



# Security Council

Seventy-fourth year

**8446**<sup>th</sup> meeting

Thursday, 17 January 2019, 10 a.m.

New York

*Provisional*

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*President:* Mr. Singer Weisinger/Mr. Trullols. . . . . (Dominican Republic)

*Members:*

Belgium . . . . .	Mr. Pecsteen de Buytswerve
China . . . . .	Mr. Wu Haitao
Côte d'Ivoire . . . . .	Mr. Ipo
Equatorial Guinea . . . . .	Mr. Ndong Mba
France . . . . .	Mr. Michon
Germany . . . . .	Mr. Schulz
Indonesia . . . . .	Mr. Djani
Kuwait . . . . .	Mr. Alotaibi
Peru . . . . .	Mr. Meza-Cuadra
Poland . . . . .	Ms. Wronecka
Russian Federation. . . . .	Mr. Polyanskiy
South Africa . . . . .	Mr. Matjila
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland . . . . .	Mr. Allen
United States of America. . . . .	Mr. Hunter

## Agenda

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan

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*The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.*

### Adoption of the agenda

*The agenda was adopted.*

### Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan

**The President** (*spoke in Spanish*): In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of the Sudan to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

At this meeting, the Security Council will hear an informative briefing by Ambassador Joanna Wronecka, Permanent Representative of Poland, in her capacity as Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005), concerning the Sudan.

I now give the floor to Ambassador Wronecka.

**Ms. Wronecka** (Poland): In accordance with paragraph 3 (a) (iv) of resolution 1591 (2005), I have the honour to brief the Security Council on the work of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005), concerning the Sudan, covering the period from 4 October 2018 to 17 January 2019.

During the reporting period, the Committee met in informal consultations on 24 October to hear a briefing by Ms. Pramila Patten, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sexual Violence in Conflict. With regard to her visit to the Sudan, Ms. Patten said that she was the first Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict to be invited by the Government of the Sudan. She noted during her visit that there had been significant improvement in the security situation in many parts of Darfur, but that women and girls still faced considerable security challenges. Ms. Patten expressed optimism regarding the framework of cooperation that was to be concluded shortly, whose purpose would be to prevent and address conflict-related sexual violence. The framework would also emphasize accountability as a central aspect of deterrence and prevention. Ms. Patten said that the cessation of sexual violence, ensuring accountability for such crimes and the implementation of specific prevention and protection measures, as envisioned under the framework of cooperation, were also requirements for the delisting of Sudanese Armed

Forces and Rapid Support Forces from the reports of the Secretary-General on sexual violence in conflict.

On 15 November, the Committee issued a press release (SC/13582) on Ms. Patten's briefing. On 27 November, the Panel of Experts on the Sudan submitted its final report (see S/2019/34) in accordance with paragraph 2 of resolution 2400 (2018). The Committee discussed the report and the recommendations contained therein during the informal consultations held on 14 December. The final report was transmitted to the Council on 10 January, and I will therefore not go into detail on its content in my presentation. Given the period covered, the report of the Panel of Experts did not take into account the latest developments in the Darfur peace process, namely, the signing on 6 December of a pre-negotiation agreement between the Sudan Liberation Army-Minni Minawi faction and the Justice and Equality Movement and the Government of the Sudan, supported by the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur.

In terms of recommendations to the Security Council, the Panel recommended that the Council urge the Libyan warring factions to stop cooperating with the Darfuri armed groups. The Panel was also of the opinion that the Regional Operational Centre in Khartoum and similar regional initiatives should be supported by Member States as part of a holistic and comprehensive approach to peacebuilding, border management and addressing cross-cutting challenges such as migrant smuggling.

**The President** (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank Ambassador Wronecka for her briefing.

I shall now give the floor to those members of the Council who wish to make statements.

**Mr. Ipo** (Côte d'Ivoire) (*spoke in French*): My delegation thanks Her Excellency Ambassador Joanna Wronecka, Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005), concerning the Sudan, for her briefing on the activities of the Committee for the period of 4 October 2018 to 17 January 2019. We commend her for her outstanding work at the helm of the Committee and assure her of the support of Côte d'Ivoire in the exercise of her functions.

The informal consultations of 24 October gave the members of the Committee an opportunity to hear a briefing from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict.

Côte d'Ivoire welcomes the improved security situation in Darfur, but it deplores the increase in sexual violence against women and girls. My country maintains that those responsible for those actions must be held accountable for them before the competent authorities. It is also necessary to strengthen protection for those victims and better prevent those crimes.

Côte d'Ivoire also welcomes the Special Representative's visit to the country at the initiative of the Government of the Sudan, which represents an important step in the establishment of a cooperation framework between the Government of the Sudan and the United Nations with a view, among other things, to preventing sexual violence in conflict and holding accountable the perpetrators of those heinous acts.

The presence in Libya of Darfuri rebel groups and their financing by warring Libyan parties, as well as the ability of Sudanese armed groups to generate funds in the region and beyond, as indicated in the Panel of Experts report (see S/2019/34), are a source of great concern for the Council. It seems necessary to strengthen collaboration among the various expert panels and sanctions committees in order to establish information-sharing frameworks that would undoubtedly enhance the work of the panels and committees.

In conclusion, Côte d'Ivoire once again congratulates the Chair of the 1591 Sanctions Committee and calls for increased collaboration between the Sudanese Government and the United Nations with a view to restoring lasting peace and stability to the Sudan.

**Mr. Djani** (Indonesia): Let me begin by thanking Ambassador Joanna Wronecka for her briefing on the activities of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005), concerning the Sudan, over a 90-day reporting period. It was an excellent report and we listened closely. My statement today will focus on three issues, namely, the security situation, the transition to peacebuilding and, of course, sanctions.

First, Indonesia welcomes the relatively stable security situation in Darfur, with the exception of intermittent clashes in Jebel Marra, as confirmed by the Secretary-General's latest report. We also welcome the Sudanese Government's efforts to promote the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, with the support of the international community. My delegation is encouraged by the signing of a pre-negotiation agreement between the Sudanese

Government and the Sudan Liberation Army-Minni Minawi faction and the Justice and Equality Movement last month in Berlin.

