



Forum: Security Council

Question of: The ongoing political and humanitarian crisis in Sudan

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I. Description of the Issue

The ongoing political and humanitarian crisis in Sudan revolves around a complex set of challenges that have impacted the country's stability, well-being, and development. It involves conflicts, violence, displacement, and a range of humanitarian needs that have profoundly affected Sudanese society. Sudan finds itself embroiled in a protracted conflict that has escalated into a full-scale war, persisting for seven consecutive weeks. The conflict initially erupted on April 15 when clashes broke out between rival factions within the Sudanese army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF). As a result, the nation has been thrust into a dire humanitarian crisis, marked by a staggering death toll of over 1,800 individuals, as reported by the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project. The United Nations has further stated that at least 1.6 million people have been displaced either within Sudan or across its borders, seeking refuge in neighboring countries such as Egypt, Chad, and South Sudan. The crisis is rooted in historical tensions, ethnic divisions, resource competition, and struggles for power.

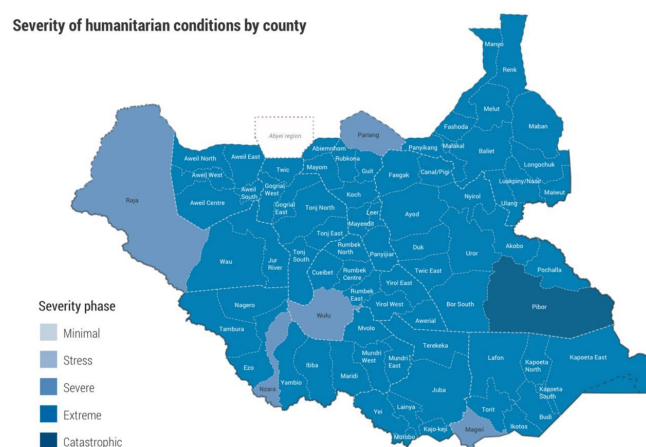


Fig 1, Severity of Humanitarian conditions (severity phase):

https://reliefweb.int/attachments/61b94dc3-d6ca-3585-91db-971df44e5538d/south_sudan_2021_humanitarian_needs_overview_print.pdf



It has resulted in human rights abuses, economic hardships, and limited access to essential services such as education and healthcare. As seen in Fig 1, the severity phase of humanitarian conditions across the country goes from severe to catastrophic (when looking at Pibor). Therefore showcasing the absolute desperate need of humanitarian aid and assistance by the UN. Efforts by national and international actors have been made to address the crisis, but sustainable solutions remain elusive. The crisis also involves issues of governance and political transition. Sudan has experienced a turbulent political landscape with changes in leadership, popular uprisings, and transitions towards democratic governance. These transitions have been accompanied by challenges in establishing stable institutions, ensuring inclusive governance, and addressing the demands of various political and societal groups. The humanitarian dimension of the crisis is critical. Large segments of the population, particularly in conflict-affected areas, face immense humanitarian needs, including food insecurity, lack of access to clean water and sanitation, inadequate healthcare, and protection concerns. The displacement of populations and destruction of infrastructure have further exacerbated the challenges faced by the affected communities.

The main issue in Sudan revolves around political and humanitarian challenges that have plagued the country for several years. Sudan has experienced a series of conflicts and transitions since its independence in 1956. The crisis escalated in 2019, leading to the removal of longtime President Omar al-Bashir and subsequent political upheaval. The crisis in Sudan involves multiple parties and stakeholders. These include the government of Sudan, rebel groups, the transitional government, the United Nations, regional organizations like the African Union and the Arab League, as well as international humanitarian organizations. Each of these actors plays a distinct role in addressing the crisis, whether through governance, armed engagement, peace negotiations, humanitarian assistance, or regional support.

