



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
27 December 2021

Original: English

---

**Human Rights Council**  
**Thirty-second special session**  
5 November 2021

## **Report of the Human Rights Council on its thirty-second special session**

*Vice-President and Rapporteur:* Paul **Bekkers** (Netherlands)



## **I. Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council at its thirty-second special session**

### **S-32/1. Situation of human rights in the Sudan**

*The Human Rights Council,*

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

*Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and other relevant international human rights conventions and 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,*

*Recalling all previous Human Rights Council resolutions on human rights in the Sudan, including resolutions 39/22 of 28 September 2018, 42/35 of 27 September 2019 and 45/25 of 6 October 2020,*

*Recalling also all relevant resolutions adopted and statements made by the General Assembly and the Security Council on the Sudan,*

*Recalling further General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006 and Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 5/2 of 18 June 2007,*

*Emphasizing that States have the primary responsibility for the promotion of, respect for and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the freedoms of expression and of assembly, including in the context of peaceful protests,*

*Recalling the statements made by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on 25 October 2021 and the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association on 2 November 2021,*

*Recalling also the obligations of the Sudan under the international human rights covenants and other treaties to which it is a State party, and recalling further the commitment of the Sudan, reflected in the Sudan Constitutional Declaration of 2019 and the Juba Peace Agreement of 2020, to respect and protect human rights,*

*Welcoming the ratification by the Sudan of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance,*

*Reaffirming the importance of the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in planning and decision-making with regard to mediation, confidence-building, conflict prevention and resolution, and in all other efforts to maintain and promote peace and security, and the need to prevent and redress human rights violations and abuses, such as sexual and gender-based violence,*

*Acknowledging that, prior to the military takeover on 25 October 2021, the situation of human rights in the Sudan had improved significantly and had been continuing to improve, and acknowledging also the continuing role of human rights monitoring, reporting, technical assistance and capacity-building, in particular by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in the Sudan, in assisting this improvement,*

*Recalling with appreciation the exemplary, non-violent and inspiring popular uprising of the Sudanese people in 2019, in particular the wide participation of women and youth calling for freedom, peace and justice, which led to a fundamental change in the political situation in the Sudan and the formation of the civilian-led transitional Government, led by Prime Minister Abdallah Hamdok,*

*Noting with appreciation* the cooperation between the Sudan and the country office of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the Sudan, and stressing the importance of the continuation of that cooperation,

*Noting with appreciation also* the cooperation between the Sudan and the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in the Sudan, including on the protection of civilians,

*Expressing deep concern* about the arbitrary arrest of civilian government leaders, political figures, human rights defenders, journalists, students, lawyers and others, and about restrictions on the exercise of freedom of expression, both online and offline, including Internet shutdowns, as well as on the rights to freedom of association and of peaceful assembly, and at the excessive use of force committed against peaceful protesters since 21 October 2021,

*Noting* the postponement of the review of the Sudan in the context of the universal periodic review in the light of the current situation,

*Recalling* that States members of the Human Rights Council are required to uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights,

1. *Welcomes* the decision of the African Union Peace and Security Council on 26 October 2021 to suspend the Sudan from participating in all activities of the African Union following the military takeover on 25 October 2021 by the Sudanese military;

2. *Also welcomes* the efforts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Sudan and the decision of the African Union to undertake a mission to the Sudan, both with a view to finding a solution to the current situation there, calls upon all stakeholders in the Sudan to cooperate fully with both the Special Representative and the African Union, and encourages the Special Representative and the African Union to coordinate their activities;

3. *Condemns in the strongest possible terms* the military takeover on 25 October 2021 by the Sudanese military against the transitional Government led by Prime Minister Abdallah Hamdok, the suspension of transitional institutions and the unilateral imposition of measures that are contrary to the Sudan Constitutional Declaration and the terms of the Juba Peace Agreement;

4. *Calls for* the immediate restoration of its civilian-led transitional Government and the return to the internationally supported governing principles in the Sudan, in compliance with the Sudan Constitutional Declaration and the Juba Peace Agreement, in both letter and spirit;

5. *Takes note* of the press statement of the Security Council of 28 October 2021 on the situation in the Sudan;<sup>1</sup>

6. *Condemns* the arbitrary detention by the Sudanese military of Prime Minister Hamdok, other members of the Cabinet of the Government of the Sudan, other civilians and other senior national, regional and local officials appointed by the transitional Government, and calls upon the Sudanese military to release, immediately and without preconditions, all individuals detained unlawfully and arbitrarily since the start of the military takeover;

7. *Urges* that the safety and dignity of all those in custody be strictly assured in accordance with the international human rights obligations of the Sudan;

8. *Calls upon* the Sudanese military, without delay and without preconditions, to engage in dialogue with civilian leaders;

9. *Welcomes* the statements by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Secretary-General and the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association on this subject;

<sup>1</sup> [www.un.org/press/en/2021/sc14678.doc.htm](http://www.un.org/press/en/2021/sc14678.doc.htm).