Yet we also note with concern the presence of Darfuri armed groups, particularly with regard to their efforts to acquire financial and military capabilities. It is high time to effectively cut those groups off from their sources of financing. The international community needs to apply strong pressure on parties that continue to impede progress towards lasting peace and opt for war.

Secondly, the improvement in the security situation reinforces the transition concept endorsed in resolution 2429 (2018) and enables us to focus on peacebuilding and development activities in Darfur. Capacity-building must continue to be extended to the Sudan, in line with the principles of national policies and priorities. Resource mobilization is key to supporting the transition to peacebuilding and development, while also addressing the root causes of the conflict and securing the continued implementation of the Doha Document for Peace. My delegation sees a potential role for the Peacebuilding Fund. We also welcome the proposal to hold a pledging conference for Darfur to ensure sufficient funds for the United Nations country team. Over the past few weeks, I have repeatedly stressed in my interventions that economic development is a key factor for ensuring stability, growth and lasting peace in countries. In that regard, the international community should continue to render assistance to ensure that sustaining peace is achieved in Darfur.

Thirdly, on the issue of sanctions, Indonesia has maintained a consistent view regarding their efficacy. Sanctions should be used as a last resort, with a clear, transparent and measurable timetable. Sanctions measures and applications must also be periodically evaluated, including against the backdrop of the latest situation on the ground. As I mentioned just now, economic development should also be considered in the context of sanctions efficacy. Indonesia stands ready to contribute to that discussion.

I would like to conclude by commending the critical work of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID). Indonesia has demonstrated its commitment to contributing to peace and stability in Darfur, including through its long-standing contribution to UNAMID, which presently amounts to 477 peacekeepers. My delegation believes

the improvement in security situation in Darfur paves the way for UNAMID's eventual exit in 2020, in line with resolution 2429 (2018).

**Mr. Ndong Mba** (Equatorial Guinea) (*spoke in Spanish*): First of all, allow me to pay well-deserved tribute to Ambassador Joanna Wronecka for her comprehensive briefing and excellent work as Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005), concerning the Sudan. I would also like to commend her for her practice of making the Committee's reports public so that they can be discussed at Security Council plenary meetings.

It is against that backdrop that we take the floor to point out, in general terms, the concern of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea about the resumption of fighting between Government forces and the Sudan Liberation Army/Abdul Wahid faction in the Jebel Marra area, which have resulted in several victims and new displacements, thereby exacerbating the humanitarian crisis and the abuse of human rights. We also note our Government's concern about sexual violence related to the conflict in Darfur, as well as the challenges to internally displaced persons returning to their homes.

As we know, the Government of the Sudan has spared no effort to resolve the crisis and normalize the situation in the conflict regions. As the most recent report of the Secretary-General points out, the security situation in Darfur has remained relatively stable, with the exception of intermittent clashes in the Jebel Marra area and the persistence of intercommunal conflicts over land and resources.

In order to further consolidate the progress achieved through the efforts of the Sudanese Government, it is essential to counter the activities of the Darfuri armed groups that are strengthening their position in Libya. It is their sources of financing that allow them to continue fuelling the conflict.

In that regard, it is imperative that all the sanctions on the identified and designated individuals and entities be strictly enforced, including travel prohibitions and asset freezes. It is equally urgent that the Security Council call on the various warring factions in Libya to refrain from cooperating with the armed groups in Darfur. As long as the sanctions adopted by the Council are not strictly observed, it will be difficult to achieve normalcy in the situation or to guarantee the security of the population, bring an end to the difficult humanitarian situation or protect women from sexual

abuse. It is therefore necessary to review the sanctions imposed under resolution 2400 (2018) in parallel with the withdrawal process for the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID).

We conclude our intervention by congratulating and UNAMID on the work it is carrying out, and we encourage it to continue in that vein, specifically the protection of civilians, during UNAMID's withdrawal process. We also encourage the Government of the Sudan to do everything in its power to implement the sanctions. It should offer capacity-building courses in relation to sexual violence and establish policing and judicial centres and institutions in remote areas of the country in order to facilitate access to justice and police protection.

**Mr. Hunter** (United States of America): I thank Ms. Joanna Wronecka for her briefing today on the important work undertaken by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005), concerning the Sudan, and for her commitment to the work of the Committee. As always, she has our continued support.

The 24 October briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Ms. Pramila Patten, to the Sudan Sanctions Committee underscored the ongoing problem of sexual violence by State and non-State actors in the Sudan and the continuing need for international attention on the issue. The Special Representative's reporting that perpetrators of sexual violence include members of the Sudanese armed forces and police as well as armed non-Government militias is alarming. It is imperative that the Government of the Sudan investigate and hold accountable those responsible for such crimes.

The Sudan sanctions regime allows for the designation of individuals who commit violations of international humanitarian law or international human rights law, or other atrocities. As Special Representative Patten recommended, the Panel of Experts on the Sudan should be provided more resources to investigate crimes of sexual violence and tasked to do so in the areas of Jebel Marra, including Nertiti, where several incidents were recently reported. While significant work remains to address this ongoing problem, we appreciate the Sudanese Government's engagement with the Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, and we

urge the Government to continue cooperating with her in future.

Enhancing human rights protections and practices is one of the six key areas of mutual concern prioritized in the phase II framework for bilateral engagement between the United States and the Sudan, which was agreed to last year. We welcome the commitment of the Sudan to making progress on that issue, among others. In that regard, we note our deep concerns about the Sudanese Government's response to the recent protests in the Sudan, which resulted in a significant number of deaths and serious injuries as well as the arbitrary detention without charge or trial of a number of political activists and protesters. We urge the Government to fully respect the rights to freedom of association and peaceful assembly and release all journalists, political opposition leaders, activists and any other protesters arbitrarily detained. We also urge the Government to ensure that a fully independent and transparent investigation into the deaths of protesters take place as soon as possible, followed by accountability for any excessive use of force.

