

Human Rights Council – 41st session

Enhanced Interactive Dialogue on the Sudan
9 July 2019

Australian Statement

Thank you Madam Vice-President. We appreciate the updates on the human rights situation in the Sudan.

The agreement reached between the Transitional Military Council and the Forces for Freedom and Change, which provides for democratic elections to be held in approximately three years, is an important step forward in the transition to a civilian-led government. We encourage the interim authorities to prioritise peace and stability over this three year period, and avoid any return to the violence of recent weeks.

Australia condemns the brutal attacks by elements of the Sudanese security services on civilian protesters on 3 June. We are particularly alarmed by reports that security services attacked hospitals and used sexual violence as a weapon to disperse and intimidate protesters. Australia is gravely concerned by reports that security services continued to use force against protesters in the ensuing weeks, and raided the offices of protest groups.

Australia is pleased that the agreement includes plans to establish an independent committee to investigate these attacks. In support of this process, we call on the Transitional Military Council to grant the Office of the High Commissioner access to the country and to accelerate efforts to establish a country office.

We ask: can the delegate provide any further information about the independent investigative committee's composition, and when it will be established?

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