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ORAL STATEMENT

Item 2: Enhanced Interactive Dialogue on the Human Rights Commissioner's report on Sudan (with the assistance of the designated Expert on Sudan)

UN Human Rights Council
53^d session
19 June – 14 July 2023

Mr. President,

We welcome today's debate and the holding of a Special Session on 11 May. Let us be clear – the Council has a duty to respond rapidly to crises, in exercise of its mandate to protect human rights and prevent further violations. Strong Council action can complement, rather than conflict with, other political processes and other efforts to resolve the conflict.

The human rights and humanitarian situation in Sudan continues to deteriorate as the conflict enters its 10th week.

[As of 13 June](#), over 1.6 million people have been displaced internally, and over 528,000 people have crossed into neighbouring countries. For some communities, this is history repeating itself. People who have been living as refugees in Sudan after fleeing conflicts in their own countries find themselves displaced yet again.

We are alarmed by reports from Darfur and particularly West Darfur of an emerging pattern of large-scale attacks by RSF forces and allied armed militias against civilians based on their ethnic identities.

Warring parties must cease their violations, protect civilians, and ensure safe passage for those seeking to escape. They must also ensure rapid and unhindered humanitarian access. All duty bearers should ensure full international protection and support to all those fleeing the conflict and protect and support human rights defenders and individuals at risk.

A central driver of this conflict is impunity. In this regard, we reiterate our call for the establishment of an international and independent investigative and accountability mechanism to monitor, collect and preserve evidence, and report serious violations of human rights and humanitarian law in Sudan. Until that day comes, we urge all to do what is in their power to urge compliance with international law and promote accountability, including documenting and preserving evidence of violations and crimes.

Thank you, Mr. President.