With regard to the report of the Panel of Experts (see S/2019/34), we note with concern the continued clashes between the Sudan Liberation Army/Abdul Wahid faction (SLA/AW) and Sudanese Government forces. We are most concerned with the Sudanese armed forces response to the SLA/AW hit-and-run attacks with large-scale military operations aimed at driving the group out of the area. That fighting has resulted in a significant number of casualties on both sides, as well as new displacement, humanitarian crisis and human rights abuses. And across Darfur, women and girls continue to be subjected to conflict-related sexual violence. The resulting human rights violations and abuses, indiscriminate shootings, looting and destruction of property are unacceptable, and we call upon all parties to cease hostilities.

While the decreasing financial and logistical support from South Sudan to Darfuri rebels is encouraging, we are concerned by reports of growing support from Libyan groups to Darfuri armed groups. Furthermore, reported acts in defiance of the arms embargo by all armed groups and the Government of the Sudan serve to underscore the need for greater attention to the implementation of the sanction regime's arms embargo.

The United States is concerned by Panel reporting that the Government of the Sudan is interfering with the independence of the Panel by mandating Government participation in Panel meetings with non-Government interlocutors. We fully support the independence of the Panel and call upon the Government of the Sudan to cooperate in this respect. The United States encourages all Member States to cooperate with the Panel of Experts on the Sudan and fully implement our obligations pursuant to the arms embargo, asset freeze and travel ban measures. We also call upon Libyan warring factions to cease their cooperation with Darfuri armed groups.

We will continue to encourage the Government of the Sudan, the Justice and Equality Movement and the Sudan Liberation Army-Minni Minawi faction to build upon the recent agreement on a negotiations framework and to make progress towards a cessation of hostilities and a political agreement. We also call on the Sudan Liberation Army-Abdul Wahid faction to engage with the joint chief mediator and to engage within a peace process.

**Mr. Wu Haitao** (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank Ms. Joanna Wronecka, Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005), concerning the Sudan, for her briefing.

At present, the situation in the Darfur region of the Sudan remains stable on the whole. The Sudanese Government is actively pushing ahead towards the reconstruction of Darfur and is strengthening its capacity-building in the areas of governance and security in the region. It has also set up engagement with the parties that have not signed the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur. Those efforts of the Government will further consolidate and advance the peace process in Darfur.

China believes that the Sudanese Government should assume the primary responsibility for maintaining the security of Darfur. As the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) gradually withdraws from Darfur in line with the road map, the international community should actively help the Sudanese Government to enhance its own security and governance capacity-building and ensure that Sudanese security forces take over security responsibilities from UNAMID as soon as possible.

The Council should review the sanctions on the Sudan in a timely manner and make adjustments in

the light of the latest developments, with a view to the eventual lifting of the sanctions. That will send a positive signal to the countries concerned and better help the Sudanese Government to maintain peace and stability in the region.

China has noted that some opposition parties and armed groups in Darfur are still resisting the peace process. China urges those opposition parties and armed groups to actively take part in the peace process and find a solution through peaceful dialogue and other political means. China supports the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel for Sudan and South Sudan in continuing its good offices to promote the smooth resolution of the relevant issues.

Development is an important guarantee of peace. China hopes international partners will, in accordance with the needs of the Sudan, continue to actively provide humanitarian assistance and economic support. The United Nations should make full use of the platforms available, such as the Peacebuilding Commission, to provide necessary support for the reconstruction and development of the Sudan.

China has been a long-standing supporter of the peace process in Darfur, the Sudan, and it is one of the major troop-contributing countries to UNAMID. Over the years we have been contributing positively to the maintenance of peace and stability in Darfur. China is ready to work with the international community and will continue to play our constructive role in the quest for peace, stability and development in Darfur.

**Mr. Alotaibi** (Kuwait) (*spoke in Arabic*): I would like to thank the Permanent Representative of Poland to the United Nations, Ambassador Joanna Wronecka, for the briefing she delivered in her capacity as Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005), concerning the Sudan.

After taking part in the meetings of the Committee and reviewing the reports of the Panel of Experts, including the final report (see S/2019/34), it became apparent that the topics of internally displaced persons, security and the future of Darfur prevailed in the discussions and reports of the Committee.

We express our satisfaction about the continuous decrease in the number of internally displaced persons in Darfur for several years. We look forward to Member States offering all the necessary support to the Sudan in creating the conditions conducive for the return and

resettling of internally displaced persons, as well as providing them with basic services and the continued delivery of humanitarian aid to those in need.

Concerning the security situation, we are near full agreement on the stability that most of Darfur is witnessing, with the exception of some combat operations near Jebel Marra. The time has come for the Security Council to review the sanctions regime in accordance with resolution 2400 (2018), with the aim of lifting it gradually and in a manner that would enhance the Government's ability to enforce its authority throughout all of its territories. That would be in line with developments on the ground and with the degree of cooperation that the parties exhibit with respect to the peaceful efforts being made.

We reiterate our appreciation for the efforts of the Sudanese authorities to collect arms and renew the ceasefire. Bringing about security in Darfur has pushed most of the armed factions out of the Sudan, but they will continue to threaten peace and security wherever they go next.

In conclusion, with regard to the future of Darfur, a political solution remains a priority for us all. Despite the fact that no major political breakthrough has taken place during the reporting period, the Government of the Sudan continues to be the only side that has participated in all of the negotiations on Darfur. Moreover, the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur remains the foundational guiding document for the future of Darfur, in accordance with resolution 2429 (2018). All of this is also related to the Security Council's review of sanctions pursuant to resolution 2400 (2018). We had hoped that this review would have taken place within a year of the adoption of that resolution.

We would like to reiterate our support for the Sudan in moving forward to build and sustain peace in Darfur.

**Mr. Meza-Cuadra** (Peru) (*spoke in Spanish*): Mr. President, we wish to thank you for having convened this meeting and also to thank Ambassador Joanna Wronecka, Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005), concerning the Sudan, for her detailed 90-day report on the work of the Committee and for her important work at the helm of the Committee. We would highlight in particular the briefing given by Ms. Pramila Patten, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sexual Violence in Conflict, who informed us of the deplorable situation faced by the Sudanese people, particularly

women and children, who are the primary victims of this scourge, perpetrated by State and non-State actors.

