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ASIAN-AFRICAN LEGAL CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATION

VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW BY THE RAPID SUPPORT FORCES IN SUDAN

The AALCO Secretariat
29-C Rizal Marg
Diplomatic Enclave Chanakyapuri
New Delhi – 110021
(INDIA)

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I. INTRODUCTION

A. AALCO and the topic of "Violations of International Law by the Rapid Support Forces in Sudan"

1. The topic of "Crimes and Violations Committed by Rapid Support Forces and their Supporters in the Ongoing War in Sudan" was introduced by the Republic of the Sudan through an Explanatory Memorandum dated 7th August 2025 as per Rule 10(2) of the Statutory Rules of AALCO. The same was forwarded by the Secretariat to the Member States via *Note Verbale* on 12th August 2025. The proposal by the Republic of the Sudan was placed for the consideration of the Heads of Delegations on 7th September 2025 as per Rule 10(3) and Rule 10(4) of the Statutory Rules of AALCO. Pursuant to the deliberations held, the Heads of Delegations agreed on revising the topic to "Violations of International Law by the Rapid Support Forces in Sudan" and including the revised topic in the provisional agenda of the Sixty-Third Annual Session of AALCO and the work programme of AALCO.

2. The topic was discussed for the first time during the Sixty-Third Annual Session held from 8-12 September 2026 in Kampala, the Republic of Uganda.

B. Deliberations held at the Sixty-Third Annual Session of AALCO

3. Dr. Ali Hasankhani, Deputy Secretary-General of AALCO introduced the agenda item "Violations of International Law by the Rapid Support Forces in Sudan". He noted that the Sixty-Third Annual Session of AALCO adopted the agenda item based on Sudan's proposal which was subsequently approved by the Heads of Delegation and the Plenary. It was noted that the conflict, which began in April 2023 between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces, had led to serious breaches of international law. He invited Member States to engage in constructive deliberations on the topic.

4. The following Member States delivered statements on the agenda item: the Republic of the Sudan, the Republic of Türkiye and the People's Republic of China.

5. **The Delegate of the Republic of the Sudan** stated that the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and its supporters had sought to seize power by force in Sudan and had committed serious and widespread violations of international humanitarian law. The statement highlighted the killing of civilians on ethnic and tribal grounds, large-scale forced displacement, arbitrary arrests and enforced disappearances, and the execution of prisoners of war. It further drew attention to the destruction of public and private infrastructure, attacks on hospitals and medical personnel, and extensive looting of civilian property and state institutions. The delegate also referred to incidents of sexual violence, including rape, kidnapping and sexual slavery, as well as the recruitment and use of children under the age of fifteen in the conflict. The delegate further drew attention to the situation in El Fasher, including the burning of displacement camps, loss of civilian life, restrictions on humanitarian assistance, and the deprivation of food and other essential supplies. In conclusion, the delegate called upon AALCO Member States to adopt a clear position condemning the violations, support accountability for those responsible and consider the classification of the RSF as a terrorist group.

6. **The Delegate of the Republic of Türkiye** expressed deep concern over the deteriorating situation in Sudan and its severe humanitarian consequences. The delegate reaffirmed Türkiye's support for Sudan's unity and territorial integrity and called upon all parties to exercise restraint and protect civilians. He affirmed that Türkiye supported regional and international efforts towards a permanent ceasefire and an inclusive political process. The delegate highlighted the scale of the humanitarian crisis and underscored Türkiye's continued humanitarian assistance, including medical services in Nyala and the delivery of substantial humanitarian aid to Port Sudan. He called for accelerated efforts to end the conflict and reaffirmed their commitment to ensuring civilian access to humanitarian assistance.

7. **The Delegate of the People's Republic of China** expressed concern over the prolonged conflict in Sudan and its impact on regional stability. He emphasized the need for an immediate ceasefire, de-escalation and humanitarian relief, while stressing that a political solution and sustainable reconciliation were essential. The delegate supported peace talks based on respect for Sudan's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and reaffirmed its readiness to support efforts towards peace, reconstruction and development.

C. Topics for Focused Deliberation at the Sixty-Fourth Annual Session

8. This Secretariat Brief, prepared for AALCO's Sixty-Fourth Annual Session, seeks to provide Member States with an update on significant developments concerning violations of international law by the RSF in Sudan since the Sixty-Third Annual Session. It is intended to facilitate focused deliberations on the following key areas:

1. Recent atrocities in Darfur and the siege and capture of El Fasher;
2. Developments in the United Nations Human Rights Council;
3. Reports of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR);
4. Deliberations in the United Nations Security Council; and
5. Developments in relevant regional organizations.

II. RECENT UPDATES

A. Recent Atrocities in Darfur and the Siege and Capture of El Fasher.

i. Introduction

9. The conflict in Sudan, which erupted on 15 April 2023 between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF), has plunged the country into one of the world's most severe humanitarian and human rights crises.[1]

[1] UN News, 'How Darfur became a 'humanitarian calamity and catastrophic human rights crisis ''(December 2023) https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/12/1144787 accessed 5 June 2026; UN News, 'Sudan war leaves millions hungry and displaced as health system nears collapse '(January 2026) https://news.un.org/en/story/2026/01/1166738 accessed 5 June 2026.

10. The Darfur region has been particularly devastated. UN officials have warned that the situation represents a convergence of a worsening humanitarian calamity and a catastrophic human rights crisis, evoking a horrific past that the international community had vowed must not be repeated.[2] Since the conflict began on 15 April 2023, more than 15 million people have been forced from their homes, including 11.58 million displaced within Sudan and approximately 4 million who fled across borders at the peak of the crisis.[3]

ii. The 18-Month Siege of El Fasher

11. El Fasher, the capital of North Darfur and known historically as Fasher al-Sultan, was the only city in Darfur that had not been captured by the RSF.[4] With a population of around 1.5 million, including approximately 800,000 internally displaced persons who had fled from across the five Darfur states during earlier conflicts, the city held immense strategic and symbolic significance.

