



Security Council

Distr.: General
14 February 2023

Original: English

Letter dated 10 February 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In my capacity as Chair of the African Group for the month of February, it is my honour to transmit herewith the position of the African Group in New York in support of the demand of the Sudan to terminate the coercive sanctions (Security Council resolution [1591 \(2005\)](#)) applied since 2005.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Osama Mahmoud **Abdelkhalek**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
Chair of the African Group



Annex to the letter dated 10 February 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In the framework of the initiation of the current discussions within the Security Council on renewing the mandate of the expert panel established pursuant to Council resolution [1591 \(2005\)](#) against the Sudan, we would like to clarify the position of the African Group in New York in support of the Sudan's demand of termination of the coercive sanctions applied pursuant to the resolution, since 2005.

In Darfur, there is no escalation or outbreak of high-intensity conflict at present; there are only sporadic intercommunal clashes due to the onset of climate change and competition over meagre resources between the pastoralists and the farmers.

There are no atrocities or massive human rights violations, nor is there any warfare, perpetuated to necessitate the use of enforcement measures. Sanctions are meant as a last resort; as such, they are an exception, not the rule.

Examples of sanctions imposed on African countries, experience has shown, are meant to be long-standing across generations. They are totally biased and have frustrated the national security and development of the targeted countries.

In Liberia, the sanctions regime imposed in 2003 was terminated after 13 years; in Rwanda, it took 14 years; in Angola, it took 9 years; in Libya, it took 11 years; and in Iraq, it took 13 years. The sanctions against the Sudan are now entering their eighteenth year.

The Darfur sanctions were designed to censure the architects of an intra-State conflict, but their impact has transcended the realm of designated targets, to affect the peace order and security position in Darfur and the national security in the country as a whole. Resolution [1591 \(2005\)](#) is not time-bound and, as such, has no ultimate clause for drawing down or an end date.

The Security Council adopted resolution [1591 \(2005\)](#) under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, imposing sanctions on the Sudan since 2005. The resolution was issued in the context of the conditions and circumstances of the intense military confrontations that took place at the time, between the Sudanese government forces and groups opposing them in the states of the Darfur region, which led to the worsening of the humanitarian situation that resulted in the adoption of the resolution. By the resolution, the Council also imposed an arms embargo in Darfur and targeted sanctions and a travel ban against a few individuals believed to have influenced the course of those tragic events from both sides of the conflict.

Judging by the nature of the current security and political conditions, not only in Darfur but all over the Sudan, the sanctions imposed under resolution [1591 \(2005\)](#) are no longer in line with the reality today, compared with 2005, when they were imposed. Darfur has managed to overcome the state of war and the previous security and political challenges, and the transitional government has made great efforts to enhance security, peace and stability in the region. At the forefront of these efforts is the Juba Agreement for Peace in the Sudan in October 2020, whose provisions the government is currently keen to implement in cooperation with the partners of the peace process, which helps to sustain peace in Darfur.

Moreover, under the Agreement, the former leaders of the armed movements were designated to sovereign, ministerial, regional and State positions. There is now no war going on between the Sudanese government and the armed movements in Darfur, as it had been in the past, so the Security Council does not need a team of experts to monitor the implementation of sanctions.

The Sudanese government has developed several plans and measures to address the political, security and humanitarian situation in Darfur. The transitional government has adopted a national plan for the collection of unlicensed weapons and has implemented a campaign to collect large quantities of light weapons that were disposed of and destroyed in the presence of a large number of foreign ambassadors accredited to Khartoum and the representatives of United Nations and international organizations. This plan is aimed at stemming out the root causes of the sources of threat to the lives of civilians, and it is certain that its implementation will contribute to enhancing stability and security and will eventually lead to ending any potential risks.

On the humanitarian level, the government has issued decisions and directives that guarantee unencumbered movement and access for humanitarian organizations, and there are no longer any bureaucratic or procedural obstacles that could impede humanitarian work, including facilitating access to areas still under the control of the two movements – the Sudan Liberation Army-Abdul Wahid in Darfur and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North Abdelaziz al-Hilu faction in South Kordofan – that refrained from negotiations. Therefore, the team of experts of the Security Council no longer has anything to monitor, and this is complemented by bringing in the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in the Sudan (UNITAMS), under whose supervision the United Nations agencies and programmes coordinate with humanitarian organizations and include in their strategic mandate and priorities the humanitarian aspect.

You may note that the Juba Agreement for Peace signed in October 2020 is based on a comprehensive practical approach aimed at addressing the root causes of the conflict in Darfur, as the Agreement included five axes that dealt with five main tracks, in addition to another separate agreement on national issues related to the future of the country's rule, its constitution and fair political participation. The signing of eight protocols dealt with aspects related to power-sharing, wealth-sharing, ceasefire and security arrangements, justice, accountability, reconciliation, compensation and reparation, development of the nomadic and pastoral sector in Darfur, lands and *hawakeer*, issues of the displaced and refugees.

