

UN Human Rights Council 42 – Interactive Dialogue with the Independent Expert on Sudan

The United Kingdom thanks the Independent Expert for his report, covering a significant moment in Sudan's history. We commend the recent positive steps towards a democratic Sudan, including the appointment of civilian leadership.

The report details the violent response by security forces against peaceful protestors across Sudan. We welcome Prime Minister Hamdok's announcement of the formation of an independent committee of inquiry to investigate crimes committed during the period of popular protests, including the events of 3 June. This is an initial step in seeking accountability for past violations and we urge all parties to ensure that these investigations are independent and transparent.

The UK welcomes the Government of Sudan's commitment to respect human rights throughout the transitional period and beyond, and hopes that the civilian leadership will work constructively with all interested parties in Sudan and international partners to address long standing human rights challenges. Sudan's commitment to open an office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights in Khartoum, and field offices elsewhere, is a welcome first step.

Throughout the transitional period, and beyond, the Government must ensure in particular respect for the freedoms of expression, peaceful assembly, and the media. These will be vital in securing Sudan's path towards democracy.

We will continue to discuss human rights challenges with the Government help them meet their international commitments and responsibilities, and deliver the change the Sudanese people called for.

Mr President,

We would welcome the Independent Expert's views on what further steps the Sudanese government can take to address longstanding human rights challenges.