12. The RSF imposed a tightening siege on El Fasher, cutting civilians off from food, water, medicines and humanitarian assistance. The siege systematically subjected the population to starvation, deprivation and confinement, while blocked aid and trade caused severe shortages and soaring prices. UNICEF reported that approximately 6,000 children suffering from severe acute malnutrition were left without treatment, while at least 63 people, mostly women and children, reportedly died of malnutrition in a single week.[5]

13. Despite repeated warnings of atrocity risks and international calls to end the siege and protect civilians, the RSF took no effective measures to do so. Civilians remained trapped amid shelling, starvation and lack of access to food, healthcare and safety, and were subjected to serious violations throughout the prolonged siege and bombardment preceding the final assault.[6]

iii. The Final Offensive and Fall of the City

14. In late October 2025, following over 500 days of siege, the RSF launched its final offensive on El Fasher, capturing the Sudanese Armed Forces' last major stronghold in Darfur amid violence described by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights as shocking in its scale and brutality.[7] The conflict subsequently expanded into Kordofan and other regions.[8]

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[2] UN News, 'How Darfur became a 'humanitarian calamity and catastrophic human rights crisis ''(n 1).
[3] https://www.iom.int/news/one-third-sudan-displaced-1000-days-conflict-iom-urges-urgent-and-sustained-action
[4] UN News, 'Sudan: under siege, El Fasher teeters on the brink of famine '(May 2024) https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/05/1149281 accessed 5 June 2026.
[5] UN News, 'Sudan: 'Devastating tragedy 'for children in El Fasher after 500 days of siege '(August 2025) https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/08/1165731 accessed 5 June 2026.
[6] UN News, 'UN alarmed by 'terrifying 'situation in Sudan's El Fasher, calls for immediate ceasefire '(October 2025) https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/10/1166184 accessed 5 June 2026; UN Human Rights Office, 'Sudan: RSF violations in capture of El Fasher amount to war crimes '(February 2026) https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2026/02/sudan-rsf-violations-capture-el-fasher-amount-war-crimes accessed 5 June 2026.
[7] UN News, 'El Fasher in 'Even Darker Hell', UN Officials Tell Security Council '(October 2025) https://press.un.org/en/2025/sc16203.doc.htm accessed 5 June 2026.

15. The UN Human Rights Office documented more than 6,000 killings during the first three days of the offensive, including at least 4,400 in El Fasher and over 1,600 along escape routes, while noting that the actual death toll was likely significantly higher.[9]

16. The offensive was marked by mass killings of civilians, including approximately 500 people sheltering at Al-Rashid dormitory and around 460 patients and companions at the Saudi Maternity Hospital.[10] RSF fighters also reportedly carried out house-to-house summary executions, particularly targeting civilians of non-Arab ethnicity and adolescent boys and men under 50.[11]

iv. Genocidal Acts and Ethnic Targeting

17. The Independent International Fact-Finding Mission for the Sudan, established by the UN Human Rights Council in October 2023, concluded in its report that the evidence establishes that at least three underlying acts of genocide were committed: killing members of a protected ethnic group; causing serious bodily and mental harm; and deliberately inflicting conditions of life calculated to bring about the group's physical destruction in whole or in part.[12] The Mission stated that the scale, coordination, and public endorsement of the operation by senior RSF leadership demonstrated that the crimes committed in and around El Fasher were not random excesses of war but formed part of a planned and organized operation that bears the defining characteristics of genocide.[13]

18. The conduct displayed a systematic pattern of identity-based targeting linked to ethnicity, gender, and perceived political affiliation as a central element of the operation. The Fact-Finding Mission asserted that genocidal intent was the only reasonable inference from this systematic pattern of ethnically targeted killings, sexual violence, destruction, and public statements explicitly calling for the elimination of non-Arab communities.[14]

19. The UN Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide raised concerns over widespread allegations of war crimes, noting that his office had observed massive violations of international human rights law and direct attacks on civilians.[15] The ICC Deputy Prosecutor, in her briefing to the Security Council, stated that videos recorded and circulated by perpetrators show executions accompanied by ethnic slurs and that members of the RSF were seen celebrating direct

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[8] News, '"Blood on the sand. Blood on the hands": UN decries world's failure as Sudan's El Fasher falls' (UN News, 28 October 2025) https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/10/1166224 accessed 2 September 2026.
[9] UN News, 'Sudan war: Aid teams plead for access to thousands trapped in El Fasher '(November 2025) https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/11/1166366 accessed 5 June 2026.
[10] UN News, 'Like a scene out of a horror movie': UN report warns of war crimes in Sudan's El Fasher '(February 2026) https://news.un.org/en/story/2026/02/1166960 accessed 5 June 2026.
[11] Ibid.
[12] UN News, 'Sudan: "Hallmarks of genocide" found in El Fasher, UN investigators detail mass killings and ethnic targeting' (UN News, 19 February 2026) https://news.un.org/en/story/2026/02/1166997 accessed 2 September 2026.
[13] ibid.
[14] UN News, 'Sudan: 'Hallmarks of genocide 'found in El Fasher '(n 12).
[15] UN News, 'Genocide prevention expert raises alarm over alleged Sudan atrocity crimes '(November 2025) https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/11/1166300 accessed 5 June 2026.

executions and subsequently desecrating corpses.[16] She concluded that the picture emerging from Darfur was appalling: organised, widespread, mass criminality including mass executions, with atrocities used as a tool to assert control.[17]

v. Sexual Violence as a Weapon of War

20. A pervasive feature of the atrocities was the systematic use of sexual violence. Survivors and witnesses recounted patterns of rape and gang rape, abductions for ransom using sexual violence, and sexual assault during invasive body searches.[18] The UN Women Regional Director for East and Southern Africa stated that there is mounting evidence that rape is being deliberately and systematically used as a weapon of war, and that women's bodies have just become a crime scene in Sudan.[19]

21. The ICC Deputy Prosecutor confirmed that sexual violence, including rape, is being used as a weapon of war and remains a priority for ICC investigations.[20] Women speaking to UN agencies recounted enduring starvation, displacement, rape, and bombardment, with pregnant women giving birth in the streets as the last remaining maternity hospitals were looted and destroyed.[21] The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, after listening to the harrowing testimonies of survivors during his visit to Sudan, reported that the bodies of Sudanese women and girls had been weaponised to terrorize communities.[22] He documented that in 2025 alone, over 500 victims of sexual violence were identified, including cases of rape, gang rape, sexual torture, and slavery, in some cases resulting in death.[23] The demand for prevention and response services for gender-based violence has surged by 350 per cent since the war began, and documented cases of sexual violence have nearly tripled.[24]

vi. Abductions, Detention, and Enforced Disappearances

22. The report of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) also documents widespread abductions for ransom as civilians attempted to flee, with consistent