In this regard, we note with concern the fact that despite the improvement in the security situation in many areas of Darfur, the number of victims of sexual violence remains alarming. In addition, some cases are not reported for various reasons, including fear of reprisals, stigmatization or a failure to implement the law. We underline the urgent need to bring those responsible for these atrocity crimes to justice. We support Ms. Patten's recommendations and wish to stress in particular the importance of including sexual violence as an independent listing criterion for sanctions.

In this regard, as stated by the Secretary-General in his most recent report, we believe that selective sanctions are an important tool to address this problem and that the Security Council can contribute to preventing such crimes. Moreover, we note with concern the fact that rebel groups in Darfur continue to receive financing from various sources and countries in the region. This poses an ongoing threat to the relative stability in Darfur and, ultimately, runs counter to efforts to achieve sustainable peace in the country.

We would highlight the importance of all parties complying with the established arms embargo. We deplore the repeated violations thereof and call on the Government of the Sudan and Member States to implement this international obligation; comply with measures relating to the assets freeze; and cooperate with the Panel of Experts.

We also note with concern the continued clashes between the Government of the Sudan and the rebel groups in the Jebel Marra area. The resulting violence leads to further displacements and grave human rights violations and abuses against civilians.

Finally, we congratulate and thank once again Ambassador Wronecka for her work at the helm of the Committee and pledge her our cooperation to continue contributing to efforts aimed at bringing about a definitive cessation of hostilities and reaching a political agreement that would allow for the consolidation of sustainable peace in Darfur.

**Mr. Michon** (France) (*spoke in French*): I should like to begin by thanking Ambassador Joanna Wronecka for her briefing on the activities carried out in 2018 by the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591

(2005), concerning the Sudan, and to commend her work as Chair of that sanctions Committee for the past year. The initiatives and meetings she mentioned, in particular that with Ms. Patten in October, have contributed to the Council's joint process of reflection aimed at ensuring the proper implementation of the sanctions regime. France supports her fully and commends her personal commitment to peace in Darfur.

France is following very closely the events currently taking place in the Sudan, not only in Khartoum but also in the provinces. In the context of the current social protests, we call on the Sudanese authorities to ensure the freedom of assembly, the freedom of association and the freedom of expression, in accordance with their international commitments. All parties must show restraint and abstain from any further violence in order to ease the situation.

We recognize that overall the security situation in Darfur has improved. However, we deplore the resumption this year of clashes in Jebel Marra, which lead to the displacement of persons, civilian casualties and human rights violations by all parties to the conflict. The Sudanese authorities and armed groups must absolutely move forward with the peace process. This requires not only putting an end to hostilities but also addressing the root causes of the conflict, in particular the issues of land ownership, access to natural resources and the restoration of the rule of law.

In that connection, I welcome the signing on 6 December in Berlin of a pre-negotiation agreement between the Government and certain armed groups. That is a step in the right direction.

We remain deeply concerned, however, by the issue of sexual violence, and, in that connection, I commend the valuable contribution of Ms. Pramila Patten, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sexual Violence in Conflict. The detailed information that she provided to the Committee has allowed us to better understand the scope of sexual violence in Darfur.

I regret in that connection that we did not reach consensus on reflecting in her report the full content of her statement to the sanctions Committee, but we have taken note of all of that information and fully support her recommendations, in particular the recommendation that sexual violence be set up as a standalone listing criterion. Those responsible for such violence must be held accountable. We must encourage victims to file

reports, and we must also ensure that investigations and prosecution follow. This is a priority for us.

We are also gravely concerned by the issue of humanitarian access. A robust, lasting ceasefire regime must be put in place in order to allow safe humanitarian access and unimpeded access to those territories and peoples that require it.

Finally, the withdrawal of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), a subject on which the Council recently expressed itself, should take place gradually, in keeping with the security situation on the ground, and take into account in particular the situation of displaced persons, respect for human rights and the issue of sexual violence. If those conditions are met, as we hope they will be, it will be important that following the exit of UNAMID, human rights observers have access to the entirety of the country's territory, in particular the most remote areas.

To conclude, I should like to say that the sanctions regime for the Sudan remains a key instrument, with respect to both the arms embargo and individual sanctions, for providing support during this transitional phase, during which we must remain particularly vigilant.

**Mr. Schulz** (Germany): I would also like to thank Ambassador Joanna Wronecka, Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005), concerning the Sudan, for her excellent work. We thank her for her briefing and would have been interested to receive an even longer and more detailed report. We also regret that it was not possible to reach consensus on this important document.

We are also especially interested in the briefing that Special Representative of the Secretary-General Patten gave. Germany is very concerned about sexual violence in the Sudan. We also agree with the Permanent Representative of Peru, who has suggested considering sexual violence as a listing criterion for sanctions in this context. Sanctions need to be rigorously implemented. For the time being, we see a necessity to uphold the sanctions regime and maintain the very important work of the Panel of Experts, which we commend.

On a more general note on Darfur, let me say that Germany is very engaged in peacebuilding in Darfur — that is very important to us. We support mediation efforts and the political dialogue, which is absolutely necessary, as it is the only way to come

up with a lasting solution for the Sudan and Darfur. We obviously welcome the signing of the Darfur pre-negotiation agreement in Berlin. We stand ready to further support the peace process.

However, while we acknowledge that there are some improvements in the security situation in Darfur, we also have to take into account the remaining challenges. That includes security challenges, as many colleagues have mentioned. We are also very concerned that the unilateral ceasefire has not yet been prolonged by the Government of the Sudan. We would also like to express our concern that the current internal situation in the Sudan may also lead to the loss of the recent momentum achieved in the peace process.

On the situation and developments in the Sudan in general, I would like to point out that we follow them with concern; obviously, there have been nationwide protests in the country since December. People were killed during those protests and others were wounded. The High Commissioner for Human Rights expressed concern about credible reports on the use of excessive force. The Government of the Sudan should respond to the legitimate grievances of the Sudanese people, and diverging views should be tolerated and not restrained with excessive force. All those responses should be based on the principle of proportionality.

