

KINGDOM OF BELGIUM

Speech by

H.E. Marc PECSTEEN, Permanent Representative  
of Belgium to the United Nations

**UNAMID debate  
at the Security Council**

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Mr President, Your Excellencies, Dear Colleagues,

I want to thank the briefers for their presentations.

I wish to highlight three points: (1) the need for a credible and inclusive transition in Sudan; (2) the situation in Darfur; (3) the need to fight against impunity.

Mr President,

1.

The situation in Darfur must be interpreted in a Sudanese context, from which it cannot be isolated. Belgium expresses its concern about **the current situation in Sudan**. It repeats its appeal for restraint in the use of force, the need to avoid violence, and to ensure full compliance with human rights, including the freedom of assembly and of demonstration.

Belgium hails the statement of the AU's Peace and Security Council of 15 April which underlines the need to find a rapid solution to the current crisis based on respect for constitutional order, which reflects the aspirations of the people of Sudan. The statement again demands that Sudanese military return power to a transitional political authority led by civilians in accordance with the wishes of the people and constitutional order.

A consultative and inclusive process involving all political players and stakeholders should guarantee a **consensual transition led by civilians** and should result, as quickly as possible, in free, fair and transparent elections. Belgium has noted the announcement of the release of political prisoners. This essential measure will help to create a climate of mutual trust with a view to reconciliation.

Recognising the essential role of the AU and the IGAD, at this delicate time, the Security Council should support the efforts made by these partners to find a peaceful solution. We support the SG's efforts in this respect.

2.

**The situation in Sudan has undoubtedly had an impact on the issue of Darfur** and the peace process. The Council must continue to closely monitor the situation in the rest of the country and assess how it influences **the UNAMID's withdrawal and exit process**. In this respect, we are awaiting the joint report of the UN and AU on the strategic review. In all cases, a cautious approach to a carefully supported withdrawal is required, which guarantees an adequate presence of the United Nations in Darfur. In general terms, the introduction of the rule of law and the fundamental respect for human rights are key elements for the future of Darfur. The protection of the civilian population and the improvement of the humanitarian situation, as well as disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration and the reform of the security sector are all essential for a long-term solution to the crisis.

3.

Finally, **the fight against impunity** lies at the heart of the demonstrators' demands. Human rights' violations are among the deep-rooted causes of the conflicts in Sudan. Also we are not forgetting the issue of the ICC's pending arrest warrants. The UNSC referred the situation in Sudan (Darfur) via resolution 1593 in 2005 and the ICC issued arrest warrants for five individuals. Belgium recalls that resolution 1593 stipulates that Sudan and all the other parties in the conflict in Darfur are obliged to cooperate fully with the ICC and the Prosecutor, and to provide them with all the necessary assistance. It is essential to ensure *accountability* for past acts.

Mr President, at the end of my presentation, I wish to express Belgium's solidarity with the Sudanese people and its desire for a peaceful resolution to the situation in Sudan.

Thank you, Mr President.