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[16] UN News, 'Sudan: Atrocities 'repeated town by town', ICC prosecutor tells UN Security Council '(January 2026) https://news.un.org/en/story/2026/01/1166790 accessed 5 June 2026.
[17] ibid.
[18] Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Three Years Too Long: Analysis of Trends and the Devastating Human Rights Impacts of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in Sudan from 15 April 2023 to 15 April 2026 (OHCHR 2026) https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/countries/sudan/2026-devastating-impacts-conflict-related-sexual-violence-ohchr-report-sudan-en.pdf accessed 2 September 2026.
[19] UN News, 'Sudan war: Women endure starvation, rape and bombs fleeing El Fasher '(November 2025) https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/11/1166327 accessed 5 June 2026.
[20] UN News, 'Sudan: Atrocities 'repeated town by town '(n 16).
[21] UN News, 'Sudan war: Women endure starvation, rape and bombs fleeing El Fasher '(November 2025) https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/11/1166327 accessed 5 June 2026.
[22] UN News, 'Genocide prevention expert raises alarm over alleged Sudan atrocity crimes '(November 2025) https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/11/1166300 accessed 5 June 2026.
[23] ibid.
[24] UN News, 'No corner of Sudan is safe': UN officials warn of famine and atrocities as war intensifies '(February 2026) https://news.un.org/en/story/2026/02/1167003 accessed 5 June 2026.

accounts of a pattern of abductions and detention of civilians for financial gain.[25] The UN Human Rights Office documented ten detention facilities used by the RSF in El Fasher, with severely inadequate conditions leading to outbreaks of disease and deaths in custody.[26] The Children's Hospital was notably converted into a detention facility, underscoring the complete disregard for civilian infrastructure and protected spaces. In addition, several thousands of people remain missing and unaccounted for, contributing to a climate of ongoing terror for families seeking their loved ones.[27]

vii. Mass Displacement and the Humanitarian Catastrophe

23. The fall of El Fasher triggered a mass displacement crisis of staggering proportions. Nearly 89,000 people fled from the area in the immediate aftermath, seeking refuge in localities such as Tawila, Melit, Saraf Omra, and Tina near the Sudan-Chad border.[28] Senior UN officials described tens of thousands of terrified, starving civilians on the move, the vast majority of whom were women, children, and the elderly.[29] The International Organization for Migration (IOM) reported that in just two days, more than 26,000 people were forced to flee the city, describing the scenes emerging from El Fasher as horrific.[30] Families were walking for days under the scorching sun with no food, no shelter, and no medicine.[31]

24. Thousands of people, particularly the elderly, those with disabilities, and the wounded, remained trapped, either prevented from leaving the city or lacking the means or strength to flee.[32] Reports indicated that the RSF were forcibly returning many people to El Fasher where conditions were dire.[33]

25. Conditions in the areas of refuge were catastrophic where displaced people were without adequate food, clean water, shelter, or medical care.[34] The Sudan conflict represents the world's largest displacement crisis, with an estimated 13.6 million people uprooted by the fighting, around 9.3 million internally displaced and a further 4.3 million seeking refuge in neighbouring countries such as Chad and South Sudan.[35]

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[25] OHCHR Sudan report, They were shooting us like animals (24-30 October 2025) (13 February 2026): https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/countries/sudan/2026-02-13-rsf-offensive-fasher-capture-1-en.pdf accessed 5 June 2026.
[26] UN Human Rights Office (n 18).
[27] ibid.
[28] UN News, 'Sudan: 89,000 civilians have fled El Fasher '(November 2025) https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/11/1166326 accessed 5 June 2026.
[29] UN News, 'Blood on the sand. Blood on the hands '(n 8).
[30] UN News, 'Horrific violence as thousands flee Sudan's El Fasher '(October 2025) https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/10/1166200 accessed 5 June 2026.
[31] ibid.
[32] UN News, 'Sudan war: Aid teams plead for access to thousands trapped in El Fasher '(November 2025) https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/11/1166366 accessed 5 June 2026.
[33] ibid.
[34] UN News, 'Genocide prevention expert raises alarm over alleged Sudan atrocity crimes '(November 2025) https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/11/1166300 accessed 5 June 2026
[35] UN News, 'How Darfur became a 'humanitarian calamity and catastrophic human rights crisis ''(December 2023) <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/12/1144787> accessed 5 June 2026; UN News, 'Sudan war leaves millions

26. The United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, OCHA, warned the Security Council that Sudan's worsening humanitarian crisis is being compounded by international inaction and called for urgent, coordinated action to protect civilians and ensure humanitarian access.[36]

viii. The Spreading Conflict and the Risk of Further Atrocities

27. Following the fall of El Fasher, violence intensified and spread to other regions of Sudan. The UN Fact-Finding Mission warned that the crimes in El Fasher reflect continuity and escalation of patterns of violence and risk spreading further, including into Kordofan, and that without urgent protection and credible accountability, the risk of further genocidal violence remains grave and ongoing.[37]

ix. Calls for Accountability and International Justice

28. In response to the atrocities, UN officials and international bodies have issued powerful calls for accountability. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights stated that persistent impunity fuels continued cycles of violence and demanded credible and impartial investigations to establish criminal responsibility, including of commanders and other superiors.[38] He called for meaningful accountability through all available means, whether through fair and independent Sudanese courts, the use of universal and extraterritorial jurisdiction in third states, or before the International Criminal Court or other mechanisms.[39]

29. The International Criminal Court (ICC) expressed profound alarm over the reports of mass killings, rapes, and other crimes emerging from El Fasher, and confirmed that within its ongoing investigation, it was taking immediate steps to preserve and collect relevant evidence for its use in future prosecutions.[40] The ICC Deputy Prosecutor informed the Security Council that based on video, audio, and satellite evidence collected, the Office of the Prosecutor has concluded that war crimes and crimes against humanity were committed in El Fasher, particularly in late October 2025.[41]

30. On 15 July 2026, the ICC Deputy Prosecutor briefed the United Nations Security Council on significant progress in the investigation of crimes in Darfur. She reported a major evidentiary

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hungry and displaced as health system nears collapse '(January 2026) https://news.un.org/en/story/2026/01/1166738 accessed 5 June 2026.

[36] https://www.unocha.org/news/un-relief-chief-tells-security-council-sudan-suffers-lack-action accessed 28 August 2026.

[37] ibid.

[38] UN Human Rights Office, 'Sudan: RSF violations in capture of El Fasher amount to war crimes '(February 2026) https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2026/02/sudan-rsf-violations-capture-el-fasher-amount-war-crimes accessed 5 June 2026.

[39] ibid.

[40] UN News, 'Sudan: Atrocities 'repeated town by town', ICC prosecutor tells UN Security Council '(January 2026) https://news.un.org/en/story/2026/01/1166790 accessed 5 June 2026.

