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POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SUDAN

The Splendid December Revolution. After three decades of the tyrannical regime of the deposed dictator of the Sudan Omar al-Bashir and thanks to the heroic struggle of the Sudanese peoples, women, men, and, most importantly, young people, the splendid December Revolution was accomplished while al-Bashir and his heinous regime were successfully ousted.

The Sudan has thus entered a new era and a new dawn of Freedom, Peace, and Justice, following the famous and highly acclaimed slogan of the revolution. The triumphant outcome has led to the establishment of a Transitional Government chaired by Prime Minister Dr Abdallah Hamdok with Lt Gen Abdel Fattah al-Burhan as Head of the Sovereignty Council. The splendid Sudanese revolution has won acclamation and admiration from the entire international community and from peoples worldwide. As opposed to the previous regime, the current Sudanese authorities have managed to engage positively with the outside world and followed an open and balanced foreign policy, abandoning all the former strategies of narrow alliances.

The new transitional government in the Sudan has time and again affirmed its willingness and readiness to positively engage in cooperative endeavours for the sake of upholding and consolidating the principles of democracy, peace, and freedom in the Sudan and elsewhere. The Sudan has also affirmed its steadfast commitment to the principles of international law, good neighbourliness, non-aggression, non-interference in other countries' internal affairs, and unwavering reverence for their sovereignty and territorial integrity. Our state is ready for a positive and fruitful interaction with the international community.

Reaping the fruits of the revolution. While the revolutionary Transitional Government has inherited an alarmingly weak and deteriorated economy with adverse effect upon the livelihood of the Sudanese people, the vast support of the international community for the new regime has led to an overwhelming economic relief and recovery in the Sudan.

The prompt consent of the United States of America to exclude the Sudan from its list of countries sponsoring terrorism has been a major breakthrough paving the way for the consequent steps of the international community and financial institutions. The World Bank and the IMF have given momentum to an international campaign in support of debt cancellation and relief in favour of the new regime in the Sudan. The Paris Conference in support of democratic

transition in the Sudan has been one in a series of conferences and gatherings for propping up and welcoming the Transitional Government in the Sudan that has yielded remarkable results. Various donor countries from the Paris Club have also agreed to buttress the paramount cause of the new regime in the Sudan.

As a manifestation of the revolutionary will and resolve of the new Sudan and its obviously sound economic and trade policies, public and private companies and various institutions have begun entering the promising Sudanese market, engaging in different trade and investment projects and partnerships.

Peaceful undertakings and sound internal polices. Based on the major slogan of the revolution – Freedom, Peace, and Justice – the Transitional Government has vowed to spare no effort in reconciling all the major rebel factions, later labelled the ‘armed struggle forces’, with the sacred purpose of reaching sustained peace, stability, and tranquility all over the Sudan and for the good of all its diverse peoples. The Juba Peace Agreement was negotiated rigorously and in good faith, and soon the various armed factions took different positions in the Sovereignty Council and the Cabinet of Ministers as an outstanding step towards peace and stability in Sudan.

Pursuant to the terms of the Juba Peace Agreement, certain regions, especially South Kordofan and Blue Nile, were supposed to have some special status as regards laws and legislature; besides, a new Governor for Darfur region has recently been appointed. Relevant policies for reconciliation and rehabilitation for the once war-affected regions are being sought, and internally displaced persons have started returning to their habitual places of residence.

As to the economy, the Transitional Government has initiated an economic and recovery short, medium, and long-term plans with the assistance of the World Bank, and IMF, and the donor community. At the heart of the policies initiated by the Transitional Government is the removal of subsidies on fuel and other major goods and services as well as the adoption of an economic policy of a floating exchange rate of the Sudanese pound.

Although such policies initially brought about some hardships to the ordinary people and were compounded with certain inflationary aspects, they were nevertheless designed to rectify the economy and restructure the whole macroeconomy in the medium and long terms. It is worth mentioning that the splendid December Revolution, which was and still is one of its kind in the country, has brought joy and hope for a more prosperous Sudan. The country is looking forward to a sustained and fruitful engagement with the international community and all friendly countries for the good of the Sudanese people and is ready to work confidently and actively for the sake of all humanity.