



Briefing on the Situation in Sudan, 25 April 2023

Malta Statement delivered by Her Excellency Ambassador Vanessa Frazier
Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations, New York

Thank you, and I also thank Special Representative Perthes, ASG Msuya, and Permanent Observer Kyari Mohammed for their briefings. I also welcome the Permanent Representatives of Sudan, Egypt, Djibouti, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Saudi Arabia, and South Africa.

Malta strongly condemns the violence that broke out in Khartoum on 15 April. As we echo the Secretary-General's message, we call on both parties to cease hostilities, restore calm, and return to dialogue towards the long-term transition for a civilian-led government in Sudan.

Malta deplores in the strongest terms all attacks against civilians, medical and humanitarian workers, and diplomatic personnel. Our condolences go to the families of all those who were tragically killed.

We remind the parties of their obligations under international humanitarian law and ensure rapid, safe, and unimpeded humanitarian access to all civilians.

Since the start of clashes, over 400 people have been killed and thousands wounded. Before the escalation, Sudan was already facing a major humanitarian emergency, with 16 million people requiring emergency humanitarian assistance, 3.1 million of whom were severely food insecure.



This recent violence serves only to compound their hunger, pain, and vulnerability.

As civilians are in desperate need for health services, Sudan's hospitals have become unreachable and running out of medical equipment and medicine.

Tens of thousands of pregnant women are put in danger when seeking urgent care, and women and girls are at higher risks of sexual and gender-based violence as protection services are interrupted by the clashes.

Children were reported to be sheltering in schools, as fighting rages around them. Specific attention must be given to women, children, the elderly, and those with disabilities to ensure that they are not left behind in protection and evacuation operations.

Malta fully supports pauses in fighting, including the ongoing nation-wide ceasefire. It is critical for this to be fully respected and maintained. In this vein, Malta commends the ongoing coordinated efforts for a lasting peace in Sudan.

We welcome the diplomatic efforts by the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the League of Arab States, UNITAMS and the European Union to ensure that dialogue remains key, with a sustained return to the negotiating table. We echo our support to SRSG Perthes for his good offices and his team at UNITAMS for their unfaltering commitment to Sudan's path towards stability.



Malta also welcomes efforts at the local and national level. We recognise the engagement of key signatories of the Juba Peace Agreement, assisted by the Trilateral Mechanism, as well as other religious and societal leaders.

We encourage these efforts to be fully inclusive, including women, youth, and civil society, to ensure that all Sudanese are represented. We urge both parties to hear and act on these calls.

These are all encouraging efforts in extremely difficult circumstances. However, without an end to the violence, we risk a destabilised Sudan with potential spill overs in the region and beyond.

The Security Council's central commitment to all these efforts must be reinforced in view of its primary role of maintaining international peace and security. Malta continues to support strong unified messages by the Council, in concert with regional initiatives.

We remain steadfast with the Sudanese people. We remain convinced that issues raised by the warring parties must be resolved by dialogue. The aspirations of the Sudanese people ought to be back at the front and centre. There is no more time to lose before it's too late.

I thank you.