



BACKGROUND PAPER:

United Nations Development Programme
The Situation in Sudan

Introduction:

Since gaining independence in 1956, the Republic of Sudan has faced a tumultuous history of successive regimes, all of which have failed to gain acceptance from the diverse political constituencies within the nation. Civil disagreements have erupted from issues such as Islamic citizens in the north wanting a fully Islamized government to economic disparities in various regions of the country. Such tensions between the north and south resulted in prolonged civil wars, with the most recent ending in 2005. The result of the peace agreement stemming from this conflict was the independence of South Sudan.

However, the creation of this new state didn't entirely eliminate conflict within Sudan altogether. The former Sudanese president, Omar al-Bashir, was ousted by the Sudanese army in 2019 following months of protest against his reign. The aftermath of this coup has left the country in turmoil in the absence of a legitimate government.

Background & History:

In its earlier years, Sudan has undergone various conflicts concerning the many ethnic groups and political powers that have tried to gain the resources of the nation for themselves. Thousands of years of rule under Egypt later resulted in rule under the Ottoman Empire before a new joint colonial power was established, leaving Sudan with the status of a British-Egyptian ruled colony. The subsequent Egyptian Revolution of 1919 triggered the Sudanese independence movement, eventually granting the nation sovereignty. A civil war lasting from 1955-1972 ensued, with no plausible solution. The abolishing of Parliament and political parties, introduction of political pluralism, and the forcible enforcement of Islamic Sharia law contributed to the Second Sudanese Civil War lasting from 1983-2005. The presidency of Omar al-Bashir since South Sudan's independence has left the Sudanese people unsatisfied and caused the formation of various civilian factions, all vying for power.

Current Status & The Problem:

On April 15, 2023, clashes broke out between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), a paramilitary group. The states of Darfur and Khartoum have been the most heavily impacted by the fighting. Nearly 1.9 million people have been internally displaced, and more than 73,000 people have fled to neighboring countries, with the UNHCR estimating an influx of 800,000 more. Fighting has involved thousands of civilians, entailing daily bombings and air raids, sexual violence, kidnappings, and civilians being killed in their own homes. Around 67% of hospitals around major conflict areas are out of service, and the over 5 million residents of the nation's capital, Khartoum are sheltered in their homes with limited access to electricity, food, water, medicine, and fuel. A spike in transportation costs has left thousands unable to afford leaving violent areas.

The SAF and RSF have continued their onslaught on civilian areas, hoping to gain access to strategic regions of the country. The SAF's fighting from the air has resulted in air raids that target civilian infrastructure, homes, schools, and hospitals. The RSF has deployed troops in the neighborhoods of Darfur, resulting in hundreds civilian deaths on the ground.

Committee Mission:

The current humanitarian and military crisis facing Sudan has only intensified the trends of food insecurity and poverty that plagued the nation following prior civil disputes. Despite humanitarian organizations being able to reach 1.8 million people in April and May of 2023, many more conflict-ridden areas are unable to gain adequate access to the assistance they need. Out of the estimated \$2.6 billion (USD) needed to adequately help the Sudanese humanitarian crisis, only \$442.8 million (USD) has actually been received. Neighboring countries should brace for the effects of the situation and regional actors should consider how their resources can be used for stabilization of the country.

As delegates, consider both the humanitarian and governmental aspect of the conflict at hand. While humanitarian aid is desperately needed, keep in mind

the current political state of the country. The committee must consider how additional aid can be given while circumventing potential violence or exploitation of given aid, and potential solutions to filling in the current power vacuum. Delegates are also urged to take into account how this current crisis will affect neighboring nations, especially in regards to receiving refugees.

Questions to Consider:

1. What effects might neighboring countries feel from the conflict in Sudan and what can be done to alleviate negative effects?
2. Taking into consideration the desires of the SAF and RSF, how can power be distributed or reorganized to fit the interests of the Sudanese people?
3. How will nations give adequate humanitarian aid to Sudan while avoiding the dangers of conflict zones?

Additional Research:

Delegates are encouraged to research the history of Sudan and the current conflict further and consider their own country's stance in confronting it. This background guide should be the first research delegates consider before diving even further into the topic. In terms of research, be sure that you understand the situation from a broad perspective before narrowing the scope to focus on your own country.

Helpful and reliable sources include the UN, BBC, official country sources, and the CIA World Factbook. In terms of expanding their understanding of the conflict, delegates might consider the presence of bias in their sources and inform themselves of both the situation in Sudan as a whole and their own country's views on it.

Sources:

<https://www.mercycorps.org/blog/facts-sudan#when-crsis-sudan-begin>

<https://acleddata.com/2023/05/26/sudan-situation-update-may-2023-fighting-rages-amid-ceasefire-talks/>

<https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/sudan/>

<https://www.usip.org/publications/2023/05/what-sudan-needs-right-now>