



National Statement delivered by Amb. Khalil Hashmi, Permanent Representative,
during the Special Session on the Human Rights Impact of the Ongoing Conflict in the
Sudan
(36th Special Session)
11 May 2023

Mr. President,

We are deeply concerned over the evolving situation in Sudan especially its human, humanitarian and security dimensions. We are saddened over the loss of lives. Our thoughts and solidarity are with the brotherly people affected by the ongoing conflict.

We reaffirm support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Sudan.

We fully support all mediation efforts including by the African Union, League of Arab states, the Quartet and IGAD.

We hope the recent meeting in Jeddah, facilitated by Saudi Arabia, lays the foundation for a durable ceasefire.

Mr. President

Holding of a Special Session of the Council, in our view, does not stand up to the broad markers identified in the IB package. We raise this point in terms of principles of objectivity, dialogue and cooperation. This session is also in contradiction to 'working culture' envisaged in HRC resolution 5/1 such as exercising restraint in proliferation of mandates and avoiding unnecessary duplication of work.

In dealing with complex crises such as the situation in Sudan, discretion ought to be prioritized. Sequencing and respecting the mandates of other institutions is also essential.

In our view, the United Nations Security Council is already seized of the peace and security dimension of the situation; it has issued a PRST and despite it being vested with the mandate and tools has exercised prudence by deferring consideration of the situation till the next month.

At this stage, mediation efforts must be given primacy to secure ceasefire and to facilitate humanitarian assistance.

We share concerns over the human rights impacts of the conflict in Sudan. These impacts can, however, best be mitigated when the on-going conflict is managed first. Sudan has demonstrated consistent cooperation and engagement with the Council, OHCHR and human rights experts including the existing mechanism. Mounting another resolution with novel but unrealistic proposals is deemed unhelpful. After all, many of the asks are hard to be achieved given the security situation on the ground.



In any case, the human rights expert on Sudan is set to present his report followed by an interactive dialogue in a few weeks.

The call for today's Special Session and its outcomes which lacks the consent of country concerned, on a matter which sequentially falls within the mandate of UNSC, risks further exacerbating the situation in Sudan.

We call for introspection and to work with the country concerned to promote the shared cause of a peaceful Sudan where human rights are fully respected by all.

I thank you!