MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

with request for inclusion in the agenda for a debate on cases of breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law

pursuant to Rule 144 of the Rules of Procedure

on the political crisis in Sudan
(2022/2504(RSP))

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on behalf of the Renew Group
European Parliament resolution on the political crisis in Sudan
(2022/2504(RSP))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Sudan, and in particular that of 17 January 2019,

- having regard to the declarations by the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR) on behalf of the EU, and in particular those of 29 October 2021 and 18 November 2021, and the Joint Statement by the EU and the Troika of 4 January 2022,

- having regard to the Statement by UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on the killings of peaceful protesters in Sudan, of 18 November 2021,

- having regard to the Constitution of Sudan of 2005, and the 2019 Constitutional Declaration,

- having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948,

- having regard to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights,

- having regard to the UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1966,

- having regard to the Cotonou Agreement,

- having regard to the resolution of 11 March 2021 of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) and the EU on democracy and the respect for constitutions in EU and ACP countries,

A. Whereas on 25 October 2021, Army leader Lt. General al-Burhan launched a military coup and arrested the Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok and other senior ministers and civilian members of the Transitional Sovereignty Council - a precarious civilian-military government formed by the Transitional Military Council, led by al-Burhan, and the Forces of Freedom and Change, led by Hamdok - set up in 2019 after the military toppled former President Omar al-Bashir; whereas on the same day, al-Burhan declared a nationwide state of emergency and dissolved the cabinet and Transitional Sovereign Council;

B. whereas the civilian Prime Minister Hamdok was reinstated after signing an agreement with the Military authorities on 21 November 2021 with the aim of leading a new technocratic cabinet until elections could be held; whereas many pro-democracy activists, civil society groups and civilian leaders rejected the agreement and considered it as a betrayal; whereas Prime Minister Hamdok resigned on 2 January 2022 following mass protests;

C. whereas security forces used live ammunition and teargas canisters to counter organized peaceful protests, which erupted after the Military coup and have not ceased up to now,
killing more than 60 civilians and injuring hundreds according to Sudanese Doctors’ Committee; whereas there were reports of snipers shooting at protesters from rooftops; whereas 13 women and girls were reportedly victims of rape or gang rape, while other women were sexually harassed by security forces during demonstrations in Khartoum on 19 December 2021;

D. whereas the World Health Organisation reported 15 attacks on health care workers and health facilities since November 2021; whereas there are reports of security agents raiding hospitals and arresting patients and health care workers;

E. whereas Military authorities continue to arbitrarily arrest civilians, politicians, activists and journalists after the military coup in October 2021; whereas only a few of these detainees have been released since the political agreement was signed on 21 November 2021; whereas there are reports of enforced disappearances;

F. whereas the Military authority has been repeatedly disrupting internet and telecommunications since 25 October 2021; whereas the internet was cut for 3 weeks and phone lines were cut for hours on 17 November 2021 during protests; whereas since the military coup, journalists are targeted and arbitrarily arrested, attacked while reporting and are victims of raids by security forces;

G. whereas on 8 January 2022, the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Sudan and Head of UNITAMS, Mr Volker Perthes, formally launched a UN-facilitated intra-Sudanese political process, which is aimed at regenerating Sudan’s democratic transition; whereas the Sudanese Professionals Association rejected this UN initiative;

H. whereas the increased insecurity and inter-communal violence in Sudan, exacerbated by the COVID-19 crisis, has serious consequences on the socio-economic situation of the country; whereas an estimated 10.9 million people are in need of urgent food security or livelihoods assistance, including 1.1 million refugees; whereas an average of 13.6 percent of children under the age of five suffer from malnutrition;

1. Firmly insists that the Sudanese authorities uphold and respect human rights and allow the Sudanese people to exercise their civil and political rights; calls on all the Sudanese stakeholders to respect the rule of law as stipulated in the 2019 Constitutional Declaration; calls for the State of Emergency to be immediately lifted;

