

**Committee:** Security Council

**Topics:** Situations in Sudan and South Sudan

**Chairs:** Qinhe Yang



**Shenzhen College of International Education**

**3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

*Letter from the Chairs*

Dear delegates,

Welcome to SCIEMUN 2023! I am Jay Yang from the Shenzhen International College of Education, and I will be chairing Security Council with chair Jinyi Shi. It is a pleasure to meet you all.

Security Council is primarily responsible for maintaining international peace and security and mitigating major crises when the need arises. It fosters friendly international relations between nations by encouraging collaboration between countries. Security Council is a unique committee as it is the only committee in the UN that can require member states to abide by its decisions. Thus, Security Council is crucial to the operations of the United Nations.

The committee's topic, "Situations in Sudan and South Sudan", addresses humanitarian crisis arisen from the military regime in Sudan. These issues threaten Sudanese and South Sudanese peace and security. In this committee, delegates should aim to produce viable resolutions to a pressing international concern through cooperation and diplomacy.

Delegates should engage in their own background research and be familiar with the UNA-USA procedures in preparation for the conference. We hope you can have a wonderful time here, and we hope to see you soon!

Sincerely,

Jinyi Shi and Qinhe Yang

*Committee Background and Mission Statement*

According to the United Nations Charter, the Security Council is in charge of maintaining global peace and security. The Security Council will decide when and where to send out a UN peace operation.

The Security Council has a variety of alternatives at its disposal and responds to crises across the world on a case-by-case basis. When deciding whether to launch a new peace operation, several variables are taken into account, including:

- whether a cease-fire is in effect and whether the parties have agreed to participate in a peace process aimed at reaching a political agreement;
- whether there is a distinct political objective and whether the mandate can represent it;
- if a UN operation may be given a specific mission;
- whether it is possible to properly protect the safety and security of UN employees, especially whether it is possible to acquire acceptable guarantees for this purpose from the principal parties or groups.

By passing a Security Council resolution, the Security Council establishes a peace operation. The resolution specifies the purpose and scope of that mission.

The Security Council keeps a continuous eye on the progress of UN peace operations, among other things by receiving reports from the Secretary-General on a regular basis and by convening special Security Council meetings to examine the progress of particular operations.

The Security Council may decide to vote to prolong, modify, or terminate mission mandates as it sees fit.

According to Article 25 of the UN Charter, all members consent to accept and implement Security Council decisions. The UN Council alone has the authority to adopt decisions that Member States are required to execute, whereas other UN entities only have the authority to offer recommendations to Member States.

## Topic Overview

### Introduction

The current crisis started on 15 April 2023 during a power struggle between two main factions of the military regime. The two sides of the conflict are: the paramilitaries of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) who support the former warlord Gen Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, also known as Hemedti, and the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) who generally support Gen Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, the de facto ruler of the nation and leader of the Sudanese junta.

When the RSF started recruiting from all around Sudan in February 2023, tensions between the RSF and the Sudanese junta started to rise. Following a military buildup in Khartoum, a de-escalation agreement was reached, and the RSF withdrew its soldiers from the region. The transition to a civilian-led administration was later approved by the junta, but it was postponed because of rekindled hostilities between Burhan and Hemedti. The RSF insisted on a 10-year timeline for integration into the regular army, but the army requested integration within two years. Other contentious topics included whether RSF soldiers should report to the army chief rather than al-Burhan, Sudan's commander-in-chief.

RSF soldiers were stationed in Khartoum and close to the city of Merowe on April 11, 2023. They were told to leave by the junta, but they refused. When RSF soldiers gained control of the Soba military camp south of Khartoum, this resulted in confrontations. RSF soldiers started to mobilize on April 13, sparking concerns about a potential uprising against the junta. The mobilization was deemed unlawful by the SAF. Fighting between the Sudanese military and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) erupted in Khartoum and throughout most of Sudan on April 15, 2023.

There has been constant violence in many areas of Sudan, including fierce urban fighting, shooting, shelling, and airstrikes. The battle is too violent, and the facilities have been destroyed during the war, leaving hospitals overburdened and citizens in certain places unable or scared to use medical facilities. As of September, more than 4,000 people had been killed and 12,000 others injured, according to the Sudanese Health Ministry and the UN. Of these casualties, 15 Syrians, 15 Ethiopians, and 9 Eritreans perished. Two Americans were also killed, one of them was a professor at the University of Khartoum who was fatally stabbed while fleeing the scene. In July, authorities reported at least 88 cases of sexual assault on women across the country, most of them blamed on the RSF.

Delegates should aim to address the issue in multiple perspectives and aim to create a stable form of government that holds centralized power in Sudan. Humanitarian aid to Sudan should also be considered. The relation between Sudan and South Sudan also requires resolution.