[41] Shameem Khan, 'Statement by the Deputy Prosecutor to the United Nations Security Council on the Situation in Sudan' (International Criminal Court, 2026) <https://www.icc-cpi.int/news/statement-deputy-prosecutor-nazhat-shameem-khan-united-nations-security-council-situation-1> accessed 28 August 2026.

breakthrough, with key witness interviews enabling the Office of the Prosecutor to establish links between recent crimes and high-level perpetrators. The Office also reported strengthened evidence supporting its finding that war crimes and crimes against humanity were committed in both El Geneina and El Fasher.[42] Council members welcomed the progress reported by the ICC while expressing grave concern over the deteriorating situation in Darfur and the risk of further serious international crimes, particularly in El Obeid. They called for civilian protection, unhindered humanitarian access, safe passage for those fleeing violence and an end to external military support sustaining the conflict. Several members also supported extending the Court's mandate beyond Darfur to the entire territory of Sudan. Members stressed the importance of victim-centred accountability, particularly concerning women and children, and emphasised that justice should include the execution of arrest warrants, prosecutions and reparations. Some also highlighted the need to strengthen Sudan's national justice institutions alongside international mechanisms. While several members supported the ICC and greater cooperation with it, a few questioned its jurisdiction and effectiveness and emphasised national judicial sovereignty, impartiality and due process. Sudan reaffirmed its commitment to accountability, combating impunity, reparations and the rule of law, and called for expedited investigations and accountability for all those involved in facilitating international crimes.

31. The UN Fact-Finding Mission for Sudan urged the international community to recognise that where evidence indicates genocide, there is a heightened obligation to prevent, protect, and ensure justice is done, and that perpetrators at all levels of authority must be held accountable.[43] The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights renewed his call on States with influence to act urgently to prevent the repetition of violations, including by respecting the arms embargo already in place and ending the supply, sale, or transfer of arms or military material to the parties.[44]

B. Developments in the UN Human Rights Council

32. The Human Rights Council has progressively strengthened its engagement with the situation in Sudan as the conflict has intensified and the scale of violations has increased. This engagement has included the establishment and extension of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission for the Sudan, the adoption of resolutions addressing specific developments, and the commissioning of urgent inquiries into alleged violations and international crimes. These developments have increasingly focused on the protection of civilians, humanitarian access, accountability and the prevention of atrocity crimes.

[42] UN News, 'International Criminal Court making concrete progress on crimes committed in Darfur, Deputy Prosecutor tells Security Council, pointing to investigation breakthroughs' (15 July 2026) https://press.un.org/en/2026/sc16415.doc.htm accessed 28 September 2026.

[43] Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 'A/HRC/61/77: Sudan: Hallmarks of Genocide in El Fasher – Report of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission for the Sudan' (2026) https://docs.un.org/en/A/HRC/61/77 accessed 28 August 2026.

[44] https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2026/02/sudan-rsf-violations-capture-el-fasher-amount-war-crimes accessed 28 August 2026.

i. Independent International Fact-Finding Mission for the Sudan

33. The United Nations Independent International Fact-Finding Mission for the Sudan was established by the UN Human Rights Council on 11 October 2023 through resolution A/HRC/RES/54/2 in response to the human rights and humanitarian crisis arising from the armed conflict that began on 15 April 2023 between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), and other warring parties.[45] The Mission was mandated to investigate and establish the facts, circumstances and root causes of alleged violations and abuses of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, including those committed against refugees, as well as related crimes. Its mandate was subsequently extended for one year in October 2024 through resolution A/HRC/RES/57/2 and again in October 2025 through resolution A/HRC/RES/60/3.[46]

34. A significant development occurred on 14 November 2025, when the Human Rights Council convened its thirty-eighth special session in response to the deteriorating situation in and around El Fasher. Resolution S-38/1 requested the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission to conduct an urgent inquiry into alleged violations and abuses, identify those reasonably believed to be responsible and support accountability efforts. The resolution reaffirmed Sudan's obligations under international law to protect its population from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, while calling for immediate, full, safe and unhindered humanitarian access and an immediate and complete ceasefire.[47] In July 2026, the Council similarly requested an urgent inquiry into alleged violations of international human rights and humanitarian law and related international crimes committed in and around El Obeid.[48] The Mission's work has been complemented by close cooperation with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, which established its own Joint Fact-Finding Mission on the Human Rights Situation in the Sudan.

35. In its first report[49] submitted at the Fifty-seventh session of the Human Rights Council in November 2024, the mission concluded that RSF had committed large-scale violations of international human rights and humanitarian law, many of which amounted to international crimes. The RSF and its allied militias were also found to have committed crimes against humanity, including murder, torture, enslavement, rape, persecution and forcible displacement. The Mission called for an immediate and sustainable ceasefire, stronger protection for civilians, unrestricted humanitarian access, an expanded arms embargo, an end to sexual violence and child recruitment, and greater support for displaced persons.

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[45] *Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 'Independent International Fact-Finding Mission for the Sudan'* https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/ffm-sudan/index *accessed 28 August 2026.*

[46] Ibid.

[47] UN Human Rights Council, 'Situation of Human Rights in and around El Fasher, in the Context of the Ongoing Conflict in the Sudan' UN Doc A/HRC/RES/S-38/1 (14 November 2025) https://docs.un.org/en/A/HRC/RES/S-38/1 accessed 28 August 2026.

[48] UN Human Rights Council, 'The Human Rights Situation in and around El Obeid, in the Context of the Ongoing Conflict in the Sudan' UN Doc A/HRC/RES/62/1 (6 July 2026) <https://docs.un.org/en/A/HRC/RES/62/1> accessed 28 August 2026.

[49] UNHRC, 'Report of the independent international fact-finding mission for the Sudan' UN Doc. A/HRC/57/23 (7 November 2024) https://docs.un.org/en/A/HRC/57/23 accessed 28 August 2026.

36. In its report[50] titled "*Sudan: a war of atrocities*" submitted at the Sixtieth session of the Human Rights Council in September 2025, the mission finds that the RSF had committed serious violations of international humanitarian and human rights law amounting to international crimes. The RSF was found responsible for widespread and systematic attacks on civilians, including killings, sexual and gender-based violence, pillage, forced displacement and starvation, amounting to war crimes and crimes against humanity. The Mission called for an immediate cessation of hostilities, protection of civilians, unhindered humanitarian access, accountability for perpetrators, strengthened international action, and an inclusive peace process incorporating justice and transitional accountability.

37. A conference paper[51] titled "*Paths to justice: accountability for atrocities in the Sudan*" was also submitted at the Sixtieth session of the Human Rights Council in October 2025. The paper emphasized that all accountability efforts must be victim-centred, gender-sensitive, inclusive, and rooted in dialogue across Sudanese society. It urged all stakeholders, including international and regional organizations, third States and Sudanese civil society and legal experts, to work together to end the cycle of impunity and ensure justice for all victims and survivors.

