Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

I have the honour to present, on behalf of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission for the Sudan, the findings of our latest report.

Sudan is enduring a war of atrocities. Civilians are not simply caught in the crossfire; they are being deliberately targeted, displaced and starved. Both the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), and their respective allies, have committed war crimes. In the case of the RSF, many acts rise to the level of crimes against humanity, including persecution and extermination.

Our report focuses on the impact of the conflict on civilians and on infrastructure indispensable for their survival.

From the outset of the siege of El Fasher in May 2024, the city and surrounding camps have been relentlessly shelled. Over 470,000 people have been displaced. The RSF specifically targeted displacement camps. In Abu Shouk, repeated artillery strikes killed more than 300. At Zamzam, survivors described how hundreds — possibly more than a thousand — were killed, mostly women and children. Entire sections of the camp were burned, and over 400,000 people were displaced once again.

Both sides carried out reprisals. On 20 October 2024, the RSF attacked East Gezira after a commander defected to SAF. Over 30 towns and villages were ransacked with hundreds reportedly killed, beaten and raped. Over 130,000 people fled their homes.

The SAF, too, carried out reprisals. After retaking parts of Gezira in January 2025, SAF-allied forces attacked the Kanabi community, killing dozens and burning homes. Verified videos from Khartoum and Omdurman show men in army uniform executing civilians suspected of supporting the RSF.

Both sides carried out arbitrary detentions, torture and inhuman treatment. Survivors from RSF sites described “slaughterhouses,” where dozens died from beatings, starvation, and lack of medical care. Victims from SAF facilities recounted electric shocks, sexualised torture, and conditions so overcrowded that detainees had to sleep standing.

Sexual and gender-based violence has been a defining feature of this war. The Mission documented rape, gang rape, sexual slavery, abductions and forced marriage by RSF fighters, often targeting non-Arab women and girls, some as young as 12. There is also evidence of SAF committing sexual violence, particularly in detention centres.

These are not accidental harms of war. They are deliberate strategies. The Mission concludes both parties committed war crimes, and that RSF attacks on civilians also amount to crimes against humanity — including murder, persecution, forced displacement, torture, rape and sexual slavery.

Excellencies,

The war is destroying not only lives but also the means of survival. Hospitals, markets, water and electricity systems, and humanitarian convoys have been systematically attacked.

Markets, the backbone of food access, have been repeatedly bombed. In October 2024, SAF airstrikes on El Koma market killed at least 45 civilians. Two months later, Kabkabiya market was struck, killing more than 100. In March this year, SAF bombed Tora market during peak hours, killing and injuring hundreds.

The RSF, too, shelled markets, pillaged entire areas, and destroyed Zamzam camp's market. RSF drone strikes hit the Merowe Dam and water towers, leaving communities without drinking water. One mother told us she lost all four of her children to thirst while fleeing.

The health system has been decimated. The RSF repeatedly struck Al Janoubi Hospital until it closed. In January 2025, a drone strike on Al-Saudi Maternal Hospital killed more than 70 and destroyed its emergency wards. Less than one in four health facilities remain operational in the worst-affected areas.

Medical personnel have also been targeted: at least 159 health workers have been killed, threatened, arrested or abducted. In Zamzam, RSF fighters shot nine relief staff in April 2025; two later died. Ambulances have been attacked while transporting patients.

More than 84 Sudanese humanitarian workers have been killed since the war began. In June this year, a joint WFP and UNICEF convoy, clearly marked with emblems, was struck by a drone after being stopped by the RSF. Five aid workers were killed, and food supplies destroyed.

The result is one of the gravest hunger emergencies in modern history. Nearly 25 million people — half of Sudan's population — face acute food insecurity. In camps such as Zamzam and Abu Shouk, children are dying of malnutrition and dehydration.

These are not collateral harms. In the case of the SAF, they reflect failure to minimise civilian casualties. In the case of the RSF, they are part of a deliberate strategy to deprive civilians of the essentials of survival. Some of these acts amount to the war crime of starvation. Combined deprivation of food and medicine and obstruction of humanitarian assistance may also amount to the crime against humanity of extermination.

Excellencies,

The Sudanese people have endured atrocities for decades while perpetrators enjoyed impunity. That cycle must end.

We have listened to hundreds of victims and witnesses. They want justice. But Sudan remains unwilling and unable to deliver impartial justice. Both SAF and RSF deny responsibility. Victims and survivors have no confidence in national institutions. International action is indispensable.

The Mission recommends a roadmap grounded in four pillars:

1) The parties must stop the fighting. Protect civilians. Lift sieges. Allow humanitarian access. Halt sexual violence.
2) States and the international community should enforce the arms embargo. Halt material support to the parties and back peace efforts. Increase humanitarian aid. Support the ICC. Establish an independent mechanism. Exercise universal jurisdiction. Impose targeted sanctions.
3) Mediators should facilitate inclusive peace processes that embed justice.
4) Civil society must document violations, support victims, and lay the foundations of an inclusive, rights-respecting Sudan.

Excellencies,

The international community has the tools and must demonstrate political will. Every day of delay costs lives. The people of Sudan deserve not sympathy but action — justice, protection, and a future free from violence.

Thank you.