



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

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Agenda item 10

### Technical assistance and capacity-building

## Written statement\* submitted by Elizka Relief Foundation, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[19 August 2020]


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\* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.

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## Technical Support in the Sudan

### Preface

Technical cooperation provided by the Office of the United Nations (UN) High Commissioner for Human Rights is one of the most important requirements of the transitional phase that the Sudan is currently going through after the December 2018 revolution. Human rights must be encouraged and protected, and sustainable development goals must be achieved. In addition, cooperation with other international human rights mechanisms and the provision of advisory services helps in the process of building national structures for the new phase. Therefore, the Foundation makes a number of observations in this regard.

### General observations on technical support for the State of the Sudan:

#### First: sustainable development and the need for technical support

Elizka Relief Foundation would like to refer to one of the main cooperation and technical support provided by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, which the Sudan needs the most in the coming period, which is support related to the national development goals and the 2030 sustainable development goals. This technical cooperation should reflect the activation of linking human rights to national development goals which is expected to be issued by the government under the name "Sudan Vision 2030".

However, the government's delay in launching this vision necessarily implies indicating the importance of focusing the technical support on what it should concentrate on, and Elizka Relief Foundation would like to recommend the following:

- A. The national agenda should focus on managing crises, especially those related to the causes of the December revolution, including the shortage of fuel, flour, medicine and basic services. It should also focus on peace issues, including the acceleration of the process of signing a comprehensive peace agreement with all parties, the integration of fighters, and the movements' transfer to political action. As well as referring to comprehensive national reconciliation without exclusion of any political or social party.
- B. It should also focus on structuring the state by separating the three authorities, strengthening institutionalization, and achieving a balance of powers.
- C. It is also worth noting the strategic planning and activation of the roles of the National Council for Strategic Planning and the Central Agency for Statistics and Information.
- D. It should also focus on the annual planning of the energy (traditional and renewable), and transportation sectors (roads - bridges - railways - aviation - marine). As well as basic rights (health, education and housing), the environment, and e-government, as well as the creation of renewable cities.

#### Second: the impact of unilateral coercive measures and the need for technical support

On the other hand, technical support to the Government of the Sudan should focus on preventing the negative effects of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights in the Sudan. Among those measures is placing the Sudan on the lists of countries supporting terrorism. The sanctions imposed affect many of the rights of the citizens of the Sudan and deny them their basic rights, including the rights to health, food and the right to life itself.

In light of the spread of the Covid 19 epidemic around the world, and with many countries affected by the economic repercussions, the need for more international support for the affected countries, including the Sudan, appears. But these sanctions prevent that, and represent an obstacle for humanitarian supplies<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> "كوفيد-19: خبراء أمميون يدعون إلى رفع العقوبات "التي تجلب المعاناة والموت"، أخبار الأمم المتحدة، 7 أغسطس 2020، على <https://news.un.org/ar/story/2020/08/1059432> الرابط التالي:

Therefore, Elizka Relief Foundation calls for the need to provide technical support to the government in the recent steps it has taken to remove its name from the lists of international terrorism. Helping them to quickly lift, suspend or reduce sanctions, so that humanitarian aid can reach them smoothly and without any burdens.

### **Third: The Universal Periodic Review and Technical Support**

Elizka Relief Foundation believes that the government of the Sudan, which was subject to the previous session of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism in May 2016, and is scheduled to review its report again in October 2021<sup>2</sup> needs more technical support in that mechanism, especially with regard to work on inclusion effective stakeholders from non-governmental organizations, civil society and specialized national councils in the Sudan, as part of the consultations that the government holds before submitting its national report. Especially in light of the lack of trust between many organizations and the government.

The Foundation recommends that technical support should focus on the most prominent recommendations presented to the previous government in the last session, related to the ratification of international human rights conventions and other relevant international instruments to which the Sudan has not yet become a party. Furthermore, accelerate the adoption of the Constitution and ensure that all national laws are consistent with international human rights law.

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<sup>2</sup> Sudan Timeline for UPR engagement in the current cycle”, UPR Info, access date: 19/8/2020, available at: <https://bit.ly/3hdd1CE>.