38. At its Sixty-First Session in 2026, the Human Rights Council considered the Fact-Finding Mission's report, *Sudan: Hallmarks of Genocide in El Fasher*[52]. The Mission found that the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) had carried out a coordinated campaign of destruction against non-Arab communities in and around El Fasher during and following the final offensive in October 2025. It documented widespread and systematic killings, ethnically targeted sexual violence, torture, enforced disappearances, forced displacement, starvation and the destruction of medical facilities, concluding that such conduct constituted war crimes and crimes against humanity. The Mission further determined that the evidence established at least three underlying acts of genocide, namely killing members of a protected ethnic group, causing serious bodily or mental harm, and deliberately inflicting conditions of life calculated to bring about the group's physical destruction in whole or in part. The Mission warned that the risk of further genocidal violence remained acute, particularly as the conflict continued to spread into Kordofan. It called for urgent international action to protect civilians, ensure humanitarian access, strengthen accountability, preserve evidence and integrate justice and transitional accountability into any peace process.

39. In September 2026, the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission for the Sudan issued a further report, *Fuelling Sudan's Conflict: Weapons, Fighters and External Support Networks* [53] examining the role of external military assistance, foreign recruitment and

[50] UNHRC, 'Report of the independent international fact-finding mission for the Sudan' UN Doc. A/HRC/60/22 (22 September 2025) https://docs.un.org/en/A/HRC/60/22 accessed 28 August 2026.
[51] UNHRC, 'Paths to justice: accountability for atrocities in the Sudan' UN Doc. A/HRC/60/CRP.7 (24 October 2025) https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/hrcouncil/ffm-sudan/a-hrc-60-crp.7-en.pdf accessed 28 August 2026.
[52] UNHRC, 'Report of the independent international fact-finding mission for the Sudan' UN Doc. A/HRC/61/77 (10 March 2026) https://docs.un.org/en/A/HRC/61/77 accessed 28 August 2026.
[53] UNHRC, 'Report of the independent international fact-finding mission for the Sudan: Fuelling Sudan's conflict: weapons, fighters and external support networks' UN Doc. A/HRC/63/23 (1 September 2026) https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/hrcouncil/sessions-regular/session63/advance-versions/a-hrc-63-23-auv.pdf accessed 28 September 2026.

transnational networks in sustaining the conflict.[2] The Mission found that networks operating across several countries had facilitated the provision of weapons, drones, military equipment, logistical support, training and personnel to the RSF.

40. An important development concerning the international legal response to external support for the conflict was Sudan's institution of proceedings before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in March 2025 against a third State, alleging violations of obligations under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in relation to the Masalit group, particularly in West Darfur, including through alleged support to the Rapid Support Forces. On 5 May 2025, the ICJ rejected Sudan's request for provisional measures and ordered that the case be removed from the General List. The Court held that the respondent State's reservation to Article IX of the Genocide Convention excluded that provision from the treaty relations between the parties and that, in the absence of another basis of jurisdiction, the Court manifestly lacked jurisdiction to entertain the Application. The Court accordingly did not examine or determine the merits of Sudan's allegations.[54]

ii. Joint Action with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights

41. In a significant development strengthening regional and international cooperation on accountability, the UN Fact-Finding Mission and the Joint Fact-Finding Mission of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Human Rights Situation in the Sudan adopted a Joint Declaration in May 2026.[55] Acting within the framework of the Addis Ababa Roadmap and their respective mandates, the two Missions reaffirmed their shared commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights in Sudan. The Joint Declaration called for the immediate protection of civilians, a credible cessation of hostilities, and guaranteed humanitarian access. It specifically demanded an immediate halt to all forms of ethnic cleansing by the RSF.

42. The Joint Declaration also called for serious violations, including war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other atrocity crimes committed by the RSF and their allies, to be subject to prompt, independent, impartial, and effective investigations.

C. Reports of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

i. Introduction

43. The armed conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), which erupted on 15 April 2023, has resulted in widespread human rights violations, serious violations of international humanitarian law and a deepening humanitarian

[54] *Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in Sudan (Sudan v United Arab Emirates)*, Order of 5 May 2025, paras 31–36 https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/197/197-20250505-ord-01-00-en.pdf accessed 28 September 2026.

[55] Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 'Joint Declaration on Sudan-Adopted by the Joint Fact-Finding Mission of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Human Rights Situation in the Sudan and the United Nations Independent International Fact-Finding Mission for the Sudan' (12 May 2026) https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2026/05/joint-declaration-sudan-adopted-joint-fact-finding-mission-african accessed 28 August 2026.

crisis across Sudan. The conflict has been characterised by attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure, mass displacement, sexual and gender-based violence, arbitrary detention, enforced disappearances, and the disruption of essential services. The situation has been particularly severe in Darfur, where fighting and ethnically motivated violence have caused extensive civilian suffering. Against this background, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has monitored and documented developments through survivor and witness testimonies, field and cross-border missions, satellite imagery, video material and other sources.

44. Sudan is a State party to the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and acceded to Additional Protocol II on 20 May 2006, thereby making the provisions of Common Article 3, which prohibit violence to life and person, cruel treatment, torture, outrages upon personal dignity, and the passing of sentences without regular trial-binding on all parties to the non-international armed conflict, including the RSF as an organised armed group. Additional Protocol II further prohibits attacks on civilians, the starvation of civilians, and acts of terrorism, and imposes obligations to respect the rights of persons whose liberty has been restricted. International human rights law continues to apply concurrently with IHL during armed conflict, and the RSF, by exercising effective control over substantial territories and populations, is obliged to respect fundamental human rights norms including the rights to life, liberty and security of person, and freedom from torture and discrimination. Sudan is a party to a number of human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. These treaties outline guarantees for fundamental rights, many of which correspond to the protections to which civilians are entitled under international humanitarian law.

45. The reports of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights examined below trace the deterioration of the human rights and humanitarian situation in Sudan from the outbreak of the conflict through November 2025. Taken together, they demonstrate the persistence and escalation of violations against civilians, the expansion of the conflict across different regions, the increasing humanitarian consequences, and the continuing challenges of accountability. The following sections examine these developments chronologically through the findings and recommendations contained in the successive reports.

ii. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights-Situation of human rights in the Sudan

46. This report[56] was been prepared pursuant to the Human Rights Council resolution S-36/1[57], in which the Council requested the High Commissioner, with the assistance of his designated Expert on human rights in the Sudan, to present a comprehensive report on the situation of human rights in the Sudan and on violations and abuses committed in the Sudan to the Council at its fifty-fifth and fifty-eighth sessions. The report, which covered the period from

[56] UN Human Rights Council, 'Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on Situation of Human rights situation in Sudan' UN Doc. A/HRC/55/29 (4 March 2024) https://docs.un.org/en/A/HRC/55/29 accessed 20 August 2026.

[57] Human Rights Council, 'The human rights impact of the ongoing conflict in the Sudan', Res S-36/1 (11 May 2023) UN Doc A/HRC/RES/S-36/1, para 4.

