



## Briefing on UNITAMS, 22 May 2023

Malta Statement delivered by Darren Camilleri

Political Coordinator of Malta to the United Nations, New York

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Thank you, President, and I also thank Special Representative Perthes, Commissioner Adeoye and Executive Secretary Gebeyehu for their briefings.

Following the outbreak of clashes in Khartoum on 15 April, we reiterate our call on both parties to cease hostilities without pre-conditions and lead Sudan back to its political transition. We welcome the latest mediation efforts, including the Declaration of Commitment and the brokering of the upcoming seven-day ceasefire. We believe that this is the only path to sustainable peace and stability in Sudan.

Malta strongly deplores the loss of life and is deeply concerned that since the start of the clashes, over 800 people have been killed, including 200 children, and more than 5,000 injured. Women and girls remain at a high risk of sexual and gender-based violence, with extensive reports of rapes and sexual assaults. Protection measures must be put in place and strengthened for women and children, the elderly, people with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups. We cannot afford to leave anyone behind.



We remind all parties of their obligations under international humanitarian law, and call for the safe, rapid, and unhindered humanitarian access to all civilians at a time when humanitarian needs in Sudan have risen to record levels. We also call for thorough investigations, and for perpetrators to be brought to justice and held accountable for their crimes.

Malta condemns all attacks on civilian infrastructure, including homes, hospitals, schools, and places of worship. We also condemn attacks on humanitarian and medical workers, and UN premises. We are concerned that an estimated 14 million dollars worth of food products destined to the most food-insecure and more than 1 million polio vaccines intended for children have been destroyed as a result of the looting.

It is clear that the conflict in Sudan is having repercussions on the wider region. An estimated quarter of a million people have fled Sudan, with the high number of refugees and displaced marking a crisis of regional proportions. As Sudanese and third-country nationals fleeing from Sudan are facing perilous journeys, we acknowledge the efforts being made by neighbouring countries in hosting those seeking refuge. At the same time, we remain concerned with the situation of internally displaced in Sudan, especially of women residing in IDP camps that remain at high risk of sexual and gender-based violence.



President

Malta welcomes all efforts that seek to support dialogue and mediation, including by the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the League of Arab States, and the United Nations, and by neighbouring and other partner countries.

We commend the efforts of the Permanent Ceasefire Committee chaired by UNITAMS, and the civilian signatory parties to the Framework Agreement who have also been instrumental in defusing tensions and promoting community-level dialogue. All efforts must be inclusive, including women, youth, and civil society. Malta will continue to support a political settlement, including through unified messages by this Council. We urge both parties to hear and act on these calls.

We express our full support to SRSG Perthes and UNITAMS for their unfaltering commitment to Sudan's path towards stability, despite limited capacity. As we look forward to the Mission's renewal, we use today's meeting to also call for full respect by the authorities to UNITAMS' mandate.

President

Our message is clear. It is only with the silencing of the guns that we can guarantee space for dialogue and mediation, and a solid foundation for Sudan to return to the path towards a civilian-led government, peace, and a stable and democratic future. I thank you.