

OIC Statement delivered by Mr. Afaq Ahmed, Counsellor, during Enhanced Interactive <u>Dialogue on Human Rights Situations in Sudan</u> <u>53rd HRC Session</u> 19 June 2023

Mr. President,

The OIC member states remain concerned over the security situation in Sudan, resulting in loss of innocent lives, injuries to thousands and dire humanitarian situation.

We renew our solidarity with the Sudanese people at this difficult time.

The OIC reaffirms its support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Sudan.

We call on all parties involved in the conflict to exercise restraint and continue peace efforts aimed at preserving the unity of Sudan and meeting the aspirations of its people for political and economic stability.

We attach utmost importance to the maintenance of ceasefire and provision of humanitarian assistance across the country.

In this regard, we welcome the Jeddah Declaration. It provides a solid foundation to bring peace and stability.

According to the UN, humanitarian situation is reaching a "breaking point" in Sudan and around 25 million Sudanese including 13.6 million children are in urgent need of lifesaving humanitarian support. We call on the international community including humanitarian organizations to uplift their efforts to provide livelihoods and also assist Sudan's neighboring states, suffering from conflict in Sudan and have kept their borders open for accommodating those fleeing the conflict.

We acknowledge Sudan's consistent cooperation and engagement with this Council, OHCHR and the human rights expert. This commitment was well demonstrated through arrangement of the human rights expert's visit to Sudan at the beginning of this year.

We urge OHCHR to continue to provide technical assistance to Sudan and help in strengthening capacities to meet its international human rights obligations.

I thank you!