



# Security Council

Seventy-fourth year

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New York

*Provisional*

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<i>President:</i>	Ms. Wronecka . . . . .	(Poland)
<i>Members:</i>	Belgium . . . . .	Mr. Pecsteen de Buytswerve
	China . . . . .	Mr. Wu Haitao
	Côte d'Ivoire . . . . .	Mr. Moriko
	Dominican Republic . . . . .	Mr. Singer Weisinger
	Equatorial Guinea . . . . .	Mr. Esono Mbengono
	France . . . . .	Mrs. Gueguen
	Germany . . . . .	Mr. Schulz
	Indonesia . . . . .	Mr. Syihab
	Kuwait . . . . .	Mr. Alotaibi
	Peru . . . . .	Mr. Duclos
	Russian Federation . . . . .	Mr. Polyanskiy
	South Africa . . . . .	Mr. Matjila
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland . . . . .	Mr. Allen
	United States of America . . . . .	Mr. Cohen

## Agenda

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan

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*The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.*

### **Adoption of the agenda**

*The agenda was adopted.*

### **Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan**

**The President:** In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of the Sudan to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the following briefers to participate in this meeting: Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix, Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, and Mr. Smail Chergui, African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security.

Mr. Lacroix and Mr. Chergui are joining the meeting via video-teleconference from Paris and Tokyo, respectively.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I give the floor to Mr. Lacroix.

**Mr. Lacroix:** I thank you, Madam President, for the opportunity to brief the Security Council today, in line with resolution 2479 (2019), of 27 June, which extended the mandate of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) until 31 October 2019.

Important developments have taken place in the Sudan since I last briefed the Security Council, on 14 June (see S/PV.8549). Most notably, on 17 August, the Transitional Military Council and the Forces of Freedom and Change signed the agreements on transitional arrangements for the forthcoming 39-month period. The signing ceremony was attended by Heads of State and ministers from neighbouring countries, other ministerial representatives from the Gulf region and the European Union, and the Chairperson of the African Union. The United Nations was also witness, with the Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa representing the Secretary-General.

Following the signing ceremony, the Sovereign Council, consisting of five military personnel and six civilians, including two women, was sworn in on 21 August. Abdel-Fattah Al-Burhan assumed

the presidency of the Sovereign Council, and the Transitional Military Council was formally dissolved. Later that day, a renowned economist and United Nations veteran, Mr. Abdalla Hamdok, was sworn in as new Prime Minister. The new Cabinet is expected to be sworn in by 1 September. Of note, the transitional agreements entail a pledge to end all outstanding conflicts in the Sudan, which could bring long-term stability to Darfur and other marginalized areas. Talks between the new Government and various armed groups in the Sudan are expected to take place, including with the Sudan Revolutionary Front, which includes some of the Darfur movements.

In Darfur, the security situation remains largely unchanged. Intermittent clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces/Rapid Support Forces and the Sudan Liberation Army/Abdul Wahid faction continue in Jebel Marra. Intercommunal tensions, particularly between farmers and herders, escalate during the harvest season. UNAMID has observed herders adopting a more aggressive posture during the current season and continues to work with State authorities to reduce those tensions. Peaceful demonstrations continue, particularly in the Kalma camp for internally displaced persons, where elements sympathetic to Abdul Wahid are opposed to the agreements made in Khartoum. Other Darfur armed groups are not yet part of the national political process, although there have not been signs of renewed military activities involving them. On 27 June, the Justice and Equality Movement and the Sudan Liberation Army/Minni Minnawi faction signed a ceasefire with the Transitional Military Council, facilitated by President Deby Itno of Chad. That illustrates that the strategic environment in Darfur has not shifted since the publication of the latest special report in June (S/2019/445). The remaining conflict drivers and armed groups outside the peace process still pose potential risks to sustainable peacebuilding.

With the establishment of the Sovereign Council, the timeline for resuming the drawdown of UNAMID may be revisited after the end of the pause on 31 October. Decree 102, which demanded the transfer of UNAMID camps to the Rapid Support Forces has been rescinded, and the Transitional Military Council has confirmed that the end-use of UNAMID camps handed over to the Sudanese authorities will be civilian. UNAMID is in the process of developing a road map to articulate site-by-site handover arrangements. To that end, UNAMID held a technical-level meeting with the Sudanese authorities

in Khartoum on 5 August. During the discussion, the Sudanese authorities reiterated their pledge to dedicate UNAMID camps to civilian purposes, while asking for the donation of other mission assets. UNAMID and Sudanese officials agreed that those resources should be earmarked for the organizations supporting peacebuilding and community stabilization, in line with the overall transition concept.

UNAMID and the United Nations country team continue working together to provide transition support to the State-liaison functions in four key areas: the rule of law, livelihoods, immediate service delivery and human rights. For the period from 1 July to 31 December of 2019, UNAMID allocated \$17.2 million for State liaison functions activities out, of its total programmatic funding of \$19.6 million. As of August, seven out of 10 memorandums of understanding had been signed with United Nations agencies, funds and programmes. While most of the projects for the second half of 2019 built on activities already implemented during the first phase of State liaison functions implementation, from January to June of this year, livelihood support for return areas has received an additional \$3.3 million to foster confidence between internally displaced persons and host communities.

The military takeover of power in April posed some challenges to the implementation of State liaison function activities. For example, in relation to human rights and rule-of-law support, UNAMID and the United Nations country team shifted their focus from national institutions to a community-based approach to strengthen the capacity of local actors, including the National Human Rights Commission in Darfur, civil society and community-based organizations, to address protection concerns. Adjustments have also been made to enhance information sharing, coordination, and duty of care for personnel embedded in the State liaison functions structures, based on lessons learned from the first phase of the process.

To coordinate transition planning, UNAMID and the United Nations country team established an interim transition team in Khartoum earlier this year. The team relocated to Darfur after the change of Government in April and is continuing consultations with relevant mission sections and the Office of the Resident Coordinator. The team is expected to become a fully fledged and functional joint transition cell by early September, with a finalized staffing structure and associated terms of reference. The transition cell

will be further supported by a liquidation team from Headquarters to provide a dedicated surge capacity, if the exit of UNAMID were to be completed by December 2020.

As reported during our previous briefing, the Department of Peace Operations has initiated discussions with the African Union to develop a joint political strategy for post-UNAMID engagement. Commissioner Chergui will also address this subject. Once the new Cabinet is formed, we will engage relevant interlocutors on a range of issues, including the drawdown of UNAMID, planning for a transition from peacekeeping to peacebuilding, next steps for the Darfur peace process, and post-UNAMID engagement. In line with the vision of the new Government to resolve all internal conflicts, and in close consultation with the Government, we would like to explore various options to support Sudanese interlocutors in addressing the remaining conflict drivers in Darfur.

In that context, both the African Union (AU) and the Sudanese interlocutors have proposed a meeting of the Tripartite Coordination Mechanism to further discuss future AU-United Nations engagement in and on Darfur on the side lines of the General Assembly. As discussions with the AU and Sudanese authorities on the joint political strategy and post-UNAMID engagement in Darfur are likely to solidify through those initiatives in late September, the deadline for a special report on the subject, due to the Security Council by the end of September, might need to be extended by a few weeks.

We congratulate Sudanese parties for having navigated the unprecedented task of relinquishing a highly centralized rule that lasted for more than 30 years and enduring protracted negotiations that led to a civilian-military coalition Government. With the support of the African Union, Ethiopia, on behalf of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, and other key partners, including members of the Security Council, the people of the Sudan demonstrated that they have chosen the path of inclusive decision-making, equality, equity, freedom and human rights for all.

This is an opportunity to put a definitive end to the conflict in Darfur. Doing so will require both an irreversible transition from peacekeeping to peacebuilding and the engagement of those groups that have not been part of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur in the peace process. Donor support will be more critical than ever to assist the simultaneous transitions

in Darfur and elsewhere in the Sudan, particularly considering the economic crisis that triggered the political change. Commissioner Chergui and I plan to travel to the Sudan together in early October and look forward to briefing the Council again on the visit, which would also involve discussions with the new Government on post-UNAMID engagement.

