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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

1185TH MEETING (AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL)

15 NOVEMBER 2023

ADDIS-ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/MIN/COMM.1185 (2023)

COMMUNIQUÉ



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Adopted by the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) at its 1185th meeting, held at the Ministerial level on 15 November 2023, on the Situation in Sudan.

The Peace and Security Council,

Recalling its previous decisions and pronouncements on the situation in Sudan, in particular, Communiqué [PSC/HoSG/ COMM.1156 (2023)] adopted at its 1156th meeting held at the level of Heads of State and Government on 27 May 2023 and Communiqué [PSC/PR/COMM.1149 (2023)] adopted at its 1149th meeting held on 16 April 2023; as well as Press Statement [PSC/PR/BR.1154 (2023)] adopted at its 1154th meeting held on 16 May 2023;

Reaffirming the continued commitment of the AU to respect the sovereignty, territorial integrity, national unity and independence of the Republic of Sudan;

Reiterating the AU solidarity with the people of Sudan in their legitimate aspiration for the restoration of constitutional order through a civilian-led government;

Noting the opening remarks by H.E. Mahamoud Ali Youssof, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Djibouti and Chairperson of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) for November 2023; the Statement by H.E. Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security; the Briefing by H.E. Mohamed Belaich, Special representative of the Chairperson of the Commission in Sudan; as well as the statements by the Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and by the representatives of the Members of the Core Group on Sudan; and

Acting under Article 7 of its Protocol, the Peace and Security Council:

1. **Strongly condemns** the ongoing unjustified and destructive conflict between the Rapid Support Forces and the Sudanese Armed Forces, which has had grave consequences on security and humanitarian situation in Sudan and neighboring countries; the indiscriminate killings of innocent civilians, wanton destruction of infrastructure, including diplomatic premises, and wholesale looting of civilian homes and property, and the sexual abuse of women and girls, all in violation of international humanitarian and human rights law;
2. **Expresses particular concern** at the humanitarian situation in Darfur, Kordofan and Khartoum, as well as in Abyei Administrative Area and spread of the conflict to parts of the country hitherto spared from the worst form of the conflict; and **calls upon** all parties to ensure rapid, safe and unhindered humanitarian access throughout Sudan, in accordance with relevant provisions of international law, and in line with the UN guiding principles of humanitarian assistance;
3. **Strongly reiterates its demand** to the Rapid Support Force and the Sudanese Armed Forces to immediately and unconditionally ceasefire to end the unnecessary conflict which has resulted in the untold loss of lives, injuries and sufferance to innocent civilians, in particular women and children and the deterioration of the already dire humanitarian situation in the country;
4. **Requests** the Chairperson of the Commission, working in close cooperation with IGAD, to expedite the implementation of the AU Roadmap for the Resolution of the Conflict in Sudan and IGAD Roadmap for Peace in the Republic of Sudan, with a particular view to convening, at the earliest possible date, the two-stage Political Dialogue, including discussions on a comprehensive

ceasefire and the establishment of a transitional civilian government that would lead Sudan back to the path of peace and reconciliation and ensure smooth restoration of constitutional order;

5. Once again, **emphasizes** that there can be no viable and sustainable military solution to the conflict, and that only genuine, truly representative and all-inclusive Sudanese dialogue can lead to an amicable and sustainable solution to the current situation, and in this regard, while welcoming the Agreement on Humanitarian Access signed on 7 November 2023 in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, **stresses** the need to ensure Africa's full and effective participation and involvement in the Jeddah peace process;

6. **Underlines** the primacy of ownership, coordination, coherence, and leadership of all political processes towards a lasting solution to the current situation by the Sudanese, and in this context, **reiterates the importance** of a single, inclusive and coordinated peace process for Sudan, under the auspices of the AU and IGAD, and with the support of the other members of the international community;

7. **Also reiterates the need** for countries of the region, and beyond, to remain neutral with regard to any military and or financial support to the belligerents;

8. **Commends** all Member States, particularly the neighboring countries of Sudan, and the rest of the international community, for their continued provision of humanitarian support to Sudanese refugees and asylum seekers, among others by facilitating expeditious and dignified processes, conditions of entry, transit and reception, in line with the provisions of the 1951 Refugee Convention, and the 1969 Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of the Refugee Problems in Africa (Kampala Convention); and **appeals** to the international community to extend the requisite support towards the refugees and host countries and communities;

9. **Urges** the signatories to the Juba Peace Agreement to remain steadfast and, once again, **strongly appeals** to all hold-out movements to embrace peace efforts, refrain from undermining the peace process and to continue to work towards an inclusive consensual solution to the challenges facing Sudan;

10. **Further reiterates its requests**, in this regard, for the Chairperson of the Commission to setup a High-Level Ad hoc Panel on Sudan, that will work with all the Sudanese stakeholders including women and the youth, in order to ensure an all-inclusive process towards this civilian-led political transition; and

11. **Decides** to remain actively seized of the matter.