



## Security Council

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### Letter dated 31 December 2019 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to Security Council resolution [2495 \(2019\)](#), in which the Council requested the Secretary-General and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission to provide a special report, no later than 31 January 2020, with recommendations regarding the drawdown of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and options for a follow-on presence to UNAMID, based on the views and the needs of the Government of the Sudan.

We have since engaged with the African Union at the headquarters level, as well as with the Sudanese transitional authorities to ascertain their priorities, including through a visit by a multidisciplinary team to Khartoum from 12 to 16 December 2019. On the basis of those discussions, it is our collective assessment that more time is required for the Sudanese interlocutors to articulate their preferences, especially in relation to peace implementation. The conclusion of the ongoing talks in Juba between the transitional authorities and the Sudanese armed groups, including those from Darfur, Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan (the Two Areas) and other regions, has been extended from December 2019 to February 2020. It would therefore be prudent to solidify consultations with the Sudanese interlocutors on the details of the focus, architecture and operating modalities of the post-UNAMID mechanism in line with the progress of the peace talks.

We therefore wish to request a one-month extension, to 28 February 2020, for the submission of the special report. That adjustment would allow us to continue consultations at a high level with the African Union and the Sudanese authorities in January 2020.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

*(Signed)* António Guterres