Against that overall background and those developments in the Sudan in general, and Darfur in particular, we feel that the unity of the Security Council remains of the utmost importance and that the rigorous implementation of the sanctions regime remains very crucial.

**Ms. Wronecka** (Poland): In addition to the statement I made as Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005), concerning the Sudan, let me make some additional remarks in my national capacity.

Allow me to begin by thanking the outgoing members of the Security Council — Bolivia, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan, the Netherlands and Sweden — for their fruitful and solutions-oriented cooperation during their tenure on the Council and their invaluable contributions to the work of the Committee. I would also like to thank the Government of the Sudan and the Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the United Nations for their cooperation over the past year of my chairmanship.

Returning to the Sanctions Committee, I would like to highlight a few issues of particular importance to Poland. We are concerned about the reports of sexual and gender-based violence, which continue to be perpetrated in Darfur with impunity. We call on the Government of the Sudan to take all the necessary measures to put an end to those acts and bring the perpetrators to justice, and to continue cooperating on the matter with Special Representative Patten. We have all witnessed the positive results of the Government's engagement on the question of children and armed conflict. We are convinced that the Sudan can build on that experience in other fields.

We also remain concerned about the consequences for the civilian population of the clashes between Government forces and the Sudan Liberation Army-Abdul Wahid faction in Jebel Marra, as well as about the reports of human rights abuses committed in relation to the fighting. The situation of Darfuri internally displaced persons remains worrisome as well. They lack access to economic and social services as well as the provision of humanitarian aid. They are also exposed to threats, harassment and intimidation.

With regard to other elements of the sanctions regime, we note with regret the reports on the violations of the arms embargo, both by the Government itself and all armed groups, and we call upon the Government of the Sudan to seek the Committee's advance approval before transferring military material to Darfur.

I would like to seize this opportunity to thank the Panel of Experts on the Sudan for their professional approach, the quality of information that they provide the Committee and our day-to-day cooperation. I encourage the Government of the Sudan to continue its cooperation with the Panel and provide the Experts with the necessary space to fulfil their mandate independently and impartially.

Poland believes that sanctions are not punishment, but a policy tool aimed at changing behaviour and making it constructive, and that they should be subjected to regular reviews, in order to best reflect the dynamics on the ground. In that context, I would like to recall the recommendation from my visit to the Sudan, of which I informed the Council during my quarterly briefing in June last year (see S/PV.8287). The recommendation reads as follows.

“That the Council pursue its intention, as expressed in paragraph 3 of resolution 2400 (2018), to review

the measures on Darfur in the light of the evolving situation on the ground. As part of the review I referred to, the Council could consider setting solutions-oriented parameters of the eventual termination of the measures in the long term, which might serve as a vehicle for positive change in the Sudan.”

I would like to uphold that recommendation and assure the Council that, as Chair of the Sanctions Committee on the Sudan, I stand ready to assist the Council in every effort aimed at adjusting the sanctions regime to best reflect the current situation in Darfur.

Let me conclude by assuring the Council that as Chair I will continue to guide the Committee's work so that it supports the Council in its efforts to facilitate an end to the protracted conflict in Darfur and, by doing so, contribute to peace and stability in the region.

**Mr. Pecsteen de Buytswerve** (Belgium) (*spoke in French*): I thank you, Mr. President, for organizing this briefing. I also thank my colleague the Permanent Representative of Poland for her detailed account of the activities of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005), concerning the Sudan. I commend her dynamic way of leading the work of the Committee.

In broad strokes, we can say that the situation in Darfur is following a positive trend but still requires our attention. We are concerned about the violence observed during recent demonstrations throughout the country. We deplore that such violence led to death and call on the authorities to exercise restraint. We are also concerned about the possible impact of the political situation in the Sudan on the Darfur peace process. We call on all parties to join the peace process.

The briefing we just heard reminds us that, even as we reflect on a strategy for the withdrawal of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, the suffering of the population is unfortunately not over. Conflict-related sexual violence continues to affect women and girls in particular. We are deeply concerned about their lack of access to legal remedies. We call on the Government of the Sudan to strengthen its national capacity for legal, medical and psychosocial support for victims of sexual violence. In that regard, we support the work of Special Representative Patten and look forward to continuing to work with her and, especially, listening to her within the framework of the meetings of the Sanctions Committees. Belgium

supports making sexual violence a separate designation criterion, which means that the experts working for Sanctions Committees must be trained in the area. We also see the value of similar collaboration with the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict.

There are other elements in the report of the Panel of Experts that alarm us. One is the continuing presence of armed groups outside the Sudan. These combatants offer their services to the highest bidder and are highly mobile, which poses a threat to the entire region, including the Sudan itself. Another is the fact that weapons originating in Darfur are in circulation in the region. Even if it is possible that the weapons-collection campaign organized by the Darfur authorities has led some combatants to resell their surplus, the efforts to curb this traffic must continue. The arms embargo on Darfur is one of the more useful measures in that regard.

Lastly, we would like to acknowledge the valuable work of the Panel of Experts, which fills out the view that the members of the Council have of the situation on the ground with detailed and verifiable information and in-depth investigations. Its task is extremely important, and in order to ensure that the Council receives the best information possible, it is crucial to preserve its independence. We call on all parties, in the Sudan and elsewhere, to cooperate in good faith with the experts and enable them to conduct their mission without interference.

**Mr. Matjila** (South Africa): We would like to thank you, Sir, for convening today's meeting. We would also like to thank and pay tribute to Ambassador Joanna Wronecka for her briefing and leadership on this portfolio. And we welcome our colleagues from the Sudan to the Council today.

