



AU

1 LETTER FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Dear delegates,

It is my pleasure to welcome you all as the Chairperson of African Union at Podar Summit 2019. I hope that you will find these three days to be informative with respect to the topics that we discuss as well as in the diversity of people that you meet. The topic that we have at hand is extremely interesting and engaging. The unrest in Sudan is escalating day by day and may soon become the greatest humanitarian crisis ever. Here is where all of you come in and make sure that it doesn't happen by discussing it at length and coming up with the most viable solutions to the situation at hand.

To make the most of these three days, I suggest you to come prepared with thorough research on the subjects. If this is your first time at a MUN conference, do not hesitate to contact me or any other member of the Executive Board for even the smallest of queries. We will be extremely happy to entertain them.

Look forward to meeting each one of you. Happy researching!

Regards

Samarth Gulla,

Chairperson

2 HOW TO USE THIS STUDY GUIDE?

Anti-government demonstrations have engulfed towns and cities across Sudan since mid-December 2018. The country has been in the midst of a political crisis ever since security forces open fired on pro-democratic protesters in the capital, Khartoum, and the crackdown could intensify further.

DELEGATES ARE EXPECTED TO:

- Be well researched on the implications of the crisis on their country
- The measures taken by their country to deal with the crisis
- The measures taken by the UN
- The stand of their country on the existing crisis
- The functioning of the African union

Read through the agenda carefully, there will be a vote before proceedings start to decide which topic shall be discussed in committee. The EB expects debate and deliberation that will lead to a fruitful resolution that can solve the existing problem.

This study guide consists of a skeleton of the research that would be helpful to delegates in order to put forth their views clearly.

Delegates are advised to research more on the prompt highlighted in bold and go through the bibliography that contains links to more beneficial information.

While researching, stick to recognized sources like Reuters, UN websites, Britannica and use other media platforms only to gather different perspectives as they may be biased and not have accurate statistics and facts.

3 INTRODUCTION TO THE AFRICAN UNION

The African Union, or AU, is a Pan-African organisation whose goal is to propel a united continent towards peace and prosperity.

The AU supports political and economic integration among its 54 member nations. It aims to boost development, eradicate poverty and bring Africa into the global economy. The AU succeeded the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in 2002. In its later years, the OAU - which originated in the decolonisation struggles of the early 1960s - had been criticised for becoming a mere talking shop.

Conceived by the then Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi as a "United States of Africa", its structure is loosely modelled on that of the European Union.

The AU believes in resolving conflicts rather than promoting economic interests. To this end, it set up a Peace and Security Council in 2004 that may intervene in conflicts. The council can deploy military forces in situations which include genocide and crimes against humanity as well as authorise peacekeeping missions.

The African Union has regularly suspended member-states over coups d'état, re-admitting them when they return to constitutional rule. South Sudan became the 54th member-state in the summer of 2011.

KEY FACTS:

2000: AU constitution signed in Lomé, Togo

2002: AU launched at Durban summit, South Africa

Headquarters: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Membership: 54 African nations

The vision of the African Union is that of: "An integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena."

4 AGENDA: THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN SUDAN

4.1 CRISIS BRIEF

4.1.1 How it all began

The unrest in Sudan can be traced back to December 2018, when President Bashir's government-imposed emergency austerity measures in an attempt to stave off economic collapse. Reductions in bread and fuel subsidies sparked demonstrations over living standards in the east and the anger spread to Khartoum. The protests broadened into demands for the removal of Mr Bashir - who had been in charge for 30 years - and his government. The protests reached a climax on 6 April when demonstrators occupied the square in front of the military's headquarters to demand that the army force the president out. Five days later, the military announced that the president had been overthrown.

4.1.2 Who is in charge now?

A council of generals assumed power on 11 April but it has struggled to restore normalcy to the country. The seven-member Transitional Military Council (TMC) is led by Lt-Gen Abdel Fattah Abdelrahman Burhan. The council says it needs to be in charge to ensure order and security. However, the army is not a unified force in Sudan. There are other paramilitary organisations and various Islamist militias that hold some sway.

