



Reflection on Sudan -July 2

The international and regional diplomatic efforts have been rising since the beginning of July 2024 amid fears that Sudan's conflict will spill out to the neighboring countries, who have been suffering the negative impacts of the war. High-level visits by senior officials from the region, the African Union preliminary Sudanese- Sudanese Discussions in Addis Ababa commence amid absences of some political parties and blocks, the UN humanitarian discussion between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in Geneva, on the Human rights developments, the Designated Expert of the United Nations Human Rights Council to Sudan – Mr. Nowesir has concluded his visit to Port Sudan after series of meetings with concerned institutions /bodies. On the humanitarian side, the situation in Singa town and Elgazeera state is still worse due to continued atrocities committed by RSF against civilians. as well as the invasion of RSF in Singa town. The military confrontations continue in Sinnar and Elgazeera state, in addition to parts of Khartoum and Omdorman towns, RSF shelling on targeted civilians and civil institutions is still ongoing in Elfasher and Omdorman.

Intra-Sudanese discussions in Addis:

Preliminary deliberations for the Sudanese-Sudanese discussion commenced in Addis Ababa on 10th July under the auspices of the African Union High Panel to solve Sudan's crisis chaired by Mohamed Bin Chambaz.

Approximately 20 Sudanese political parties/blocks including the Democratic block, Omma Party- Mobarak Elfadil Branch, the National Move, Alliance for Justices, Popular Congress Party, Civil Society representatives, Resistance committee representatives, Youth and women representatives.

The Coordination of the civilian and Democratic Forces known as Tagadam, SPLA –Abdelaiz Elhello, SLA – Abdelwahid Noor as well as the Communist and B'aath Parties, Tagadam justified its absence that the organizers have invited leaders from the former regime of the NCP, and did not disclose the list of participants in the forum, however, members of the NCP have not participated in the event and the discussion went on in their absence.

The preparatory discussions started on 10 July with large international and regional participation, Head of the African Peace and Security Council, Executive Secretary of IGAD among other speakers delivered remarks during the opening sessions.

Participants from the Sudanese political Parties and blocks have chosen Amb. Noraedin Satti – former Sudanese Ambassador to US as a chair supported by Mr. Siddig Wadaa-a prominent Native administration leader as assistant.

The head of the African Union Peace and Security Council Mongue Mimbi in his speech during the opening session disclosed that the African Union decided to hold an extraordinary summit on Sudan in the coming week , and the council in its recent meeting at the level of presidents agreed that the African Peace and Security Council should deal with cessation of fighting as a top priority, he also pointed out to the form action of a committee of heads of states and governments to hold a meeting of Burhan and Hemaittee for cessation of hostilities , the committee will commence its work next week.

As for the participation of the NCP members, so far there is no presence of NCP members in the meeting, no certain and specific information about why they are not participating, probably because of communication with the African Union organizing body who requested NCP members not to participate in this preparatory meeting.

Participants have agreed on the issues for dialogue that to be discussed in the coming wider meeting and identified six main issues: 1/stopping the war 2/ Peace issues 3/The Transitional Period 4/ Issues of democratic of transition and democratic transition 5/Humanitarian situation 6/Borders and Refugee issues.

Participants have formed a drafting committee chaired by Dr. Mohamed Mahgoub Haroon, representatives of Some political forces, youth, women and armed struggle Movements as members.

There are two proposals before participants on the issues to be discussed, the first calling for the start of the dialogue before the war stops, while the second calls for commence of the dialogue before the war stops as the cessation of war will be one the dialoged issues

In my own point of view, the meeting has succeeded in charting a framework and main points for the political process, more efforts are needed to make the discussion more inclusive and representative.

Discussion concluded today 15 July, closing remarks delivered my Dr. Chambaz head of the African Union High Level Panel on the Resolution of the Crisis in Sudan who said IGAD and AU have provided participants to set the agenda and method of work for their meeting, we reminded the participants of our guiding principles in our mediation namely,1-Sudanese –ownership and Sudanese leadership2-iInclusiveness 3-Reconciliation 4-Comperhensively 5- Neutrality of facilitators, and 6-Transperency.

He pointed out that this discussion will be followed by consultations with Taqqadom,SPLA North-Elhello, SLA Abdelwahid Noor,the Radical Block and other Sudanese Civil and Political actors who are unable to attend this discussion.