**The President:** I thank Mr. Lacroix for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Mr. Chergui.

**Mr. Chergui:** I wish to express my sincere thanks to you, Madam President, for giving me this opportunity to update the Security Council on behalf of African Union Commission on the situation in Darfur and the work of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) since the adoption of the communiqué of the 856th meeting of the African Union Peace and Security Council, on 13 June, and resolution 2479 (2019), adopted by the Security Council on 27 June. I am honoured to do so alongside my good friend Jean-Pierre Lacroix.

For the past decade or so, UNAMID has stood as a commendable illustration of synergy between the African Union (AU) and the United Nations in responding to the needs of humankind and addressing the ill effects of conflict and political instability.

At the outset, I wish to congratulate the people of the Sudan on the signing of the landmark constitutional declaration two weeks ago. This is a remarkable milestone, ushering the country into a new phase of its political history and towards the consolidation of democracy and peace.

Against the backdrop of fast-evolving political developments in the Sudan that culminated in the collapse of the former Government of the National Congress Party, UNAMID continued to implement its mandate as set out in resolutions 2429 (2018) and 2479 (2019). The African Union supports the delay in the drawdown plan to reduce the military component ceiling to 4,050 to allow the mission to protect its sites and installations, in particular the logistics hub in El Fasher, thereby maintaining a strength of 4,375.

The overall security situation in Darfur remains volatile, with intermittent armed clashes between Government forces and the Sudan Liberation Army/Abdul Wahid faction (SLA/AW) around Golo in Jebel Marra. During the reporting period, the SLA/AW abducted local civilians and staff of non-governmental

organizations for ransom, robbed commercial trucks and looted property of local medical and humanitarian organizations.

Notwithstanding the relatively improved security situation in Darfur, internally displaced persons (IDPs) continue to express security concerns — mainly, increased criminality, destruction of farms and unlawful land-occupation issues. Since the beginning of the farming season in June, tensions have been growing between farmers and herders, with the latter depriving the former of access to their land. That has resulted in increased attacks by the pastoralists against the local farmers and IDPs across Darfur. The removal of various Government officials and the redeployment of some Government security forces to Khartoum has created administrative and security gaps, presenting a challenge in effectively managing tensions and providing basic services to the population.

The current farming season is likely to witness more land-related violence, which might affect harvest prospects. In that regard, UNAMID has put in place measures to reduce tensions and threats, including by intensifying inclusive engagement with communities and national stakeholders, while simultaneously laying the foundation for peacebuilding as part of the mission's transition process.

UNAMID continues to engage the Government to further strengthen mechanisms for addressing human rights concerning Darfur. The mission also conducted the monitoring, investigation and verification of violations and abuses of human rights and international humanitarian law committed in the region.

The inadequate footprint and capacity of rule-of-law institutions in Darfur — including with regard to the judiciary, the police, prosecutions and prisons — outside the main urban centres continued to have an adverse impact on the security situation and in terms of ensuring accountability for serious crimes and human rights violations. A prevalence of crime, including conflict-related sexual violence, has been reported in the greater Jebel Marra area, including Golo, Kass, Kabkabiya and other parts of Darfur. Furthermore, the root causes of conflict and continuing intercommunal conflicts arising from issues related to land and other conflict drivers remain unaddressed. Conflicts involving armed movements of the SLA/AW continue to result in displacements in many areas of Jebel Marra.



On the political front, following sustained efforts and intense pressure from the joint African Union and Ethiopian mediation, as well as the international community, the Transitional Military Council and the Forces for Freedom and Change agreed on a political declaration and a constitutional document, which were signed on 17 July and 17 August, respectively. Those two documents, in particular the constitutional document, provide for a power-sharing arrangement during a transitional period of 39 months, while outlining the key priorities of the Transitional Government during this period.

In that regard, the first six months of the transition will be devoted to peace negotiations and achieving comprehensive peace in all conflict areas of the Sudan, including Darfur and Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan states. The constitutional document devotes a separate chapter to comprehensive peace issues, detailing the peace process and special measures that will be taken to achieve comprehensive peace and to address the root causes of the conflicts in the Sudan. However, the armed movements, represented by the Sudan Revolutionary Front, which are also members of the Forces for Freedom and Change, are of the view that their concerns have not been sufficiently reflected in those documents, as agreed between the Sudan Revolutionary Front and the Forces for Freedom and Change in Addis Ababa on 25 July. Meanwhile, in my discussions with the President of the Sovereign Council, Mr. Abdel-Fattah Al-Burhan, and Prime Minister Hamdok the inclusion of armed movements in the new process is a top priority.

With uncertainties about the directions the peace negotiations would take, the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur remains stalled. The constitutional document, which governs the transition period in the Sudan, provides for the completion of comprehensive peace no later than six months from its signing. It also stipulates that past peace agreements reached between the Government of the Sudan and the armed movements shall be reviewed to address their shortcomings and to ensure comprehensive peace is achieved. In view of those fast-moving developments, it is important that the armed movements be fully engaged in the political process.

So far, stakeholders seem to hold divergent views on the way forward, but it is our considered view that the Sudanese stakeholders and the international community have invested a lot in the Doha process,

which should continue to serve as a basis for our efforts towards an early conclusion of the conflict. Bringing the negotiations to Khartoum as an alternative, however, might require an agreement on the cessation of hostilities and strong security guarantees for the armed movements.

Moreover, at this critical juncture, it is important that the international community take a coordinated approach and consider how best to support the peace process in order to ensure inclusivity and a successful outcome. Moreover, it is important to note that the leader of the SLA/AW, Mr. Abdul Wahid al-Nour, and the leader of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North, Mr. Abdelaziz Al-Hilu, remain outside of the peace process and continue to refuse to engage. It is imperative that they be persuaded to join the process, otherwise — and I cannot stress this enough — they will remain spoilers.

In conclusion, it is worth noting that the current political environment and the changes taking place in the Sudan provide a unique opportunity for ending the armed conflict and achieving comprehensive and lasting peace in Darfur and in the Sudan as a whole. The international community should seize this opportunity to demand constructive engagement by all the actors concerned. As Mr. Lacroix announced to the Council, our two organizations — the United Nations and the African Union — will continue to join efforts and hands in helping all stakeholders achieve that goal. I am very happy to join him once again on a visit to Darfur in early October.

The African Union will continue to be at the forefront and provide full support for the Sudan's efforts and for the fulfilment of the aspirations of the people of Darfur and the rest of the Sudan for just and lasting peace.

**The President:** I thank Mr. Chergui for his briefing.

I shall now give the floor to those Council members who wish to make statements.

**Mr. Allen** (United Kingdom): I would like to begin by thanking our briefers. This is a very positive moment, and therefore, I hope, a very positive meeting of the Security Council. The people of the Sudan have brought about unprecedented change through their demands for a peaceful, democratic and prosperous future. I congratulate not only the people of the Sudan but also the African Union (AU) and the Government

of Ethiopia for their mediation efforts. The Council welcomed those recent events in a press statement on 21 August (SC/13927). I would reiterate today the United Kingdom's support for the Sovereign Council and its appointment of Mr. Abdalla Hamdok as Prime Minister.

The 17 August agreement contains a number of important commitments, such as a pledge to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms and a commitment to accountability and justice, including a commitment to establish a national independent committee to investigate the violent acts committed on 3 June and other incidents of human rights violations and abuses. We very much welcome those commitments made by the Sudan and encourage all those with a stake in the Sudan's future to ensure the timely and full implementation of the agreement in order to make the demands of the Sudanese people a reality. The United Kingdom will, of course, support the new Prime Minister and the new Government as best we can.