The military has also faced international condemnation for launching a violent attack on protesters in Khartoum on 3 June, which reportedly has a death toll of more than 100, according to the Central Committee for Sudan Doctors. Forty dead bodies were found in the Nile. The US condemned what it called a "brutal attack" and the UK said the military council bore "full responsibility". In response, the TMC expressed "sorrow for the way events escalated", saying that the operation had targeted "trouble makers and petty criminals".

4.1.3 Who is the opposition?

The economic problems brought Sudanese from all walks of life to the streets, but the organisation of demonstrations was taken on by the Sudanese Professionals Association (SPA) - a collaboration of doctors, health workers and lawyers. The protesters are mostly

young, reflecting the country's demographics, but people of all ages have been seen in the crowds. Women are at the forefront of the demonstrations and a video of a woman who has been named Kandaka, meaning Nubian queen, leading the chants has gone viral. When the military took power in April, demonstrators stayed put outside its headquarters and insisted that it transfer authority to a civilian administration. Talks between the ruling generals and the protest organisers, who have come together under the umbrella group Alliance for Freedom and Change, initially showed little sign of progress, but they eventually came to an agreement.

4.1.4 What did the two sides agree upon?

The military and protesters agreed on 15 May to a three-year transition period to civilian rule. Demonstrators argue that Mr Bashir's regime is so deeply entrenched that a long transition is needed to dismantle his political network and allow fair elections. The two sides also agreed on the structure of a new government - including a sovereign council, a cabinet and a legislative body. But the military leaders scrapped all of these agreements on 3 June and said fresh elections would be held within nine months.

The TMC's head said they had decided to "stop negotiating with the Alliance for Freedom and Change and cancel what had been agreed on."

Former British ambassador to Sudan, Rosalind Marsden, told the BBC that the snap election would "simply pave the way for much of the old regime to come back into power".

The announcement came shortly after the violent crackdown on protesters in Khartoum.

In the wake of killings, the leaders of the pro-democracy movement said they were cutting all contact with the TMC and called for "total civil disobedience" and a general strike.

4.1.5 What about mediation?

When talks broke down, Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed flew to Sudan to try to broker a new agreement between the two sides.

After days of talks, his special envoy, Mahmoud Dirir, announced on 11 June that protest leaders had agreed to suspend widespread strikes and return to the negotiating table.

Mr Dirir said that in return, the military had agreed to release political prisoners.

No firm date for the resumption of talks was given.

The privately-owned Baj News website reported that the opposition was insisting on an independent investigation into the violent crackdown before direct talks restart.

4.1.6 What has the international response been?

Most African and western countries have backed the protesters. Saudi Arabia has urged discussions between the two sides but has not directly condemned military violence. Along with UAE and Egypt, it perhaps fears the protests could inspire similar events to take place on home turf. The TMC's vice president, Mohamed Hamdan Dagolo, also known as Hemeti, flew to Saudi Arabia last month to meet the crown prince Mohamed Bin Salman, promising to stand with the kingdom against threats and continue sending Sudanese troops to help the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen. The African Union (AU) has suspended Sudan from its membership until a civilian led transitional authority is established. The UN is removing all non-essential staff from Sudan but China and Russia have blocked moves to impose sanctions. The US National Security Advisor, John Bolton, condemned the Khartoum violence, calling it "abhorrent". But the BBC Africa editor Fergal Keane said this will only mean something if the US demands that its regional allies - Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates - exert pressure on the Sudanese military.

(Delegates are advised to look into possible future solutions and look out for the flaws that deemed the actions taken ineffective leading the problem to persist)

4.2 CURRENT SCENARIO IN SUDAN

The country is at a standstill. The pro-democracy group, Sudanese Professionals' Association (SPA) called for a nationwide strike after military forces attacked a protest camp in the country's capital of Khartoum on June 3rd. It is estimated that at least 100 peaceful protestors were killed. Local doctors said nearly 40 bodies were found floating in the Nile and many women were raped. Protestors have gathered in the streets for weeks to demand the ruling

transitional military council (TMC) to hand power over to a civilian-led government. The TMC took power after months of protests for ousting the long-time president Omar Al-Bashir in April 2019. They had initially agreed on a three-year transition plan to a democratic government but many pro-democracy activists say that they do not trust the military. After the recent attacks, government officials claimed that protestors closing off roads and setting up barricades constituted criminal activity. The government has shut off internet access in large parts of the country, leaving protestors unable to organise. Sudan's ruling military council says that they are investigating the deaths. Some business owners are distributing food to ensure that people can eat during the strike. Security forces are stationed around Khartoum; gunshots have been reported around the city. The duration of the strike remains unclear. Only some state banks and public utility offices remained open.

