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## **Declaration of the Expanded Mechanism on the Crisis in Sudan**

We the members of the Expanded Mechanism for the Resolution of the Sudan Crisis, meeting on 4 December 2023, convened by the Commission of the African Union,

**Reiterating** our support for the sovereign independence, unity and territorial integrity of Sudan,

**Expressing** our grave concern at the continuing conflict in Sudan, which is spreading to new areas hitherto unaffected by the fighting, with credible reports of grave crimes, in particular, war crimes, crimes against humanity and sexual assault,

**Reiterating** that there can be no sustainable military solution to the crisis in Sudan, and only an inclusive, representative, Sudanese-owned and Sudanese-led dialogue among all Sudanese stakeholders, including the belligerents, other armed movements, political parties, civil society organizations, women and youth groups, resistance committees, labour unions and professional associations, traditional leaders, and academics, can lead to a peaceful and sustainable solution to the crisis,

**Demand** that the belligerents, namely the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) immediately agree to a comprehensive and unconditional ceasefire and return to the negotiating table in order to seek a peaceful return to a transition to civilian constitutional rule in Sudan,

**Also demand** that the belligerents facilitate safe humanitarian access and ensure the protection of civilians, in line with international humanitarian law and international human rights law as well as the provisions of the agreements already reached in the Jeddah talks,

**Commend** the efforts of the humanitarian actors, both Sudanese and international, who are providing much needed support to the Sudanese population in the face of continuing attacks and threats on their lives and property, and Urge those in a position to do so, to increase their humanitarian support to Sudan, in the face of ever-growing need,

**Also commend** all the countries, in particular those neighbouring Sudan, which have welcomed large numbers of Sudanese refugees and asylum seekers, and further urges increased international financial and logistical support to host countries and communities,

**Express** grave concern at credible reports of atrocity crimes throughout Sudan, and stress that accountability must be part of any response in the search for peace in Sudan, to ensure justice and healing for victims and affected communities,

**Stress** the need for countries of the region, and beyond, to maintain neutrality and to refrain from providing military, political or financial support to the belligerents in Sudan,

**Reiterate** the importance of the Expanded Mechanism as a tool to coordinate international action on Sudan, and agree that it should meet regularly, at least once a month, convened by the African Union Commission, in order to avoid fragmentation and proliferation of all international and regional initiatives on Sudan,

**Urge** the expeditious convening of the Core Group, to consider practical steps in the efforts towards a peaceful and sustainable resolution of the Sudanese crisis,

**Calls** on the AU and IGAD to implement without delay their plan for the convening of an inclusive political dialogue of all Sudanese actors, to discuss both a permanent cessation of hostilities as well as the constitution of a civilian transitional government,

**Welcome** the appointment of H.E. Ramtane Lamamra as the personal envoy of the UN Secretary General on the Sudan crisis,

**Express** support for the AU and IGAD Roadmaps on Sudan towards the requisite inclusive Sudanese-owned political process, facilitated by the AU and IGAD and with the support of all members of the Expanded Mechanism and, in this regard, urge those countries in a position to do so to provide the necessary financial, technical and logistical support to the political process.

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Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)  
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League of Arab States  
European Union  
Republic of Ghana  
Republic of Mozambique  
Central African Republic  
Republic of Chad  
Union of Comoros  
Republic of Djibouti  
Arab Republic of Egypt  
State of Eritrea  
Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia  
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