For decades, the Sudan has been plagued by internal conflict. But, with the beginning of a new chapter in the Sudan's history, we — and, more important, the people of Darfur — can begin to feel a sense of hope and optimism. The new Government has committed to achieving a fair comprehensive and sustainable peace in the Sudan and to prioritize the peace process, which we very much welcome. We call on all sides, in particular the armed movements, to engage constructively, immediately and without preconditions in negotiations to finally deliver a peaceful solution to the conflict in Darfur.

Remaining on Darfur for a moment, I would note that the United Kingdom remains one of the largest humanitarian donors: over \$100 million was given by the United Kingdom last year for humanitarian assistance. And there have been many humanitarian implications of the conflict in Darfur. As the new Government works to deliver peace, may I also request it to take immediate steps to help address the humanitarian situation. In particular, one very concrete step that could be taken would be to ensure full access for those seeking to provide support, through the removal of bureaucratic impediments imposed by the previous Government on humanitarian actors. I hope that is something that the Sudan will be able to move quickly on.

The uncertainty in the Sudan during the mandate renewal led, as we all know, to a pause in the transition

from peacekeeping to peacebuilding. When the Council adopted resolution 2479 (2019), I said that there needed to be meaningful progress on a number of fronts before the transition could resume (see S/PV.8566). The transition to a civilian-led Government has clearly been agreed. We believe that it is extremely welcome that there is now a legitimate partner for the United Nations and the African Union to engage with on the drawdown of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and the transition to peacebuilding. I would like to thank Jean-Pierre Lacroix for some of his updates on some of the wider issues. However, he talked of some reassurances given. I would just like to ask Mr. Lacroix whether, at this stage, the Rapid Support Forces have withdrawn from the former UNAMID team sites so that they can be used for civilian purposes or whether this is instead something that is under discussion. It would be helpful to know what the status of those former team sites is.

In addition to the genuine sustained commitment of the new Government and the armed movements, continued international efforts will clearly be required in support of the new Government in tackling the underlying causes of the conflict. May I say here that it is good to hear about the joint visit proposed by Under-Secretary-General Lacroix and Commissioner Chergui and indeed the suggestion that there may be a further spotlight on the issue during the high-level week. We will therefore need to see, for example, political support to the peace process, including implementation and monitoring of future peace agreements. Continued human rights monitoring and capacity-building will clearly be required. There will also be a need for humanitarian development support, particularly for Darfur's almost 2 million internally displaced persons. Such support may be best provided through a continued United Nations-AU presence in Darfur after UNAMID's closure. In that regard, we look forward to the AU and the United Nations providing the Council with options for a follow-on mechanism to UNAMID in the upcoming special report at the end of September. These options should be comprehensive and build on the opportunity that this moment in the Sudan's history represents.

Let me conclude by again welcoming the positive developments under way in the Sudan, again commending the people of the country for the incredible transformation that they have undertaken and to say that, after decades of conflict, poor governance, human

rights abuses and economic mismanagement, the new Government has not only a momentous opportunity but also a momentous task ahead of them. The United Kingdom stands ready to work with the new Government and the people of the Sudan as they seek that transition to a peaceful, democratic and prosperous future.

**Mr. Schulz** (Germany): Let me first of all thank Under-Secretary-General Lacroix and Commissioner Chergui for their comprehensive and insightful briefings.

Let me start by commending the agreement signed on 17 August and the establishment of the transitional Government. We acknowledge and commend the people of the Sudan for bringing about that peaceful change. It is important that perpetrators should be held accountable for the violence against peaceful protesters and be brought to justice. What we are now witnessing in Khartoum are central steps towards achieving a peaceful future for the Sudan. That is good news, which the Security Council also underlined in its press statement (SC/13927) last week. It is indeed a unique opportunity.

The new Government and the people of the Sudan now need the substantial support of the international community to ensure a successful transition. We intend to use the opportunity of the upcoming ministerial week of the General Assembly for an in-depth exchange on how the international community can support the transition process in Khartoum.

Germany has been actively engaged in the past and present through the friends of the Sudan on mediation and other stabilization efforts as well as in the field of humanitarian assistance. There is no question that we will continue to support the Sudan in these times of change. It is in that spirit that the German Foreign Minister, Mr. Heiko Maas, will travel to the Sudan next week.

There are huge challenges ahead for the new Government in Khartoum regarding the unresolved conflicts in Darfur and the two Areas. There is no automatic peace dividend for Darfur emanating from the political changes in Khartoum. Under-Secretary-General Lacroix and Commissioner Chergui have just reminded us of the pending security challenges in Darfur. A comprehensive peace deal for Darfur is still missing. Hence it is important to recall and welcome the commitments of the new Government to conduct peace talks with armed groups. Peace in Khartoum must be extended also to Darfur. We fully agree with

Commissioner Chergui's analysis that overall peace in the Sudan does not automatically lead to peace in Darfur but that the goal to achieve lasting peace also in Darfur needs additional efforts.

That is why, among the many economic and political priorities with which the authorities in Khartoum are confronted, securing lasting peace in Darfur must not be an afterthought but at the core of the Government's agenda. The history of the Sudan has shown that the marginalization, exclusion and discontent on the peripheries lead to instability in the whole of the country. For that reason, from our point of view, it is crucial that the new Government take up the challenge and regain the trust of all Darfuris.

Let me turn to the African Union (AU)-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), The United Nations and the African Union, through UNAMID, are partners for the new Government to secure lasting peace in Darfur. UNAMID continues to play an important role in protecting civilians, fostering the rule of law and tackling the root causes of the conflict. Crucially, it has a strong mediation capacity. UNAMID could be an important partner for peace for the new Government. The Security Council now needs to consider how the international community could best support peace in Darfur in the light of the new realities in the Sudan. As the Council, we must look into options to provide the necessary international support for the Sudan beyond the lifespan of UNAMID.

Germany is therefore very interested in hearing from the United Nations and the AU in the joint report requested by the Council for October the nature of such support. In our view, one possible option could be a special political mission, jointly led by the United Nations and the AU with a strong focus on peacebuilding and mediation. We now need to think strategically regarding the way ahead. The withdrawal of UNAMID must not be rushed but conducted in a responsible and sustainable manner in order to avoid a security vacuum and, most importantly, a possible relapse into conflict. The conditions on the ground must be right and international and national capacities must be in place first before the transition. It must be ensured that the UNAMID tasks are taken care of and that we do not leave a vacuum that provides a new opportunity for tension and conflict.

**Mr. Singer Weisinger** (Dominican Republic) (*spoke in Spanish*): We thank Mr. Lacroix and Mr. Chergui for their briefings.

The inhabitants of Darfur have lived with this war for years and do not expect miracles. They want security and to be able to return home. The challenges facing the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) therefore reflect the broader factors that continue to fuel the conflict. Today, achievements such as improvements in security remain fragile. Nearly 2 million people are displaced and outbreaks of violence continue.

There is a risk that UNAMID may leave Darfur without a comprehensive political agreement in place that encompasses all groups and that its transition may leave significant protection, human rights, peacebuilding and development challenges that require long-term solutions.

In order for the mission to prevent that, consolidate its achievements and continue to build on them, it is necessary for the Council to provide sufficient flexibility to adjust the transition activities to the political environment. In addition, any post-exit presence should be equipped with the capabilities required for ceasefire monitoring, disarmament and demobilization. In terms of peacebuilding, it is also necessary to have the tools to address the root causes of the conflict and to monitor and address intercommunal violence, widespread displacement and human rights violations.

The situation in Darfur is linked to the ongoing political process. For that reason, it is imperative that the UNAMID exit process be planned in conjunction with a viable political process that includes all parties in order to ensure sustainable peace.

On a very positive note, on 17 August, four months after a protest movement that removed Omar Al-Bashir from power, the opposition Freedom and Change Forces coalition signed a power-sharing agreement with the ruling military junta. This agreement will pave the way for elections after a three-year period of reforms monitored by civilians.