The crisis also involves multiple dimensions, including:

- a) Political instability: Sudan has struggled to establish a stable and inclusive political system. The power vacuum left by al-Bashir's ousting resulted in a contentious transition, marked by conflicts between civilian and military leaders.
- b) Human rights abuses: Sudan has witnessed widespread human rights violations, including



attacks on civilians, displacement of populations, sexual violence, and restrictions on freedom of speech and assembly.

c) **Economic challenges:** The Sudanese economy has faced severe difficulties, characterized by inflation, high unemployment rates, and a lack of basic services. This has exacerbated the humanitarian crisis, leading to increased poverty and food insecurity.

d) **Regional conflicts:** Sudan is plagued by conflicts in various regions, particularly in Darfur, South Kordofan, and the Blue Nile. These conflicts involve ethnic tensions, land disputes, and competition for resources.

II. Definition of Key Terms

- The **transitional government** in Sudan refers to the current governing structure put in place after the overthrow of former President Omar al-Bashir in April 2019. The transitional government is an interim administration with a mandate to guide the country through a transitional period towards democratic governance.
- **Peacekeeping mission:** Deployment of military, police, and civilian personnel by the UN to a conflict-affected region to maintain peace and protect civilians.
- **Regional stability:** Maintenance of peace, security, and cooperation among countries in a particular geographic region.
- **Refugee crisis:** Large-scale displacement of people forced to leave their homes due to conflict, persecution, or natural disasters.
- **International security:** Measures taken by nations and international organizations to promote peace, prevent conflicts, and ensure global safety.
- **Humanitarian response:** Collective efforts to address the immediate needs of those affected by crises, including providing emergency aid and protection.

III. Major Countries And Organizations Involved

- Sudan itself is a key player in addressing the crisis. Its government, transitional authorities, and various political and social factions within the country play a crucial role in finding a solution and implementing necessary reforms.



- United Nations (UN): The UN is instrumental in providing humanitarian assistance, facilitating peacekeeping missions, and supporting Sudan's political transition. It plays a vital role in coordinating international efforts and providing a platform for dialogue and collaboration among different stakeholders.
- African Union (AU): As a regional organization, the AU is actively engaged in promoting peace, security, and stability in Sudan. It provides political support, mediates negotiations, and works in collaboration with the UN to address the crisis.
- United States: The United States has historically been involved in Sudan's peace processes and humanitarian efforts. It plays a significant role in providing diplomatic, financial, and technical support to Sudan, advocating for human rights, and encouraging a peaceful resolution to the crisis.
- European Union (EU): The EU has been involved in supporting Sudan's political transition, providing development assistance, and addressing humanitarian needs. It contributes to peace-building efforts, advocates for human rights, and works towards stability and democratic governance in Sudan.

IV. Background information

The roots of the crisis can be traced back to long standing grievances, including marginalization, unequal distribution of resources, and political exclusion of certain regions and ethnic groups within Sudan. These grievances fueled armed conflicts, particularly in regions like Darfur, South Kordofan, and the Blue Nile, where rebel groups emerged to challenge the central government. The crisis escalated with the ousting of President Omar al-Bashir in April 2019, following widespread protests demanding political change and an end to his long authoritarian rule. This led to a power vacuum and a transitional period, during which a delicate balance of power was established between civilian and military authorities. The ongoing political and humanitarian crisis in Sudan is characterized by a multitude of social, political, and economic distresses. These challenges have profound implications for Sudanese society, particularly in the regions where the crisis is most noticeable.



Social effects:

- a) Human Rights Abuses: The crisis has witnessed widespread human rights violations, such as attacks on civilians, displacement of populations, sexual violence, and restrictions on freedom of speech and assembly. These abuses have created an environment of fear, trauma, and injustice for the Sudanese people.
- b) Displacement and Refugees: Conflict-affected regions, like Darfur, South Kordofan, and the Blue Nile, have experienced significant population displacement. Many Sudanese citizens have been forced to flee their homes, becoming internally displaced persons (IDPs) or seeking refuge in neighboring countries. This has resulted in humanitarian and social strains on both the displaced population and host communities.
- c) Ethnic Tensions: The crisis has exacerbated pre-existing ethnic tensions within Sudan. Conflicts in regions like Darfur have involved ethnic groups, leading to divisions, distrust, and increased inter-communal violence. These tensions further complicate efforts to achieve social cohesion and stability.

