



KINGDOM OF BELGIUM

Statement by

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of Belgium to the United Nations

UNAMID Briefing at the Security Council

New York, 26/8/2019

Madam President,

Belgium thanks Under-Secretary-General Lacroix and AU Commissioner Chergui for their briefings.

Madam President,

We welcome the signing of the Constitutional Declaration in Sudan on 17 August. This agreement is the result of lengthy negotiations and represents an important step for Sudan on its way to lasting peace, democracy and prosperity. We also welcome the appointment of the 11 members of the Sovereignty Council and the inauguration of Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok on 21 August. We commend the Sudanese population, in particular women and young people, for their strong but peaceful action.

All efforts must now focus on the implementation of this agreement, in the same spirit of compromise and reconciliation that has enabled the stakeholders to reach this historic milestone. In this regard, I would like to stress the importance of the following:

- ensuring inclusiveness by including all sections of society, particularly women, who were often at the forefront of peaceful demonstrations, as well as representatives from all regions of the country;
- respecting the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the Sudanese people, including the right to freedom of assembly, freedom of expression and of the press, and freedom of religion;

- fighting impunity, including through the independent commission of inquiry into the fatal incidents of 3 June, the establishment of a bureau of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Sudan and dialogue with the International Criminal Court to ensure that persons subject to an arrest warrant are brought to justice in Sudan or before the ICC.
- ensuring the protection of civilians, including free and unhindered humanitarian access.

Belgium expresses its full support for the transition process and looks forward to engaging with the Transitional Authority under civilian leadership. Belgium commends the vital mediation role played by the AU and Ethiopia, and the support provided by IGAD, the United Nations and the entire international community. We encourage these actors to continue to support Sudan.

Madam President,

We nevertheless remain concerned by the situation in Darfur, as it remains a fragile region in which the deepest causes of the conflict, in particular access to land and the future of displaced persons, have not been truly resolved. The unfortunate fact that some groups in Darfur have rejected the 17 August agreement shows that the Sudanese stakeholders must continue to work towards a peaceful and equitable solution for all, and a peace agreement between all Sudanese parties and the various rebel groups. This moment represents a unique opportunity to put an end to the many conflicts that have torn the country apart for too long.

Madam President,

This Council will review UNAMID's mandate again in October. In the meantime, the Council must continue to closely monitor the situation in Sudan in general and Darfur in particular. The UNAMID exit process is inextricably linked to developments in the rest of the country. In this regard, we look forward to the joint UN-AU report that will formulate a common political strategy with options for an appropriate and carefully calibrated presence in Darfur.

Madam President,

Sudan is experiencing a historic moment, the result of the courage and the aspiration for freedom, peace and justice of its people. Important challenges to sustainable peace remain. This Council must continue to support the country as it continues its transition.

Thank you.