Press Statement of the Joint AU/IGAD High-Level Panel on the Situation in Sudan

The tragic development of the military and humanitarian situation in Sudan arouses deep concern of the Joint AU/IGAD High-Level Panel. The escalation of confrontations between The Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in the areas of El Fasher, in North Darfur and Kordofan, in Babanoussa, constitutes a real threat to the security of civilian populations in these two localities as elsewhere in The Sudan. The attacks by the RSF on the town of El Fasher, where camps shelter thousands of Displaced persons, carries the risk of huge civilian deaths, and violation of International Humanitarian and Human Rights Laws.

For this reason, the Joint AU/IGAD High-Level Panel joins the Chairperson of the AU Commission in launching strong appeals to the belligerents to immediately put an end to their hostilities and engage in the search for a peaceful solution to their differences.

The AU/IGAD Joint High-Level Panel strongly reiterates its conviction that there can be no military solution to the crisis and that the longer this war continues, the greater the risk of fragmentation, erosion of the unity and sovereignty of Sudan.

For the resolution of the conflict, there is need for an immediate Ceasefire, followed by a cessation of hostilities, a humanitarian commitment, the urgent protection of civilians, a Regional and International commitment and a resumption of an Inclusive Political Process, acceptable to all The Sudanese people.

The Joint AU/IGAD High-Level Panel is actively working, within the framework of its mandate, to contribute to the resolution of this crisis and thus fulfill the aspirations of The Sudanese people for security and peace.

On the part of the AU-High Level Panel on Sudan, we have sought to execute our mandate by undertaking three main tasks: shuttle diplomacy in the region to meet with the regional leaders and here we have met with General Burhan, and with the Presidents of Djibouti, Uganda and South Sudan and Foreign Ministers in Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia and South Sudan. In Cairo, we held consultations with the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States. We have also met with representatives of RSF leader.

Additionally, meetings have been held with Sudanese civilian stakeholders to mobilize them for an all-inclusive Sudanese political process which is scheduled in the coming weeks to be planned in two stages. A planning phase and the main phase. The outcome of the planning phase would determine the agenda and time of the main political dialogue phase.

During our shuttle diplomacy in the region, we mobilized several civilian Sudanese stakeholders for the dialogue and we are impressed with their strong buy-in and eagerness to own and lead a Sudanese-Sudanese Dialogue.
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