



General Assembly

Distr.: General
16 September 2022

Original: English

Seventy-seventh session

Agenda item 117 (c)

Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections: election of members of the Human Rights Council

Note verbale dated 16 September 2022 from the Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Sudan to the United Nations, with reference to the candidature of the Sudan to the Human Rights Council for the term 2023–2025 at the election to be held on 11 October 2022 in New York, has the honour to transmit herewith the voluntary pledges and commitments of the Sudan in accordance with resolution [60/251](#) (see annex).

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Sudan to the United Nations would like to request that the present note verbale and its annex be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 117 (c).



Annex to the note verbale dated 16 September 2022 from the Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

[Original: Arabic]

Candidature of the Sudan to the Human Rights Council, 2023–2025

Voluntary pledges and commitments pursuant to General Assembly resolution [60/251](#)

Introduction

The Sudanese revolution of December 2018 represented a turning point in the country's history and the course of its development. It was an expression of the aspirations of the Sudanese people across all sectors, especially youth and women, to realize democracy, promote freedoms and advance development. The slogans that emerged from the revolution will continue to guide commitments made by the Government of the Sudan in its unwavering path towards democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

In affirmation of its commitment to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and its desire to advance human rights progress, the Sudan is applying for re-election to the Human Rights Council for the 2023–2025 period. This comes within the framework of the conviction of the Sudan that the Council plays a vital role as one of the effective mechanisms to promote human rights by facilitating dialogue and exchange of experiences.

In submitting its candidacy, the Sudan reaffirms the centrality and priority assigned to the issue of human rights in its national policies, and its commitment to supporting international human rights mechanisms and working within the Council to achieve those ends.

The Sudan is a party to most human rights instruments. It is committed to fulfilling obligations stemming from international and regional conventions it has ratified, and to moving forward with accession to those which it has not yet joined.

The Sudan supports a comprehensive human rights approach that takes into account social, economic and cultural rights as well as political and civil rights. It offers its national experience in dealing with its own challenges, which are the same that those facing a wide cross section of the world's countries. They include issues surrounding sustainable development, environmental preservation, climate change, peace and conflict resolution.

The Sudan is putting forward the commitments in this paper in accordance with the provisions of United Nations General Assembly resolution [60/251](#) establishing the Human Rights Council, which mentions voluntary human rights pledges and commitments as a major step in the submission by a State of its candidacy for membership in the Human Rights Council. In that connection, the Sudan fully renews its commitments to the pledges it made in October 2019. The Sudan has made significant progress in implementing previous pledges and commitments made in connection with its Human Rights Council candidacy for the 2019–2022 period. Those pledges covered a number of areas. They included legislative reform, on which the Sudan has made considerable progress, including repeal and amendment of several laws, ratification of a number of basic human rights conventions and harmonization of its laws with the international treaties it has ratified, international human rights standards and international humanitarian law. Those pledges also included enhanced cooperation with human rights mechanisms.

Contributions of the Sudan during its term of membership on the Human Rights Council

- The Sudan has been a member of the Human Rights Council since October 2019. Throughout that period, it has taken part in the deliberations of the Council and cooperated in implementation of the Council's resolutions. The Council has recognized that cooperation.
- The Sudan assumed the vice-presidency of the Council for the African group during the first half of 2021.
- The Sudan has taken part in supporting a number of draft resolutions relating to various human rights matters. It also contributed to the adoption of a number of important resolutions, including the initiative to establish a mandate on human rights and climate change issues. Through its re-election, the Sudan looks forward to playing an even greater role in adopting and supporting relevant resolutions.