The Sudanese government relies on limited financial resources owing to the failure of the international community to fulfil its pledges towards financing the peace process in Darfur. In this regard, we refer to the repeated commitment announced by the Sudanese government to implement the provisions of the Agreement, and its intention to address the remaining social and security challenges. We would like also to point out that several reconciliation conferences were held between tribes in West and South Darfur during the past months. These conferences achieved remarkable success in addressing specific disputes over land and the return of displaced persons and refugees to their villages. In some of his reports submitted to the Security Council, the Secretary-General has recently mentioned the great positive impact of these reconciliations, which have contributed to the restoration of security and stability in Darfur.

It was logical and objective that the mandate of the Panel of Experts be terminated before the termination of the mandate of the United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) or, at the latest, by the time of the exit of UNAMID in 2020, after the justification for its continuation has ended, given that the current stage in Darfur is to support peacebuilding and not peacekeeping. Ironically, however, the mandate of the Panel of Experts was renewed, pursuant to resolution [2562 \(2021\)](#), for another year, until March 2022, and was further extended until March 2023, pursuant to resolution [2620 \(2022\)](#). The new mandate included the issue of following up on the implementation of the Juba Agreement for Peace and the national plan for the protection of civilians. This should be clarified as follows:

- First, the Juba Agreement for Peace in the Sudan has a mechanism specialized in following up its implementation established under the Agreement itself. It is the monitoring and evaluation mechanism and includes, in addition to the three guarantors, South Sudan, the United Arab Emirates, Chad and the rest of the neighbouring countries, the African Union, the United Nations, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the European Union. This is the mechanism which was designated by the parties to the Agreement.
- Second, with regard to monitoring the implementation of the national plan for the protection of civilians, there is a supreme mechanism set-up to follow up on the implementation of the national plan under ministerial supervision, and it includes all relevant ministries and institutions. This mechanism prepared a national plan for the protection of civilians that was sent to the Security Council, and the same mechanism continued to refer reports to the Council periodic and interim reports on the position of the implementation of the plan, and even to transmit copies of these reports to the Chair of the sanctions committee. The last of these reports was sent to the Council on 1 February.

On 15 February 2022, the mandate of the Panel of Experts was renewed in accordance with Security Council resolution [2620 \(2022\)](#) for a period of one year, ending in March 2023. It was associated with demanding benchmarks for the assessment of progress made in the following issues: political and economic governance, transitional security arrangements in Darfur, and the national plan to protect civilians, transitional justice and accountability, most of which are indicators that are not realistic and cannot be implemented even in some developed countries.

In light of the above data, all of which confirm that there are no justifications for the continuation of the mandate of the Panel of Experts and the sanctions regime, we ask the Security Council to end the mandate of the Panel of Experts and the entire sanctions regime. The Government of the Sudan has been able to achieve many achievements. We mention just a few as an example:

- Promoting social peace and peaceful coexistence in Darfur, as well as platforms for reconciliation and civil administration forums.
- Developing practical programmes on transitional justice, resolving conflicts by peaceful means and addressing insecurity.
- Developing an integrated plan, which was referred to the Security Council, regarding the protection of civilians.
- Establishment of the National Peace Commission.
- Activating the law of pastures, pastoral paths and lodges to reduce friction between farmers and herdsmen and defining procedures for controlling these paths.
- Attempt at addressing environmental imbalances resulting from climate change.
- Establishment of the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission.
- Deployment of the second batch of security cars and vehicles, and the establishment of the Civilian Protection Unit.
- Raising the capabilities of the personnel of the regular forces.
- Securing camps for internally displaced persons and villages of voluntary return.

- Raising awareness among the leaders of the internally displaced persons to abide by international humanitarian law, establishing justice institutions, providing legal advice, and enlightening civil society organizations.
- Training the police in combating sexual violence.

Therefore, the termination of the sanctions imposed pursuant to resolution [1591 \(2005\)](#) and related resolutions will enable the Sudanese government to rebuild the capacity of the security forces and law enforcement agencies to maintain and consolidate peace not only in Darfur but also in the border regions in which transnational organized crime groups are active in smuggling people and arms and in perpetuating transnational criminal activities. The imposition of sanctions has directly and negatively affected the stabilization process.

The African Group strongly supports the legitimate demand of the Sudan and calls for the immediate lifting of these sanctions without conditions, just as the Security Council did in the past within the framework of resolution [2444 \(2018\)](#), especially since such an end would allow the Sudanese government to play a robust role in the region, as demonstrated in the Political Agreement for Peace in the Central African Republic and the peace accords in South Sudan, and to reinforce peace and security in Darfur.

The conflict situation in Darfur has considerably improved, and the Juba Agreement for Peace in the Sudan, as a major peace agreement, has achieved the desired outcomes of the benchmarks.
