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Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 14 November 2025

S-38/1. Human rights situation in and around El Fasher, in the context of the ongoing conflict in the Sudan

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Guided also by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and other relevant human rights instruments,

Reaffirming that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Reaffirming also its strong commitment to the sovereignty, political independence, territorial integrity and national unity of the Sudan and its solidarity with the Sudanese people,

Emphasizing that States have the primary responsibility for ensuring respect for, and for the promotion of and protection of, all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and recalling that the Sudan has the responsibility to act in accordance with international humanitarian law, as well as to protect its population from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity,

Recalling the obligations of all parties to the conflict in the Sudan under international humanitarian law and the obligations of the Sudan under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and other treaties to which it is a State Party, recalling also the commitment of the Sudan, reflected in the Constitutional Declaration of 2019 and the Juba Agreement for Peace in the Sudan of 2020, to elevate the value of human rights, and recalling further that all parties must continue to comply with their respective obligations, including as applicable during the ongoing armed conflict,

Recalling also the commitments made on 11 May 2023 by the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces under the Jeddah Declaration of Commitment to Protect the Civilians of Sudan, including with regard to allowing and facilitating principled humanitarian relief, and the affirmation by the parties of their responsibility to respect international humanitarian law and international human rights law,

Recalling further Human Rights Council resolutions S-32/1 of 5 November 2021, S-36/1 of 11 May 2023, 54/2 of 11 October 2023, 57/2 of 9 October 2024 and 60/3 of



6 October 2025, and all the mandates given therein, while noting with concern the impact of the worsening situation in the Sudan and of the liquidity crisis affecting the United Nations on the sufficient resourcing of those mandates,

Recalling all previous resolutions of the Security Council concerning the situation in the Sudan, as well as the press statements by the Security Council on the Sudan of 13 August 2025 and of 30 October 2025,

Recalling also all relevant statements on the Sudan by the Secretary-General, the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sudan, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the designated Expert on human rights in the Sudan, the independent international fact-finding mission for the Sudan and the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide,

Welcoming the leadership role of the African Union in responding to the situation in the Sudan, including its road map calling for an immediate ceasefire, the establishment of the African Union High-level Panel on the Sudan, in January 2024, the convening of the inaugural and second Preparatory Meetings for the Inter-Sudanese Political Dialogue, from 10 to 15 July and from 10 to 12 August 2024, respectively, and, in particular, the adoption of the communiqué of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union on 28 October 2025,

Encouraging coordination among the multiple peace initiatives, highlighting the importance of consolidating all those peace frameworks, and stressing the centrality of the African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development in finding a viable, inclusive and lasting solution to the conflict in the Sudan,

Taking note with appreciation of all relevant communiqués, statements and resolutions of the African Union, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, the Special Envoy of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission on Women, Peace and Security, the European Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the League of Arab States and the Sudan Quad issued since the start of the armed conflict on 15 April 2023,

Welcoming the attention given by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to the situation of human rights in El Fasher and surrounding areas, including the High Commissioner's repeated pleas for an immediate end to the violence and for urgent action by the international community,

Acknowledging with gratitude the solidarity and critical support of neighbouring countries hosting refugees and displaced persons amid the ongoing conflict in the Sudan, recognizing the severe humanitarian strains and fragility faced by regional systems and security, and stressing the need for enhanced international support,

Expressing alarm at the atrocities resulting from the assault by the Rapid Support Forces and the devastating impact of that assault on civilians, including many women and children, in and around El Fasher, as well as at emerging information about mass atrocities and the wider escalation of conflict across North Darfur and the Kordofan region,

Stressing the urgent need for full adherence to Security Council resolution 2736 (2024) of 13 June 2024, including the immediate cessation of all hostilities and the protection of all civilians and civilian objects, and for full, rapid, safe and unhindered humanitarian access for civilians in need, and emphasizing that the parties to the conflict should respect human rights and fully comply with their applicable obligations under international law,

1. *Strongly condemns* the escalating violence and reported atrocities committed by the Rapid Support Forces and their associated and allied forces in and around El Fasher, following their assault on the city, including large-scale atrocities such as ethnically motivated killings, torture, summary executions, forced recruitment and the arbitrary detention of civilians, as well as widespread use of rape and other forms of sexual and gender-based violence as a weapon of warfare;

2. *Expresses deep concern* about the catastrophic humanitarian consequences in El Fasher and its surrounding areas, with reports that a significant number of civilians, including thousands of children, remain trapped in the city, facing forced displacement, large-scale attacks, gender-based and sexual violence, extortion, arbitrary arrest and

detention by the Rapid Support Forces, and that tens of thousands of people have been displaced from El Fasher since 26 October 2025 to nearby towns, including Tawilah and Mellit, where they lack access to clean water, food and medical care and are increasingly vulnerable to malnutrition and disease;

