



**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY DR JULIUS
MAADA BIO, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
SIERRA LEONE, AT THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE
AFRICAN UNION PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
(HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT LEVEL) ON
THE SITUATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF SUDAN,
FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE
- FRIDAY, 21ST JUNE 2024**

- **Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda and Chairperson of the African Union Peace and Security Council for June 2024**
 - **Excellency Mohamed Ould Ghazouani, President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and Chairperson of the African Union**
 - **Excellencies, Colleague Heads of State and Government**
 - **Members of the Peace and Security Council**
 - **Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen**
 - **Good Afternoon**
1. My heartfelt congratulations to you, Mr. Chairperson, on your assumption of the responsibility to direct the work of the **African Union Peace and Security Council (PSC)** for June 2024.
 2. I wish to pledge my delegation's unwavering support and cooperation throughout your tenure.
 3. Mr. Chairperson, thank you for convening this crucial meeting on the situation in Sudan, which is of grave concern to us all.

4. Today, **we speak not just as leaders of our respective nations but as custodians of peace, stability, and Africa's collective future.**
5. Sudan is facing profound challenges that demand our immediate and unified response.
EXCELLENCIES,
6. The situation in Sudan has reached a point of grave concern, igniting the world's largest displacement and fastest unfolding crisis.
7. The enduring conflict spanning over a year has inflicted untold suffering upon the Sudanese people, exacerbating an already dire humanitarian crisis.
8. Hundreds of civilians have died and thousands more injured, while millions of Sudanese have been internally displaced or forced to seek refuge in neighbouring countries.
9. A considerable number of the population, including children, lack access to health care, and many of them are missing out on education.
10. Equally concerning are the reports of sexual and gender-based violence being perpetrated against women and girls by the belligerents in the conflict.

11. The humanitarian situation, including shortages of food, clean water, fuel, electricity, and medicines, remains dire due to the ongoing armed conflict.
12. If the hostilities continue unabated, Sudan risks a complete collapse, with spillover effects on its immediate neighbours and the wider Continent.
13. I urge the parties to the conflict in Sudan, the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces, to immediately halt hostilities, exercise maximum restraint, and prioritise the well-being and safety of the Sudanese people.
14. Sierra Leone, having experienced its trials and tribulations, deeply understands the painful impact of conflict on a nation's social fabric and development. It is with this profound understanding that we stand in solidarity with the people of Sudan. We are committed to supporting all efforts aimed at restoring peace and normalcy in Sudan.

EXCELLENCIES,

15. We collectively have a pivotal role to play in addressing this crisis. **We must leverage our collective wisdom, resources, and influence to facilitate a peaceful resolution.**
16. It is imperative that we support the ongoing mediation efforts, provide humanitarian assistance, and **ensure that the voices of all Sudanese stakeholders are heard and respected.**

EXCELLENCIES,

- 17.**It is important that all belligerent parties work collaboratively with the AU and IGAD with a view to effectively attaining a nationwide cessation of hostilities and a sustainable ceasefire, finding a peaceful and durable solution to the conflict, and implementing humanitarian measures to help alleviate the suffering of the Sudanese people.
- 18.**It is also important that all stakeholders work towards prioritising the pursuit of a negotiated political settlement and address any contentious issues within the framework of the trilateral negotiation mechanism led by the UN, AU, and IGAD.
- 19.**A swift conclusion of negotiation towards a comprehensive peace deal that would lead to the creation of a credible constitutional Government is vital for Sudan's long-term stability and development.
- 20.**I take this opportunity to urge the **Peace and Security Council of the African Union** to redouble efforts in addressing the dire humanitarian situation and pervasive human suffering, mindful of the crisis's consequential ramifications for the stability of not only Sudan but the Continent as a whole.
- 21.**The PSC should continue engaging all stakeholders to fully implement the six elements outlined in the endorsed **African Union Roadmap for the Resolution of the Conflict in**

Sudan and prepare the country towards democratic, free, fair and credible elections.

EXCELLENCIES,

- 22.** Let me conclude by reiterating my profound appreciation to the PSC Chair of the month of June, **His Excellency President Yoweri Museveni**, for convening this high-level meeting.
- 23.** The enormous human suffering we have witnessed unfolding in Sudan is a tragedy for the Sudanese people and a tragic reminder that, as a Continent, we need to redouble our efforts in our commitment to "**Silencing the Guns in Africa by 2030**".
- 24.** It is our responsibility as Africans to demonstrate the necessary commitments and to define "**African solutions to African Problems**" in its truest form.
- 25.** On this note, let me assure you of my full commitment to Sudan's peaceful transition through a Sudan-owned political dialogue.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION.