

Statement on Sudan and Article 7(7) of the Arms Trade Treaty

Delivered by Geoffrey Duke

The current conflict in Sudan began in April 2023. This has been a brutal and cruel conflict.

Both sides involved in this conflict, the Sudanese Armed Forces and the opposition – the Rapid Support Forces, have committed atrocities.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Turk, has called for an arms embargo on all of Sudan and not just the Darfur region.

In February 2026, the Human Rights Council's independent international fact-finding mission on Sudan published its report, "Sudan: Hallmarks of Genocide in El-Fasher." The fact-finding mission found that the atrocities committed last year by the Rapid Support Forces in El-Fasher point to "genocide, as well as war crimes and crimes against humanity."

Also last month, the United Nations Security Council expressed grave concern at the presence of conflict-induced famine and extreme food insecurity conditions in certain areas of Sudan. It was stressed that starvation must not be used as a weapon of war.

Again, this month the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights said that he was appalled by the devastating impact on civilians of increasing drone attacks in Sudan, amid reports that more than 200 civilians have been killed by drones since 4 March alone, in the Kordofan region and White Nile state.

No one should be transferring weapons to the warring parties involved in the conflict in Sudan—given the clear risk that these arms will be used in the killing and torture of civilians and in acts of rape and sexual violence. Despite the calls at the most senior levels of the United Nations and mechanisms of the UN Security Council and Human Rights Council and the humanitarian crisis being witnessed in the country, weapons continue to flow towards Sudan.

The Sudanese people need everyone's help. All States, including ATT States Parties and Signatory States, should be working to ensure that their weapons are not transferred, re-exported or diverted to the warring parties in this conflict. Bringing this back to Article 7(7), there must be greater vigilance concerning the possibility of weapons being re-exported or diverted to the Sudan conflict, especially as new actors engage in the supply of



weapons to the warring parties. This must include reviewing and reassessing in accordance with Article 7(7) long standing contracts to transfer weapons to States which are re-exporting or diverting weapons to the warring parties in Sudan.