In that context, the Security Council should give UNAMID the flexibility it needs to navigate this fragile political situation and continue considering options for an international presence after withdrawal from Darfur. That will allow us to address the outstanding political, peacebuilding, security, human rights and development

challenges and will ensure that Darfur remains on the path to lasting peace.

**Mr. Syihab** (Indonesia): Let me join others in thanking Under-Secretary-General Lacroix and African Union (AU) Commissioner Chergui for their briefings.

My statement will focus on three issues, namely, political developments, the situation in Darfur and the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID).

First, it would be remiss of me not to begin by welcoming the signing of the agreement on the establishment of a new transitional Government and transitional institutions and the swearing in of the Prime Minister and the Sovereign Council. The people of the Sudan deserve peace, stability and prosperity. Momentum in realizing that hope is now evolving in the Sudan. Indonesia congratulates the people of the Sudan for that accomplishment and commends their commitment to a peaceful transition.

The mediation role undertaken by the African Union and Ethiopia is, indeed, laudable. The signing of the transitional agreement is only the beginning of the hard work. It must serve as a stepping stone for further tangible progress, including sustainable peace and socioeconomic recovery.

All parties in the Sudan should remain committed to the effective implementation of the agreement and refrain from actions that could undermine its implementation. Inclusive dialogue is key to resolving any differences. My delegation calls on the international community to provide all necessary assistance during this crucial period, while respecting Sudanese sovereignty and national ownership.

Secondly, we note that the security situation in Darfur has remained relatively stable, with little disruption to the trends that have emerged since 2016. Of course, there are a number of persisting challenges. The Darfur peace process is stalling; conflict drivers, including access to land and resources, have not been systematically addressed; and human rights violations continue to occur, including against women, children and internally displaced persons.

The transitional agreement contains the parties' commitment to achieving fair, comprehensive and sustainable peace in the Sudan by addressing the root causes of conflict and the impacts of war. We are pleased to see that the Sudanese Prime Minister has



vowed to make peace one of his priorities. We urge all armed groups to cease violence and destabilizing activities and engage constructively in the discussions towards peaceful solutions to the conflict. Indonesia also stresses the imperative for the full protection of civilians, unhindered access for humanitarian assistance and strict observance of international humanitarian law.

That brings me to the third issue. My delegation was a member of the Council when it authorized the establishment of UNAMID 12 years ago. Indonesia has been a proud contributor of peacekeepers, both military and police, to UNAMID since 2008. Much has been achieved through the work of UNAMID in Darfur, including improved security. Peacekeeping, however, is not a silver bullet. There is a limit to what it can achieve.

The present challenges in Darfur are no longer of a peacekeeping nature but require more peacebuilding and stabilization efforts. We trust that the upcoming special report will provide recommendations on the appropriate course of action regarding UNAMID's drawdown.

Our position on UNAMID's drawdown remains consistent. It must be responsible and guided by a careful and honest assessment of the situation on the ground. We take note that the United Nations and the AU continue their discussions to develop a joint political strategy for engagement after UNAMID. Regardless of dynamics on the ground that might affect the issue of UNAMID's drawdown, we should not lose our focus and must spare no efforts in assisting the people of the Sudan in attaining a peaceful life in the near future. We cannot overemphasize the need for ample and meaningful consultations with the transitional Government in the Sudan.

**Mrs. Gueguen** (France) (*spoke in French*): First of all, I would like to warmly thank Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix, Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, and Mr. Smaïl Chergui, African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security, for their important briefings. France welcomes the close coordination between the United Nations and the African Union on Darfur.

I would like join others in welcoming the turning of an important page in the history of the Sudan. The signing of the constitutional document on 17 August, which the Council welcomed in a press statement (SC/13927) and which defines the transitional framework, was a significant step. We call on the parties to respect the declaration in the same spirit of

compromise and reconciliation that prevailed when it was signed.

France extends its wishes for success to the new authorities, in particular the Prime Minister and the Sovereign Council, in the essential tasks they will have to fulfil — concluding a peace agreement with the armed groups, organizing free and democratic elections in 2022, reviving the economy and building the rule of law. France reiterates its readiness to support the Sudanese people in this new chapter of their history.

France welcomes the successful mediation conducted by the African Union and the Ethiopian Prime Minister and hopes that this diplomatic investment continues with the ongoing mobilization of the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the League of Arab States, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the United Nations and all friends of the Sudan, which is essential during this transitional phase.

The women and the young people of the Sudan have been remarkable in their mobilization, initiative and courage, sometimes even sacrificing their lives. They have been the driving force behind this revolution. We owe it to them to ensure that they are fully involved in the transition. In that regard, we welcome the constitutional document's quota of 40 per cent women in the composition of the transitional legislative council.

Lastly, we all recall the victims, particularly those who fell on 3 June. The crimes committed must not go unpunished and their perpetrators must be prosecuted and tried in accordance with the rule of law.

Secondly, in that context, we have an unprecedented opportunity to build lasting peace in Darfur. One of the major challenges of the transition will be to negotiate a comprehensive peace agreement in Darfur. France welcomes the commitment undertaken by the new Sudanese authorities in the constitutional document to resolving the conflict in Darfur within six months, and we call on all armed groups and the new authorities to commit in good faith to building that lasting peace.

We know that Darfur remains a fragile region. Civilians continue to suffer from residual clashes in Jebel Marra. Internally displaced persons (IDPs) are regularly subject to abuses, including sexual violence. In addition, the root causes of the conflict, including access to land and the future of the 2 million IDPs, have not been fully addressed.

Beyond that, I would like to recall the importance of combating impunity in Darfur. Grave violations, as well as against children, including sexual violence, have been committed for a long time and continue to be committed. All parties to the conflict have an obligation to cooperate fully with the International Criminal Court and its Prosecutor, in accordance with resolution 1593 (2005).

Finally, it is time to engage in a dialogue with the new authorities on the United Nations presence in the Sudan. In June, we decided to suspend the withdrawal process of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) for four months (see S/PV.8566) because we had no reliable or internationally recognized interlocutor. We also had real concerns about the use of UNAMID camps, once transferred to the Sudanese authorities.

We now have new legitimate and credible authorities, with whom we can work, pending the formation of a Government at the end of the month. We need to have a frank and constructive dialogue with them on the timetable and conditions for UNAMID's withdrawal. It is imperative that we have the assurance that transferred sites will be used for civilian purposes, in accordance with the agreements concluded between the United Nations and the Sudan.

The main question we must ask ourselves today pertains to the presence of the United Nations after UNAMID's departure. The political strategy of the United Nations and the African Union on the follow-up mechanism, which will be submitted to us in a month's time, will be essential in that regard.

As Jean-Pierre Lacroix underscored, we are entering the peacebuilding phase and we all know the challenges that brings. France believes that we must continue to support peace in Darfur after the departure of the peacekeepers, as has been the case in other countries. The country team will not be able to do it all. We therefore support the establishment of a special political mission, whose mandate would be defined by taking fully into account the priorities of the Sudanese people. The political mission could support the implementation of the peace agreement, the return of displaced persons and the resolution of land issues and intercommunity conflicts, as well as the protection of women and children. It could also continue to strengthen the capacity of the administration and security forces in Darfur.

We also support a substantial presence of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Darfur following UNAMID's departure. After a peacekeeping operation that will have lasted for more than a decade, it is essential to ensure the continued support of the United Nations to assist the country in the area of human rights. We have that moral responsibility to the people who live there.

**Mr. Polyanskiy** (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We thank Under-Secretary-General Jean-Pierre Lacroix and African Union Commissioner Smaïl Chergui for their detailed briefings.