15 April to 15 December 2023, depicted the key human rights challenges faced by the Sudan and includes recommendations to address them.

47. The report found that the conflict had resulted in widespread and serious violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law by the RSF. The fighting had caused extensive civilian casualties, mass displacement, destruction of civilian infrastructure and a severe humanitarian crisis. The report stressed that some of the documented violations may amount to war crimes and potentially other serious international crimes.

48. The report documented a broad range of serious human rights and international humanitarian law violations committed by the RSF. The RSF conducted attacks in populated areas and against protected civilian objects and also reportedly used civilians as human shields. The conflict caused mass displacement, with over 6.7 million people displaced by December 2023. Particularly severe atrocities were documented in West Darfur, where RSF forces carried out targeted killings. The report also recorded widespread sexual and gender-based violence.

49. RSF was further implicated in arbitrary detention, torture and enforced disappearances, with 715 people reported missing by October 2023. Children were also reportedly recruited and used in hostilities, which the report identifies as a war crime. At the same time, civic space and media freedom deteriorated significantly as activists, human rights defenders and journalists faced detention, threats and violence. The conflict also devastated economic and social rights, leaving more than 20.3 million people food insecure, severely disrupting healthcare and depriving approximately 19 million children of education.

50. The Report concluded that the RSF had committed grave human rights violations and serious violations of international humanitarian law, while the scale and intensity of the conflict had created an environment in which civilians are systematically exposed to killing, sexual violence, displacement, arbitrary detention, torture, starvation and deprivation of basic services. The UN stresses that some of these acts may constitute war crimes and possibly other serious crimes under international law.

51. The High Commissioner therefore called for an immediate cessation of hostilities, inclusive political dialogue aimed at restoring civilian government, compliance with international humanitarian and human rights law, release of arbitrarily detained persons, an end to child recruitment and sexual violence, and rapid and unhindered humanitarian access.

52. The second report[58] of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on Sudan outlined key human rights challenges encountered in the Sudan from 16 December 2023 to 15 November 2024.

53. The report showed that the Sudan conflict continued to intensify and spread during 2024, resulting in widespread violations of international human rights and humanitarian law. Fighting expanded into Al-Gazira, Darfur, Khartoum, Sennar and Kordofan, causing thousands of civilian

[58] UN Human Rights Council, 'Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on Situation of Human rights situation in Sudan' UN Doc. A/HRC/58/29 (20 January 2025) https://docs.un.org/en/A/HRC/58/29 accessed 20 August 2026.

deaths and injuries and increasing ethnic and intercommunal tensions.

54. The RSF continued to attack civilians and protected objects, including markets, IDP camps, schools and healthcare facilities. The report also documented arbitrary killings, sexual and gender-based violence, arbitrary detention, torture, enforced disappearances and the recruitment of children by the RSF. Sexual violence remained particularly widespread, with the majority of documented cases implicating RSF members or affiliates.

55. The conflict also caused a severe humanitarian and socioeconomic crisis. By November 2024, more than 11.1 million people were internally displaced and over 24.8 million required humanitarian assistance. Food insecurity reached critical levels, healthcare and education systems largely collapsed, and millions lacked access to safe drinking water.

56. The report concluded that the RSF had shown "utter disregard" for international law and civilian protection, committing gross human rights violations and serious violations of international humanitarian law, including possible war crimes.

57. The High Commissioner called for an immediate cessation of hostilities, protection of civilians, an end to arbitrary detention and enforced disappearance, humanitarian access, prevention of sexual violence and child recruitment, and effective accountability. The international community was urged to support a coordinated peace process, inclusive civilian dialogue, national and international accountability mechanisms.

58. The third report[59] of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on Sudan outlined key human rights challenges encountered in the Sudan from 16 November 2024 to 15 November 2025.

59. The report described Sudan's conflict as increasingly fragmented and ethnically charged, with intense fighting spreading across Darfur, Kordofan and other regions. The OHCHR documented the killing of at least 5,359 civilians, with particularly high casualties in Darfur and Kordofan. The RSF continued to use airstrikes, artillery and drones in populated areas, while attacks on hospitals, schools, markets, religious sites and humanitarian facilities caused further civilian harm.

60. The report documented widespread unlawful killings, sexual violence, arbitrary detention, torture, enforced disappearances and the recruitment of children. At least 1,659 civilians were unlawfully killed outside direct hostilities, often in summary executions linked to alleged support for the opposing side. Sexual violence increased significantly, with 337 documented incidents involving at least 452 victims, predominantly in Darfur. The RSF were also responsible for arbitrary detention and ill-treatment, while 336 people were reported missing during the reporting period.

61. The conflict generated a devastating humanitarian and socioeconomic crisis. Famine was

[59] UN Human Rights Council, 'Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on Situation of Human rights situation in Sudan' UN Doc. A/HRC/61/24 (13 January 2026) https://docs.un.org/en/A/HRC/61/24 accessed 20 August 2026.

confirmed in several areas, more than 17.3 million people lacked safe drinking water, and only a small proportion of healthcare facilities remained operational. Around 13 million children were out of school. The conflict also resulted in approximately 7.2 million internally displaced people and 4.3 million refugees in neighbouring countries, with returnees continuing to face insecurity, inadequate services and gender-based violence.

62. The report further highlighted the shrinking of civic space and the deterioration of justice and accountability. Overall, the report portrayed Sudan as being at a critical juncture: nearly three years of conflict have produced catastrophic loss of life, mass displacement, famine, the collapse of essential services, widespread sexual and other violence, and increasing ethnic divisions. The High Commissioner called for an immediate cessation of hostilities, protection of civilians, unrestricted humanitarian access, an end to arbitrary detention and attacks on civilian infrastructure, restoration of basic services, and genuine accountability for perpetrators. The international community was also urged to support an inclusive peace process and strengthen humanitarian assistance.

D. Deliberations in the United Nations Security Council

63. The United Nations Security Council has played a significant role in the international response to the conflict in Sudan, particularly through measures aimed at securing a cessation of hostilities, protecting civilians, facilitating humanitarian access and strengthening the sanctions and monitoring framework applicable to Darfur. The Council has also repeatedly emphasised the obligations of the parties under international humanitarian law and the need for accountability for serious violations.

64. A key early intervention was Security Council Resolution 2724 (2024), adopted on 8 March 2024[60], which called upon the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) to immediately cease hostilities during the holy month of Ramadan. The resolution urged the parties to remove all obstacles to the provision of humanitarian assistance and to ensure full, rapid, safe and unhindered humanitarian access. It further called upon all parties to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law, including the protection of civilians and civilian objects. The resolution therefore placed civilian protection and humanitarian access at the centre of the Council's response to the conflict.