3. *Expresses alarm* at the presence of famine conditions in El Fasher and Kadugli, as confirmed by the Famine Review Committee of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification on 3 November 2025, according to which over 21.2 million people are experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity and 375,000 people, the majority of whom are in Darfur, are affected by famine-like conditions, and these conditions are likely to be present in other areas as well, and condemns the use of starvation as a weapon of warfare;

4. *Condemns* reported attacks on and kidnappings of humanitarian and health workers and attacks on hospitals and health infrastructure, including reports of the killing of over 460 patients and health workers in the Saudi Maternity Hospital in El Fasher, and reiterates that medical personnel, humanitarian workers and civilian infrastructure across the Sudan must be respected and protected;

5. *Calls upon* all parties to allow and facilitate immediate, full, safe and unhindered humanitarian access throughout the Sudan, including a rapid scale-up of cross-border and cross-line delivery, condemns the deprivation by all parties to the conflict of essential humanitarian assistance, and in particular calls upon the Rapid Support Forces and the Sudanese Armed Forces to allow life-saving aid to reach the affected population in El Fasher and surrounding areas;

6. *Welcomes* the statement of the Sudan Quad of 12 September 2025, including its call for a humanitarian truce, for an initial three months, to enable the swift entry of humanitarian aid to all parts of the Sudan, to lead immediately to a permanent ceasefire;

7. *Reiterates* its call for the full implementation of the Jeddah Declaration of Commitment to Protect the Civilians of Sudan, and calls upon all parties to the conflict to ensure the protection of civilians, as required under international law, including by ensuring that the Rapid Support Forces allow civilians wishing to do so to move within or away from El Fasher to safer areas, including to the towns of Tawilah and Mellit;

8. *Emphasizes* that there is no military solution to the crisis in the Sudan, and reiterates its call for an immediate and complete ceasefire by all parties, without preconditions, the establishment of an independent monitoring mechanism of the ceasefire, the rehabilitation of critical basic infrastructure, a negotiated and peaceful resolution to the conflict on the basis of inclusive, Sudan-owned and Sudan-led dialogue, with the active participation of Sudanese civilian actors, including women and youth, and the establishment, with the people of the Sudan, of a credible and inclusive process of political transition, towards a democratically elected national Government following a civilian-led transition period;

9. *Urges* all parties and States to respect and uphold the unity and territorial integrity of the Sudan and to reject the establishment of a parallel governing authority in areas controlled by the Rapid Support Forces;

10. *Reiterates* its strong condemnation of the continuing armed conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces, and their associated and allied forces, all reported violations of international humanitarian law and all violations and abuses of human rights committed in this context, including alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity;

11. *Condemns* all forms of external interference that fuel the conflict, and reminds all parties to the conflict, as well as external actors, both States and other entities, that facilitate the transfer of arms and military material to Darfur of their obligation to respect and enforce the existing arms embargo in Darfur, in effect pursuant to Security Council resolution 1556 (2004) of 30 July 2004 and subsequent resolutions;

12. *Commends* Sudanese and regional relief and aid workers and local responders, including local actors and mutual aid groups, operating in North Darfur and other areas of

the Sudan for their bravery and work in challenging and dangerous circumstances to provide life-saving support to communities, and calls for their protection;

13. *Stresses*, once again, that ensuring accountability for violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights is central to any solution to the ongoing crisis in the Sudan, and underscores the urgency of independent and credible investigations into all alleged abuses and violations by all parties to the conflict, to end impunity and hold accountable those responsible through robust and credible criminal justice processes, while acknowledging the important role that the International Criminal Court can play in this regard;

14. *Requests* the independent international fact-finding mission for the Sudan to conduct, consistent with its mandate, an urgent inquiry into the recent violations and abuses of international human rights law and violations of international humanitarian law allegedly committed in and around El Fasher;

15. *Also requests* the fact-finding mission to identify, where possible, all those for whom there are reasonable grounds to believe that they are responsible for alleged violations and abuses of international human rights law in and around El Fasher and to support efforts to ensure that the perpetrators of alleged abuses and violations are held accountable;

16. *Encourages* the fact-finding mission to give due regard to ensuring the complementarity of its efforts with those of other actors, including independent national accountability efforts and regional investigations;

17. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to present an oral update to the Human Rights Council on the human rights situation in and around El Fasher, in the context of the ongoing conflict in the Sudan, followed by an interactive dialogue, before its sixty-first session, and requests the fact-finding mission to present a report on the findings of its inquiry to the Council at its sixty-first session, followed by an enhanced interactive dialogue to be combined with the dialogue with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the designated Expert on human rights in the Sudan, as requested by the Council in its resolution 57/2;

18. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

14 November 2025

[Adopted without a vote.]