Two months ago, we voted in favour of resolution 2479 (2019) on the technical rollover of the mandate for the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID). Russia understood the position of the African Union, which advocated conducting an analysis of the situation in the Sudan and developing a well-thought-out plan for the responsible drawdown of the hybrid peacekeeping operation. As members will recall, at that time, we said that we should limit the extension of the mandate to a month or two. We were confident that, within that period, the Sudanese would be able to overcome the difficult domestic political situation and resume substantive dialogue on the modalities of UNAMID's exit.

Developments have shown that we were right. We welcome the signing of a constitutional declaration on 17 August in Khartoum by the representatives of the Transitional Military Council and the Forces for Freedom and Change. That agreement is without a doubt an important step towards ensuring solid stability within the country over the long term. We would like to particularly note the mediation efforts of Ethiopia and the African Union, including under the Ethiopian chairmanship, in the negotiations process. That was a concrete example of the idea that African problems require African solutions.

We must also pay tribute to the Sudanese people, who have been able to overcome discord and reach an agreement against the backdrop of continuing external pressure. Regrettably, as in the past, we still note that there are various outside forces that try to exploit the difficult political situation in the country and tailor the political developments in Khartoum to their narrow self-interests. We repeat that resolving the domestic crisis in the country is a matter for the Sudanese themselves. The language of ultimatums and blatant inference in the

affairs of a sovereign State are absolutely unacceptable. It could all lead to heightened tensions.

With regard to the situation in Darfur, we can see a significant improvement in the security situation. We also note that there has been some normalization in the humanitarian sphere. The general trend in regions that the Blue Helmets have already left has not changed. We believe that that again demonstrates that the Security Council made the right decision when it reduced the military component of UNAMID and decided on the withdrawal of the mission in 2020. In September, we look forward to the special report of the United Nations and the African Union containing specific proposals on the UNAMID drawdown. We would like to stress that we are against any attempts to change the mission's exit plan. The challenges facing Darfur today are of a peacebuilding, not a peacekeeping, nature. The time has come to focus on recovery and economic development in Darfur and that should now be the priority of the international community.

In conclusion, I would like to extend our condolences to the Government and people of the Sudan with regard to the 62 Sudanese who died at the beginning of July following the heavy rainfall and flooding. According to the media, that natural disaster seriously damaged the country's economy and affected almost 200,000 people. More than 37,000 homes were destroyed. The international community should come together to provide assistance to Khartoum in that very difficult situation. Once again, we urge all efforts to be directed towards economic support for the Sudan, with a focus on peacebuilding tasks and the development challenges.

**Mr. Alotaibi** (Kuwait) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, we very much thank Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix and Mr. Smaïl Chergui for their briefings.

We sincerely congratulate the leadership, Government and the brotherly people of the Sudan on the political achievements and the agreement reached by the Transitional Military Council and the Forces for Freedom and Change on 17 August pertaining to the transitional period. We reiterate our support for the Sudan at this delicate stage and beyond, while we eagerly await the concerted efforts that will help achieve the aspirations of our brothers in the Sudan for a promising future. We reaffirm our support for the Sudan, its unity, sovereignty, stability and territorial integrity. In this regard, we commend the role of the

African Union and Ethiopia in ensuring mediation and helping all parties to reach this historical agreement.

I would like to address three basic aspects today: the situation in Darfur, the withdrawal of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and the upcoming mandate.

We have monitored the situation in Darfur over the past two months as the Sudan was witnessing positive developments. It was clear that, as in previous years, there has been continued stability in the security situation around Jebel Marra. UNAMID's exit strategy has had little impact on that situation in most parts of the province. This reaffirms that the gradual withdrawal of UNAMID has achieved its objective. We look forward to the armed groups participating in good faith and without preconditions in a dialogue to join the political process, reach a political solution and strengthen peace in Darfur.

The current and future issues to be addressed in Darfur with regard to land ownership, climate change and the safe, dignified and voluntary return of internally displaced persons are all related to post-conflict peacebuilding. Peacekeeping is no longer the best way, as in the past, to address such issues. We therefore call on UNAMID to continue on its current path, in line with resolutions 2479 (2019) and 2429 (2018), as well as last year's presidential statement (S/PRST/2018/19).

Regarding UNAMID's exit, we commend its dedicated efforts to achieve a smooth transition in Darfur. We condemn any attack against UNAMID by any party. We call for the achievements of UNAMID over the past 12 years to be maintained. We are responsible for those achievements and encourage and support the measures of the Sudan to extend its sovereignty throughout Darfur.

We also stress the importance of continuing the mission's gradual withdrawal until next month, in line with UNAMID's mandate. We recall the 14 June resolution of the African Union Peace and Security Council — the Security Council's counterpart and partner in UNAMID — which calls on the Security Council to extend the UNAMID mandate for 12 months.

With regard to the upcoming mandate, we will continue to work with our colleagues inside and outside the Council to guarantee that the upcoming UNAMID mandate, given the joint assessment to be presented to the Security Council in September, will be short

and clear in confirming one of the exit options. We furthermore hope that it will be in line with the wishes of the Sudan, the host country, and its capacities; focus on specific areas, such as capacity-building, supporting the rule of law and enhancing national ownership; and strengthen the transitional process by consolidating cooperation and coordination with the United Nations country team in Darfur.

We thank the brotherly Sudan for its cooperation and look forward to further cooperation during the remaining period of mandated drawdown and withdrawal in a smooth and safe manner.

**Mr. Moriko** (Côte d'Ivoire) (*spoke in French*): My delegation welcomes the briefing on the situation in Darfur and the mandate of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID). We commend Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix, Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, and Mr. Smaïl Chergui, African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security, on the quality of their briefings.

By adopting resolution 2479 (2019), on 27 June, which authorizes the technical renewal of UNAMID's mandate until 31 October, the Security Council granted itself a four-month evaluation period, at the end of which it must decide whether or not to withdraw the mission. Côte d'Ivoire notes with satisfaction the positive development in the situation in the Sudan since the adoption of the resolution, as evidenced by the signing, on 17 August, of an agreement between the Transitional Military Council and the opposition alliance of Forces of Freedom and Change on the formation of a new Government and the institutions responsible for leading the transition. The establishment of the Sovereign Council and the appointment and inauguration of Mr. Abdalla Hamdok as Prime Minister open up a new chapter in the Sudan's history. Those developments must be consolidated by the formation of the future transitional Government.

My country, which believes in the capacity of the Sudanese people to overcome their differences and create a political and social environment that is conducive to the preservation of peace and stability, welcomes this historic moment and sincerely hopes that the spirit of dialogue that prevailed in the negotiations will be maintained. In order to boost that positive momentum, Côte d'Ivoire calls on the Sudanese authorities and political actors to work together to

ensure economic recovery, with a view to meeting the pressing social demands of the people.

My country takes this opportunity to welcome the mediation and good offices of Ethiopia, the African Union and the United Nations, with the support of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development. That is a virtuous example of preventive diplomacy and the result of exemplary cooperation between the United Nations and regional actors.

My delegation is of the view that the relative stability in the situation in Darfur cannot overshadow the persistence of security vulnerabilities, as illustrated by sporadic incidents between security forces and civilians, intercommunal tensions and the criminal activities of armed movements. The humanitarian and human rights situations in Darfur continue to be of concern with regard to the obstruction of the delivery of humanitarian assistance to internally displaced persons and the persistence of violence against civilians, as well as sexual violence.

In that context, Côte d'Ivoire once again reminds the parties to the conflict that reconciliation and lasting peace in Darfur will be possible only in an environment marked by definitely silencing the guns and holding a dialogue-based process to resolve the crisis. We therefore encourage the new Sudanese authorities to contribute actively to that process by engaging in negotiations with the armed movements in Darfur, with a view to creating the conditions needed for the withdrawal of UNAMID in June 2020. My delegation urges regional actors to support the ongoing peace process by contributing to the effective implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur and the road map emanating from African Union High-Level Implementation Panel.

