

Forum: Security Council

Issue: Responding to the situation in Sudan

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Introduction:

The economic, social, and political crisis in Sudan as we know it started on June 3rd, 2019, when military forces of the Sudanese Transitional Military Council(TMC), supported by its paramilitary group, the Rapid Support Forces(RSF) attempted to disperse sit-in protesters outside TMC military headquarters in Khartoum, using heavy gunfire and teargas. The resulting massacre killed more than 100 people, with hundreds of unarmed civilians injured and their families persecuted or arrested for apparent dissent against the TMC. While the TMC was created as a provisional government after its overthrow of President Omar al-Bashir in April 11th 2019, it has since held ambitions of becoming a legitimate stratocracy. However, after countless negotiations, the Alliance for Freedom and Change(AFC) agreed with the TMC on 5th July 2019 to a 39 month transition process to return to democratic rule, starting with the creation of executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government.

Although signing a formal agreement to return to democratic rule with the AFC on 17th August 2019 with international heads of state as witnesses, chairman Abdel Fattah al-Burhan of the TMC and its successor organisation, the Sovereignty Council of Sudan(SCS), led a military revolt against the Oligarchy on 25th October 2021 after losing the chairmanship of the SCS to Abdalla Hamdok on 21st August, 2019. Following the coup, the situation in Sudan was declared an emergency by the UNSC, and immediate prospects that needed to be addressed was the preference between respecting non-intervention and Sudan's sovereignty, thereby limiting avenues of action into external actions such as sanctions, the freezing of assets, or to effectively combat the situation using foreign or UN intervention as was previously attempted.

Definition of Key Terms:

1. **Sovereignty:** The ability of a country to govern itself in any shape or form without outside interference.
2. **Coup d'état:** Also known as “Coup”, it is the hostile takeover of a country’s government by force, orchestrated by a dictator, the military or violent revolution.
3. **Stratocracy:** A government that is controlled by military forces.
4. **Economic Sanctions:** An official decree and law barring trade and contact using forms of trade barriers, tariffs, and restrictions on financial transactions.
5. **Inflation:** Increase in prices of goods and services and a devaluation in the purchasing power or currency worth of money.
6. **Transitional Military Council:** The stratocratic organisation meant to serve as a provisional government for a democratic transition into civilian government. It was merged with its successor organisation, the Sovereignty Council of Sudan on 20th August, 2019.

Background Information

Omar al-Bashir’s Regime in Sudan, 1989-2002

In June 1989, Omar al-Bashir led a military coup against Prime Minister Sadiq al-Mahdi, and President Ahmed al-Mirghani due to the failures of their democratic government in addressing the civil war between Central Sudan and South Sudan’s People’s Liberation Army. In August 1993, the United States imposed economic sanctions on Sudan due to the regime’s alleged harbouring of terrorist groups such as Hezbollah.

Darfur Genocide 2003

In 2003, inspired by the struggles of Sudan’s People Liberation Army against President Omar’s regime while feeling oppressed, a rebellion formed in the Darfur region of West Sudan. Sudan committed a series of ethnic cleansing operations in Darfur as a counterattack against the revolt under the leadership of President Omar, targeting Fur, Masalit and Zaghawa ethnic groups. A subsequent convening of the International Criminal Court in 14th July 2009 issued an

indictment and arrest for President Omar on the basis of his leadership in genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Sudanese Secession 2011

In 2011, regions in the south of Sudan felt marginalised and repressed. After a referendum, South Sudan officially seceded from Sudan, taking 90% of the country's former oil reserves which Sudan was reliant on for its exports. However, since the secession and up to 2018, South Sudan has consistently been embroiled in wars with Sudan.

Current Situation

Sudanese Coup of 2019

During April 2019, President Omar was ousted in a military coup under the TMC following societal problems such as inflation, fuel shortages, and lack of foodstuffs. The Khartoum massacre occurred on 3rd June 2019 by the RSF after protesters consistently demanded a return to democratic governance in previous months. The AFC, a coalition of civilian and rebel leaders of trade unions, NGOs and revolutionary rebel groups agreed with the TMC in signing a pact guaranteeing the return to a civilian government in 39 months, while also forming the Sovereignty Council of Sudan and switching between civilian and military leaders.