South Africa welcomes the improvements in the security situation in Darfur. The situation has improved dramatically over the past few years and the role of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) should be commended. We salute Ambassador Jeremiah Mamabolo, Head of UNAMID, and his colleagues — all the Blue Berets and civilian components — for a job well done in Darfur. Notwithstanding its expected drawdown, as set out in resolution 2429 (2018), UNAMID must continue to ensure the protection of vulnerable civilians, especially the internally displaced and those in camps, and to prevent gender-based violence. South Africa

also welcomes the gains made in advancing the Darfur peace process and in the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, and calls on all parties to continue their commitment to the negotiations process, under the auspices of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel.

Through resolution 1591 (2005), the Council aimed to put pressure on the parties that were impeding the peace process, which we recognized as constituting a threat to stability in Darfur and the region. It also targeted those who had committed violations under international humanitarian law or human rights law, or other types of atrocities, or those who had violated measures agreed on in resolution 1556 (2004). Equally, as the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) concerning the Sudan said, we should also respond to the progress that is being registered on the ground in normalizing the situation in Darfur, which has driven the drawdown of the contingent numbers in the UNAMID mission from 17,000 to 4,000. With those positive developments in this area of the Sudan, it is important that the Council be able to recognize and acknowledge that progress has been made, thanks to the measures imposed in resolution 1591 (2005). The Council should be able to relax some of the previously imposed sanctions, and in that regard we welcome the recommendation of the Chair of the Committee.

That does not mean that there are no more elements that require our attention. We remain concerned about the continued violations of the arms embargo, including the transfer of weapons to Darfur, which destabilizes the situation on the ground. In that regard, we urge UNAMID, in accordance with resolution 2429 (2018), to continue to provide technical and logistical assistance to the Sudan Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission. We also remain concerned about the growing presence of Darfuri armed groups in Libya, as further violations of the embargo could potentially fuel the conflict in the region, undermining any progress towards stability and lasting solutions for peace and sustainable development. And women and children are the most affected by sexual violence, which has also increasingly become a weapon of war, affecting the long-term prospects for peaceful and prosperous communities. In that regard, we would like to commend the Government of the Sudan for its efforts to combat sexual violence in conflict.

In conclusion, South Africa hopes that as UNAMID continues to scale down its operations and vacate stable regions in Darfur, the Sudanese Government will establish administrative services and ensure normalcy in the hitherto troubled region of the Sudan. The Council should do everything possible to ensure that the 30 June cut-off and withdrawal of UNAMID is realized, since it would be a major boost to Africa's call for silencing the guns by 2020.

**Mr. Polyanskiy** (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We have taken note the briefing of Ms. Joanna Wronecka, Permanent Representative of Poland, on the work of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) concerning the Sudan.

We note the overall positive trend in the military and political situation and the settlement of the conflict in Darfur. The security situation is stable. Armed violence is on the decline. Large-scale clashes and intercommunal conflicts have ceased. Refugees and internally displaced persons are returning home.

We see no alternative to the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur as the basis for a political settlement in the region, and we welcome the measures being taken by Khartoum to implement it. The signing on 6 December in Berlin of a preliminary agreement on the resumption of the peace process speaks to the commitment of the parties to achieving a lasting peace in the region through negotiations. In that context, we were disappointed by the unconstructive negotiating position of Abdul Wahid Al Nur. We have to acknowledge that attempts to woo intransigent actors are damaging to the peace process. We believe that the external sponsors of the Sudanese opposition should be more proactive in urging their protégés to take more realistic positions.

As has repeatedly said here in this Chamber, sanctions are not an end in themselves but rather one of the tools in the Council's arsenal for advancing peace processes and encouraging political dialogue. The positive developments we have seen in Darfur suggest that the sanctions introduced 14 years ago have already served their purpose.

There is an evident need a clear road map for lifting the Security Council sanctions on the Sudan. In the context of the planned drawdown of the peacekeeping contingent of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, we would like to point out that the previous Chair of the 1591 Committee made the very logical and timely recommendation that easing

the sanctions regime should go hand in hand with withdrawing the Blue Helmets. Our experience in Eritrea has shown that when there is corresponding political will on the part of the Western members of the Council, it is quite possible to make substantive progress in lifting sanctions. Unfortunately, we have not seen any of that here so far. What is more, we are already hearing so-called human rights activists sending signals in support of a de facto toughening of the Council's sanctions regime on the Sudan by making sexual and gender-based violence a separate listing criterion, expanding the capacity and powers of the Panel of Experts of the 1591 Committee in this area, and linking the eventual lifting of sanctions on the Sudan to a resolution of the problem of sexual violence in Darfur. In our view, such a transformation threatens to turn on its head the whole point of the Sudan sanctions regime, which was introduced with a view to protecting international peace and security. The initiators of such so-called innovations are not acting based on the trends in the real situation on the ground but on their own narrow national agendas, which are often far removed from the interests of establishing peace in Darfur.

A number of our colleagues today raised the topic of the protests in the Sudan. I would like to underscore that this subject is not related to the subject of our meeting. The objective of these kinds of tactics is clear. It is to create an impression that the Security Council has a mandate to discuss a purely national Sudanese issue in the context of the sanctions regime. I want to emphasize that this in no way corresponds to reality and nobody should be misled on the matter. In general, it is hard to shake the feeling that raising the issue of anti-Government protests in Khartoum, which in itself constitutes interference in the country's internal affairs, comes under the rubric of geopolitical engineering and the West's well-known policies aimed at replacing regimes that it does not like. We all know what that led to in Libya, South Sudan and various other countries. We do not wish to hold the Security Council and the 1591 Committee hostage to our Western colleagues' geopolitical agenda.

In conclusion, I want to once again underscore that any Security Council sanctions regime must be reviewed so that it can adapt to the realities on the ground. It was with that in mind that we agreed on resolution 2400 (2018), which clearly established the importance of holding such reviews regularly. We hope

that concrete parameters for lifting sanctions will soon be developed. They are obviously long overdue.

**Mr. Allen** (United Kingdom): Like others, I would like to start by thanking Ambassador Wroniecka, Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) concerning the Sudan, for her briefing and for her continued efforts as Chair, based of course on her considerable personal experience. It is disappointing that owing to a lack of consensus within the Committee she was unable to give a more comprehensive briefing on her activities.

