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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
FIELD MISSION TO KHARTOUM, SUDAN

16 – 17 AUGUST 2026
ADDIS ABABA ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/FIELD MISSION/RPT (2026)

REPORT OF THE FIELD MISSION OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE AFRICAN UNION
TO KHARTOUM, SUDAN FROM 16 TO 17 AUGUST 2026

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. From 16 to 17 August 2026, the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU), led by the Permanent Representative of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria to the AU, H.E. Ambassador Dr. Mohamed Khaled, as the PSC Chairperson for August 2026, conducted a field mission to Sudan, within the overall context of the PSC mandate of promoting peace, security and stability in Africa. The field mission was also undertaken pursuant to the PSC decisions in relation to the situation in Sudan, particularly, Communiqué [PSC/PR/COMM.1293 (2025)] adopted at its 1293rd meeting held on 4 August 2025; Communiqué [PSC/MIN/COMM.1330. (2026)] adopted at its 1330th meeting held at Ministerial level on 12 February 2026.

II. COMPOSITION OF THE DELEGATION

2. The Delegation of the PSC comprised the representatives of the following PSC Members, namely: Algeria, Benin, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Lesotho, Morocco, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa and Uganda. The Delegation was accompanied by Ambassador Mohamed Belaiche, Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission to Sudan, the Head of the PSC Secretariat, Ms. Neema Chusi, and support staff from the AU Commission's Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security.

III. MAIN OBJECTIVES

3. Essentially, the field mission was conducted to provide an opportunity for the PSC to gather first-hand information, from the people and authorities of Sudan, regarding the prevailing security, political, socio-economic and humanitarian situation, as well as to ascertain the state of progress in the peace process. In addition, it was also undertaken to enable the PSC, to more directly:

- a) Express the AU solidarity with the people of Sudan in their aspirations to restore durable peace, security, stability and prosperity in their country.
- b) Ascertain the status of implementation of the various decisions of the AU Assembly and the PSC on the situation in Sudan;
- c) Reaffirm the unwavering commitment and determination of the AU to continue supporting the efforts of the people of Sudan to implement the Sudan Peace Process, including the organization of a genuine and inclusive political dialogue, inside Sudan, leading to the successful completion of the political transition process; and
- d) Encourage the Sudanese authorities to place the supreme interests of Sudan and its people above all else, in order to successfully restore peace, security, stability and development in their country.

4. The first-hand information gathered during the field mission enables the PSC to adopt evidence-based decisions on the next steps required to more effectively support the people and the government of Sudan in addressing the complex challenges they are currently facing.

IV. METHODOLOGY

5. To achieve the intended objectives of the field mission, the PSC Delegation first held a consultation with the Prime Minister Dr. Kamil El-Tayeb Idris, who was accompanied by some Cabinet Ministers, including the Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Muhi al-Din Salem Ahmed; the Minister of Finance and Economy, H.E. Dr. Gebreil Ibrahim; the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, H.E. Professor Eid Ibrahim Brima; and the Minister of Mining, H.E. Nur al- Daim. This consultation included a documentary film on the impact of the ongoing conflict. The PSC also held consultations with the leaders of various political parties and civil society organizations, which represented women and youth, among others.

6. The PSC Delegation held consultations with H.E. General Abdel Fattah al- Burhan, President of the Transitional Sovereign Council.

V. SUMMARY OF THE KEY FINDINGS FROM THE FIELD MISSION

7. From the briefings by the Sudanese authorities, the PSC Delegation noted, among others, the following aspects:

i) Political Situation

8. The Sudanese authorities welcomed the visit by the PSC as a reflection of the enduring bonds between Sudan and the African Union, and also as a reflection of the shared conviction that Africa's interest is best secured, guaranteed, serviced and respected through solidarity, strategic partnership, collaboration, mutual respect, and most importantly through the promotion of African-led and owned solutions to the multidimensional and complex challenges facing the Continent. They expressed a feeling of abandonment by the AU, at a time when Sudan is going through the greatest political-security and socio-economic crisis in its history.