Political effects:

- a) Instability and Transition: Sudan has struggled to establish a stable and inclusive political system. The removal of former President Omar Al-Bashir in 2019 created a power vacuum and triggered a transitional period. However, the transition has been marred by conflicts between civilian and military leaders, hindering effective governance and impeding progress towards democratic reforms.
- b) Lack of Accountability: The culture of impunity has been a longstanding issue in Sudan. Perpetrators of human rights abuses and war crimes have often gone unpunished, contributing to a cycle of violence, distrust, and injustice. Establishing accountability mechanisms is crucial for addressing past and ongoing violations and ensuring justice for victims.

Economic effects:

- a) Inflation and Economic Crisis: Sudan has been grappling with high inflation rates, economic instability, and a lack of basic services. The economic crisis has led to a decline in living standards, increased poverty rates, and limited access to essential goods and services. Economic distress exacerbates the overall humanitarian crisis and compounds the challenges faced by the Sudanese people.
- b) Food Insecurity: The economic challenges and conflicts have contributed to food



insecurity in Sudan. Many communities, particularly in conflict-affected regions, face limited access to food, leading to malnutrition and hunger. This exacerbates the suffering of vulnerable populations, including children, women, and the elderly.

V. Historical Background

Sudan was under British colonial rule until it gained independence in 1956. The legacy of colonialism shaped the country's political and social dynamics, including divisions between the Arab-dominated north and the marginalized regions in the south. The Darfur conflict erupted in 2003, when rebel groups from marginalized communities in Darfur rose against the Sudanese government. The conflict was primarily sparked by long standing grievances and marginalization of certain ethnic groups, particularly in the region of Darfur. The marginalized groups, such as the Fur, Zaghawa, and Masalit, had experienced political and economic marginalization, discrimination, and unequal access to resources for many years. Their frustrations and demands for greater inclusion and representation escalated into armed resistance against the central government. Colonialism played a significant role in exacerbating these grievances and tensions. Sudan, like many African countries, experienced a history of colonization by European powers, including Britain and Egypt. The colonial period, which lasted from the late 19th century until Sudan's independence in 1956, had a profound impact on the country's political, social, and economic dynamics. Under colonial rule, certain regions and ethnic groups were favored and given preferential treatment, while others were marginalized and subjected to discriminatory policies. The legacy of colonialism contributed to the underlying grievances and ethnic tensions that fueled the conflict in Sudan. The government responded with a brutal counter-insurgency campaign, leading to widespread violence, displacement, and allegations of genocide. The conflict resulted in the deployment of the UN-AU hybrid peacekeeping mission known as UNAMID. In 2019, a popular uprising led to the removal of President Omar al-Bashir, who had been in power for three decades. A transitional government was established, comprising both civilian and military representatives, to steer Sudan towards democratic governance and address the country's challenges. The CPA, signed in 2005, ended the second civil war and granted autonomy to South Sudan. However, the implementation of the agreement faced challenges,



leading to renewed conflicts and South Sudan's eventual secession. The Abyei region, located on the Sudan-South Sudan border, has been a source of contention between the two countries. The dispute revolves around issues of territorial control and resource access. The Abyei Area Referendum, originally scheduled for 2011, has yet to be held, contributing to ongoing tensions and occasional clashes.

VI. Timeline of Events

Date	Event	Description
1956	Sudanese independence	Sudan gained independence from British colonial rule, marking the beginning of its sovereignty and the subsequent challenges it would face as a newly independent nation.
2003	Darfur conflict begins	The conflict in Darfur erupted when rebel groups from marginalized communities rose against the Sudanese government, leading to widespread violence and displacement.
2005	Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) signed	The CPA ended the second civil war in Sudan, granting autonomy to South Sudan and setting the stage for a referendum on independence.
2011	South Sudan Secession	Following a referendum, South Sudan officially seceded from Sudan, becoming an independent nation.
2019	Removal of president Omar al- Bashir	A popular uprising led to the removal of President Omar al-Bashir, who had been in power for three decades, and initiated a transitional period in Sudan's governance.



