



Security Council

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Letter dated 24 November 2023 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

In paragraph 5 of resolution [2676 \(2023\)](#) of 8 March 2023, the Security Council requested me, in close coordination with the Panel of Experts on the Sudan, to conduct no later than 1 December 2023, an assessment of the progress achieved on benchmarks 2 and 3 contained in the report of 31 July 2021 ([S/2021/696](#)) concerning progress on transitional security arrangements in Darfur and progress on the national action plan for the protection of civilians.

Since the initial report in 2021 on the benchmarks and the request of the Security Council in 2023 to assess the progress made on them, the political and security landscape in the Sudan has changed significantly. Following the outbreak of violence on 15 April 2023, the work on benchmarks 2 and 3 and their related targets has halted. Not only has the pronounced deterioration of the security situation throughout Darfur made this region inaccessible for the purposes of conducting an assessment, but the benchmarks themselves – as conceived in 2021 – have been overtaken by events. While the war is ongoing in the Sudan, and Darfur in particular, the implementation of the benchmarks and the assessment of progress made on them will not be possible.

I would be grateful if you could bring this matter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) António Guterres