On the other hand, the African Union Peace and Security Council held a digital Summit allocated for discussing developments in Sudan, on Fry day 12 July chaired by the Ugandan President Museveni- Chairperson of the council for July, the meeting attended by the secretary general of the League of Arab States, Chair Person of the African Union Commission, The Executive Secretary of IGAD and a representative of the UN Secretary-General.

Participants talked about coordination of regional and international efforts in solving the crisis in Sudan, and the importance of implementing Jeddah commitments as well as the implementation of the UNSC resolution 2736.

UN Humanitarian discussion in Geneva:

The United Nations began humanitarian talks between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support forces (RSF) in Geneva on 11 July 2024, in a press statement the Minister of Media and Culture-Spokesperson of the Federal Government – Dr. Garaham stated that the government’s delegation is led by Msr. Salwa Adam – Commissioner-General of Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC), and representatives of other government institutions relevant to the humanitarian work, he further stated that Geneva Talks should not be as a substitute to Jeddah forum, he also confirmed government commitment for indirect negotiations on Humanitarian issues .

The talks led by Amb. Ramatan Lamamra-UNSC’s special envoy to Sudan, US ambassador to Sudan and some representatives from regional bodies also took part, it’s not clear when the talks will end, however, facilitators might take a more flexible approach that allows the talks continue for ample time. According to the UNSG’s spokesperson, the main focus would on the humanitarian aid delivery and protection of civilians. Its worth mentioning that the government always reiterated its refusal to engage in talks until RSF withdraws from citizen houses, civil institutions and occupied towns. The spokesperson further stated that the international community calls for both parties to prioritize the well-being of the Sudanese people and engage in meaningful dialogue to resolve the conflict and alleviate the suffering of civilians.

Ethiopian Prime Minister Visit to Port Sudan:

The historical visit by Dr. Abie Ahmed- Ethiopian Prime Minister to Port Sudan Marks one of the most important political and diplomatic developments since the war erupted in Mid-April 2023 as tensions have casted the relations over the past year, the prime Minister has very much been welcomed by the top Sudanese officials chaired by G. Abdelfatah Elburhan the president of the National Sovereign Council- the Chief Commander of the Sudanese Armed forces. Based on our interviews with some experts and people who are specialized in the Sudanese- Ethiopian issues, they attributed the visit to the serious impact of the current war on Ethiopia and eminent threats of being spelled out to bordering regions.

Economically Ethiopia lost resources and means of income generating activities for about 800,000 Ethiopians who used to work in Sudan and got back home after the war erupted, in addition to fears of RSF entering Ethiopia specially after the later invasion of Singa town in Sinnar State, RSF is trying to open supply routes to bring military and non-military logistic through Ethiopia after it lost its supply channels from Darfur and Kordofan due to the ground and air surveillance by SAF, there are also growing interest in the Ethiopian leadership to support efforts aim to solve the problem in Sudan to ensure peace and security in the Horn of Africa region, its important to note that Addis has undertaken many positive steps prior to the visit such as exempting Sudanese from residence fees since February 2024, provision of food and other humanitarian assistance to the Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia. Many political forces, intellectuals, civil society leaders, Native administration leaders, youth and women groups urge the Sudanese government to effectively engage with Ethiopia

by taking Abyie's visit as a milestone for improving bilateral relations between the two sisterly countries.

The visit has opened a new hope for the two nations to boost and strengthen ties for the sake of the two countries, and to enhance peace and security in the entire region. Some experts recommended the joint political and military mechanisms to resume meetings soon in order to address urgent issues emerged as results of the conflict, Ethiopia did not allow flow through territories to RSF, the leaders of the two countries have to take the momentum to address other conflicts in the region and prevent the occurrence of further conflicts in the future.

Visit of the designated Human Rights expert to Port Sudan:

In the period between 7-11 July, Mr. Nowiesir –the designated human right expert has visited port Sudan in his capacity as the expert appointed by the UN Human Rights Council for Human Rights issues in Sudan. According to Mr. Nowiesir the visit aimed to explore the Human rights situations in the country with focus on protection of civilian and facilitating aid route supplies to affected people and communities.

During his visit he met with high ranking officials including ministers of Justice, Foreign affairs, Interior, Social Development as well as G. Ibrahim Gabir- member of the National Sovereign Council- head of the mechanism deals with UN, he also met with G. Malik Agar- vice president of the Sovereign Council. Mr. Nowiesir met with the leaders of the UN organizations operating in Sudan as well. Mr. Noweisir is expected to deliver statement about his recent visit to Port Sudan.