Sudanese Coup of October 2021

Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, former leader of the TMC after the resignation of Awad Ibn Auf became the chairman of its successor organisation, the Sovereignty Council of Sudan(SCS). However, he was soon replaced by Abdalla Hamdok on 21st August 2019 on the basis of popular votes from other SCS members to prepare for the resumption of civilian authority in the country. Abdel subsequently led a military revolt against the Sovereignty Council on 25th October 2021 and dissolved the council and Hamdok's government later that day by declaring a state of emergency. Burhan expressed his belief that his actions were justified to prevent another civil war in Sudan and plans to resume free and fair elections in July 2023. Al-Burhan also denied that he carried out a coup d'etat, but was rather trying to further political transition.

Resistance to the Coup

The Coup faced numerous protests and active resistance from pro-democracy civilians. The Sudanese Professionals Association who forms part of the AFC coalition calls for civil disobedience, a refusal to accept the coup, and publicly denounced the arrest and deposition of government ministers by Al-Burhan. Indeed, after Hamdok was detained to Al-Burhan's own residence, citizens took to the streets, creating barricades, burning car tires, and actively protesting throughout major cities. Military forces, militias and thugs have assaulted demonstrators, severely injuring many while conducting house-to-house arrests of protesters. Additionally, closures of schools, shops, and petrol stations of a general strike in syndicalist movements added to the intensification of demonstrations, with travel restrictions present between the states of Sudan. Throughout the conflict, military forces have shown a willingness to attack civilians even with live ammunition, injuring more than 220 people and killing over 20 in all combined demonstrations. Internet services have also been cut to obscure information about more horrendous crimes taking place in the country.

Major Parties Involved and Their Views

Sudan(President Hamdok's Government)

Since the coup in October 2021, Abdalla Hamdok was pressured to make a statement supporting the coup. After his refusal to do so, Hamdok was moved to Al-Burhan's residence for protection against "danger". Meanwhile, the entirety of his cabinet was arrested based on allegations of corruption, association with violent protest, or were not given a reason. Yet multiple countries and alliances, consisting of the European Union, Norway, Switzerland, the United States and the United Kingdom supports and recognises Hamdok as the official leader of the Sudanese government, and have asked to be in contact with him via ambassadors to no avail.

United Nations and African Union

The United Nations and African Union have jointly coordinated peacekeeping operations within Sudan as a response to the 2003 Dafurian genocide. The United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur(UNAMID)was established on 31st July 2007 and was designed to bring stability to the Darfur region of Sudan while peace talks between the two parties continued. The UNAMID completed its withdrawal from Sudan on 30th June 2021, but remained relevant

throughout previous Sudanese conflicts, totalling to an effective force of 19,555 peacekeepers authorised to use force where necessary to protect civilians, and still remains the largest deployment and successful use of peacekeepers. The UN secretary general has condemned the coup and urges the release of Abdalla Hamdok. The African Union has also temporarily suspended Sudan's membership, stating the conditions for restoring full membership as the restoration of Hamdok's government.

United States of America

The United States publicly condemned the coup, urging the Sudanese military to immediately release government officials, halt violence against protestors, and restore the rightful transitional government. The US has also frozen 700million USD in economic aid to Sudan's government. Additionally, the US has had historical concerns of terrorist groups being harboured in the region, leading to prospects of military intervention that is fervently supported by the nation.

France

French President Emmanuel Macron condemned the coup, expressing outrage at the ousting of the transitional government that had purported the resumption of democratic institutions in Sudan.

United Kingdom

The UK's Foreign Office Minister, Vicky Ford, condemned the coup, joining the United States and France in the rhetoric of re-establishing the transitional government.

