

**KINGDOM OF BELGIUM**

Statement of

H.E. Karen Van Vlierberge, Deputy Permanent Representative of  
Belgium to the UN

**Briefing/consultations/VTC UNAMID  
UN Security Council**

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Mister President,

Thank you to the briefers.

The political situation in Sudan has changed dramatically since the Council began to reflect on the future of the Hybrid Mission in Darfur.

As the COVID-19 pandemic does not spare Sudan, we are reminded of the need to be a reliable partner to Sudan in its pursuit of successful political, economic and social transition. That very sense of partnership guides the European Union's support to Sudan.

The past few months have shown undeniable positive developments. We welcome the efforts of the transitional government, led by Prime Minister Hamdok, to restore peace nationwide. Yet, important steps remain to be taken, with the additional challenge of dealing with the human and economic impact of COVID-19.

In Darfur, progress towards concluding talks justifies cautious optimism, but severe security incidents and intercommunal violence show how fragile the progress is. As violence against IDPs, women and children, and in particular sexual violence, continues, the authorities' lack of capacity to fully protect civilians is laid bare.

Mr. President,

We welcome the proposals of the Special Report regarding the follow-on UN presence after UNAMID's departure. We also thank Prime Minister Hamdok for sharing his vision.

The areas for future cooperation between the transitional Government and the UN throughout Sudan are many. They will include support to the transition in general, as well as support to the peace process, coordination of humanitarian aid, institutional capacity building, the DDR process, the return of displaced persons and transitional justice.

The fragile situation in several areas of Darfur will continue as long as the root causes of conflict are not fully tackled. The follow-on mission will play an important

role to address those. It is our view, however, that its mandate must also include the protection of civilians, beyond mere advisory and in cooperation with the Sudanese authorities.

The support to strengthening human rights and rule of law throughout the country will need to be at the core of the mission. Accountability is key to achieving and sustaining peace. In this regard we salute the government's commitment to transitional justice processes and recent statements regarding cooperation with the International Criminal Court.

Mister President,

We have an opportunity to build lasting peace in Darfur. We fully support the Sudanese authorities in their efforts to end the existing conflicts and establish peace. We call on all parties, in particular the armed movements, to continue constructive negotiations.

Thank you.