9. The Sudanese authorities assured the PSC delegation that, as part of the founding members of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and as a key Member of the African Union (AU), Sudan has and will always remain committed to promoting and supporting efforts aimed at achieving the AU Vision and Continental integration agenda, including Agenda 2063 and the noble AU aspiration of silencing the guns in Africa by 2030. They recalled the significant sacrifices made by Sudan in contributing towards the liberation of OAU/AU Member States from colonialism, including, by hosting some African liberation movements and nationalist icons such as Nelson Mandela, in efforts towards ending the apartheid regime in South Africa. They assured the PSC Delegation that, despite the huge losses of lives, the wanton destruction of infrastructure and property, the unprecedented displacement of the Sudanese people as refugees and as internally displaced persons (IDPs), Sudan's primary objective and top priority is effective restoration of durable peace, security and stability in the country; as well as safeguarding unity, independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country.

10. The Sudanese authorities further informed the PSC Delegation that, in December 2025, they presented to the United Nations Security Council, the Sudan Peace Plan, which they described as a comprehensive and coherent framework for the restoration of peace and stability in the country as it calls for the protection of civilians and unhindered humanitarian access to the population in dire need; immediate withdrawal by the Rapid Support Forces militias and mercenaries from occupied territories consistent with the 2023 Jeddah Agreement, which is supported by the AU Commission, the League of Arab States, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC), the Muslim League and by the Vatican and the United Nations.

11. Notably, the authorities also informed the PSC Delegation that many Sudanese refugees were beginning to voluntarily return to their country, encouraged by the significant gains being registered by the Sudanese Armed Forces, which is recovering a number of territories that had been captured by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

12. The PSC Delegation was informed that the Sudanese political dialogue will be launched soon and that all key Sudanese political actors and stakeholders will be represented, adding that the Government will deploy all efforts to create conducive conditions to this end. The Sudanese Authority expressed the hope that the much-needed inclusive dialogue will pave the way for a new constitution and for the organization of national elections, followed by the restoration of the Sudanese State that will facilitate all efforts towards post-conflict reconstruction, development, recovery and stabilization, as well as peacebuilding efforts. They appealed for the continued support of the AU and, in this respect, requested the PSC to classify the Rapid Support Forces as a terrorist organization. It should also be noted that the Sudanese authority stated that groups like RSF will not be invited to the national dialogue. They justified that Sudan will not reward instigators and perpetrators of war by giving them positions of power in any post-war government.

13. They commended the AU for strongly rejecting the establishment of any parallel governments/ institutions in Sudan and also for the efforts, particularly, by the Chairperson of the Commission through His Special Representative for Sudan, H.E. Ambassador Mohammed Belaiche. However, they stressed the need for the AU to adopt a position that will contribute towards effectively drying out any channels of support to the RSF. They underscored the need for translating the AU mantra “African Solutions to African problems” into more tangible and concrete results in Sudan. In this respect, they emphatically appealed for the AU to recognize the civilian government now in place and, accordingly, to immediately lift the suspension of Sudan from participating in the activities of the Union in order to help alleviate the suffering of the Sudanese people. They also requested the AU to declare RSF as a terrorist group. In addition, they emphasized the following as their key red lines (non-negotiable issues), namely:

- a) Equating the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) with “the defunct/ non-existent Rapid Support Forces”, which they said was already dissolved following the failed *coup d’etat*;
- b) Deciding the destiny of Sudan in the absence of the representatives of the Sudanese people;
- c) All negotiations to be organized inside Sudan, with the support of the AU; and
- d) Peace agreements should not reward instigators and perpetrators of war by giving them positions of power in any post-war government.

ii) Security Situation

14. The security situation in Sudan remains extremely fragile due to the ongoing fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces with regions such as Kordofan, Darfur, Blue Nile and towns such as El-Obeid considered as some of the major theatres of the fighting. The PSC Delegation was informed that the SAF is currently conducting a sustained counter-offensive to liberate all territory currently under the RSF and that they were gradually making significant gains particularly in areas around the Capital, Khartoum which arguably further strengthens the SAF’s position throughout central Sudan. On the other hand, the RSF are reportedly entrenched in much of Darfur in Western Sudan.

