Justice Africa Sudan

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Statement on the Risk of Famine in Sudan and the Urgent Need to End the War

We are deeply alarmed by the rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situation in Sudan, where famine has become an increasingly evident reality threatening the lives of millions of people. Based on our field assessments in key sorghum-producing regions, including South Kordofan, Sennar, Al Gedaref, as well as parts of Greater Kordofan and Greater Darfur, the current agricultural season has suffered a catastrophic failure, with harvest losses estimated at approximately 90%. These regions traditionally provide the staple food source for more than 70% of Sudan's population. The scale of the current production collapse exceeds that of the mid-1980s famine, one of the gravest humanitarian disasters in Sudan's modern history.

The situation has been further aggravated by the ongoing conflict and its devastating impact on the national economy. In addition to widespread shortages of agricultural inputs, essential goods, and basic services, the war has severely disrupted production systems, destroyed critical economic infrastructure, displaced millions of people, and triggered an unprecedented economic contraction. The collapse of transportation networks, markets, and supply chains has further undermined food availability and access across large parts of the country.

Despite mounting evidence of a deepening food security crisis, the de facto authorities in Khartoum continue to downplay the risk of famine. Meanwhile, more than 75% of Sudanese people are experiencing acute food insecurity and are increasingly dependent on humanitarian assistance, which has itself declined significantly due to funding shortfalls and access restrictions. Millions of people are surviving on less than one meal a day as livelihoods collapse and communities exhaust their coping mechanisms.

The continuation of hostilities, coupled with the rejection of ceasefire initiatives and meaningful peace efforts, is worsening civilian suffering and accelerating Sudan's descent into a catastrophic humanitarian catastrophe. Every day the conflict continues, more lives are placed at risk from hunger, disease, displacement, and violence.

Therefore, we call for:

1. The international community to exert maximum political, diplomatic, and economic pressure on all parties to the conflict to secure an immediate and unconditional nationwide ceasefire.
2. The urgent, unhindered, and sustained delivery of humanitarian assistance to all conflict-affected and famine-threatened areas across Sudan.
3. A coordinated international emergency response to address critical needs in food security, nutrition, healthcare, water, sanitation, and livelihoods, backed by adequate and timely funding.
4. The immediate opening, protection, and monitoring of humanitarian corridors to ensure safe and unrestricted access for food, medicine, and other essential supplies to civilians in need.
5. The launch of an inclusive and credible peace process that addresses the root causes of the conflict and creates the conditions for lasting peace, recovery, and sustainable development.
6. Enhanced support for Sudanese civil society organisations, local responders, and community-based networks that remain at the forefront of humanitarian relief efforts despite immense challenges.

We warn that the continuation of the current situation will result in avoidable loss of life on a catastrophic scale. Without urgent action to end the conflict and scale up humanitarian assistance, Sudan risks becoming the site of one of the world's most severe hunger crises in recent history.

The Sudanese people should not be left to face famine, displacement, and conflict alone. Immediate action is required to save lives, protect communities, and restore hope for a peaceful and prosperous future.

Glory to the people of Sudan.
Mercy to the victims.
Peace, justice, and dignity for all Sudanese.

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