Russian Federation

While Russia's official stance is that "outside powers" had interfered in Sudan, the Kremlin likewise expressed their disbelief in the effectiveness of the democratic transitional government. Russia has also worked together with China in vetoing a closed door draft resolution supported by the US and UK that would have condemned the situation in Sudan, calling for sanctions against coup leaders should they refuse to comply with UNSC demands to de-escalate the situation.

People's Republic of China

China's Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin conveyed Beijing's urging of parties to resolve conflict using dialogue and maintain international peace and stability. The minister also expressed China's resolve to use whatever measures to ensure the safety of China's institutions and citizens in the region. While China has previously worked with Russia in Vetoing UNSC sanctions on Sudan, the most concerning issue to China however, is the prospect of intervention by the UN and the United States in an unstable nation that may lead to severe consequences. These include the indirect financing of Sudanese harboured terrorists, or the loss of a valuable ally and exporter of key resources on the international stage for China.

UN Involvement, Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events

This resolution expressed the Council's strong resolve to continuing observing the feasibility of increasing or decreasing the sanctions on Sudan by the Sudan Sanctions Committee through consultation and evaluation of an independent panel of experts

- The extension of mandates in the Panel of Experts supporting the Sudan Sanctions Committee, 11th February 2021 (**S/RES/2562**)
 - This mandate has been renewed every year, with this resolution extending the formation of the panel of experts until 12th March, 2022. The panel is largely effective in advising sanctioning actions.

This resolution extended the mission of the United Nations Integrated Transitional Assistance Mission in Sudan(UNITAMS), a special political mission that would provide Sudan with support and humanitarian relief during its transition to democratic rule. The extension allowed UNITAMS to continue until June 3rd, 2022.

- The extension of mandates in UNITAMS supporting the Sudanese people through political, humanitarian, and economic assistance. 3rd June 2021 (**S/RES/2579**)
 - The UNITAMS agency was initially successful in providing humanitarian and economic assistance to Sudan, however, does not seek to address the general cause of the worsening crisis, choosing to lessen Sudan's crisis superficially.

This resolution officially dissolved the UN peacekeeping mission of UNAMID, which was the largest peacekeeping operation in the world, and was targeted with actively maintaining stability and protecting civilians in Sudan.

- The dissolution and final procedures of withdraw for the UNAMID taskforce in Sudan, 22nd December 2020 (**S/RES/2559**)
 - The taskforce was extremely successful and imperative to the temporary stability in Sudan after the Darfur genocide. The absence of a similar task force in Sudan during the coup of October 2021 allowed a hostile takeover of the government.

Possible Solutions

There are various methods to solve the situation in Sudan, but the council should understand how events occurring in Sudan concern a crisis of social, political, economic, and humanitarian proportions. It therefore falls under the Security Council's obligations to end the suffering of the Sudanese people.

An approach that could prevail in Sudan is the usage of military intervention to settle the domestic crisis plaguing the country. The UNAMID was successful and relevant in preventing further deterioration in the years it was active in Sudan, but its dissolution paved the way for a stratocracy to take place. The house can create a resolution that re-establishes the UNAMID or a new peacekeeping mission that would facilitate the transition to democratic governance due to the limited effectiveness of the new Sudanese commission UNITAMS in the region.

Alternatively, the United Nations could officially recognise the existence of multiple political factions within the country, and once again attempt to form a coalition government with multiple individuals representing their political parties. However, this solution could also cause further anarchy, political unrest, or violent discourse.

Finally, it should be kept in mind that Sudan is primarily a political crisis that requires a resolute in its situation. Measures to solve these can include funding or ways to create and rebuild infrastructure, the freezing of financial assets from groups supporting the coup organisers, the announcement of public support by governments, or the creation of neutral zones and refugee camps that are able to provide basic necessities.

Bibliography

Useful Links

- [United Nations Official Website](#)
- [Security Council Resolutions for Sudan](#)
- [General Wikipedia Knowledge of the Sudanese Coup - For use only as summary](#)

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