### History and Current Situation

Under British colonial administration (1585–1763), Sudan was split into two regions: the north, which was primarily Muslim and spoke Arabic, and the south, which was more ethnically, religiously, and linguistically varied. Throughout its control, Britain divided southern Sudan from the rest of the nation using the "divide and rule" strategy. Britain frequently ignored other parts of Sudan, such as Darfur, in favor of concentrating on improving education, healthcare, and social services in northern Sudan.

At the very end of colonialism, in 1955, Sudan unilaterally declared its independence. After losing control over many other aspects of colonialism, the British realized they were unable to stop them and acknowledged Sudan's independence. Sudan had been divided culturally, economically, and socially, but not politically or geographically, therefore the separation in the country persisted. Two civil wars arose

from this division- one between 1955 and 1972, and another between 1983 and 2005. Within this time period, oil was discovered in the south, creating large economic prosperity for the south. After a 2005 peace deal that put an end to the second civil war, the south ultimately achieved independence in 2011 and became known as South Sudan.

Prior to the current conflict, Sudan had already been dealing with violence and displaced people from the start of the Darfur crisis in 2003. Internally displaced persons (IDPs) topped 3.7 million by the end of 2022, with Darfur housing the majority of them in camps. Around 800,000 Sudanese people were residing as refugees in nearby nations including Ethiopia, South Sudan, Egypt, and Chad. Over 1 million refugees, the second-highest number of refugees in Africa, lived in Sudan before the current crisis, the majority of whom came from South Sudan and Northern Ethiopia, with many also escaping turmoil in Tigray.

Sudan is currently being controlled by the military. Despite the current state of internal unrest, protesters are still present throughout the nation and continue to express their rage at the military generals in charge by calling for them to cede control to a civilian administration. Extremely aggressive military authorities have responded, murdering "113 people, including 18 children" in July 2022. In order to preserve human rights, certain western nations, like the United States and the United Kingdom, have publicly urged generals to ensure peaceful protests. However, these nations have come under fire from demonstrators for conversing with these powerful generals at the same time. After several months of demonstrations, people are still calling for a civilian administration and pushing the top generals to step down.

More than 30% of Sudan's population is currently experiencing a food crisis as a result of climatic shocks, political unrest, and rising food costs. The World Food Programme cautioned that without strong assistance and agricultural inputs, food security "may dramatically increase to unprecedented levels and ultimately lead to more conflict and displacement" since funding and humanitarian help are still insufficient for the Sudanese people. It is vitally important to take the need and durability of suggested remedies into account.

## **Definition of key terms**

### **Coup**

A violent and sudden overthrow of a country's existing government by another group.

### **Darfur**

A region in Sudan that endured prolonged instability and social strife due to historical and cultural reasons.

### **Rapid Support Forces (RSF)**

A paramilitary force led by Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo that has a force number of 100,000 people.

### **Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF)**

The military forces of the Republic of the Sudan and the de facto rulers of Sudan (as a military junta).

### **Economic Crisis**

Radical changes to the economic conditions of a country, such as a recession. Such changes harm a country's conditions and cause significant harm across multiple sectors.

## Timeline of Events

Date	Events
1993	Omar al-Bashir becomes president of Sudan
July 2001	The International Criminal Court issues arrest for al-Bashir for genocide
January 2005	The Sudanese government and rebels in Southern Sudan signs peace treaty
March 2005	UN Security Council sanctions Sudan for violations of Darfur ceasefire agreements
9 July 2011	South Sudan gains independence from Sudan
January 2018	After bread subsidies were removed, protests erupted into large-scale demonstrations towards the end of 2018.
September - April 2019	al-Bashir is overthrown in a military takeover, and a new administration is installed with a power-sharing arrangement between civilian and military parties.
15 April 15	On April 15, Khartoum's capital is rocked by intense gunfire and explosions, which causes terror both within the city and beyond. Each side accuses the other of striking first: the army and the RSF.
22 April 2023	Many nations hurry to airlift or evacuate their citizens. In the evacuation, thousands of people evacuate, and several embassies are looted.
1 June 2023	Targeting two companies connected to the army and two others connected to the RSF, the US applies the first sanctions pertaining to the war.
11 July 2023	The suggested regional gathering to discuss the dispatch of peacekeeping forces to safeguard civilians is rejected by the army.
6 September 2023	A constitutional order mandating the RSF's dissolution was issued by Burhan.
Current	The conflict is ongoing, with casualties on both side happening each day

## **Bloc Positions**

### **Forces for Freedom and Change (FFC)**

The Sudan Revolutionary Front, the Sudanese Resistance Committees, and other Sudanese organizations are part of the FFC, which is the country's largest political alliance in favor of democracy. The FFC played a crucial role in organizing and directing protests against al-Bashir's regime and the recent military coup. The FFC also wrote the "Declaration of Freedom and Change" that requested al-Bashir be ousted from his post.

