



## Security Council Briefing on Sudan [2715], 28 October 2024

Malta Statement delivered by Ms Francesca Gatt

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

---

Thank you, President. I also thank Secretary-General Guterres and Ms. Eltigani for their sobering briefings.

For more than eighteen months, the violence between the SAF and the RSF in Sudan has pushed the country to a catastrophe. We are deeply appalled by the reported RSF's attack on Al Jazirah State, representing a brutal turn in a conflict where civilians are bearing the brunt of violence.

Malta strongly condemns all attacks on civilian populations, humanitarian, and medical personnel, as well as the intentional destruction of critical infrastructure, including hospitals and schools. This is unacceptable.



Echoing the Secretary-General's call, we urge the warring parties to immediately cease hostilities, to comply with their obligations under international law, to translate their commitments related to the protection of civilians into tangible actions, and to ensure unimpeded humanitarian access.

We also reiterate the importance of implementing Resolution 2736.

We urge all States to cease external interference and to strictly uphold the arms embargo, particularly in Darfur. There is no military solution to this conflict.

President

It is unacceptable that famine has reached parts of Sudan, particularly the Zamzam IDP Camp. We deplore the deliberate use of starvation as a tactic of warfare, and call for immediate, unimpeded access of essential supplies and food for Zamzam and all areas at risk of famine.



While we are encouraged by the resumption of humanitarian assistance through the Adré crossing, humanitarian access remains heavily constrained despite commitments by the parties. The parties to the conflict must ensure the rapid, safe, unhindered, and sustained humanitarian access through all necessary cross-border and cross-line routes.

President

As stated by the Secretary-General's Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, an alarming rise of ethnically motivated attacks and identity-based violence warns us of a growing risk of genocide and other atrocity crimes in Sudan. We stress the urgency for immediate and targeted actions to prevent further ethnically motivated violence and to address hate speech and incitement.

Malta condemns, in the strongest terms, the use of sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls. The ethnically motivated use of sexual violence and the trafficking of women and girls for the purposes of sexual exploitation is deplorable and must stop.



The parties must take immediate measures to halt and prevent the occurrence of these horrific crimes. They must also provide survivors with the necessary protection, services, and access to justice.

In this context, we recognise the important work carried out by the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission. We continue to support the work of the ICC in relation to Darfur, and the 1591 sanctions regime.

President

Children in Sudan are continuously at risk of recruitment, use by armed actors in hostilities, and abductions. Over 1,500 grave violations committed against children were verified between January and September 2024.

Around 19 million children are currently out of school. 5 million children under the age of five are acutely malnourished, and 53% of Sudan's internally displaced are children. These figures alone should be enough to prompt us – this Council – to take urgent action.



All grave violations against children must stop. Their recruitment, use in hostilities, and abductions must stop. We call for the urgent release of all children associated with the warring parties and their reintegration through civilian protection actors.

An unprecedented number of populations being displaced within the country as well as those seeking refuge beyond Sudan's borders has put the entire neighbouring region under tremendous strain. We call for sustained support from the international community to address these urgent needs.

President

We welcome the diplomatic efforts spearheaded by Personal Envoy Lamamra, alongside the critical work of the AU, IGAD, LAS and other international partners, such as the ALPS Group.

We call for these mediation efforts to be coordinated, while maintaining momentum to resolve the conflict and to create conditions for an inclusive peace process.



The EU remains a trusted partner in supporting civilian engagement. Sudanese civil society, particularly women and youth-led organisations, such as YCON, are pivotal in advancing peace and addressing civilian protection needs. They require the support of the international community.

To conclude, President, the only way to ensure peace and stability in Sudan is for the parties to heed this Council's call for an immediate ceasefire. The people of Sudan have suffered for far too long, and they deserve a future that reflects their true aspirations.

The recent recommendations by the Secretary-General underscore the need for a unified Security Council response. There is no time to lose; decisive and immediate action is essential to prevent further loss of life.

I thank you.