Côte d'Ivoire especially looks forward to the recommendations of the joint United Nations-AU evaluation report to be published on 30 September. That report should enable the Council to decide on the withdrawal of UNAMID on the date foreseen. My delegation hopes that any UNAMID withdrawal will be orderly, based on a phased approach and take into account security progress and vulnerabilities. It also must consider the need to maintain reserve capacities until the final closure of the mission.

In conclusion, my country reiterates its call to the Sudanese parties to continue the dialogue and urges the United Nations and the African Union to continue to



act together in order to support sustainable peace and stability efforts in Darfur.

**Mr. Esono Mbengono** (Equatorial Guinea) (*spoke in Spanish*): I join the speakers who preceded me in thanking Under-Secretary-General Lacroix and Commissioner Chergui for their very informative briefings.

Allow me at the outset to congratulate the sisterly Republic of the Sudan on the agreement signed on 17 August between the Forces of Freedom and Change and the Transitional Military Council in the Sudan on the establishment of a transitional Government, headed by a Prime Minister who will govern the State jointly for 39 months and should lead the country towards reconciliation, reconstruction and free and inclusive elections. We would like to highlight and commend the important and constructive role played by the African Union and the Ethiopian Government in mediating and negotiating the achievement of that historic agreement.

Equatorial Guinea commends the commitment of the people of the Sudan to a peaceful transition and to ensuring the effective implementation of the transitional agreements. We also appreciate the support of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the United Nations, the League of Arab States and the other members of the international community.

The agreement is concrete proof of the importance of subregional and regional organizations and the surrounding countries in terms of resolving disputes, given that they have a better understanding of the situation on the ground. In other words, Africans, local governments, regional and continent-wide institutions and African leaders are better off and are the main actors in dealing with the continent's problems and conflicts.

However, despite the satisfaction we have just expressed, we must not underestimate the major problems and challenges that the new Government will face. That is why it is urgent to establish without delay the strategies and mechanisms needed to improve the local economy, entrench lasting peace and stability and promote inclusion and national reconciliation, while at the same time reaffirming the Government's commitment to a transition process that effectively leads to inclusive and transparent elections, with a view to ensuring the advent of sustainable peace throughout the country.

Moreover, we encourage the parties to acknowledge the need to rapidly resume the negotiations for a peaceful resolution to the conflicts in Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile states. We encourage all the parties to engage constructively, immediately and without preconditions in those discussions. The Security Council must support such efforts. In that regard, we commend the joint visit that the African Union and the United Nations will make to the region. We also appreciate any effort made towards the consolidation of the situation in the Sudan. The Sudanese have understood that they must put the overriding interests of their country and their people before any other consideration, and that commitment merits praise.

In the context of UNAMID, it is essential to emphasize that one of the main tasks of the Government is to address the issue of Darfur, ensure a continuous decrease in violence throughout the region and continue the reconciliation processes. The Doha Agreement for Peace in Darfur remains the basis for the process in Darfur, and Khartoum must commit to continuing along that path. We already know that the new authorities have already prioritized peace.

The Republic of Equatorial Guinea lends its full support to the transitional Government of the Sudan and invites it to liaise as soon as possible with the representatives of the United Nations and the African Union in the Sudan, as well as to cooperate closely with UNAMID, working together in coordination and harmony to achieve the objectives set for the next 39 months of the transitional Government.

Lastly, we call on the transitional Government to ensure that Sudanese women are provided the space in which they can play their role in this new political dynamic in which the brotherly country of the Sudan is entering.

**Mr. Duclos** (Peru) (*spoke in Spanish*): We are grateful for the holding of this meeting and for the important briefings by Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix and Mr. Smaïl Chergui.

Peru joins other delegations in welcoming the constitutional declaration signed on 17 August between the Forces of Freedom and Change the Transitional Military Council in the Sudan on the establishment of a new transitional Government under civilian leadership. The agreement is an important first step towards achieving peace and stability throughout the Sudan. We are confident that the agreements reached will end

the violence that has already resulted in many victims in Khartoum. We especially appreciate the parties' commitment to respecting human rights and basic freedoms in the Sudan.

In particular, we welcome the commitment to enable the protection of women's rights with the ultimate aim of ensuring gender equity with regard to the enjoyment of their civil, political, economic and social rights. We hope that the establishment of the new transitional Government will also have a positive impact in Darfur where cases of human rights violations and incidents of conflict-related sexual violence continue.

We reiterate the responsibility of the Security Council to ensure a successful withdrawal of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) — as the Under-Secretary-General mentioned earlier — that does not create gaps leading to tensions or new risk factors and does not jeopardize the gains made in the areas of protection, the rule of law and human rights. All of that is predicated on the required State ownership of the process, which will contribute to ensuring that the agreement reached in the Sudan is fully implemented within the planned time frame.

In that regard, we look forward to the assessment and recommendations of the Secretary-General on the appropriate course of action to determine the number of UNAMID troops that will be needed and the joint political strategy of the African Union and the United Nations for its withdrawal. We therefore welcome the announcement of the upcoming visit by his representatives to the Sudan.

Meeting all those goals will also require the establishment of national institutions capable of taking on those processes and preventing and resolving conflicts, while forming a national consensus on good governance, focusing on the welfare of the people through humanitarian access and spearheading initiatives to counter the major causes underpinning conflicts.

Lastly, we acknowledge the successful mediation efforts of Ethiopia and the African Union to achieve the agreements that were reached. We must also recognize the role of the people of the Sudan and the countries of the region. We encourage the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the United Nations and donor countries to provide the required support to the transitional Government of the Sudan in this important phase for the future of the

country and to continue in joint efforts to promote the necessary consolidation and maintenance of peace in that country.

**Mr. Wu Haitao** (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): China thanks Under-Secretary-General Lacroix and African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security Chergui for their briefings.

At present, the situation in Darfur is generally stable and the humanitarian situation continues to improve, owing not only to the vigorous and effective performance of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and the full cooperation of international partners and regional organizations, such as the African Union, but also to the active efforts of the Sudanese Government in maintaining peace and stability in Darfur.

The transitional Government of the Sudan was established just recently, which will help further improve the situation in Darfur. The international community should continue to provide assistance to Darfur, consolidate gains made and advance the reconstruction process.

First, the international community should support the Sudanese Government in assuming the primary responsibility for maintaining security in Darfur, assist it in enhancing its own security and governance capabilities and ensure that the functions of maintaining security in Darfur are handed over to the Sudanese security forces in a gradual and smooth manner. China supports the withdrawal of UNAMID by 30 June 2020, as scheduled in accordance with resolution 2429 (2018).

Secondly, the international community should restart the Darfur peace process as soon as possible. The establishment of the transitional Government of the Sudan provides a golden opportunity to restart the peace process in Darfur. China hopes that all parties concerned in Darfur will seize the current window of opportunity, effectively renounce military solutions, restart the peace process as soon as possible and resolve conflicts and differences through political means, such as dialogue and consultations, in order to achieve lasting peace and stability in Darfur.

Thirdly, the reconstruction process in Darfur should be accelerated. Darfur is currently in a transitional phase from peacekeeping to peacebuilding, including early reconstruction and development. The international community should actively provide

humanitarian assistance and economic support to help the Sudanese Government settle displaced persons, build and improve local infrastructure and achieve independent economic development in Darfur.

China has always supported the Darfur peace process. As one of the major troop-contributing countries to UNAMID, China has made positive contributions to maintaining peace and stability in Darfur over the years. China stands ready to work with the international community and continue to play a constructive role in achieving peace, stability and development in Darfur.

**Mr. Cohen** (United States of America): I thank Under-Secretary-General Lacroix and Commissioner Chergui for their briefings.

The United States congratulates the people of the Sudan on the 17 August signing of the constitutional declaration and political agreement between the Forces of Freedom and Change and the Transitional Military Council. We are encouraged by this first step in the establishment of a civilian-led transitional Government.

The United States commends the mediators from the African Union and the Government of Ethiopia for their efforts to broker this landmark agreement. Our own special Envoy for the Sudan witnessed the signing, and the United States will continue to support its implementation.

