor Karim Khan and his team for presenting the report on the situation in Darfur and for their commitment to continue the pursuit of justice. I also welcome the Permanent Representative of Sudan to today's meeting.

Impunity sows the seeds of further violence. Ensuring accountability for the people of Darfur is essential if we are ever to stop the cycle of violence.

We remain firm in our belief that there is room for a deeper and improved relationship between this Council and the ICC, in particular through referrals by this Council to the Court, to ensure accountability for atrocity crimes committed in all regions. The referral of the situation in Darfur demonstrates that when we act together, the Council can make real progress towards achieving accountability.

We welcome the progress achieved with the trial of Mr Al-Rahman, and that the Prosecutor anticipates concluding his case in February. The enhanced cooperation with third States and international institutions that secured new forms of evidentiary material is commended. Most importantly, we want to applaud the profound courage and determination



of the witnesses, including of sexual and gender based violence, without whom this would have been impossible.

As mentioned in the report, a roundtable was organised dedicated to crimes against children. We strongly encourage these efforts and improved engagement with civil society organisations, as well as affected community representatives.

Let me also thank you, Prosecutor Khan, for your open approach to reporting and the continued prioritisation of Security Council referrals, as evidenced by the allocation of dedicated resources to this investigation.

We take this opportunity to stand with you in underlining that the full cooperation of Sudanese authorities remains central for the investigative work on all the cases and to delivering on the legitimate expectations of survivors.

We regret the lack of progress over the reporting period across the four priority areas identified by the Prosecutor and call for unimpeded access to documentation and witnesses, support for the establishment of a field presence in Khartoum and the required visas, and prompt responses to requests for assistance.

President

Before concluding, let me express Malta's commitment to Sudan's path towards political stability, underpinned by a meaningful political transition. We welcome the signing of the Political Framework Agreement



last December which effectively lays the groundwork towards a final accord which will usher in a new reality to Sudan and its people. We reaffirm our full support to the efforts of UNITAMS, the African Union, and IGAD, for their coordinated efforts to the peace process. We reiterate the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women and youth to the transitional process and encourage that their aspirations are included in the final agreement.

Our collective aim here is to ensure a durable and sustainable peace in the Sudan. That aim can only be achieved if there is justice for the victims and survivors of atrocity crimes. The Office of the Prosecutor and the Court can count on Malta's unwavering support towards accountability.

I thank you.