2020	Darfur peace agreement	The signing of the Darfur Peace Agreement aimed to address the root causes of the conflict in Darfur, promote reconciliation, and provide a framework for political inclusion.
Ongoing	Humanitarian crisis and displacement	The crisis has resulted in widespread humanitarian needs, including displacement of populations, food insecurity, and limited access to basic services.
Ongoing	Political transition and power struggles	Sudan is undergoing a political transition, with challenges arising from tensions between civilian and military leaders, hindering effective governance and reforms.
Ongoing	International engagement and peacekeeping efforts	The United Nations, African Union, and other international actors have been actively involved in providing humanitarian assistance and supporting peacekeeping missions in Sudan

VII. Previous attempts to solve the issue

Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) of 2005:

- Success: The CPA successfully ended the second civil war in Sudan and provided a framework for power-sharing between the Sudanese government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A).
- Failures: The implementation of the CPA faced significant challenges, including delays in key provisions such as the Abyei referendum and the lack of progress in addressing other contentious issues such as border demarcation and wealth-sharing. These unresolved issues later contributed to renewed conflicts and South Sudan's secession.

Darfur Peace Agreements (2006, 2011, and 2020):



- Successes: The peace agreements aimed to address the root causes of the conflict in Darfur, promote reconciliation, and provide a framework for political inclusion and development.
- Failures: Despite the signing of multiple peace agreements, the conflict in Darfur has persisted, with sporadic violence, ongoing displacement, and challenges in implementing key provisions. Issues such as power-sharing, disarmament, and transitional justice remain unresolved, hampering lasting peace and stability.

International Engagement and Peacekeeping Efforts:

- Successes: The deployment of peacekeeping missions, such as the UN-AU hybrid mission in Darfur (UNAMID), provided security and protection to vulnerable populations, facilitating humanitarian assistance and reducing the intensity of violence in some areas.
- Failures: Peacekeeping efforts have faced challenges, including limited resources, logistical constraints, and difficulty in navigating complex political dynamics. The presence of peacekeepers has not been able to fully eliminate violence or address the root causes of the conflict.

VIII. Possible Solutions

In order to address the challenges in Sudan comprehensively, it is crucial to focus on multiple key areas. Strengthening governance and the rule of law is vital for promoting democratic reforms that ensure transparent and inclusive governance structures, enabling equitable representation and participation of all segments of society. It is equally important to enhance the rule of law, judicial independence, and accountability mechanisms to effectively address human rights violations, promote justice, and foster reconciliation. Humanitarian assistance and development aid play a critical role in providing immediate support to affected populations, including vital provisions such as food, clean water, healthcare, and education. Additionally, strengthening development aid and capacity-building efforts are essential to improve access to basic services, infrastructure, and livelihood opportunities, especially in conflict-affected areas. Regional cooperation and diplomatic engagement are key aspects in resolving the crisis, with encouragement for regional organizations like the African Union



and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) to actively mediate conflicts, facilitate dialogue, and support peacebuilding initiatives in Sudan. Engaging neighboring countries and regional powers is also crucial to foster diplomatic cooperation, collaboration, and address shared security concerns, border management, and regional stability.

Peacebuilding and conflict resolution efforts should involve inclusive and comprehensive processes that engage all relevant stakeholders to address the underlying causes of conflicts in different regions of Sudan. Supporting disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) programs is essential to reduce the proliferation of weapons and successfully integrate former combatants into society.

IX. How to Prepare as a Delegate

All delegates are obligated to write at least one draft resolution and a minimum of two position papers so that all topics of the forum are fully covered. Furthermore, **the deadline to send in the documents is 8th September, 2023** and that after the deadline documents will not be corrected by us Student Officers. As student officers **we will be the ones later on deciding on the best and most distinguished delegate as well as the best first timer in this committee.**