Status of implementation of previous pledges

- The Sudan has acceded to a number of conventions, including the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the United Nations Convention against Torture. Efforts are ongoing to push forward ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.
- The Sudan has made appreciable efforts on amending national legislation to harmonize it with the international and regional conventions to which the Sudan is a party, in line with the Rights and Freedoms Charter contained in the Constitutional Document for the Transitional Period, with a view to improving the human rights situation in the country.
- As part of legislative reforms aimed at strengthening human rights, several laws that restricted freedoms have been rescinded. The recent period has seen promulgation of the 2020 Act concerning miscellaneous amendments, under which a number of amendments were made to various laws, including the Criminal Code. They included abolishing the crime of apostasy, abolishing all corporal punishments for discretionary offences, criminalizing female genital mutilation and stiffening the penalty for torture perpetrated by public officials. Immunities under the National Security Act have been done away with. Powers to collect and analyse information have been restricted. Other amendments have been made to several other laws.
- The Sudan is working to update the National Plan for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights in the Sudan 2013–2023. Most of the desired changes have been made.
- In keeping with the commitment of the Sudan to women's and children's rights, a unit to combat violence against women has been established in the Ministry of Social Development alongside the family and child protection units in the capital and the states. A national plan for implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) on women, peace and security has been approved.
- On 25 September 2019, the Sudan signed a cooperation agreement with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) that allowed for the opening of a country office in Sudan with full authorisation to operate in Khartoum and the states. The Human Rights Office of the Sudan enjoys the

support and cooperation of the State. The State has facilitated the establishment and operationalization of field offices of the Human Rights Office in five states, all of which operate in cooperation and coordination with the relevant ministries and national institutions.

- The Sudan has signed a memorandum of understanding with the International Criminal Court in connection with strengthening the rule of law and in keeping with its commitment to eliminating impunity.
- The Sudan underwent its third cycle of the universal periodic review process. It received some 283 recommendations from States, of which it accepted 244, or more than 80 per cent. It took note of 39 recommendations.
- As part of its cooperation with the Human Rights Council, the Sudan hosted the United Nations Expert on the human rights situation in the Sudan, Adama Dieng, twice during 2022, and engaged proactively with his report. Many of his recommendations have been acted upon, most notably the lifting of the state of emergency in all parts of the country.
- On 3 October 2020, in keeping with its commitment to achieving peace and stability in the Darfur region and conflict-affected areas, the Government of the Sudan signed the Juba Peace Agreement. The terms of that agreement are currently being implemented. It should be noted that the membership of the Sudan in the Human Rights Council has provided strong support for implementation of that Agreement, and in particular the protocols relating to displaced persons, refugees and transitional justice.
- The Sudan has remained committed to its pledges to protect and support refugees despite the challenges posed by its limited capabilities. It has also continued to cooperate with international organizations operating in the field of refugee protection and support.

Pledges at the national level

- The Sudan reiterates its commitment to implementing the provisions of all the basic international human rights conventions and instruments to which it is a party. It plans to accede to several international conventions to which it is not yet a party and to step up efforts to harmonize its national laws with the international conventions to which it is a party.
- The Sudan reiterates its commitment to fulfilling its international obligations by submitting the periodic reports required by international human rights instruments and implementing the resulting recommendations.
- The Sudan reiterates its commitment to the provisions of the Rights and Freedoms Charter contained in the 2019 Constitutional Document, as amended in 2020, with a view to improving the human rights situation in the Sudan.
- The Sudan is committed to the promotion and protection of human rights through a number of national mechanisms that operate in harmony and coordination. They include, but are not limited to, the following: the National Human Rights Commission, the National Human Rights Mechanism, the Unit for Combating Violence against Women, the Family and Child Protection Units, and a number of human rights protection departments in various ministries.
- The Sudan stresses the importance of an independent National Human Rights Commission that operates in accordance with the Paris Principles and as provided for in the Constitutional Document.