10. *Expresses deep concern* at reports of human rights violations and abuses perpetrated since the military takeover on 25 October 2021, particularly the excessive use of force that has resulted in the killing and injuring of peaceful protestors;

11. *Emphasizes* the importance of full respect for human rights, and recalls in particular the obligation of the Sudan to respect the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, among others, and urges the Sudan in this regard in particular to protect journalists, media workers, human rights defenders, students and lawyers, and to lift restrictions on the Internet, telecommunications services and social media so as to ensure access of the people of the Sudan to information;

12. *Urges* all actors in the Sudan to demonstrate the utmost restraint, and to refrain from violence and from committing further human rights violations and abuses;

13. *Calls upon* the Sudan to ensure accountability for those responsible and support for the victims of any such violations and abuses;

14. *Requests* the High Commissioner to update the Human Rights Council at its forty-ninth session, in an enhanced interactive dialogue, on the situation of human rights in the Sudan since the military takeover;

15. *Also requests* the High Commissioner to designate without delay an expert on human rights in the Sudan, who shall, with the assistance of and in close cooperation with the country office of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the Sudan, monitor the developing situation of human rights in the Sudan, including taking due regard to ensure a gender perspective throughout their work, and engage with all relevant parties, including civil society, on the developing situation of human rights since the military takeover of 25 October 2021 until the restoration of its civilian-led Government;

16. *Further requests* the High Commissioner, with the assistance of the designated Expert on Human Rights in the Sudan, to present to the Human Rights Council, at its fiftieth session, a comprehensive written report focusing on the situation of human rights since, and human rights violations and abuses committed during, the period of the military takeover, to be followed by an enhanced interactive dialogue;

17. *Decides* that the term of office for the designated Expert on Human Rights in the Sudan should conclude upon the restoration of its civilian-led Government;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make all necessary financial, technical and logistical support available to the Office of the High Commissioner in this regard;

19. *Calls upon* the High Commissioner and the designated Expert to monitor human rights violations and abuses and to continue to bring information thereon to the attention of the Human Rights Council, and to advise on the further steps that may be needed if the situation continues to deteriorate;

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

*2nd meeting  
5 November 2021*

[Adopted without a vote.]

## II. Organization of work of the thirty-second special session

1. Pursuant to paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 60/251, and in accordance with rule 6 of the rules of procedure of the Human Rights Council as contained in the annex to Council resolution 5/1, the Council shall hold special sessions, when needed, at the request of a member of the Council with the support of one third of the membership of the Council.
2. On 1 November 2021, the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations Office at Geneva, jointly with the Permanent Representatives of Germany, Norway, the Sudan and the United States of America, requested that a special session of the Human Rights Council be held to address the human rights implications of the ongoing situation in the Sudan.<sup>2</sup>
3. The above-mentioned request was supported by 18 States members of the Human Rights Council, namely, Austria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Czechia, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Libya, Mexico, the Netherlands, Poland, the Republic of Korea, the Sudan, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Uruguay. Thereafter, on 2 November 2021, the Sudan disassociated itself from the initiative and requested that it be removed from the list of States members of the Council requesting the convening of the special session. The request was also supported by 30 observer States of the Council, namely, Albania, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, New Zealand, Norway, Romania, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States of America.
4. Subsequently, the request was supported by two additional States members of the Human Rights Council, namely, Fiji and Malawi, and five observer States of the Council, namely, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cabo Verde, Chile, Paraguay and Portugal.
5. As more than one third of the membership of the Human Rights Council supported the above-mentioned request, the President of the Council, following consultations with the main sponsors, decided to convene an open-ended informative consultation on the conduct and organization of the special session on 3 November 2021 and to hold the special session on 5 November.

### A. Opening and duration of the session

6. The Human Rights Council held its thirty-second special session at the United Nations Office at Geneva on 5 November 2021. It held two meetings during the session.
7. The thirty-second special session was opened by the President of the Human Rights Council.

### B. Attendance

8. The special session was attended by representatives of States members of the Human Rights Council, observer States of the Council, non-member observer States of the United Nations and observers for United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations, intergovernmental organizations and other entities, national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations.

<sup>2</sup> See [A/HRC/S-32/1](#).

## C. Officers

9. The following members of the Bureau of the Human Rights Council appointed for the fifteenth cycle also served as officers for the thirty-second special session:

<i>President</i>	Nazhat Shameem Khan (Fiji)
<i>Vice-Presidents</i>	Keva Lorraine Bain (Bahamas) Ebyan Mahamed Salah (Somalia) Yuri Borissov Sterk (Bulgaria)
<i>Vice-President and Rapporteur</i>	Paul Bekkers (Netherlands)

## D. Organization of work

10. Pursuant to paragraph 124 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, an open-ended informative consultation was held on 3 November 2021 in preparation for the thirty-second special session.

11. At its 1st meeting, on 5 November 2021, the Human Rights Council considered the organization of its work, including speaking time limits, which would be 2 minutes and 30 seconds for States members of the Council and 1 minute and 30 seconds for observer States of the Council and other observers.