65. On the same date, the Council adopted Resolution 2725 (2024)[61], extending the mandate of the Panel of Experts established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005)[62] until 12 March 2025. The resolution reaffirmed that the Juba Peace Agreement remained binding upon all its signatories, particularly its permanent ceasefire provisions relating to Darfur.

66. As the humanitarian and security situation in El Fasher deteriorated, the Security Council adopted Resolution 2736 (2024) on 13 June 2024[63]. The resolution demanded that the RSF end its siege of El Fasher and called for an immediate halt to the fighting and de-escalation. It also

[60] UNSC Res 2724 (2024) (8 March 2024) UN Doc S/RES/2724 (2024).
[61] UNSC Res 2725 (2024) (8 March 2024) UN Doc S/RES/2725 (2024).
[62] UNSC Res 1591 (2005) (29 March 2005) UN Doc S/RES/1591 (2005).
[63] UNSC Res 2736 (2024) (13 June 2024) UN Doc S/RES/2736 (2024).

demanded the protection of civilians and the facilitation of rapid, safe, unhindered and sustained humanitarian relief. The resolution marked a more targeted response to the threats faced by civilians in Darfur and demonstrated the Council's increasing concern regarding the consequences of the conflict for civilian populations.

67. The Council subsequently adopted Resolution 2750 (2024) on 11 September 2024,[64] renewing the sanctions measures relating to the situation in Darfur, including the arms embargo, travel ban and asset freeze, until 12 September 2025. The resolution clarified that these measures were not directed against the Sudanese authorities and reaffirmed the importance of protecting civilians and promoting accountability for human rights violations committed during the conflict. The continuation of these measures reflected the Council's reliance on sanctions and the arms embargo as tools for preventing the further escalation of violence and restricting support for actors involved in violations.

68. The Security Council continued to address the deteriorating situation in and around El Fasher during 2025. It condemned attacks against El Fasher and the Saudi Teaching Maternal Hospital, as well as attacks on the Zamzam and Abu Shouk camps that reportedly resulted in hundreds of civilian deaths. On 12 June 2025, the Council again demanded that the RSF lift the siege of El Fasher and condemned the attack on a humanitarian convoy near Al Koma that killed five humanitarian workers. It recalled that deliberate attacks against humanitarian personnel, premises and assets may constitute war crimes.

69. The Council also maintained the sanctions and monitoring framework during 2025. Resolution 2772 (2025)[65] extended the mandate of the Panel of Experts assisting the Sudan Sanctions Committee, while Resolution 2791 (2025) subsequently extended the Panel's mandate until 12 October 2026 and renewed the relevant sanctions measures. The Panel is mandated, inter alia, to monitor the arms embargo and investigate violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, including attacks against civilians and sexual and gender-based violence.

70. The Security Council's response also increasingly addressed the political and territorial fragmentation of Sudan. In August 2025, Council members rejected the establishment of a parallel governing authority in RSF-controlled areas, warning that such a development could threaten Sudan's sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity and further aggravate the humanitarian crisis. They reiterated the need for dialogue, a lasting ceasefire and an inclusive, civilian-led political transition, while calling upon all parties to protect civilians, respect international humanitarian law and ensure humanitarian access.

71. The Council's continuing engagement is significant from the perspective of the implementation of international law. Its repeated demands for cessation of hostilities, civilian protection, humanitarian access and compliance with the arms embargo demonstrate that the protection of civilians is not merely a political objective but is grounded in the obligations applicable under international humanitarian law. At the same time, the eventual capture of El Fasher and the atrocities subsequently documented by United Nations mechanisms, despite the Council's repeated demands for the protection of the city, raise important questions concerning

[64] UNSC Res 2750 (2024) (11 September 2024) UN Doc S/RES/2750 (2024).
[65] UNSC Res 2772 (2025) (17 February 2025) UN Doc S/RES/2772 (2025).

the effectiveness of preventive measures and the consequences of non-compliance with Security Council decisions.

72. Taken together, the Security Council's measures demonstrate an evolving international response combining ceasefire measures, humanitarian protection, sanctions, arms-control mechanisms, monitoring and accountability. These developments are particularly relevant to AALCO in assessing the effectiveness of existing international legal mechanisms in responding to prolonged armed conflict and serious violations of international humanitarian and human rights law.

E. Developments in Relevant Regional Organizations

73. Regional organizations have continued to play an important role in addressing the political, humanitarian and security dimensions of the conflict in Sudan. Their recent initiatives have broadly focused on preserving Sudan's sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity; securing a cessation of hostilities; promoting an inclusive, Sudanese-led political process; protecting civilians and facilitating humanitarian assistance; and strengthening accountability for violations of international law. Significant developments within the League of Arab States (LAS), the African Union (AU), and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) are outlined below.

i. League of Arab States

74. The League of Arab States has continued to emphasize the importance of a Sudanese-owned political process as the basis for resolving the conflict. At the Third International Sudan Conference held in April 2026, the Assistant Secretary-General of the League outlined five principles for advancing the peace process: prioritizing Sudanese ownership of the political process; ensuring inclusive dialogue among all relevant stakeholders; strengthening the preparatory phase for negotiations; avoiding competing political initiatives in favour of a unified roadmap; and linking political negotiations with ongoing ceasefire efforts. These principles reflect the League's emphasis on ensuring that political and mediation efforts remain coordinated, inclusive and responsive to the interests of the Sudanese people.[66]

ii. African Union

75. The African Union (AU) has undertaken sustained diplomatic and mediation efforts since the outbreak of the conflict in April 2023, with its engagement focusing on securing an immediate cessation of hostilities, facilitating humanitarian assistance, protecting civilians and promoting an inclusive, Sudanese-led political process. The AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) has consistently emphasized that the conflict cannot be resolved through military means and has called for coordinated regional and international efforts towards a political settlement. A central component of the AU's response has been the AU Roadmap for the Resolution of the Conflict in Sudan, adopted by the PSC at its summit-level meeting in May 2023. The Roadmap

[66] Theresa Movahed, 'Sudan: Arab League outlines five principles to end conflict' (Maghrebi.org, 16 April 2026) https://maghrebi.org/2026/04/16/sudan-arab-league-outlines-five-principles-to-end-conflict/ accessed 28 August 2026.

provides a framework for addressing the conflict through the cessation of hostilities, protection of civilians, unhindered humanitarian access and the establishment of an inclusive political process. It also stresses the importance of harmonizing the various regional and international peace initiatives to avoid duplication and competing mediation efforts. The AU subsequently established a High-Level Ad Hoc Panel on Sudan to support mediation, facilitate engagement among Sudanese stakeholders and contribute towards a civilian-led political transition.[67]

