



**Statement of Ireland**  
**41st session of the Human Rights Council**

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Enhanced interactive dialogue on the Sudan

**9 July 2019**

Ireland aligns with the statement of the European Union.

Mr (Vice) President,

Political developments in Sudan last week give cause for some cautious optimism. We welcome the work by those engaged in regional processes, led by the African Union, which resulted in last week's agreement to establish a Sovereign Council with both civilian and military participation.

The inclusion of a commitment within that agreement to establish an independent and transparent investigation into the violent crackdown against protestors on 3 June is also welcome.

Those responsible for the violent attacks in Sudan on 3 June, when heavily armed security forces surrounded demonstrators and shot indiscriminately resulting in significant loss of life, must be held accountable. We condemn in the strongest possible terms of the use of sexual based violence and rape against peaceful protestors.

We would welcome the release of those who were detained and imprisoned during protests in Sudan.

We remain deeply concerned by the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Sudan. Obstacles to the delivery of humanitarian assistance must be removed and respect for international humanitarian law and the protection of civilians must be ensured.

We urge the authorities in Sudan to maintain open access to the internet, and to respect freedom of expression and association. Internet access is essential to the effectiveness of humanitarian operations.

Ireland, together with the EU and other Member States, will actively support a civilian-led political transition, including necessary economic reform and humanitarian assistance, to respect the legitimate aspirations of the Sudanese people and to support the transition to democratic rule and full respect for human rights.

Thank you.