

Mr President

I would like to present the amendments to L.44 entitled “Darfur”, submitted by Canada and the European Union.

The human rights situation in Darfur continues to be of grave concern, and according to recent credible and reliable reports, continues to show signs of further deteriorating. The main purpose of the amendments tabled is to reflect the seriousness of the situation prevailing on the ground, and also to seek secure that this Council is taking at least some steps to ensure an operational outcome of this initiative. The aim is thus to ensure that the Council acts in conformity with its mandate – which includes addressing situations of human rights, including gross and systemic violations.

With regard to OP2, the amendments would highlight the primary responsibility of Sudan to protect all individuals against violations – indeed a responsibility all Governments have. It also specifies the violations we all know are taking place against civilians and the use of child soldiers.

In OP3, the amendment would seek to mention the importance of ending impunity, something the Government of Sudan has committed itself to do, and calls on all parties to cooperate fully in the implementation of the Agreement and relevant UN resolutions in this regard.

In OP 4 the amendment proposes to add “places of detention” as this is a particularly relevant concern in the context of OHCHR monitors on the ground. This is something the Government of Sudan has undertaken to do.

In OP5, the amendment, would seek to secure operational follow-up through a report by the High Commissioner.

Finally, in OP 6 the amendment would stress that clearly also other recipient, not just the Government of Sudan, can receive financial and technical assistance in the context of the conflict in Sudan.

There have been quite extensive negotiations on L.44, and on many points. While deploring the fact that the negotiations, in which we engaged in good faith, finally failed, we believe that these limited amendments would bring the text more in line with the situation on the ground, as documented by OHCHR and other agencies.