The subsidiary bodies of the Security Council, including its Sanctions Committees, are a vital part of our collective work to maintain international peace and security. We rely on and require the wider United Nations membership to implement the sanctions regimes that the Council agrees on, and we have a responsibility to demonstrate transparency in the Committees' conduct of their work. The United Kingdom continues to support fully the 1591 sanctions regime and the Panel of Experts, and I would like to thank the Panel for its ongoing efforts to provide the Committee with a comprehensive analysis of the implementation of the sanctions regime and the wider political and security dynamics in the Sudan and the region.

I take issue with the Russian delegation's depiction of the position of the United Kingdom and of Western countries on sanctions in general and on the Sudan in particular, which has no relation to the facts. Sanctions regimes and the criteria that underpin them are agreed on by the Council, as set out in the Charter of the United Nations. That is proper and right. The United Kingdom will continue to act objectively on this and all sanctions regimes, and we encourage all our colleagues to do likewise.

In relation to the activities of the Panel of Experts, the United Kingdom welcomes the increased cooperation of the Government of the Sudan. However, we note the concerns that have been raised with regard to the regular presence of Government officials at some of the Panel's meetings. We therefore encourage the Government of the Sudan to cooperate with the Panel with full respect for its independent and investigative mandate. As noted by the Chair, the Panel recently transmitted its final report to the Committee, in which it singled out the clashes between the Sudan Liberation Army-Abdul Wahid and the Government of the Sudan forces in the Jebel Marra region of Darfur as the main

development during the reporting period. We have heard during briefings on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) that these clashes have resulted in a significant number of civilian casualties, new displacements and human rights violations and abuses perpetrated by all sides. The reports of indiscriminate shootings, the looting and burning of villages and conflict-related sexual violence are particularly alarming.

There have been welcome improvements in the security situation in some parts of Darfur, and we saw some progress in the peace process with the signing of a pre-negotiation agreement by the Sudan Liberation Army-Minni Minawi and the Justice and Equality Movement with the Government of the Sudan in Berlin in December. However, the clashes in Jebel Marra are a stark reminder that the situation in Darfur is not yet normalized and remains fragile. It is therefore incumbent on the Council to ensure a responsible drawdown of UNAMID and to hold the Government to account for progress on achieving the exit benchmarks and indicators, as we agreed in presidential statement S/PRST/2018/19, adopted in December. In addition, the arms embargo continues to be violated by all armed groups and the Government of the Sudan. The Panel's report details the destabilizing flow of weapons into and out of Darfur. We call on all parties to adhere to the arms embargo and remind the Government of the Sudan of the requirement to request approval from the 1591 Committee for transfers of military material to Darfur.

The Chair also noted in her remarks that the Committee was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Ms. Pramila Patten. During her briefing, the Special Representative reminded the Committee that conflict-related sexual violence remains widespread in Darfur and that survivors and first-hand witnesses regularly identify members of the security forces as perpetrators. She also highlighted the fact that sexual violence continues to be chronically underreported owing to fear of reprisals, acute stigma, a lack of protection for victims and inaction on the part of law enforcement. The United Kingdom welcomes the Government's engagement on a framework of cooperation to prevent and address conflict-related sexual violence. An agreement on the framework and its complete implementation are necessary if the Sudanese armed forces and rapid support forces are to be delisted from

the Secretary-General's reports on sexual violence in conflict.

However, I would like to draw attention to the important recommendations made to the Committee by Ms. Patten. They were, first, that sexual violence be elevated as a stand-alone designation criterion; secondly, that the Panel of Experts be granted adequate resources and expertise to investigate sexual violence and that the Committee explicitly request the Panel to investigate and document alleged incidents of sexual violence in Darfur; thirdly, that any future benchmarking process for the possible lifting of targeted sanctions include the provisions related to sexual violence in resolution 2429 (2018) and the prevention and accountability measures required under resolutions 1960 (2010) and 2106 (2013). The United Kingdom expresses its support for those recommendations and for the continued efforts of Special Representative Patten and her Office to address the worrying prevalence of sexual violence in the Sudan.

While this was not discussed by the Committee, I would also like to take this opportunity to say a few words about the current situation in the Sudan with regard to the ongoing protests. The United Kingdom is concerned about the current situation. The use of lethal force and arbitrary detentions by the security forces in response to peaceful protests is unacceptable and should stop. We are appalled by reports that the security forces have used tear gas and violence inside hospitals against those being treated and doctors who are providing medical assistance. We repeat our calls for restraint in policing the protests, the release of detainees and accountability for those killed. The Government of the Sudan's response to the protests will shape the United Kingdom's approach to engagement in the coming months and years.

In conclusion, let me again thank the Chair of the Committee for her ongoing commitment. I would also like to reiterate the importance of the sanctions regime in the Sudan and to express our hope that all members of the Committee will be constructive as we approach the renewal of the sanctions regime established by resolution 1591 (2005) next month.

**The President** (*spoke in Spanish*): I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the representative of the Dominican Republic.

We thank Ambassador Wronecka for her briefing on the work of the Committee established pursuant to

resolution 1591 (2005), concerning the Sudan, and for her initiative to brief us in an open meeting.

With regard to the issue under discussion, my delegation welcomes the various initiatives in the peace process in Darfur, such as the signing of the pre-negotiation agreement between the Government of the Sudan, the Sudan Liberation Army-Minni Minawi faction and the Justice and Equality Movement in Berlin on 6 December 2018, as well as the Government's arms collection campaign, which has achieved a certain level of security in urban areas. We would also like to highlight the positive developments in regional dynamics, mainly with neighbouring countries.

Unfortunately, despite those signs of commitment by the parties to the conflict, the peace process in the Sudan faces a number of challenges. We are troubled by the clashes in the Jebel Marra area, which have resulted in further displacements, a humanitarian crisis and human rights abuses. The vulnerability of women and girls, who continue to be the target of conflict-related sexual violence, is of great concern.

Meanwhile, it is disturbing that the Government of the Sudan and the armed groups are still not complying with the terms of the arms embargo, in clear violation of paragraph 7 of resolution 1591 (2005), and that the travel ban and assets freeze are not being implemented.