We are optimistic that those positive developments will bring peace and security to the Sudanese people. The international community now needs to see the speedy implementation of the 17 August agreement, including the formation of the Council of Ministers and the Legislative Assembly. In that regard, the inauguration of Prime Minister Hamdok and the Sovereign Council on 21 August shows progress towards the formation of a stable transitional Government.

We look forward to seeing the progress of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) vis-à-vis its benchmarks in the September report of the Secretary-General. We expect all Sudanese stakeholders to cooperate with UNAMID with regard to the protection of civilians, the delivery of humanitarian assistance and the return of internally displaced persons in line with international standards.

UNAMID must have unhindered access to all team sites so that the mission can carry out its mandate. The Rapid Support Forces' delay in returning those

sites to community-based institutions and their lack of cooperation with United Nations personnel is deeply concerning, and we look forward to hearing Under-Secretary-General's Lacroix's response to the question by the representative of the United Kingdom about the status of those sites.

We welcome the public Prosecutor's establishment of the independent committee to investigate the 3 June crackdown by the Rapid Support Forces and the news that those allegedly involved in the 29 July shooting deaths during the El Obeid protests were arrested and are awaiting trial. It is imperative that all those responsible for violence against civilians be held accountable. The United States calls on the Sudanese authorities to follow through on their commitments in a timely manner so that UNAMID can continue to draw down its forces and a broad transition to peacebuilding can begin.

The United States will continue to support the people of the Sudan in their pursuit of a future that they deserve, with a civilian-led Government that protects the rights of all Sudanese citizens and leads to free and fair elections.

**Mr. Matjila** (South Africa): My delegation would like to thank you, Madam President, for convening this meeting. We would also like to thank the Under-Secretary General for Peacekeeping Operations, Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix, and the African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security, Ambassador Smail Chergui, for their comprehensive briefings. I also welcome my old friend and peer, the Chair of the Group of African States for this month, Ambassador Omer Siddig of the Sudan. I would like to focus my intervention on two key issues, namely, the political situation and developments in Khartoum and the situation in Darfur.

On the political situation, we welcome the recent signing of the constitutional declaration in the Sudan and congratulate the parties for reaching this historic milestone. We also welcome the efforts undertaken by the Prime Minister of Ethiopia on behalf of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the African Union in bringing the parties together and ending months of unrest. We particularly commend the African Union Special Envoy, Mohamed El Hacem Lebart, and the Special Envoy of the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Ambassador Mahmoud Dirir, on their role in facilitating the mediation that resulted in the

power-sharing agreement. The establishment of the Sovereign Council, which includes two women, to be led in the first 21 months by Lieutenant General Abdel-Fattah Al-Burhan, is a welcome development. We also applaud the appointment of Mr. Abdalla Hamdok as Prime Minister.

The real work begins now. We urge all Sudanese stakeholders to implement the commitments made in the agreements, in order to meet the aspirations of the Sudanese people for sustainable peace, security, reconciliation and development. The people of the Sudan have yearned for peace for too long and sacrificed too dearly. Their aspirations need to translate into tangible dividends on the ground. In that regard, we urge all parties to redouble their efforts to work together to rebuild a united, inclusive and strong Sudan underpinned by democratic principles.

It is vital that the region and the African Union continue to provide assistance to the political process in the Sudan. The support of the international community remains a critical part of enhancing the work of the region and unlocking those international institutions and processes that will allow the Sudan to rebuild its economy. Moving forward, it is imperative to create an enabling environment and provide support to the parties to ensure the full implementation of the agreements. We should safeguard against external interference and give the parties the space to chart their trajectory towards peace and development.

We are encouraged by the improving relations between the countries in the region. This rapprochement is a step in the right direction for regional peace and stability and will contribute to the ideal of silencing the guns on the continent by 2020. We urge the leaders in the region to continue this positive momentum of political dialogue, to strengthen regional stability and to utilize the same determination to help resolve the Somalia question.

The situation in Darfur continues to improve. However, remnants of insecurity find expression in the form of human rights and humanitarian challenges. Therefore, it is imperative for the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) to continue discharging its mandate as issued by the Security Council.

South Africa looks forward to the joint report of the Secretary-General and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission in September. The report

is expected to provide an assessment of the situation on the ground and recommendations on the appropriate course of action regarding the drawdown of UNAMID, as well as a joint African Union-United Nations political strategy detailing options for a follow-on mechanism to UNAMID.

In the meantime, it is worth underlining that the root causes of the situation in Darfur must be addressed in a sustainable manner. As such, the rejuvenation of the Doha peace process is very important, particularly given its current unclear trajectory. We trust that the renewed hope ushered in by the current agreement will create impetus for the peace process in Darfur and we encourage all armed groups to cooperate and join the political dialogue with a view to working towards comprehensive peace and reconciliation throughout the Sudan.

Lastly, the international community must support the parties in the Sudan as they work towards consolidating peace and stability in their country. That support should address socioeconomic challenges, with the primary focus being on economic development and the mobilization of necessary financial resources to bolster the country in its economic recovery. We commend the countries that have already contributed in that regard.

It is our view that the Sudanese people must capitalize on the prevailing positive environment to identify, drive and direct priorities, strategies and activities for building and sustaining peace during the transition and the UNAMID drawdown process, as well as for managing outstanding and unresolved issues between the Sudan and South Sudan. South Africa welcomes and supports the visit to the Sudan by both Mr. Lacroix and Mr. Chergui, planned for October.

**Mr. Pecsteen de Buytswerve** (Belgium) (*spoke in French*): First of all, I would like to thank the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix, and the African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security, Ambassador Smail Chergui, for their briefings.

We welcome the signing of the constitutional declaration in the Sudan on 17 August. The agreement is the result of long negotiations and represents a key step towards long-lasting peace, democracy and prosperity in the Sudan. We also welcome the appointment of the 11 members of the Sovereign Council and the swearing-in of the Prime Minister, Mr. Abdalla Hamdok, on



21 August. We commend the Sudanese people, in particular women and young people, for their strong yet peaceful action. All efforts must now be directed towards implementing the agreement in the same spirit of compromise and reconciliation that enabled the stakeholders to achieve this historic milestone. In that connection, I would like to stress the importance of the following aspects.

First, there is a need to ensure inclusiveness by bringing together all segments of society, especially women, who were often at the forefront of the peaceful protests, and representatives of all regions of the country. Secondly, the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the Sudanese people, including the right to freedom of assembly, freedom of expression, freedom of the press and freedom of religion, must be respected. Thirdly, impunity must be addressed by, for instance, putting in place an independent commission of inquiry into the deadly events of 3 June, establishing a country office of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and engaging in dialogue with the International Criminal Court to ensure that those who are under an arrest warrant are brought to justice, either before the International Criminal Court or the national courts. And, fourthly, civilians must be protected, including by allowing unhindered humanitarian access.

Belgium fully supports the transition process and looks forward to engaging with the civilian-led transition authorities. Belgium welcomes the crucial mediation role played by the African Union and Ethiopia and the support provided by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the United Nations and the entire international community. We encourage those actors to continue to support the Sudan.

However, we remain concerned about the situation in Darfur. Darfur remains a fragile region where the root causes of the conflict, including access to land and the future of displaced persons, have not yet been fully resolved, as Under-Secretary-General Lacroix and Commissioner Chergui reminded us. The fact that, unfortunately, some groups in Darfur rejected the 17 August agreement shows that Sudanese stakeholders must continue to work for a peaceful and equitable solution for all, including a peace agreement between all Sudanese parties and the different rebel groups. We have been presented with a unique opportunity to put an end to the various conflicts that have been ravaging the country for far too long.