4.3 MAJOR COUNTRIES INVOLVED

4.3.1 ETHIOPIA

Ethiopia's prime minister, on Friday, urged Sudan's military rulers and civilian opposition to exercise "bravery" in trying to agree on a transition to democracy after the worst bloodshed since the overthrow of President Omar al-Bashir. Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, who flew to Khartoum from Addis Ababa to try to mediate the country's crisis, held separate talks with the country's ruling military council and leaders of the Declaration of Freedom and Change Forces, an alliance of protesters and opposition parties. Abiy made his visit the day after the Ethiopia-headquartered African Union bloc suspended Sudan, backing the opposition's demand for civilian rule.

4.3.2 SAUDI ARABIA

Saudi Arabia says it has deposited \$250m (£196m) in Sudan's central bank as part of a support package for the country which is in the midst of an economic and political crisis. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has followed with "great concern the developments in the brotherly Republic of Sudan." It offered "deep condolences to the families of the victims" and expressed hope that "all parties in Sudan

will choose wisdom and constructive dialogue." It reaffirmed its "unwavering position in support of Sudan and its people."

4.3.3 SOUTH SUDAN

South Sudan's crude oil exports through Port Sudan have been delayed following Omar Al-Bashir's ouster in neighbouring Sudan, Information Minister Michael Makuei Lueth said.

4.3.4 CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC AND CHAD

The conflict in Sudan's Darfur region increasingly threatens two neighbouring countries—Chad and the Central African Republic. In March 2005, the United Nations referred the situation in Darfur to the International Criminal Court (ICC) based on its conclusion that the Sudanese government has committed crimes against humanity. Numerous sources, including Human Rights Watch and the United Nations, corroborate reports that the Sudanese government funds and arms the Janjaweed.

4.3.5 EGYPT

Ethiopia is building the Great Renaissance dam, designed to generate enough energy to ensure its economic development. Sudan and Egypt fear that this project will deprive them of some of their water supply. In recent years, negotiations have failed. In response, Sudan is amassing its troops at the Eritrean border. Egypt hosted African leaders for summit talks on the upheavals in Sudan and Libya. Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shukry has revealed that Sudan's recalling of its ambassador to Cairo was caused by the dispute over the Halayeb triangle.

4.3.6 RUSSIA

China, backed by Russia, blocked a bid at the UN Security Council on Tuesday to condemn the killing of civilians in Sudan and issue a pressing call from world powers for an immediate halt to the violence, diplomats said. Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov said on Thursday that Moscow is in contact with both sides and is calling for the crisis to be resolved "on the basis of national dialogue and through finding compromise decisions on the interim period that should lead to elections," state news service RIA Novosti said. At the same time, Bogdanov said it's necessary to wage a "fight against extremists and provocateurs."

4.3.7 USA

Critics have accused the White House of inaction as Sudan destabilizes. After months of political turmoil, the State Department appointed a veteran diplomat as its special envoy for Sudan. The State Department is engaging with officials in the region and welcomes calls from the African Union, Egypt and Saudi Arabia for an end to violence and resumption of dialogue, the agency said.

Special envoy Donald Booth will lead the US push for "a political solution that reflects the will of the Sudanese people," the State Department said. He served as a special envoy for Sudan and South Sudan from 2013 to 2017.

Booth is in Sudan this week with Tibor Nagy, the assistant secretary of state for African affairs, to meet with leaders and call for an end to attacks on civilians.

4.4 TIMELINE LEADING TO THE CRISIS

1993 - General Omar al-Bashir is appointed president.

1995 - Egyptian President Mubarak accuses Sudan of being involved in an attempt to assassinate him in Addis Ababa.

1998 - US launch missile attack on a pharmaceutical plant in Khartoum, alleging that it was making materials for chemical weapons.

1999 - President Bashir dissolves the National Assembly and declares a state of emergency, Sudan begins to export oil.

