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European Union

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COAFR 241
CFSP/PESC 914
DEVGEN 222
COHOM 130
COHAFA 107

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

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| From: | General Secretariat of the Council |
| To: | Delegations |
| Subject: | Sudan - Council conclusions (9 December 2019) |

Delegations will find attached the Council conclusions on Sudan as adopted at the 3738th meeting of the Council on 9 December 2019.

Sudan
Draft Council Conclusions

1. Sudan's political transition offers the people of Sudan a historic opportunity to stand united in working towards a peaceful, democratic and prosperous country. Its success remains crucial for stability in the Horn of Africa and the wider region.
2. The EU welcomes the exchange with Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok in Brussels on 11 November 2019 and remains committed, as a key partner, to accompanying Sudan on its political, economic and social reform path, in order to make the transition to democracy a success.
3. In order to guarantee the long-term stability of the country, it is crucial that the transition includes all elements of society, notably women and youth, as well as people of regions particularly affected by conflict and marginalisation. The EU also reiterates the importance of civil society in this context. The EU welcomes the intentions expressed by the transitional government in this regard and calls for increased efforts to ensure the representation of these groups at all stages of the transition process. The EU particularly encourages the full, equal, effective and meaningful participation of women, including survivors of sexual violence, in all efforts linked to the political transition and to maintaining and promoting peace and security.

4. Only an effective civilian-led government with real decision-making authority will gain the confidence of the Sudanese people and lay the foundations for meaningful reforms. The timely establishment of the transitional legislative council will be a significant step in the transition process. The EU welcomes that at least 40 percent of the seats in the transitional legislative council are to be occupied by women. Building democratic institutions, ensuring respect for the rule of law and strengthening democratic actors is an integral part of achieving peace and economic recovery. The EU is ready to assist in this process by supporting constitutional development, efforts to strengthen dialogue at national and local level, and the upcoming electoral process. Substantial macro-economic reforms are needed to revitalise the Sudanese economy and set it on a course towards inclusive and sustainable growth. The EU stands ready to support the transitional government's plans in this regard.
5. The EU welcomes the decision to open an Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Sudan, as well as the first commitments made by the Sudanese authorities to improve the human rights situation throughout the country. In this regard, the EU welcomes the bold and positive steps by the Sudanese authorities to abolish the Public Order Law. Continued efforts are needed to effectively implement those commitments, in particular by ensuring the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as reconciliation. The fight against impunity, especially of those responsible for violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, should be a priority for the Sudanese authorities. In this regard, the EU expresses its full support for the recent appointment of an independent commission that will investigate the violence used against peaceful demonstrators during the sit-in on 3 June 2019, including widespread use of sexual and gender-based violence. The EU invites the Sudanese authorities to ensure that this commission is provided with all the resources necessary to conduct its work independently, and to ensure that perpetrators are held to account.

6. The moment has come for all Sudanese actors to embrace this historic opportunity and to demonstrate genuine commitment to reaching an inclusive and sustainable peace in Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile. The EU welcomes the recent steps taken in this regard and encourages all stakeholders to increase efforts to strengthen inclusivity in all aspects of the peace process, in particular the effective participation of women, as well as the meaningful engagement of youth. The EU remains ready to assist a Sudanese-led peace process, by all means at its disposal, in coordination with regional partners, especially the African Union, including - if necessary - by reacting decisively to any attempts to obstruct the peace process. While welcoming the recent mandate extension of the United Nations-African Union Hybrid Mission in Darfur, the EU counts on the transitional authorities and other stakeholders to build the necessary conditions for peace and to implement confidence-building measures in Darfur. In this regard, the EU calls upon Sudan to fully cooperate with the International Criminal Court pursuant to UN Security Council Resolution 1593.
7. The international community should grant well-coordinated and strengthened financial support. The Sudanese government should take a strong lead in coordinating this support and continue to express its priorities for external financial and technical support. The EU, for its part, is committed to supporting Sudan in responding to the country's immediate, medium- and long-term needs, based on the priorities of the transitional government and bearing in mind the urgent need to improve the socioeconomic conditions of the population. Transparency in the management of the national economy and the nation's resources will be crucial in that process. The removal of Sudan from the US State Sponsors of Terrorism list and the re-engagement of international financial institutions would contribute to Sudan's economic recovery. To this end, efforts, including by Sudan, will be required to swiftly address the remaining impediments. The EU will actively support Sudan with a view to this re-engagement, which will contribute to the country's process of securing debt relief, access to finance and foreign investment. This is key for sustainable economic growth. The EU also welcomes Sudan's intention to accede to the World Trade Organisation.

8. While welcoming the recent steps taken by the transitional government, the EU remains concerned by the deteriorating humanitarian situation, which has been aggravated by a high number of refugees and internally displaced persons. It is vital that all Sudanese stakeholders respect international obligations, in particular humanitarian principles and international humanitarian law, to ensure safe and unhindered humanitarian access throughout Sudan. The EU calls upon the Sudanese authorities to remove the remaining bureaucratic obstacles to the work of humanitarian and development actors. The EU will continue to provide support to people in need of humanitarian assistance and protection, especially the most vulnerable.
 9. In this new phase of relations, the EU aspires to intensify its political dialogue with Sudan. The EU encourages Sudan to be an active partner in the EU-Africa, Caribbean and Pacific framework. It also encourages Sudan to engage constructively in support of peace and stability in the Horn of Africa region, notably as the incoming chair of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development.
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