Moreover delegates preparing for the committee should engage in extensive research to gain a deep understanding of the historical background, causes, and consequences of the ongoing political and humanitarian crisis in Sudan. This involves studying key events, agreements, and previous attempts at resolving the issue. Additionally, delegates should familiarize themselves with their country's positions, policies, and historical relationship with Sudan, including regional alliances and involvement in the issue. Based on this knowledge, delegates should formulate their country's interests, objectives, and priorities, identifying specific concerns, goals, and potential strategies to address the crisis. It is crucial for delegates to consider forming alliances or partnerships with like-minded countries, exploring common interests, coordinating approaches, and building coalitions to enhance their influence and effectiveness in the committee. Drafting well-researched and comprehensive policy statements is important, outlining their country's stance, proposing solutions, and highlighting areas of significance. Collaboration with other countries, particularly those in alliances or



with shared interests, should be sought to draft joint resolutions that reflect collective efforts and facilitate consensus-building. During diplomatic negotiations, delegates should focus on building relationships, exchanging ideas, and exploring potential areas of agreement, employing effective communication, active listening, and persuasive negotiation skills. Delegates should demonstrate openness to compromise and flexibility in their positions, seeking common ground and constructive solutions that garner support from other countries and contribute to overall progress in addressing the crisis. Furthermore, delegates should gain a comprehensive understanding of the mandates, roles, and activities of international organizations involved in Sudan, such as the United Nations, African Union, and regional bodies, in order to engage effectively and leverage their expertise and resources.

X. UN Resolutions

- Resolution 2525 (2020) - Renewal of the Mandate for the UN Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS):
Forum: Security Council
Link: [Resolution 2525 \(2020\)](#)
- Resolution 2495 (2019) - Lifting Sanctions Imposed on Sudan:
Forum: Security Council
Link: [Resolution 2495 \(2019\)](#)
- Resolution 1593- Referring the situation in Darfur since 1 July 2002 to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court]
Forum: Security Council
Link: [Resolution 1593 \(2005\)](#)
- Resolution 2046 (2012): Expressing Support for the Joint African Union-United Nations Mediation and the Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development of Sudan
Forum: Security Council
Link: [Resolution 2046 \(2012\)](#)
- Resolution 2429 (2018) - Promoting Peace and Stabilization Efforts in Sudan: Protecting Civilians and Ensuring Humanitarian Access



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Link: [Resolution 2429 \(2012\)](#)

XI. Useful Links

- US Department of State:
Link: https://findit.state.gov/search?query=Sudan&affiliate=dos_stategov
- United Nations Peacekeeping - Mission in Sudan:
Link: [UN Peacekeeping - Mission in Sudan](#)
- Human Rights Watch - Sudan:
Link:
<https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/06/02/interview-stories-abuse-suffering-people-fleeing-fighting-sudan>
- Reliefweb:
Link: <https://reliefweb.int/country/sdn>
- "Sudan Crisis: UN Launches Massive Humanitarian Response to Save Lives and Restore Hope" by UNHCR:
Link: <https://youtu.be/W6EtBtA2xIw>
- "Sudan: Historic Darfur peacekeeping mission ends" by The UN:
Link: <https://youtu.be/vsjOs-stjPM>
- "Sudan conflict could engulf region, UN warns - BBC News" by BBC News:
Link: <https://youtu.be/d4EhuWjb1wA>
- Sudan's Humanitarian Crisis: UN warns of further displacement of people:
Link: <https://youtu.be/j9Sx9fmW8Ss>

XII. Sources

- Civil protection and humanitarian aid: https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/where/africa/sudan_en



- Humanitarian Assistance-Sudan:
<https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/sudan>
- Amnesty-Africa: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/africa/east-africa-the-horn-and-great-lakes/south-sudan/report-south-sudan/>
- Interview-Life in Sudan: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/05/17/interview-life-sudan-while-conflict-rages>
- Security Council report: <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/un-documents/sudan/>
- UN documents: <https://documents.un.org/>
- Oxford dictionary: <http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/>
- Displacement, escape from conflict: <https://www.wfp.org/stories/mothers-risking-everything-reach-egypt-and-escape-hunger-and-conflict-sudan>
- Sudan emergency: <https://www.unhcr.org/emergencies/sudan-emergency>
- Sudan crisis watch:
[https://www.crisisgroup.org/crisiswatch/database?location\[\]=14&date_range=latest&from_month=01&from_year=2023&to_month=01&to_year=2023](https://www.crisisgroup.org/crisiswatch/database?location[]=14&date_range=latest&from_month=01&from_year=2023&to_month=01&to_year=2023)
- Maps and graphics: <https://reliefweb.int/country/sdn>