



Security Council Briefing on Sudan, 18 September 2024

Malta Statement delivered by Mr. Darren Camilleri

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Thank you, President, and I also thank ASG Pobee and Acting USG Msuya for their sobering briefings. I also welcome the Permanent Representative of Sudan to this meeting.

Unprecedented suffering has reached El Fasher in North Darfur, with the RSF launching an attack last weekend. We strongly condemn this large-scale escalation of fighting which only brings further devastation to an already catastrophic situation.

This Council has repeatedly called, including through Resolution 2736, for a de-escalation, with a direct demand to the RSF to halt the siege. We also demanded that all parties to the conflict ensure the protection of civilians, while recalling that civilians are protected under international humanitarian law.

We convene today to reiterate this message. The carnage must stop.



This escalation has brought renewed humanitarian suffering to the people of El Fasher. We deplore all direct attacks on civilians, their assets, and essential critical infrastructure such as hospitals and schools. The looting of humanitarian supplies, at a time when malnutrition rates are at an all-time high, is reprehensible.

While we commend the Sudanese authorities for recently re-opening the Adré border crossing to Darfur, we recall the importance of ensuring that this opening is done in line with humanitarian principles.

In the blockaded Zamzam camp, we call on the RSF to immediately facilitate the delivery of essential supplies and food for its half a million residents.

We therefore urge all parties to facilitate the full, rapid, and unimpeded access of humanitarian relief across Sudan, and to cease any interference in humanitarian operations. We also call on the UN to look at every available option if the parties do not abide by their obligations to facilitate humanitarian aid.



President

Malta condemns, in the strongest terms, the use of sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls in this conflict. We are horrified by reports of widespread rape, gang rape, attempted rape, and other forms of sexual violence, including sexual exploitation and forced prostitution, especially those committed by the RSF on Masalit women.

We emphasise the critical need for gender-responsive humanitarian action that addresses the specific needs of women and girls.

We are also deeply concerned that the country is seeing the highest number of verified grave violations against children in more than a decade. We recall that the recruitment and use of children in hostilities constitutes a war crime. Children's place must be in schools and not on the battlefield. This is unacceptable.



Accountability must lie at the heart of our efforts. These should include the work of the ICC in relation to Darfur and through targeted sanctions under the 1591 sanctions regime, which has been unanimously renewed by this Council last week.

It is evident that the illicit flows of arms and weapons across Sudan, particularly those fuelled by external actors, has prolonged this devastating conflict.

We reiterate the Council's call to urge all Member States to refrain from such external interference, and to adhere to their obligations under the arms embargo.

The engagement led by Personal Envoy Lamamra and supported by international partners, including at last month's talks in Geneva, remains integral to our collective path towards a ceasefire in Sudan. We stress that Sudanese women must be full and equal partners in all aspects of conflict resolution and peacebuilding.



To conclude, President, Malta supports all mediation efforts to bring this senseless war to an end. We emphasise the need for coordination between regional bodies, international partners, and the UN to ensure lasting stability in Sudan.

A catastrophe, which is both man-made and entirely avoidable, is taking place in front of our eyes. We must not stand act idle in the face of this violence and suffering. As we have just heard from our briefers, decisive action by this Council is needed.

The people of Sudan need us now more than ever.

I thank you.