The African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) mandate will be reviewed once again by the Council in October. In the meantime, the Council must continue to follow closely the situation in the Sudan in general and in Darfur in particular. The UNAMID exit process cannot be disconnected from developments in the rest of the country. In that regard, we look forward to the joint report of the United Nations and the African Union, which will formulate a shared political strategy with options for an appropriate and carefully calibrated presence in Darfur.

In conclusion, the Sudan is experiencing a historic moment in its history as a result of the courage and aspiration to freedom, peace and justice of its people. Significant challenges to sustainable peace remain, but the Council will continue to support the country as it continues its transition.

**The President:** I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the representative of Poland.

I would like to thank Under-Secretary-General Lacroix and Commissioner Chergui for their insightful briefings.

Poland welcomes the signing of the agreement on the establishment of a new civilian-led transitional Government and transitional institutions between the Forces for Freedom and Change and the Transitional Military Council in the Sudan. We commend the people of the Sudan for bringing about the peaceful transition. We also welcome the appointment of the new Prime Minister, which we see as an important step in creating a civilian-led Government. We praise the international community, in particular the African Union and Ethiopia, for its mediation efforts.

It is of crucial importance that representatives of Darfur participate in the process of transition at the national level and that the Darfuri people benefit from the new political reality. We hope that this new political dynamic in the Sudan will also bring back the momentum to the peace process in Darfur and will prompt the Darfuri rebel groups to engage in negotiations with the new Sudanese authorities.

When it comes to the situation in Darfur, we note with regret that violations of human rights, including sexual and gender-based violence, as well as violations of international humanitarian law, continue to occur across the region. We strongly condemn the targeting of

the civilian population — especially those who are most vulnerable, such as women, children and internally displaced persons — by security personnel and the Rapid Support Forces, as well as militias. It is our strong belief that the authorities should spare no effort to hold the perpetrators accountable and do their utmost to fight impunity in Darfur. In that context, I would also like to reiterate our call upon the Government of the Sudan and all other parties to the conflict in Darfur to cooperate fully with, and provide any necessary assistance to, the International Criminal Court and its Prosecutor, in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions.

Poland will continue to closely follow the developments in the Sudan and in Darfur, including in the context of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) mandate renewal scheduled for October. We are willing to look into every proposal concerning United Nations engagement in Darfur post-UNAMID. Bearing in mind the persisting and numerous human rights violations in Darfur, we believe that issues such as ensuring respect for human rights and the protection of civilians should be reflected in options for political engagement in Darfur after UNAMID's withdrawal.

We continue to believe that, during the transition from peacekeeping to peacebuilding and in order to achieve lasting peace in Darfur, particular emphasis needs to be put on socioeconomic conditions, including the provision of health services and workplaces, education, trade, basic economic infrastructure and agriculture, as well as on establishing effective rule of law across Darfur. Without the support of the international community and securing funding for development in Darfur, we are putting the gains achieved with great effort over the past decade at risk.

In conclusion, let me express our gratitude to all UNAMID personnel, the United Nations country team and the humanitarian actors who continue to work tirelessly to help to achieve sustainable peace in Darfur.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

I give the floor to the representative of the Sudan.

**Mr. Siddig** (Sudan): Allow me, at the outset, to express my delegation's appreciation for the exemplary manner in which you, Madam President, have been

leading the work of the Security Council during the month of August.

My delegation would also like to convey its thanks to Under-Secretary-General Lacroix and Commissioner Chergui for their contributions regarding the situation in Darfur. Our gratitude also goes to the members of the Security Council for their respective interventions during this meeting and for the support they have expressed towards my Government and country to ensure the transition's success.

The Darfur of today is completely different from the Darfur of some years ago, when the Security Council began addressing the situation. Even the Sudan of today is no longer the Sudan the Council has known over the past 30 years. The Sudan of today is a country that upholds democracy, justice, the rule of law, transparency, liberty, freedom and equality. It is a country where youth and women will be fairly represented at all levels of Government.

Allow me, once again, to salute the peacekeepers all over our planet and direct my special respect to the women and men who serve in the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID). Our condolences and sympathy go to the families of those who lost their lives serving in Darfur as they protected civilians there. Our regard and esteem are directed to the United Nations, the African Union and to the Council for their follow-up and perseverance in the quest for peace in Darfur.

My Government will dedicate the first six months of its transitional tenure to realizing durable peace and sustainable stability throughout the country. We call on the international community to join my Government in inducing the revolutionaries who fought to topple the previous regime to join hands with us in order to relieve the plight and miseries of our people, who have suffered the consequences of war. We also encourage countries that host some leaders of armed groups to convince them or prompt them to embrace peace in good heart and good faith, since the pretexts upon which they took up arms are no longer there.

Based on the current realities, we reiterate that peacekeeping is not the right option in Darfur. It is time to shift to peacebuilding, recovery, development, security and stability for my people there. The Security Council adopted resolution 2479 (2019) in June. The resolution decided to defer the consideration of UNAMID's timetable for withdrawal until October

based on hypothetical expectations on developments that were then taking place in Khartoum. However, time has proved the opposite. My delegation calls for new members of the Security Council to pave the way for UNAMID's withdrawal by June 2020, as stipulated and agreed upon.

Prior to June 2020, the date set for UNAMID's complete withdrawal, we believe that it is incumbent on the Council to revisit resolution 1591 (2005), in particular the restrictions that the Council imposed on the movement of arms and of troops in and within Darfur. It is of particular and paramount importance to empower the Sudanese law enforcement bodies to be fully equipped in order to bulwark law and order, protect stability and prevent any relapse into or recourse to violence in Darfur.

The Security Council is aware that Darfur is adjacent to volatile hotspots in the region, where terrorist organizations such as the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, Al-Qaida and Boko Haram are active and where illegal migration and human trafficking are rampant. For those and other reasons, the Council may agree with us regarding the necessity of fully equipping different Government agencies and law enforcement entities in the post-UNAMID period. My Government reiterates its commitment to working closely with the United Nations country team and the entire United Nations system in realizing the stability and recovery of Darfur.

The realization of peace is my Government's priority during the coming six months. Stabilization and sustaining peace are our ultimate objectives during the three years of the transition and the post-transitional period in the democratic rule of the Sudan.

We are cognizant and aware that peace has its merits and requirements, particularly with regard to the returnees, be they internally displaced persons or refugees. Preparations for their return require the international community to help the Sudan in creating a conducive atmosphere and services for them. The international community's assistance is also required in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process, the rehabilitation of deserted or destroyed services infrastructure, mitigating the negative effects of desertification and climate change and ensuring transitional justice and reparations. Those needs and

others will be discussed with relevant United Nations bodies and other regional organizations.

My Government is committed to ensuring access for all those in need of receiving humanitarian assistance. We again reiterate that all sites vacated by UNAMID will be assigned to and used for humanitarian and civilian purposes.

Finally, I am pleased to say that my country has taken the first step in the lengthy road towards recovery, along which we anticipate the international community to be a power by our side. We are ready to engage positively with all.

**The President:** I now give the floor to Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix to respond to comments and questions raised.

**Mr. Lacroix:** I will try to answer the question posed by the representative of the United Kingdom regarding the situation of camps in relation to the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). I can say that the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) has not been in a position to verify that the RSF have vacated the camps that have already been handed over by UNAMID. That is essentially because its interaction with the Transitional Military Council has been quite limited over the past month. What we have, as I said, is a commitment by the Transitional Military Council, and I have just heard the Ambassador of the Sudan reiterating that commitment, that all camps that have been handed over will be used for civilian purposes. We certainly look forward to the Government of the Sudan delivering on that commitment.

With regard to the camps that need to be, but have not yet been, handed over by UNAMID, we also look forward to productive discussions with the Government. As I said, UNAMID is currently working on a road map regarding site-by-site arrangements in that spirit. I believe that the tripartite mechanism that is to be held in New York to which I alluded will also be very helpful for us to advance on this very important issue.

**The President:** I thank Mr. Lacroix for his clarifications.

There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers.

*The meeting rose at 11.45 a.m.*