15. The Sudanese interlocutors strongly condemned the United Arab Emirates, which they accused of supporting the RSF. They urged the AU to condemn all forms of interference in the internal affairs of Sudan, including by some African and non-African countries that are allegedly supporting the RSF, in violation of the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Sudan.

iii) Socio-Economic Situation

16. The PSC Delegation noted that Sudan has great economic potential. However, the Delegation was informed that the ongoing fighting between the SAF and RSF, coupled with the suspension of Sudan from participating in the activities of the AU and its institutions or Organs have caused an unprecedented and devastating decline of the Sudanese economy citing as evidence the continued shrinking of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by over 40%, thereby triggering an unprecedented hyperinflation. Government revenue has declined drastically. Furthermore, the National Bank of Sudan was looted and so were many other banks with many of them shutting down, thereby resulting in many people losing their savings. Foreign exchange reserves remain severely depleted. Many Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) were destroyed and the money stolen. The Sudanese currency has drastically depreciated. International financial institutions are reluctant to support Sudan. In addition, up to 90% of Sudan's industrial /manufacturing capacity particularly in major cities such as Khartoum, has been destroyed and rendered out of service. On the other hand, the agriculture sector has also been significantly affected by the ongoing war, resulting in food insecurity in many parts of the country. Cumulatively, livelihoods have been lost, the cost of living is rising exponentially, leaving most Sudanese people in abject poverty and in dire need for humanitarian assistance.

17. Although the Sudanese authorities are grateful to the International Monetary Fund and the African Development Bank for supporting their country, they lamented the fact that most of the international financial assistance is not being transmitted through the official government channels. Lastly, Sudan has also been removed from participating the Tokyo International Conference on Africa's Development (TICAD).

iv) Humanitarian Situation

18. The ongoing war has claimed the lives of many Sudanese people. Many schools, colleges and universities (both government and private) including libraries and science laboratories, which constitute an integral part of Sudan's centers of scientific research and development innovation, were and continue to be deliberately destroyed. Many school children, college and university students and staff were either killed or abducted, thereby destroying the physical foundation of Sudan's education system. The Sudanese authorities requested the AU to support their efforts to rebuild and restore the intellectual foundation of Sudan.

19. Furthermore, electric power generation and drinking water infrastructure have been destroyed with more than 70% of Sudanese now living without electricity. In addition to the large numbers of Sudanese people killed, an estimated 13 million Sudanese people have lost their homes and livelihoods. Millions have been displaced internally, while an estimated 3 million people have become refugees in neighbouring countries and beyond. To worsen the humanitarian crisis, the ongoing conflict is also hindering humanitarian access to the population in need.

20. In addition, the healthcare system in areas of active fighting, has essentially collapsed with an estimated 70% of facilities now virtually defunct. As a result, disease outbreaks are increasingly common, including malaria and cholera. In this regard, the Sudanese interlocutors appealed for

sustained support from the AU and AU Member States for efforts aimed at mobilizing humanitarian assistance to alleviate the suffering of the affected population.

VI. STATUS OF THE PEACE PROCESS

21. The Sudanese authorities argued that, although they had participated in the Jedda and Juba initiatives, so far, there are no tangible results, arguing that this is so due to the fact that these processes were aiming at reaching a power-sharing agreement, to which they are opposed to. However, they assured the PSC Delegation of their continued commitment to participate in the Sudan peace process but insisted that the process should be based on the Roadmap they had already presented to the United Nations in 2025. The key elements of the Roadmap include:

- a) Immediate ceasefire to be monitored by the AU, with the support of the United Nations, and League of Arab States (LAS);
- b) Withdrawal of RSF from all territories under its control followed by its disarmament;
- c) Reintegration and Justice; and
- d) Political Transition

22. They stressed the need for the AU to play a more positive and impactful role in the Sudan peace process. In short, the peace process is still working in progress but one that requires further impetus, including mutual trust and respect, as well as sustained confidence building measures, in order to achieve the desired results. They expressed with dissatisfaction with those meetings on the situation in Sudan outside the continent.

VII. CONCLUSION

23. The ongoing conflict in Sudan has left the country in a dire political, security, socio-economic and humanitarian situation. To end the current conflict, sustained diplomatic efforts are critical. Equally critical are the immediate ceasefire and unhindered humanitarian access. Enhanced support for Sudan's nationally owned peace process remains key, including the re-launch of an inclusive intra-Sudanese political dialogue within Sudan. Equally critical is the completion of the political, legal, and institutional requirements necessary to realize the establishment of an elected civilian government and return of constitutional order that is a mandatory prerequisite for the lifting of Sudan's suspension and the restoration of its full participation in the activities and organs of the African Union, consistent with relevant AU Assembly and PSC decisions and relevant AU legal instruments.