4.4.1 Southern peace, Darfur crisis

2002 - Machakos Protocol talks in Kenya lead to breakthrough agreement with southern rebels on ending civil war. Provide for the south to seek self-determination after six years.

2004 January - Army moves to quell rebel uprising in western region of Darfur; hundreds of thousands of refugees flee to neighbouring Chad.

2004 March - Army officers and opposition politicians, including Islamist leader Hassan al-Turabi, are detained over an alleged coup plot.

2005 January - Government and southern rebels sign a peace deal.

2005 March - UN Security Council authorises sanctions against those who violate ceasefire in Darfur. Council also votes to refer those accused of war crimes in Darfur to the International Criminal Court.

2005 June - Government and exiled opposition grouping - National Democratic Alliance (NDA) - sign reconciliation deal allowing NDA into power-sharing administration.

4.4.2 President Bashir frees Islamist leader Hassan al-Turabi.

2006 May - Khartoum government and the main rebel faction in Darfur, the Sudan Liberation Movement, sign a peace accord, two smaller rebel groups reject the deal. Fighting continues.

2007 July - UN Security Council approves a resolution authorising a 26,000-strong force for Darfur. Sudan says it will cooperate with the United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur (Unamid).

2008 May - Tension increases between Sudan and Chad after Darfur rebel group mounts raid on Omdurman, Khartoum's twin city across the Nile. Sudan accuses Chad of involvement and breaks off diplomatic relations.

Intense fighting breaks out between northern and southern forces in disputed oil-rich town of Abyei. President Bashir and southern leader Salva Kiir agree to seek international arbitration to resolve the dispute over Abyei.

4.4.3 Bashir arrest warrant

2009 March - The International Criminal Court in The Hague issues an arrest warrant for President Bashir on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity in Darfur.

2009 July - North and South Sudan say they accept ruling by arbitration court in The Hague shrinking disputed Abyei region and placing the major Heglig oil field in the north.

2009 December - Leaders of North and South reach deal on terms of referendum on independence due in South by 2011.

4.4.4 Darfur deal

2010 Feb-March - The Justice and Equality Movement (Jem) main Darfur rebel movement signed a peace accord with the government, prompting President Bashir to declare the Darfur war over, but failure to agree specifics and continuing clashes with smaller rebel groups endangers the deal.

2010 April - President Bashir gains new term in first contested presidential polls since 1986.

2010 July - International Criminal Court issues second arrest warrant for President al-Bashir, this time on charges of genocide.

4.4.5 South becomes independent

2011 July - South Sudan gains independence after January popular vote, but some border areas remain in dispute.

2012 May - Sudan pledges to pull its troops out of the border region of Abyei, which is also claimed by South Sudan, as bilateral peace talks resume.

2012 June - Protests in Khartoum against austerity measures after government cuts fuel and other subsidies in response to the drop in oil revenue, after the independence of South Sudan.

2013 March - Sudan and South Sudan agree to resume pumping oil, ending a shutdown caused by a dispute over fees, over a year earlier

2014 December - The chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court halts investigations into war crimes in Darfur for lack of support from the UN Security Council.

2015 April - President Bashir is re-elected for another five-year term. He wins nearly 95 percent of the vote in a poll marked by low turnout and boycotted by most opposition parties.

4.4.6 Food price protests

2016 November-December - Government disperses protests, arrests opposition politicians, bans media coverage.

2017 October - US announces partial lifting of sanctions.

2018 January - Protests against bread price rises after the government removed subsidies.

2019 February - President Bashir declares state of emergency and sacks cabinet and regional governors in bid to end weeks of protests against his rule, in which up to 40 people died.

2019 April - Military topples President Bashir in a coup, pledges two-year transition to democracy.

4.5 QUESTIONS A RESOLUTION MUST ANSWER

1. How is future violence due to protests going to be mediated or stopped? (how are we going to maintain peace between the two parties)
2. How is the entire crisis going to be mediated as in the final agreement and its clauses?
3. Should the UN Peacekeeping Forces get involved and be sent to Sudan?
4. Should the UN take over the mediation and what parameters have to be made on the agreement?
5. What is the potential future of the legislation of Sudan?
6. Steps Sudan should take to avoid entering an Economical crisis?

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