Finally, we urge the Government and the other stakeholders in the conflict to step up their efforts to implement those measures but, above all, to create conditions for the eradication of the vulnerable situation of girls and women and for the cessation of sexual violence and to ensure effective accountability for the perpetrators of those crimes.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

I give the floor to the representative of the Sudan.

**Mr. Elnour** (Sudan) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I would like to congratulate your country, Mr. President, on beginning its non-permanent membership of the Security Council for the period 2019-2020 and on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for this month. I would also like to welcome the States that have recently become non-permanent members of the Security Council, namely, Germany, Belgium, Indonesia and our sister country South Africa. My delegation affirms its commitment to cooperating

with them and with the Security Council in all matters pertaining to the Sudan in the work of the Council.

We would like as well to express our appreciation to Ambassador Joanna Wronecka. We thank her for her briefing as Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) concerning the Sudan and for the report that she presented today. I would also express my appreciation to the members of the Council for their statements earlier in the meeting.

With regard to the peace process in Darfur, I would like to underline the following points. First, the Government of the Sudan is fully committed to the peace process and to creating the appropriate conditions for it. My Government expresses its readiness to resume negotiations with the Justice and Equality Movement and the Sudan Liberation Army-Minni Minawi faction in accordance with the pre-negotiation agreement signed in Germany on 6 December 2018. We would like to reiterate our appreciation and gratitude to our partners in Germany, and we look forward to further cooperation with the Security Council and to increased pressure being put on the rebel movements in order to encourage them to join the peace process, in line with the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur.

Secondly, with regard to the situation in Jebel Marra, I would like to affirm that what took place in that area was the direct result of the refusal of the so-called Sudan Liberation Army-Abdul Wahid faction to accept all invitations to hold negotiations in order to normalize the situation that has existed since 2006 and to achieve a peaceful solution. Moreover, certain members of the Council also refused to adopt any measures against the obstinacy of that movement and its leadership, its disregard for the lives of our people in Darfur and the obstacles that it has placed in the way of all national, regional and international efforts to establish peace in Darfur.

Thirdly, I would like to note the close link between peace and development in Darfur and that the conflict in Darfur is essentially over scarce resources for development. Resolving the root causes of the situation therefore depends on the level of commitment shown by our partners and by the international community to support development in Darfur and to respond to the call issued by the High-Level Event on the Transition from Peacekeeping to Peacebuilding and Development in Darfur, held on the margins of the high-level segment of the General Assembly in September 2018.

Concerning the issue of sanctions, I would like to note the following. We affirm that the Government of the Sudan is committed to cooperating with other United Nations entities and agencies working in the Sudan on the condition that they comply with their mandate and that they respect the sovereignty of the Sudan. Moreover, we strongly reject the unverified false information mentioned in the final report of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) (see S/2019/34). Such information was gathered from sources that are not credible or impartial, such as Radio Dabanga.

I would like to note that since the sanctions regime was imposed on Darfur under resolution 1591 (2005), there have been many developments and that the current situation in Darfur, as testified to by the Security Council and the reports of the Secretary General, has changed. The circumstances now are very different to those that existed when the sanctions regime was imposed 13 years ago. All United Nations reports that have been submitted for the period under review by the Secretary-General and the Panel of Experts confirm the continued improvement in the security situation in Darfur. That improvement was the main factor that prompted the Council to adopt resolutions 2363 (2017) and 2429 (2018), which stipulated a reduction in the troop strength of the African Union-United Nations Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) in preparation for a final drawdown and full exit by June 2020.

The Government of the Sudan has continued to make efforts to normalize the situation in Darfur in its various aspects so that the states of Darfur can return to normalcy. The Government has exerted efforts in the area of security that have led to great strides in achieving both security and stability throughout Darfur. The campaign to disarm citizens and collect their weapons has bolstered stability and security and ended outbreaks of violence, which took place in the past, while combating criminal acts and banditry. The Government has succeeded in exercising its authority and enforcing the rule of law, and is continuing its efforts on a daily basis, which has strengthened security and stability and prompted large numbers of internally displaced persons to return to their homes.

Last February, the Council adopted resolution 2400 (2018), which renewed the mandate of the Panel of Experts until February of this year. I should like to point out that, in paragraph 3 of that resolution, the Council expressed its intention to review the sanctions

regime in Darfur in the light of the evolving situation on the ground. Given the fact that all the reports submitted by the Secretary-General and the Panel of Experts during the period under review confirm the continued improvement of the situation in Darfur, we hope that, in considering the adoption of a subsequent draft resolution in February to renew the Panel's mandate, the Council will review the sanctions regime imposed on Darfur pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005). That would enable the Sudanese armed forces to perform their duties as guaranteed by the Charter of the United Nations and the State's Constitution, especially in the light of the planned reduction in UNAMID troop strength in preparation for its exit next year. Moreover, our armed forces and other security entities would be able to fight transnational crime, human trafficking and illegal migration as well as fighting terrorism and carrying out other tasks, thereby making it incumbent upon the international community to support our military institutions. The Security Council must take into consideration that Darfur neighbours three States that are undergoing conflict — a situation that requires the armed forces and other relevant institutions to be able to control the situation on the borders shared with those States.

In response to Council members' remarks concerning the demonstrations, violence and sabotage seen in certain parts of the Sudan since 19 December 2018, I would like to state the following. The Government of the Sudan is fully committed to providing its citizens with opportunity to peacefully express their views concerning the political and economic situation in the country. At the same time, the Government of the Sudan is committed to carrying out its constitutional obligations and international law in accordance with its right to protect lives and public property against sabotage, arson and all other forms of violence, which some demonstrators have carried out. I would also like to confirm that those demonstrations are not related even remotely to the topic of this meeting, which is dedicated to a specific agenda item, namely, a discussion on the Panel of Experts final report (see S/2019/34) of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005), concerning sanctions imposed on the Sudan. I would ask that Council members remain focused on the topic at hand.

*The meeting rose at 11.25 a.m.*