

## Civil Society Statement on the Situation in Sudan

### Calling for an immediate end to the military coup and the protection of peaceful demonstrators in Sudan

TO:

- Ambassador Martin Kimani, President of the UN Security Council
- Ambassador Dame Barbara Woodward, Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the United Nations, UN Security Council penholder on the situation in Sudan
- Ambassador Felix-Antoine Tshisekedi, Chairperson of the African Union is H.E. President

DATE: 25 October 2021

On behalf of a diverse group of civil society organizations from around the world working on prevention, peacebuilding, humanitarian affairs, human rights, women's rights, we **condemn the illegal and violent assumption of power by the military – the military coup in Sudan** – that took place at dawn on October 24, 2021.

Coinciding with the 67th anniversary of the United Nations (UN) – the global community that serves to unite everyone around the goals of international peace and security for all, – the military in Sudan has demonstrated a complete disregard for principles of the UN Charter and effectively tried to end the people-led and UN-supported transitional process in Sudan.

In this, the military dissolved the Sudanese cabinet and the governing Sovereignty Council and arrested a large number of civilian government officials, including the acting Prime Minister, Dr. Abdullah Hamdok. Many of them are reportedly under arrest.

In response, Sudanese people, diverse peacebuilders, including youth and women, – those who have supported and worked for the 2019 transition process, – took their voices to the streets in peaceful and nonviolent rejection of the military coup. These legitimate protests were met with violence by security forces and resulted in deaths, in an attempt to quell any opposition to the illegal power grab.

We welcome the timely effort of the U.S. government to hold financial aid to the Sudanese government and statements by various global stakeholders calling for stabilization of the situation and return to the legitimate transition process in Sudan.

**The military coup should stop now, and an agreed-upon transition process needs to be reinstated.** The people in Sudan and beyond Sudan can no longer wait for peace. Beyond the horrific impact in-country, the situation in Sudan can further destabilize the entire region and represent a grave danger to international peace and security.

**We call for an immediate end to the illegal military coup and for a peaceful transfer of power back to the civilian members of the government** who gained power as a result of a

collective 2019 agreement in Juba. Only this will ensure a democratic and fair transition process in Sudan that was already accepted and agreed upon by its people.

**We encourage action to recognize, protect and support the right of the Sudanese people to peacefully resist illegal actions by the military** and express their aspiration for a democratic civilian transition.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

To prevent Sudan from entering a downward spiral and preserve its transition process, we call on **the United Nations, African Union, and the donor community** to:

- 1) Refrain from all processes and actions that appear to recognize the military regime in Sudan as a legitimate government;
- 2) Take all necessary and urgent measures to protect civilians, including youth and women, from being subjected to violence and ensure that they can exercise their right to assembly and express their opinion;
- 3) Prevent financial support of any activities of the military outside the agreed-upon framework of the transition process;
- 4) Engage with Sudan's military authorities to ensure full protection of civilians, peaceful demonstrators, including women and young people; and immediately release the detainees; open roads and public transportation, restore internet service immediately.
- 5) Conduct an immediate and serious dialogue to find solutions to this crisis, with the participation of representatives of Sudanese civil society organizations, especially organizations led by youth and women.

#### **Specifically, the African Union (AU) must:**

- Facilitate a dialogue among all Sudanese actors and revitalize the transition process by providing the necessary technical and political support;
- Encourage the military to respect and act on its international obligations regarding human rights as well their national obligations as outlined by the Sudanese Constitution;
- Commit to providing short and long-term support to the Sudanese civilian government to achieve a democratic and peaceful state with socio-economic growth.

#### **Specifically, the UN Security Council must:**

- Adopt a Security Council resolution condemning the military coup and ordering its immediate end;
- Communicate clearly the international and national legal obligations of the Sudanese military and conceptualize targeted measures in case of non-compliance, without hurting the wider Sudanese people;
- Provide all necessary support to the African Union, the United Nations field presences, and local actors so that they can revitalize the transitional process.

**Sincerely,**