



STATEMENT

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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SOUTH AFRICA

TO THE UNITED NATIONS

DURING THE SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING ON THE SUDAN

25 SEPTEMBER 2020

Mr President

I have the honour of delivering this statement on behalf of the African Countries, Niger South Africa, Tunisia plus St Vincent and Grenadines (A3+1).

At the onset Mr President, permit me to express our gratitude to you for convening this meeting. Additionally, we would like to thank our briefers today USG Rosemary Di Carlo and USG Jean-Pierre Lacroix for their enlightening briefings on the developments pertaining Sudan and UNITAMS.

We would like to also express our appreciation to the UNITAMS planning team for their efforts and consistent consultations in order to bring life to the envisioned special political mission. We are confident that they will successfully navigate the mammoth task ahead of them.

Mr President,

We as the international community have been steadfast in our commitment assisting in bringing about peace, stability and prosperity in Darfur for over a decade. It has been a turbulent journey, however, significant strides have been registered in the process. It is in this purview that, as we turn the chapter into the new Special Political Mission we ensure that we continue to preserve the gains and continue to assist in bringing the peace that ordinary Sudanese have and still urgently yearned for.

In this regard, the A3+1 welcomes the efforts of the Sudanese Transitional Government as it continues to pursue political reforms, make progress in the peace process and tackle the rapidly deteriorating economic situation. Furthermore, we are also encouraged by the signing of the 29 August agreement with the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA)- Minna Minawwi and SRF, and 3 September 2020 agreement on principles that mark significant steps toward a trajectory to achieving lasting peace in Sudan.

Mr President,

We recognize that the Transitional Government is operating amid conditions characterized by dire economic conditions, a Covid 19 pandemic as well as tense political climate. The SG's report clearly highlights that "Spiraling inflation, continuing shortages of key commodities, a growing public deficit and dropping revenues have placed Sudan's economy in a critical state." Consequently, we call for the lifting of all sanctions in Sudan as they have out run their course. In fact, they are further hindering prospects of progress in the country.

The A3+1 welcomes the pledges made during the Sudan partnership Conference to assist with the socio-economic situation in Sudan. We trust that this support will aide in alleviating a number of the hardships that Sudan is currently grappling with.

On the security front, we welcome the Transitional Governments efforts in working together with UNAMID to tackle the increased levels of intercommunal violence in the country as well as the steps made towards the national plan for protecting civilians.

As UNAMID draws down, we encourage UNAMID to continue working with national and local authorities' stakeholders as well as the UN Country Team and other partners in protecting civilians and facilitating mediation and address underlying issues of access to land and resources.

Mr President

The A3+1 looks forward to the urgent appointment of the Special Representative of the Secretary- General to assume overall authority and provide strategic direction for all activities of UNITAMS as well provide advisory and advocacy role at the political level and coordinate efforts of the international community in support of the strategic objectives of the UNITAMS mandate.

Sudan is geostrategic and shares borders with key countries in the region which are pivotal in unlocking the peace and security of the region and the whole African continent. Its therefore imperative that we continue to ensure stability in Sudan. As Chair of IGAD, Sudan is critical in building cohesion in the Horn of Africa.

I thank you