



Security Council Briefing on Sudan, 18 June 2024

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 ASG Pobee and Director Wosornu for their sobering briefings and Senior Program Director Ahmed for her strong testimony. We also welcome the Permanent Representative of Sudan to the meeting.

We convene today just days after the adoption of Resolution 2736, demanding the RSF to halt the siege on the city of El Fasher, and calling for an immediate halt to the fighting.

We strongly reiterate these calls, recalling the urgent cessation of hostilities in the region but also across the entire Sudan. All parties to the conflict must ensure the protection of civilians, and to comply with their obligations under international law.

As we have heard today, there is desperate need to stop the fighting.



The war in Sudan is unleashing an appalling humanitarian situation. The country is facing the world's largest displacement crisis, and famine is imminent as we have heard today. The full, rapid, safe, unhindered, and sustained cross-border and crossline humanitarian assistance into Darfur and other conflict-affected areas is paramount.

We look forward to building the necessary momentum after the Paris Humanitarian Conference last April. This includes to effectively utilise the extensive funds mobilised, and to have them reach the most affected populations. Malta has joined partners in providing a financial contribution in support of the Sudan Humanitarian Fund.

President

We condemn, in the strongest terms, the use of sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls, particularly those committed by the RSF on Masalit women.



Today's observance of the 'International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict' arrives at a timely moment. On this occasion, we reaffirm our commitment to supporting survivors.

We are also deeply disturbed over the continued high number of grave violations against children. These include (i) recruitment and use; and (ii) abduction, killing, and maiming, especially by explosive weapons with wide-area impacts in populated areas.

We express concern at the lack of specialised protection capacity for women and children following the closure of UNITAMS. In this regard, we call on the warring parties to issue and implement Command Orders to their chain of command on sexual and gender-based violence, and grave violations against children, including the prohibition of attacks on and military use of schools and hospitals.

Malta supports coordinated efforts towards accountability. These include the work of the International Criminal Court in relation to Darfur, and the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission, which we hope can be operational soon.



We recall that violators of international humanitarian or human rights law or other atrocities are also grounds for targeted sanctions under the 1591 regime. On this note, we stress that the proliferation of weapons across Sudan, fuelled by external actors, has only led to further violence and suffering.

We therefore join the Council's call to urge all Member States to refrain from such external interference and to adhere to their obligations to comply with the arms embargo. Efforts should be steered, instead, towards mediation between the parties, and to engage with external parties to stop their interference.

To conclude, President, dialogue and mediation are the only paths to end this war. Peace, democracy, and economic recovery can only take full course if the rights and needs of all Sudanese men, women and children are placed at the centre of all peace talks. We urge mediators to prioritise the full, equal, meaningful, and safe inclusion of women. As Ms Ahmed has said there cannot be peace without women.



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We trust that Personal Envoy Lamamra's coordinating efforts, including with the African Union, can bear fruit, and we encourage stepping-up efforts towards an immediate and sustainable ceasefire.

I thank you.