76. The AU has subsequently strengthened its mediation efforts through continued consultations with Sudanese political and civilian actors and through cooperation with regional partners. The PSC has repeatedly called for ceasefires and humanitarian truces, humanitarian access, accountability for violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, and an inclusive Sudanese political dialogue. It has also opposed external interference and rejected attempts to establish parallel governing structures, while reaffirming Sudan's sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity. More recently, the AU has participated in the Quintet, comprising the AU, IGAD, the League of Arab States, the European Union and the United Nations, to harmonise mediation efforts and engage Sudanese political stakeholders. The Quintet has emphasized the need for strategic coherence among peace initiatives and for preventing competing political processes from undermining negotiations. Its consultations have focused on advancing an inclusive, Sudanese-led and Sudanese-owned political transition that safeguards Sudan's unity and sovereignty and promotes civilian leadership.

iii. International Conference on the Great Lakes Region

77. The International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) has similarly emphasized the importance of preserving Sudan's sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity. In its Statement on Sudan of 27 July 2025, the ICGLR expressed concern over the announcement by the RSF and affiliated groups concerning the establishment of a parallel governing body.[68] The ICGLR considered this development to pose a serious challenge to Sudan's sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity and to risk undermining ongoing regional peace efforts. Reaffirming the principles adopted at its June 2023 Extraordinary Summit, the ICGLR emphasized that the crisis could not be resolved through military means and called for an inclusive political dialogue as the basis for a sustainable resolution.

iv. Regional coordination of mediation efforts

78. Alongside the initiatives of individual regional organizations, efforts have also been undertaken to improve coordination among the principal regional and international actors engaged in the Sudan peace process. In July 2026, the Third Forum of Special Envoys and Representatives to Harmonise Mediation Efforts for Sudan, convened by The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), brought together representatives of the African Union (AU), IGAD, the League of Arab States (LAS), the European Union (EU) and United Nations, as well

[67] https://amaniafrica-et.org/au-timeline-of-diplomatic-efforts/ accessed on 15 August 2026.
[68] International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, 'Statement by the Executive Secretariat of the ICGLR on Sudan' (27 July 2025) https://icglr.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Press-Statement-Sudan.pdf accessed 28 August 2026.

as diplomatic and technical actors.[69] The Forum highlighted the need for greater strategic coherence among mediation initiatives and cautioned against competing political processes, geopolitical divisions and procedural obstacles that could weaken the peace process. It also emphasized the importance of consolidating convergence among Sudanese civilian actors and ensuring greater coherence between the political, humanitarian and security tracks. The Forum further recognized the contribution of Track II mediation mechanisms in maintaining communication, reducing polarization and building confidence among stakeholders.

79. A High-Level Meeting was convened in Berlin in April 2026, bringing together Ministers of Foreign Affairs and high-level representatives of participating States and international and regional organizations. The meeting was co-hosted by the African Union (AU), European Union (EU), France, Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, with the participation of Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Norway, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Sudan, Switzerland, Chad, Türkiye, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates, the United Nations (UN), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), and the League of Arab States (LAS). The participants reaffirmed guiding principles for achieving a peaceful and durable resolution to the conflict, in accordance with the Quad Joint Statement, the African Union Roadmap and relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions on Sudan.[70]

80. The consultations ultimately reaffirmed the objective of an inclusive, Sudanese-led and Sudanese-owned political transition that safeguards Sudan's unity and sovereignty, promotes civilian leadership and responds to the aspirations of the Sudanese people. These developments demonstrate an increasing emphasis among regional actors on coordination of mediation efforts, avoidance of parallel or competing political initiatives, protection of Sudan's territorial integrity, and the establishment of a sustainable, civilian-led political settlement.

III. COMMENTS AND OBSERVATIONS OF THE AALCO SECRETARIAT

81. The AALCO Secretariat notes with concern the continuing conflict in Sudan and its grave humanitarian consequences. Reports by the United Nations mechanisms have documented serious violations and abuses attributed to parties to the conflict, providing an important basis for legal consideration. The Secretariat emphasizes that all parties to the armed conflict must comply with their respective obligations under applicable international law.

82. The Security Council has adopted resolutions addressing the situation in Sudan, including calls relating to the cessation of hostilities, the protection of civilians and humanitarian access. However, the continuing reports of violence and restrictions on humanitarian relief illustrate continuing challenges in ensuring compliance with international decisions and preventing further violations.

83. In its report on El Fasher, the United Nations Independent International Fact-Finding

[69] Intergovernmental Authority on Development, 'IGAD Convenes Third Forum of Special Envoys to Harmonise Mediation Efforts for Sudan' (IGAD, 21 July 2026) accessed 31 August 2026.
[70] EEAS Press Team, 'Berlin Principles for Sudan' (30 April 2026) https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/berlin-principles-sudan_en accessed 28 August 2026.

Mission for the Sudan established by the United Nations Human Rights Council reported that the conduct documented in and around El Fasher identified indications of genocide, as well as conduct that may constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity**,** subject to consistency with the Mission's findings. The Mission has warned of the continuing risk of further genocidal violence, particularly as the conflict extends into Kordofan.

84. Reports of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission for the Sudan also highlight the serious human rights violations in El Fasher following a prolonged siege and subsequent offensive, which resulted in significant civilian casualties and displacement. These reported developments underscore the importance of the rules of international humanitarian law applicable to the conflict, including the protections afforded to civilians and civilian objects.

85. The Secretariat notes the continuing emphasis given to accountability by the United Nations mechanisms. The Human Rights Council has extended the mandate of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission for the Sudan and requested urgent inquiries concerning alleged violations in and around El Fasher and El Obeid. The Mission has called for credible, independent and impartial investigations, the preservation of evidence and accountability in accordance with applicable international law and due process guarantees.

86. The Secretariat considers that the protection of civilians and the facilitation of humanitarian relief remain matters of immediate legal importance. International humanitarian law requires parties to the conflict to respect and protect civilians and civilian objects, and to allow and facilitate rapid and unimpeded passage of impartial humanitarian relief, subject to the conditions permitted by international law.

87. The Secretariat recalls that all parties to the armed conflict, including non-State armed groups, are bound by applicable rules of international humanitarian law. The Secretariat further emphasizes the importance of respecting and ensuring the protection of human rights in accordance with applicable international human rights law, particularly in relation to the protection of life, the prohibition of torture and other forms of ill-treatment, and access to essential humanitarian assistance.

88. Against this background, the Secretariat considers that AALCO provides a valuable forum for Member States to exchange views on the international legal issues arising from the situation in Sudan, particularly those relating to the protection of civilians, humanitarian access, accountability and the application of relevant international legal obligations and United Nations measures.