



Briefing on UNITAMS (Sudan), 20 March 2023

Malta Statement delivered by Ms. Francesca Gatt

Deputy Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations, New York

Thank you, President, and I also thank Special Representative Perthes for his briefing, and welcome Sudan's Permanent Representative.

Malta strongly supports a civilian-led transition in Sudan which, once established, will reflect the aspirations of the Sudanese people. We also welcome the signing of the Political Framework Agreement last December, urge both signatories and non-signatories to fully engage and join the political process, and call on Sudan's authorities to establish and sustain a conducive environment towards a safe, inclusive civic space.

President

The inclusion of all stakeholders, including women, youth, and civil society, in all spheres of decision-making, is critical. It is only with the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women that the realities of all Sudanese can be included in the final political settlement.

Malta calls on signatories to uphold their commitment to include a minimum 40% representation of women in legislative, executive, and sovereign bodies. We commend UNITAMS' support to this end.



The courage displayed by Sudanese women in their resolute path towards peace and democracy is inspiring and commendable. While they play a key role, they continue being at high risk of sexual and gender-based violence, including conflict-related sexual violence.

This holds most true for internally displaced women who engage in livelihood activities outside camps. The low number of reported cases indicates the high rate of reluctance by victims to report due to stigma and victim-shaming.

In this connection, Malta reiterates its call for accountability. Justice to all victims, including those living in remote areas where justice is more inaccessible, must be served. Perpetrators must be held accountable.

We also underline the need for timely and impartial investigations on any allegations of unlawful use of force on protesters.

Children also remain severely violated. Malta welcomes the collaboration between Sudan's national authorities and the UN, which has led to a roadmap based on the 2016 Action Plan on Ending and Preventing Child Recruitment, and the subsequent verification mission to Darfur to verify allegations of recruitment and use of children by parties to the conflict.



President

While we welcome the release of Darfuri detainees in Khartoum, we remain deeply concerned with renewed inter-communal violence in Sudan, including in Darfur. We strongly condemn the killing of a peacebuilding advisor in the Blue Nile State and call for urgent protection of aid workers in the country.

Turning to the humanitarian situation, we are deeply concerned that Sudan's humanitarian needs have now reached record-levels. One third of the population requires humanitarian assistance, with the situation expected to worsen in 2023. Climate-induced shocks have also driven displacement and competition over shrinking resources following years of political misguidance and impunity.

Malta supports a strong financial donor base, including through the EU's humanitarian aid response. We welcome the launch of the 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan for Sudan and acknowledge UN efforts to stand ready in mobilising partners to resume financial support once the transitional period is complete.

Malta also fully supports UNITAMS. The Mission's work should continue unimpeded, and we regret that administrative impediments hamper its mandate's implementation.



We therefore call for full respect by the authorities to operations by UNITAMS and to lift-off any restrictions on UN personnel while carrying out their duties.

President

To conclude, Malta reiterates its commitment to a Sudanese-led and owned process, facilitated by the Trilateral Mechanism, which will effectively bring solutions towards peace and security in Sudan. We are convinced that by enhancing confidence-building, the people of Sudan will hold a future that they deserve.

I thank you.