



INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN CONFERENCE FOR SUDAN AND ITS NEIGHBORS

Paris
15 April 2024

= SAVE THE DATE =

France and the European Union will chair an international humanitarian conference for Sudan and its neighbors at ministerial level in Paris on 15 April.

Are invited to participate to the conference the United Nations, the African Union, IGAD, the Arab League, Sudan's neighboring countries, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, international organizations and NGOs, organizations of the Sudanese civil society, notably the Emergency Rooms and local NGOs, Member States of the European Union and non-European donors. For States, only Ministers will have the opportunity to deliver an address.

One year after the conflict began, the conference will aim to raise funds to support the civilian population, to call for respect for international humanitarian law by all parties and to advocate for a full, safe and unhindered humanitarian access, notably by enhancing synergies between the different existing peace initiatives for Sudan. It will hence be structured around:

1. **A pledging conference for 2024**, as a continuation of the Sudan pledging conference in Geneva in June 2023;
2. **A debate on the means to overcome the obstacles to humanitarian access in Sudan while reinforcing cross-border assistance as a stop-gap measure**, in line with the High-level meeting on the humanitarian response in Sudan held in New York in September 2023;
3. **A round-table providing a platform to organizations of the Sudanese civil society** to shed light on their actions to support the civilian population and on their advocacy for peace, in the wake of the Sudan Humanitarian Crisis Conference organized in Cairo in November 2023.

For more Information, please contact France (taskforce.soudan@diplomatie.gouv.fr) and the European Union (ECHO-DL-D2-SUDAN-TEAM@ec.europa.eu).



= BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE =

The international response to the humanitarian crisis in Sudan and in the neighboring countries has been underfunded and hindered by the warring parties in 2023.

- **The conflict between the Sudanese Armed forces and the Rapid Support Forces has plunged the country in “one of the worst humanitarian nightmares in recent history”,** as described by the United Nations. 27,5 million people, hence more than half of the overall population, are in need of humanitarian assistance. 18 million of them are facing acute food insecurity. Almost 11 million people have been forced to flee, including 1.8 million in the neighboring countries.
- **The international humanitarian response in Sudan and in the region has suffered from a lack of funding in 2023.** After the Geneva pledging conference in June, the response plans of the United Nations have been financed up to 43% in Sudan and up to 38% in the region. In 2024, the United Nations have called for 2,7 billion dollars to fulfill their Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP) and for 1.4 billion dollars to enforce their Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP).
- **The warring parties are hindering the delivery of humanitarian aid,** despite the commitments made in November 2023 in Jeddah and the creation of a joint humanitarian forum between the belligerents under the auspices of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). They have targeted humanitarian workers and do not provide the necessary security guarantees to ensure their security, as testified by the attack on an International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) humanitarian convoy in Khartoum on 10 December 2023, which killed two people and injured seven.

Team Europe has established itself as one of Sudan’s leading humanitarian donors by mobilizing 500 million euros, which represented a third of the international community’s pledges in 2023. France and the European Union are therefore offering to bring together the international community and humanitarian actors willing to support the Sudanese people in order to:

- **scale-up the international humanitarian response to the Sudanese crisis;**
- **leverage their influence to enable a full, safe and unhindered access for humanitarian operations and respect of international humanitarian law in Sudan;**
- **call for the warring parties to reach an agreement for a sustainable ceasefire and to nurture an inclusive and cohesive political dialogue.**