



**Statement of the Permanent Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations
and Other International Organizations in Geneva
during the 36th Special Session of the Human Rights Council
“On the human rights impact of the ongoing conflict in the Sudan”
*Geneva, 11 May 2023***

Mr. President,

The Holy See has been following with deep concern the developments of the grave situation of conflict and violence that has been unfolding in Sudan. As the suffering of the people and humanitarian needs increase, the Holy See wishes to assure once again its spiritual closeness, prayers, and solidarity with the Sudanese people, especially the displaced and the refugees.

The Holy See is particularly concerned with the grave humanitarian and human rights implications of the conflict and urges all parties to suspend armed attacks and ensure access to basic and essential services for the civilian population wherever they are needed, which includes allowing the safe delivery of humanitarian assistance.

In this regard, the Holy See hopes that the truce may be extended and be fully respected and that the negotiations between the representatives of all parties in the conflict may result in a fruitful agreement for a ceasefire and for peaceful and durable solutions, in the interest of the Sudanese population, as well as to avoid the risk that the violence spreads to neighboring countries, undermining regional peace and security.

In conclusion, the Holy See remains confident that dialogue, in a spirit of fraternity, may bring about a just and lasting peace. This Delegation wishes to echo the appeal and prayers of Pope Francis so that “arms might be laid down and dialogue prevail, in order to return together to the path of peace and harmony.”¹

Thank you, Mr. President.

¹ Pope Francis, *Regina Caeli*, 16 April 2023.