H. E. Mr. Pekka Haavisto
Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Sudan
Palais des Nations
Geneva (Switzerland)

20 October 2026

Subject: <u>Sixth Consultative Meeting on Enhancing Coordination of Peace Initiatives and Efforts in Sudan</u>

Your Excellency.

The undersigned organizations welcome the convening of the Sixth Consultative Meeting on Enhancing Coordination of Peace Initiatives and Efforts in Sudan and look forward for its successful conclusion. It is our sincere hope that under your able leadership the warring parties i.e. the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) will agree to observe a humanitarian cessation of hostilities and kickstart political negotiations for peaceful settlement of the armed conflict.

As you are fully aware, the humanitarian situation in the country is utterly devastating and millions of the war victims are looking at your excellent efforts with great expectations and hopes. While these victims are cherishing peace, they are yearning that your meeting this week will spell the beginning of an end to their suffering. Meanwhile, massive crimes, including killing and maiming for life of civilians through aerial bombardment and drone attacks are reported almost every week. Drone attacks believed to be launched by SAF against Souk Al-Naam in the Abiye area adjacent to South Sudan on 19 October 2026, killed 153 civilians and injured hundreds of others. Meanwhile RSF drone attacks against Khartoum on 19 October, killed 4 people including three young children in a residential area near Khartoum Airport. It is disturbing that millions of Sudanese are facing famine as they are deprived of access to food by violence or deadly attacks against relief convoys and obstruction of relief operations by the parties to the conflict. Meanwhile, abuses against civilians are rampant and reported in different parts of the country, including enforced disappearances, arbitrarily detention for prolonged periods without trial, forced displacement, gender-based violence, money extortion.

The world community must cast aside political and diplomatic comfort and face the reality. All previous efforts to end the humanitarian tragedy in Sudan failed and that atrocity acts and the unsupportable suffering of millions of victims of these crimes are becoming normal in the eyes of the world. It is disheartening to see the inability of the world community to persuade the warring parties to sit at the negotiations table and that the world's silence toward this intolerable situation is becoming the norm and routine. Political differences and rivalry among some states involved in the process for peace in Sudan appear to be a sad reality that blocks any progress.

Your Excellency

We kindly draw attention to the fact that external interferences by state and non-state actors, notably the provision of weapons and military intelligence,[1] as well as the direct participation in combat operations. Such military intervention sustains Sudan's war with itself and violates multiple UN Security Council resolutions, namely 1591/2005[2] and 1556/2004[3] thus deepening the human suffering and aggravating the violations of international law. Another equally important external element is the diplomatic and political backing provided by some states to one party to the conflict at international and regional decision-making institutions and fora. External interventions prolong the armed conflict, widen the ethnic divide and lead to violations of international human rights and humanitarian law thus enduring the suffering of the war victims.

We regrettably note the negative role played by Egypt in the armed conflict. In fact, the deployment of Egyptian fighter jets and troops in Merwe military airbase in early 2023 are some of the factors that paved the way for the ongoing armed conflict. Once again, Egypt's military interference in Sudan came to the fore on 16, 17 and 18 June 2026 when its military jets and ground troops attacked several artisanal gold-mining sites inside Sudanese territory, in the North Al-Wadi, Jabal Al-Eigat and Al-Ansari areas, situated at about 200km to 250km to the north of Port Sudan, Red Sea State, and about 20km to 60km from the Sudanese and Egyptian international borders. These gold-mining hubs host about 7,000 poor miners. The attacks killed about 150 gold miners, while hundreds of others were injured or buried alive inside the mines.

Once again on 10 October 2026, Egyptians military jets, tanks and ground troops attacked the same area and targeted the gold miners.[4] Testimonies from eyewitnesses and survivors indicated that the attack killed hundreds of miners, destroyed the mines and led to their collapse while unknown numbers of miners were buried alive as they were stranded inside the mines. Photographs and video footage show graphic images of the burning dead bodies of the victims and the large extent of the destruction. The impact of the attack extends to the families of those killed and missing, and to thousands of Sudanese households who rely on the proceeds from artisanal gold mining as a source of livelihood.

Your Excellency,

The time for general statements of good intentions is over. Millions of peace-loving people from all over the world are looking for concrete action to protect civilians in Sudan and put an end to the armed conflict in the country, as its continuation is a shameful scar on the world collective conscience. It is against all logic that a country that takes an active role in the fighting and supports the military efforts of one party to the conflict is part of all initiatives to end the very crisis in which it plays a major role. We therefore call for the exclusion of Egypt from any peace initiative for Sudan.

We further call on the world community to:

1. Put more pressure on the warring parties to observe an immediate and unconditional truce for humanitarian purposes and that SAF and RSF should halt all military operations, notably aerial bombardments and drone attacks against residential areas and fully respect international standards on matters of protection of civilians.

2. Scale up international intervention and take concrete steps in view of establishing a Coalition of the Willing to protect civilians in Sudan

3. Condemn all kinds of external military interferences in the armed conflict and attacks against Sudanese territory and the killing of rightful Sudanese citizens inside their country.

4. Open an independent and impartial investigation into the attacks against Sudanese artisanal miners carried out by Egyptian military on 16, 17 and 18 June 2026 as well as on 10 October 2026 in northeastern Sudan, identify the aircraft and the parties that planned, ordered or carried out the attack.

5. The perpetrators of the military attacks against artisanal gold miners must be held accountable, and the victims and their families must receive reparations for the loss of lives and the damage caused to them

6. Take the necessary measures to prevent further military attacks and encroachment on Sudanese territory and that regional and international investigative mechanisms on Sudan should be requested to report about these incidents and any similar future attacks.

Signed:

1. African Organization for Rights and Development, Kampala
2. Centre for African Legal Studies, Geneva
3. Canabi Congress, Sudan
4. Darfur Victims Support Organization, Kampala
5. Elaf Organization for Peace and Community Development
6. Espace Afrique International, Geneva
7. Kordofan Women's Organization for Human Rights, Kampala
8. Sudan Knowledge Centre, Switzerland
9. The Agricultural Workers Initiative for Rights and Development, Kampala
10. Voices of the Victims

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[1] European Union Agency for Asylum, International actors, https://www.euaa.europa.eu/coi/sudan/2025/security-situation/12-actors-conflict/122-international-actors

[2] Resolution 1591 (2005) adopted by the UNSC on 29 March 2005 on the arm embargo on Darfur https://main.un.org/securitycouncil/en/s/res/1591-%282005%29

[3] Resolution 1556 (2004), adopted by the UN Security Council at its 5015th meeting on 30 July 2004, https://docs.un.org/en/S/RES/1556%20(2004)

[4] At least 72 Sudanese miners killed in air strike: Rights monitor, Al Jazeera, AFP and Reuters, 11 October 2026, https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/10/11/at-least-72-sudanese-miners-killed-in-air-strike-rights-monitor