12. At the same meeting, the Human Rights Council decided to endorse extraordinary measures and modalities proposed by the Bureau of the Council in the annex to the minutes of the Bureau meeting of 3 November 2021 for the thirty-second special session, which were similar to the modalities that had been adopted by the Council for its forty-eighth regular session in the light of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. The measures included encouraging parties to deliver their statements remotely or by pre-recorded video message, and allowing delegations to raise points of order and exercise their right of reply remotely.

13. Also at the same meeting, the Human Rights Council, given that the measures required to address the COVID-19 pandemic precluded in-person participation of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and national human rights institutions with A status, adopted a decision to allow, exceptionally, the opportunity for them to submit pre-recorded video statements for the special session. The number of non-governmental organizations to be included in the list of speakers for the special session was set at 22, in line with the average number of non-governmental organizations that had registered to participate in the previous three special sessions held in 2021.

14. Due to the extraordinary modalities adopted for the thirty-second special session, in-person participation was limited. The majority of participants made statements by video teleconference. Those delegations that made in-person statements or pre-recorded video statements are identified in the present report. All representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council made pre-recorded video statements.

15. The special session was conducted in accordance with the relevant provisions contained in the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1.

## E. Resolution and documentation

16. The resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council at its thirty-second special session is reproduced in chapter I of the present report.

17. The list of documents issued for the thirty-second special session is contained in the annex to the present report.

## F. Statements

18. At the 1st meeting, on 5 November 2021, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights made an in-person statement.

19. At the same meeting, the Chair of the Coordination Committee of Special Procedures, Victor Madrigal-Borloz, made a statement.

20. Also at the same meeting, the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Human Rights Council: Argentina, Austria (video statement), Bahrain (on behalf of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf) (video statement), Brazil (video statement), Bulgaria (video statement), Cameroon (on behalf of the Group of African States) (in-person statement), China (video statement), Czechia (video statement), Egypt<sup>3</sup> (on behalf of the Group of Arab States) (video statement), Finland<sup>3</sup> (also on behalf of Denmark, Estonia, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden) (video statement), France, Germany (video statement), Indonesia, Japan, Libya (video statement), Mauritania (video statement), Mexico (video statement), Namibia (video statement), Netherlands, Republic of Korea (video statement), Russian Federation (video statement), Slovenia<sup>3</sup> (on behalf of the European Union), Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (video statement);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Australia (video statement), Belgium (video statement), Canada (in-person statement), Colombia (video statement), Costa Rica (video statement), Croatia (video statement), Ecuador, Egypt (video statement), Ireland (video statement), Kenya, Liechtenstein (video statement), Luxembourg (video statement), Malta (video statement), Montenegro (video statement), New Zealand (video statement), Norway (video statement), Paraguay, Portugal, South Africa (in-person statement), South Sudan, Sweden (video statement), Switzerland (video statement), Timor-Leste (in-person statement), Turkey, United Arab Emirates (in-person statement), United States of America, Holy See (video statement);

(c) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Access Now, Amnesty International, Broad National Movement Ltd. (BNM), Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, Christian Solidarity Worldwide, CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation, East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project, Elizka Relief Foundation, Federatie van Nederlandse Verenigingen tot Integratie Van Homoseksualiteit – COC Nederland, Human Rights Information and Training Center, Human Rights Watch, International Bar Association, International Federation for Human Rights Leagues, International Service for Human Rights, Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights Association, Partners for Transparency, Physicians for Human Rights, Rencontre africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme, United Nations Watch, World Organisation against Torture.

## G. Action on the draft proposal

21. At the 2nd meeting, on 5 November 2021, the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, also on behalf of Germany, Norway and the United States of America, introduced draft resolution [A/HRC/S-32/L.1](#), sponsored by Germany, Norway, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America and co-sponsored by Monaco. Subsequently, Australia, Canada, the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine joined the sponsors.

22. At the same meeting, the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland orally revised the draft resolution.

<sup>3</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of member and observer States.

23. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of Austria, on behalf of the States members of the European Union that are members of the Council, made a general comment on the draft resolution as orally revised.

24. At the same meeting, in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution as orally revised. The Chief of the Finance and Budget Section of the Programme Support and Management Services of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights made a statement on the budgetary implications of the draft resolution as orally revised.

25. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of China, the Russian Federation and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made statements in explanation of vote before the vote. In the statements, the representatives of China, the Russian Federation and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) disassociated the member States from the consensus on the draft resolution as orally revised.

26. At the same meeting, the Human Rights Council adopted the draft resolution as orally revised without a vote (resolution S-32/1).

27. After adoption of the draft resolution, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Timor-Leste joined the sponsors.

### **III. Report of the Human Rights Council on its thirty-second special session**

28. At its 2nd meeting, on 5 November 2021, the Human Rights Council adopted the report on its thirty-second special session ad referendum and entrusted the Vice-President and Rapporteur with its finalization.



---

## Annex

### **Documents issued for the thirty-second special session of the Human Rights Council**

---

*In the general series*

---

A/HRC/S-32/1	Letter dated 1 November 2021 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the President of the Human Rights Council
A/HRC/S-32/2	Report of the Human Rights Council on its thirty-second special session

*In the limited series*

---

A/HRC/S-32/L.1	Situation of human rights in the Sudan
----------------	--

---