



# DEFENDDEFENDERS

East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project

## UN Human Rights Council – 58<sup>th</sup> regular session

### Item 2: Enhanced interactive dialogue on the High Commissioner’s report on the situation of human rights in the Sudan

#### Oral statement

*Delivered by: Nicolas Agostini*

Mr. President, Mr. High Commissioner,

We thank you for your report. DefendDefenders welcomes your efforts to document and report on the situation in Sudan. We stress the value of each mechanism on Sudan, namely your Office and its global mandate, your Expert on human rights in Sudan, the OHCHR country office, and the Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) for Sudan.

As your report highlights, Sudan’s situation remains catastrophic. Sudan currently is the world’s largest humanitarian and displacement crisis. We share your assessment that “parties to the conflict [continue] to show utter disregard for international law and for the protection of civilians.” The conflict, which shows no sign of abating, threatens the country’s unity and the stability of the Horn of Africa, with grave implications for international peace and security.

We welcome the Expert’s advocacy priorities, expressed on the occasion of his July 2024 visit to Port Sudan, namely the protection of civilians, unhindered humanitarian access, the removal of restrictions to civil society’s work, and accountability. Authorities can take immediate steps, which do not have financial implications, to facilitate the work of civil society organisations, humanitarians and human rights defenders (HRDs). For instance, they must urgently facilitate delivery of visas. They, and RSF forces, must stop the practice of labelling independent civil society, medical and humanitarian actors “collaborators” – and they must ensure due process and fair trials. We also urge authorities in Port Sudan to cooperate with all UN and African human rights mechanisms, without selectivity or cherry-picking.

Mr. President,

We stress the need for more international attention to Sudan’s crisis, for more support to Sudanese HRDs and civic actors, and for a coherent global policy response. Sudan must be re-prioritised to prevent more atrocities, more human suffering, and the dislocation of the country.

Thank you for your attention.