VIII. RECOMMENDATIONS

24. In view of the findings of the field mission, the PSC may wish to consider the following recommendations on the way forward, namely:

- a) **Reaffirming** the AU solidarity with the State and people of Sudan and the continued commitment of the AU to support them in their aspiration to restore lasting peace, security and stability, and prosperity in their country for the benefit of Sudan and the entire African Continent;
- b) Also **reaffirming** the AU respect for the preservation of Sudan's sovereignty, independence, national unity, and territorial integrity and, in this respect, reiterating the AU strong

condemnation and non-recognition of any attempts by whosoever, to divide Sudan and to create parallel institutions;

- c) **Urges** the need to ensure restoration of public services, unhindered humanitarian assistance and resumption of productive activities in all parts of Sudan with special consideration of the current rainy season.
- d) **Taking note** with deep concern of the devastating impact of the ongoing conflict, in terms of huge losses of lives, population displacement as internally displaced persons and also as refugees, wanton destruction of property and infrastructure, human rights violations, violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law, including gender-based violence against women and girls and children; as well as continued attacks against educational facilities, including schools, colleges, universities and centers for scientific and technological research; and in this regard, warning the perpetrators of all atrocities and violations that they will be held to account for the heinous acts;
- e) **Stressing** the necessity for promoting a Sudan-led and Sudan-owned political process leading to a consensual solution to the current crisis with the close support of the AU; while discouraging parallel and competing peace initiatives and calling for the harmonization of all peace initiatives under the leadership of the AU with the support of Quintet;
- f) **Emphasizing** that there can be no viable military solution to the current crisis, strongly urge the belligerents to stop pursuing unilateral military solutions, which can only result in more losses of lives, destruction of infrastructure and the environment, population displacements and derail national development; and in this respect, encouraging the Sudanese political actors to place the supreme interests of Sudan and its people above all else in order to give peace a chance;
- g) **Calls** for a genuinely inclusive, transparent, credible national dialogue, laying the foundation for the restoration of constitutional order through the holding of elections;
- h) **Underlining** the necessity of an inclusive political transition process towards the re-establishment of a civilian-led transition governance and the centrality of an all-Sudanese genuine and inclusive dialogue, which mainstreams the meaningful participation of women and youth as the only viable path towards a consensual and durable solution to the current crisis;
- i) **Emphasizing** the importance of engaging all stakeholders on national priority actions required to holistically address the country's governance, peace, and security challenges, and identify areas where the AU can provide support;
- j) **Stressing** the importance of involving the neighboring countries of Sudan as strategic players in the search for a sustainable solution to the current conflict in Sudan; in this regard, **commends** the neighboring countries of Sudan for hosting and supporting Sudanese refugees and for their continued collaboration with the AU and IGAD to find lasting solutions to the conflict;
- k) **Underscoring** the need to urgently end the ongoing conflict and, in this regard, demanding an immediate and unconditional ceasefire and calling for the protection of civilians, respect for International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law, in line with the various decisions of the AU Assembly and the PSC;

- l) **Calling** for unconditional and immediate cessation of hostilities, establishment of a humanitarian truce and for immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all foreign fighters and mercenaries;
- m) **Condemning** all external interferences that fuel the conflict and call upon the external countries out of the continent to put an end to it;
- n) **Engaging** all critical stakeholders to identify solutions to the country's unprecedented humanitarian crisis while emphasizing the need for comprehensively addressing its structural root causes comprehensively;
- o) **Emphasizing** the need for the establishment and strengthening of accountability mechanisms in order to combat impunity and promote justice for the victims of atrocities being committed in the ongoing war;
- p) **Stressing** the need for scaling up resource mobilization towards addressing the dire humanitarian situation and reconstruction of public infrastructure in the country and alleviating the suffering of populations;
- q) **Emphasizing** the need for coordinated international action, led by the African Union and IGAD, with support from neighboring countries and key international partners, to resolve the crisis in Sudan;
- r) **Commending** the Republic of Sudan for facilitating the successful organization and undertaking of the field mission, including for the warm hospitality and all diplomatic courtesies extended to the PSC Delegation; and
- s) **Deciding** to remain actively seized of the situation in Sudan.