2. Strongly condemns the military coup of 25 October 2021; recalls that the European Union announced on 18 November 2021 serious consequences for EU support, including financial, if constitutional order is not restored; calls for the consideration of suspension of development funding to the government of Sudan, in the case of the situation not improving;

3. Strongly condemns the excessive and continued use of force - including lethal - against peaceful protesters since 25 October 2021, and the reported sexual violence and harassment against women and girls during the 19 December 2021 protests, perpetrated by Sudanese security forces;

4. Strongly condemns the reported attacks by security forces on medical facilities; calls on the Sudanese authorities to allow all injured people to get treatment; recalls that targeted
attacks on health care workers, patients and facilities are a flagrant violation of international humanitarian law;

5. Urges the Sudanese Military authorities to free all arbitrarily detained persons since 25 October 2021 and to immediately refrain from all illegal detentions, including enforced disappearances; recalls that Sudan’s armed forces have no legal authority to detain civilians or carry out law enforcement functions as the powers of arrest and detention of civilians are limited to the police and prosecutors since 21 January 2021;

6. Is particularly worried about the targeting of journalists and activists, as well as the continued shutdown of the internet services; condemns the total information blackout inflicted by Military authorities during a day of protests on 17 November 2021; calls on the Sudanese authorities to assure that the right to information is respected and that all communication services are fully and permanently restored;

7. Demands for an independent, impartial and internationally monitored investigation to ensure accountability for the unlawful killings, the injury of protesters, the rape and sexual harassment, and other serious human rights violations allegedly committed by security forces during the protests since 25 October 2021, and bring those responsible to justice in fair trials;

8. Welcomes the announcement of the UN-facilitated Sudanese-led inclusive dialogue initiative; calls on all Sudanese political actors to seize this opportunity to restore the country’s transition to civilian-led government and to foster a peaceful and inclusive political dialogue; calls for the return to the in line with the 2019 Constitutional Declaration and to identify clear timelines and processes for the remaining transitional tasks, with an emphasis on laying the groundwork for free and fair elections;

9. Calls on the Commission to support and cooperate closely with the mediation efforts of the United Nations and to offer assistance where possible;

10. Calls on Military authorities to refrain from appointing a unilaterally chosen prime minister and to stick to the 2019 Constitutional Declaration stipulating that “any prime minister has to be appointed through a consultative, civilian-led process”;

11. Calls for sanctions being imposed against individuals who obstruct a civilian-led democratic transition in Sudan; calls on the EU and its Member States to consider adopting measures to protect human rights and to ensure that perpetrators of human rights abuses are held accountable, such as through the EU Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime;

12. Welcomes the positive legal reforms and the democratic progress Sudan had made under Dr. Hamdok’s leadership, as well as the significant achievements made by the civilian leaders during the first phase of the transitional period; deplorers that this progress has been undermined by a military coup;

13. Reiterates its demand that Sudan should ratify the Rome Statute of the ICC; calls on the Sudanese authorities to remove security force officers and other executive branch officials from their posts who have been implicated in serious human rights violations and war crimes;
14. Recalls that it is the primary responsibility of the Sudanese authorities to ensure security in its territory and protect its population with respect for the rule of law, human rights and international humanitarian law; urges the military and police forces to ensure the safety of all Sudanese citizens, to respect freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, and to protect women and girls from sexual violence;

15. Is deeply concerned about the increase in intercommunal violence in Darfour and South Kordofan; urges the Sudanese authorities to immediately fill the protection gaps in these regions and to assure the protections of civilians;

16. Welcomes the 10 million contribution from the European Union’s Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations department (ECHO) for life-saving food assistance in Sudan, made in December 2021, in addition to EUR 13 million received at the beginning of 2021 by the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in Sudan;

17. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Sudanese authorities, the Commission, the Vice-President of the European Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the ACP-EU Council of Ministers and Joint Parliamentary Assembly, the African Union, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and the Pan-African Parliament;