



## Republic of Sudan the National Commission for Human rights □

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### Verbal update on the human rights situation in Sudan

#### The Network of African National Human Rights Institutions

Ladies and gentlemen, presidents

Dear members of the network secretariat,

I am honored to interact within this meeting with a brief verbal update on the most important achievements and challenges facing human rights in Sudan, I will begin by emphasizing that the National Commission for Human Rights is witnessing an important development with regard to its independence, and we are currently working with our national, regional and international partners to develop laws in a manner that guarantees complete independence.

We are facing a major and important challenge in the attempt by UNITAMS and the country office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to exercise the powers and competencies of the National Commission for Human Rights, including their receipt of complaints from citizens without being bound by the requirement to exhaust national remedies, and we regret to mention a number of practices harmful to the institution practiced by the mission and the country office, including their reluctance to assist in raising capacity despite our numerous requests in this regard.

We are facing the challenge of the resignation of some members for political reasons, but the position of these resigning members should not be adopted by the United Nations institutions operating in Sudan, and just as we worked to

distance the institution from entering the current political conflict, we hope that the UNITAMS mission and the country office will refrain from entering the national political fray.

**Ladies and gentlemen:**

**I will give you a brief summary of the human rights situation in Sudan:**

**First, the progress made:**

Starting from the second half of 2019 until now, Sudan has witnessed important developments in the field of human rights, the most important of which are:

- 1/ Ratification of the Convention against Torture.
- 2/ Ratification of the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.
- 3/ A project to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
- 4/ Project to ratify the Maputo Protocol.
- 5 / Extensive amendments to the criminal law.
- 6/ The repealing of the public order law.
- 7/ Numerous legal amendments with regard to women's rights and the elimination of discrimination against them.
- 8/ Sudan has witnessed important developments in the field of freedom of speech.
- 9/ In the field of capacity-building and upgrading. All government institutions, the National Institution and civil society organizations have witnessed an increasing demand for capacity-building and upgrading programs.

## **Second, the main challenges:**

As is known to all, the stages of transition are often surrounded by many risks and challenges, especially challenges related to economic and social rights, as well as risks related to civil and political rights.

Among the most prominent challenges facing Sudan today is the challenge of completing the structures of the transitional authority, chief among them:

### **1/ Delayed formation of the Legislative Council “Parliament”:**

The absence of the Legislative Council for more than three years represented a major challenge in the field of human rights, given its role in amending and issuing legislation as well as its important oversight role in the maintenance and protection of human rights.

### **2/ Delayed appointment of the Constitutional Court:**

The Constitutional Court has a major role in monitoring the constitutionality of laws, provisions and decisions related to human rights, and the delay in its appointment for more than three years has caused the loss of numerous rights.

### **3/ The death penalty:**

One of the challenges facing the human rights situation in Sudan for many years is the issue of protecting the right to life, including the death penalty, and in the recent period and in the absence of the Constitutional Court; a number of people sentenced to death are imprisoned while awaiting completion of litigation.

### **4/ The impact of political unrest on human rights in the most fragile areas:**

The situation of political turmoil has affected the implementation and protection of human rights in many areas of Sudan, especially in the areas of fragility, and although it is noticeable that the situation has improved in the Blue Nile region and South Kordofan region, the Darfur region is awaiting more efforts to address the human rights conditions in the displacement camps, including taking

measures to return the displaced and refugees to their cities and villages, rehabilitate these areas and compensate the affected, in addition to the need for security arrangements to ensure the protection of civilians.

During the second half of 2021 and the beginning of this year, the National commission for Human Rights visited all these areas and identified the most important challenges in them. We have communicated with government agencies and they have given promises to take serious measures.

5/ Women's rights, it is apparent that the situation of women's rights has clearly improved after the fall of the Bashir regime on April 11, 2019, and a large number of discriminatory laws and texts were repealed, and we are now facing the challenge of ratifying the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and taking measures to implement it .

Thank you for listening and follow up.