

Secretary-General's speech at Sudan's Neighbouring Countries Meeting

13 July 2023

Your Excellency, President Abdel-Fattah Al-Sisi

President of the Arab Republic of Egypt

Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I appreciate the opportunity to express my gratitude for your commendable initiative in convening this significant and unprecedented meeting of Sudan's neighbouring countries to address the ongoing crisis and its detrimental impact on Sudan's future, as well as the security and stability of the surrounding region. Your leadership in this endeavour is highly valued and demonstrates a commitment to promoting regional cooperation and finding effective solutions to the challenges facing Sudan and its neighbours.

Since the onset of the crisis in Sudan, the Council of the League of Arab States has been actively engaged in discussions focused on restoring peace and stability to the country, recognising it as one of the most pressing priorities for the region. A number of League Council meetings, including the recent Arab summit in Jeddah, have underscored the urgent need for an immediate cessation of all armed clashes, in order to prevent further bloodshed and safeguard the security and well-being of civilians, as well as to protect the capabilities of the Sudanese people, their territorial integrity and sovereignty .

The League's unwavering commitment to addressing the crisis in Sudan reflects its deep concern for the welfare of the Sudanese people and its steadfast support for the principles of peace, security, and stability in the region. Through these efforts, the League seeks to promote a peaceful and prosperous future for Sudan and its neighbors, and to ensure that the basic needs of the people are met.

The League has been committed to coordinating and collaborating with the United Nations, the African Union, and relevant humanitarian organisations in all its efforts to address the crisis in Sudan.

Recognising the significance of Sudan as an important Arab-African country, the League has sought to engage with key regional and international stakeholders to find effective solutions to the challenges facing the country.

Through this coordination and cooperation, the League aims to address the major challenges to peace and security in Sudan, and to ensure that the basic needs of the people are met. This includes efforts to promote humanitarian assistance, support the restoration of stability and security, and facilitate the political dialogue necessary to achieve lasting peace and sustainable development in the country.

These basic determinants of the Arab position can aid in the mechanisms of a regional solution to remedy the crisis in Sudan:

The first determinant emphasises the importance of preserving Sudanese state institutions, preventing their collapse, and helping

them perform their tasks normally despite the difficulties they face. This is crucial for maintaining stability and continuity in the country.

The second opposes any external interference in Sudanese internal affairs and expresses full solidarity with Sudan in preserving its sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity. This is vital for ensuring that Sudanese people are the ones who decide their own future.

The third supports the Jeddah track, which aims to achieve a comprehensive and sustainable ceasefire to allow for the resumption of the transitional process. This is important for ending the violence and moving towards a peaceful solution.

The fourth emphasises the role of neighbouring countries in facing the humanitarian and security burdens of the crisis. It stresses the importance of ongoing coordination and cooperation to end the crisis, and the possibility of continuing to hold similar summits if needed.

The fifth supports a comprehensive Sudanese political track for all factions, which achieves the aspirations of the Sudanese people for peace, security, and development. This is important for building consensus and addressing the economic and humanitarian conditions, as well as security sector reform.

The sixth highlights the importance of coordination and cooperation between the League, the United Nations, and the African Union to

contribute to efforts to remedy the crisis, while respecting Sudan's sovereignty and territorial integrity. It stresses the importance of the Sudanese state's participation in initiatives and avoiding partial approaches.

The seventh emphasises strengthening the urgent humanitarian response, including preventing the deterioration of food security, which is already a concern. The League's urgent initiative to save the Sudanese agricultural season is an example of such efforts.

Finally, I reiterate the commitment of the League of Arab States to continue exerting all efforts that can enhance Arab and African endeavours to spare the blood of Sudanese and save Sudan's future.

Thank you