



## Sudan Knowledge Centre

### Statement on the World Humanitarian Day

Geneva, 19 August 2024

Today, 19 August 2024, the international community commemorates the World Humanitarian Day (WHD) and pays its tribute and honour to humanitarian workers in service, or the heroes fallen in the line of duty. Under the motto “Act for Humanity” this year’s anniversary of WHD is a solemn occasion for a renewed call to action to protect humanitarian workers from violence and to enable them to serve and preserve the well-being and dignity of people in need of humanitarian assistance worldwide. On this occasion, it is pivotal that the world community reaffirm its resolve to bring to end all sorts of impunity for the perpetrators of violence or aggressions against humanitarian workers or those who commit acts or measures to hinder and obstruct their altruistic efforts.

This year’s anniversary of WHD comes at a time when Sudan is the scene of one of the worst humanitarian crises recorded in the world in recent decades, which is due to widespread military confrontations and massive internal displacement of civilians. Around 24.8 million people or approximately half of Sudan’s population live in precarious conditions and urgently need humanitarian assistance with at least 14 million children lacking food, safe potable water, shelter and medical care. On 1 August 2024 the Famine Review Committee reported that famine indeed exists in some parts of the country

Added to Sudan’s manmade humanitarian disaster is the outbreak of waterborne diseases, including cholera epidemic, which has been officially declared on 18 August 2024. On the other hand, and since early June 2024, the country is heavily hit by devastating unprecedented seasonal floods and rains that destroyed homes, public facilities and infrastructures. This natural disaster has consequently displaced hundreds of thousands of victims in large parts of the country.

The Sudan Knowledge Centre (SKC) salutes the efforts of humanitarian workers worldwide and calls on political decision-makers to exert all efforts to protect humanitarian workers and take further measures to ensure that they conduct their missions effectively. SKC strongly calls on the warring parties in Sudan, particularly the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) to positively respond to international efforts to address the humanitarian crisis in the country and to save the lives of millions of Sudanese that face the risk of starvation to death unless SAF allows unhindered, timely, robust and largescale humanitarian operation to reach the needy populations. The SAF should head the countless calls on it to join the ceasefire talks that are currently taking place in Geneva (Switzerland) and to immediately engage in the negotiation for a short-term ceasefire arrangement for humanitarian purposes.

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