### **Justice and Equality Movement (JEM)**

One of the most potent anti-government organizations active in Sudan's Darfur area is JEM. Tens of thousands of JEM's armed fighters have attacked the government violently. Members contend that southern Africans and western Arabs are neglected and left in poverty because "northern Sudanese Arabs are disproportionately represented within the Khartoum government". Some, mostly military officers, have claimed that JEM is totally under the influence of al-Turabi, the former Sudanese minister of foreign affairs, and that it is actively planning a coup since JEM still has close relations to al-Turabi, who supported al-Bashir's overthrow of Sadeq al-Mahdi.

### **Russian Federation**

During the rule of the former Soviet Union, Russian relations with Sudan had been one filled with tension, as the USSR supported Sudan's geopolitical rival: communist Ethiopia. However, when Vladimir Putin was elected Russian President, along with Chinese leader Hu Jintao, opposed UN Peacekeepers in Darfur, diplomatic relations between the two nations substantially improved in the late 1990s and early 2000s. Russia vehemently opposes the establishment of an independent Darfur state and defends the Sudan's geographical integrity. Additionally, Russia has consistently and substantially seen Sudan as a key worldwide friend in the African continent. Russia is Sudan's biggest political and economic partner in Europe. Sudanese college students have been enrolled at Russian colleges for many years.

President Omar al-Bashir gave Russian military assistance in the Syrian Civil War credit for preserving Syria in November 2017. The close ties between Sudan and Russia can be seen in the fact that Sudan was one of the few nations to formally recognize the Russian Federation's annexation of Crimea and to vote against UNGA Resolution 68/262, which denounced Russia's annexation of Ukrainian territory. Russia was discovered in July 2022 stealing gold from a processing facility for the Wagner-affiliated and US-sanctioned Meroe Gold close to Abidiya in Sudan to fund its conflict in Ukraine. Russia is firmly on the side of the Sudanese government.

### **United States of America**

The major donor to the Sudan is the United States, which "has given more than \$5 billion in aid to the Sudan and Eastern Chad since 2005". The United States established diplomatic ties with Sudan upon its independence. The U.S. declared Sudan a state sponsor of terrorism in 1993 when Omar al-Bashir came to power and the country formed ties with terrorist organizations. As a result, the U.S. Embassy in Sudan's operations were halted. The operations of the US Embassy resumed in 2002, and the United States permanently lifted the sanctions it had in place against Sudan and its government after 20 years. Since the start of the current crisis, the US has sanctioned multiple members of the RSF, and supports the Sudanese government.

## United Kingdoms

Representatives of the United Kingdom have pledged to assist in the alleviation of the humanitarian situation in Sudan and have declared the violence and crimes in Sudan as acts of genocide. Representatives have warned against speaking carelessly with the Sudanese government to avoid jeopardizing help to refugees. The United Kingdom's reign and the political, economic, and social division of Sudan during the Colonialism Era are at the heart of most of the current strife in Sudan. Due to its history as Sudan's previous colonial power, the U.K. is seen by the government of Sudan as playing a crucial role in resolving the conflict.

## Possible Solutions

The aforementioned historical circumstances should all be considered whilst delegates come up with their resolutions. The main purpose of resolutions should be to first ensure the safety and well-being of the Sudanese people and surrounding issues (ie. Refugees), then to completely resolve the issues. Therefore, it is crucial to carry on talks with an emphasis on civilian power while also taking into account the humanitarian requirements of the populace. Possible solutions may depend on the capacity and posture of developed and developing nations.

## Developed Nations

Developed nations frequently have greater resources and influence, which gives them access to a larger selection of strategies for attempting to ease the Sudanese situation. Direct assistance could be an effective alternative for affluent nations. To guarantee that humanitarian relief is received by Sudanese nationals, the aid distribution method must be transparent, and it would be most successful if all nations developed a strong and consistent aid program. Additionally, financial assistance can be given to neighborhood non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in order to raise awareness of women's and human rights. In order to guarantee that individuals can express their requirements and that discussions are straightforward and practical, it is also crucial to develop lines of contact with these individuals, whether via UNITAMS or local groups. Accepting more refugees, assisting with citizen evacuations, and providing housing may all be very beneficial to the refugee issue and help surrounding nations feel less strain from the overflow of migrants.

## Developing Nations

Comparatively speaking, developing countries find it more challenging to offer help and financial support since they are more focused on upholding and defending their own national interests. Instead, by taking Sudanese citizens into account when formulating resolutions and engaging in peace negotiations, developing nations may keep promoting and campaigning for human rights. Additionally, with minimal impact on the general populace, nations may devise ways to deliberately target military government personnel with fines or punishments. It is possible to impose trade and travel restrictions, but it's necessary to think about whether doing so will increase tension and reduce the likelihood of successful discussions. Similar instances of political instability, coups, and corruption have occurred in several emerging nations but have been curbed. Countries should consider these instances to see if they may be applied given the complex history of Sudan. Although this is not a long-term solution, it is feasible to give assistance in rebuilding refugee camps as well as financial support for such camps. Last but not least, to secure a larger presence of UN missions in Sudan, wealthy and developing nations might provide soldiers and resources.

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