- Realizing peace was one of the most important objectives of the Sudanese Revolution. The Sudan renews its commitment to continue making overtures to all armed movements in the country with a view to achieving a just and sustainable peace based on equal citizenship and rights. The Sudan looks forward to the support of the international community in that endeavour.
- The Sudan is committed to working to end tribal conflicts, renounce all forms of violence, encourage reconciliation meetings and promote peaceful coexistence in order to establish peace and stability and secure the peaceful return of internally displaced persons and refugees from war-affected areas.
- The Sudan reaffirms its commitment to eliminating impunity, strengthening accountability mechanisms, investigating all violations, and taking all relevant necessary measures, including those related to transitional justice.
- The Sudan pledges to continue its efforts at legal and institutional reform in various fields, including by restructuring the security services in accordance with the Juba Peace Agreement and the Constitutional Document.
- The Sudan is committed to continuing efforts to advance dialogue with a view to reaching a consensus on how to handle the remainder of the transition.
- The Sudan is committed to making every effort to foster an atmosphere conducive to the establishment of free, fair and transparent elections leading to the peaceful transfer of power to a democratically elected Government, as provided for in the Constitutional Document.
- The Sudan is committed to continuing to work to implement the sustainable development agenda by improving education and health services, implementing national strategies to reduce poverty and mitigate the impact of natural disasters, and creating more opportunities for youth, women and persons with disabilities.
- The Sudan is committed to protecting women's rights and empowering them politically, economically and socially. The Constitutional Document provides for affirmative action measures that include allocating at least 40 per cent of the seats of the Legislative Council to women while ensuring that they are also represented in the Sovereignty Council and the Council of Ministers.
- The Sudan reiterates its commitment to protecting children, preventing all forms of abuse and exploitation of children, and continuing to work jointly with international and regional children's agencies to protect their rights.
- The Sudan reiterates its commitment to protecting the rights of persons with disabilities, the elderly and all vulnerable groups, and ensuring that they are included and integrated into all aspects of life.
- The Sudan reiterates its commitment to guaranteeing freedom of opinion, expression and media; protecting journalists, newspaper reporters, news agencies and the media; and creating an environment conducive to their work.
- The Sudan reiterates its commitment to guaranteeing freedom of peaceful assembly and organization, including the freedom to form political parties, organizations, trade unions and professional associations. It recognizes the role of civil society organizations in the development and promotion of human rights, and the importance of facilitating their work and allowing them to engage in their activities.
- The Sudan reiterates its commitment to the protection of human rights defenders and political activists, and values their role in protecting and raising awareness of human rights.

- The Sudan affirms its commitment to provisions of the Constitutional Document guaranteeing the exercise of religious freedoms and beliefs.

Pledges at the international level

- The Sudan affirms that it will cooperate fully with the various international and regional human rights mechanisms, and in particular the Human Rights Council and OHCHR.
- The Sudan reiterates its commitment to submitting the periodic reports required by international human rights instruments and implementing the resulting recommendations.
- The Sudan affirms its support for the universal periodic review process as one of the most important mechanisms of the Human Rights Council for the protection and promotion of human rights around the world.
- The Sudan affirms the importance of civil society organizations in improving the human rights situation through observation, reporting and monitoring cases of human rights violations.
- The Sudan reiterates its commitment to cooperating constructively with the member States of the Human Rights Council and urging all States to fulfil their human rights obligations under ratified international conventions and instruments.
- The Sudan reiterates its commitment to making every effort to protect and promote the human rights listed in the Rights and Freedoms Charter of the Constitutional Document for the Transitional Period in the Sudan, and to ensuring that they are treated with equal importance within the Human Rights Council.
- The Sudan is committed to taking part in the work of the Council and other relevant organs, and to joining initiatives that will improve the human rights situation around the world.

Conclusion

The Sudan believes that its re-election to the Human Rights Council will enable it to achieve further progress on protecting and promoting human rights. It will play its role in supporting implementation of draft resolutions on various human rights situations, and in realizing the goals of the Human Rights Council and its subsidiary mechanisms through proactive engagement on all issues on the Council's agenda, with a view to achieving the lofty purposes for which the Human Rights Council was established by General Assembly resolution [60/251](#).