



FORTY-FIRST REPORT OF THE PROSECUTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT TO THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL PURSUANT TO RESOLUTION 1593 (2005)

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Sudan is now facing one of the largest, most dire humanitarian crises ever recorded. After 27 months of relentless fighting between the SAF (“Sudanese Armed Forces”) and RSF (“Rapid Support Forces”) and their allied armed groups, there appears to be no end in sight to the nightmare for the Sudanese people.

Airstrikes and bombardments on cities and internally displaced camps in North Darfur, in Nyala, South Darfur and other locations, continue to cause large-scale destruction, resulting in heavy civilian casualties.

During this reporting period, the situation in Darfur has worsened significantly. Extreme famine looms, affecting hundreds of thousands of vulnerable civilians. As noted by one expert of the United Nations Independent International Fact-Finding Mission for Sudan (“FFM-Sudan”) “what is happening in Sudan is not only a humanitarian crisis. *It is a crisis of humanity itself.*”

The depth of this suffering demands concerted action by international and national actors, putting the experiences and the rights of Darfuri people at the centre of our collective response.

With this perspective, during this reporting period, the Office of the Prosecutor (“OTP” or “the Office”) of the International Criminal Court (“ICC” or “the Court”) has further intensified its activities with a view to delivering concrete landmarks, so as to respond to the legitimate and impassioned calls for justice heard from all its partners with respect to the situation in Darfur.

The Office can confirm that it has reasonable grounds to believe that war crimes and crimes against humanity have been, and continue to be, committed in Darfur. This assessment is based on extensive testimonial, digital and documentary evidence collected by the Office’s Darfur Unified Team, including through engagement with survivors who have directly experienced ongoing crimes.

Crimes allegedly committed in West Darfur in 2023 have remained the primary investigative focus of the Office’s inquiries. In support of this line of investigation the Office continues to deploy to Chad and other neighbouring countries, exploiting a number of key investigative opportunities. The Office has collected evidence concerning alleged crimes including and not limited to killing, pillaging, attacks against internally displaced persons camps, indiscriminate targeting of civilian populations, gender-based crimes and crimes against children.

Since its last Report, further work has been undertaken to ensure that investigative activities reflect the scale of the depth of suffering currently being endured in Darfur, as well as the range of responsibility of those alleged to have committed Rome Statute crimes. This work continues intensively.

The Office believes that this approach will ultimately deliver more meaningful justice for affected communities in Darfur but will require further and enhanced collaboration in the coming reporting period to secure the arrest and trial of alleged perpetrators.

In this reporting period the Office has also continued to strengthen its evidence holdings with respect to Messrs Omar Al Bashir (“Al Bashir”), Abdel Raheem Hussein (“Hussein”) and Ahmad Harun (“Harun”), in anticipation of potential arrest of these suspects. In this regard, the Office has identified new leads and is also consolidating other avenues for additional information or access to potential witnesses through cooperation with third States.

The Office also awaits the judgment in the trial of Mr Ali Muhammad Ali Abd-Al-Rahman (“Mr Abd-Al-Rahman”, also known as “Ali Kushayb”), the first trial carried out in the Darfur situation in implementation of the UNSC (“UNSC” or “the Security Council”) referral. The successful completion of this trial represents a crucial milestone, addressing the crimes committed in Darfur over 20 years ago and demonstrating to all affected communities that justice can be achieved through collective action.

The progress of the Office in this reporting period has been achieved amidst a myriad of significant and increasing challenges.

Cooperation from States and other entities with respect to the situation in Darfur has seen a slight decrease because of lengthy consultations and logistical challenges. To address this, the Office has taken concerted steps to progress several outstanding requests, while also pursuing several strategic actions to secure the assistance of States not party to the Rome Statute.

Access to Darfur has also remained highly challenging for the Office. In this reporting period the Office has therefore focused on field activities in Eastern Chad and other neighbouring countries, supporting extensive engagement with survivors, displaced persons, refugees, victims and affected communities. Through deployments to three new refugee camps in Chad, representatives of the OTP met with many Darfuri refugees who had not previously engaged in its work.

The resources the Office can deploy to the Darfur situation also remain insufficient relative to the seriousness and scale of atrocities being committed. During the reporting period, the Office has been unable to deploy additional resources to the situation due to resource constraints.

In the context of these challenges, the Office continues to prioritise the establishment of close relationships and partnerships with civil society organisations (“CSOs”) from Sudan and beyond. As part of these efforts, the Office supported capacity-building activities for CSOs documenting international crimes in Darfur, also reflecting with these partners on how accountability processes and mechanisms can help address the situation in Sudan more effectively. This continued engagement with civil society was also reflected at the ICC-NGO roundtable that took place 16-20 June 2025, where international and Darfuri CSOs discussed with representatives of the Office matters of mutual importance in respect of the situation.

The Office has also welcomed limited but continued cooperation from the Government of Sudan in the reporting period, including through facilitating the visit of an investigative team to Port Sudan, in April 2025. The Office nevertheless calls on the Government to expand their cooperation, consistent with the terms of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1593 (2005) and seeks in particular its support for the arrest of Mr Harun and the other two suspects in this situation.

In parallel, the Office also engaged with a designated RSF focal point with a view to identifying potential avenues to strengthen its investigation.

The Office has also expanded its assistance to complementarity initiatives with States investigating potential perpetrators in Darfur. During this reporting period a number of States and other entities have made requests to the Office, seeking reinforcement of their investigative or prosecutorial capacities in relation to action in this situation. The Office welcomes additional requests from States, in line with its policy on Complementarity and Cooperation.

In the upcoming reporting period, the Office will remain focused on progressing its four lines of inquiry, in particular with respect to ongoing crimes in Darfur.

To achieve its stated objectives, the Office seeks the following key improvements in cooperation and assistance from its partners:

- Progressing and securing pending cooperation requests from State and non-State entities: the swift consideration and execution of requests for assistance, in the form of evidence and leads by requested entities would facilitate investigative activities and the collection of critical evidence;
- Supporting the Office's investigative activities by enabling travel facilitations by requested States, allowing the Office to conduct witnesses' interviews in their territories, while minimising potential risks for witnesses.
- Assisting the Office in consolidating investigative steps taken with respect to Messrs Al Bashir, Hussein and Harun cases and in securing the tracking, arrest and surrender of these individuals through engagement with Sudanese authorities.

With this support, and through the continued dedication of its staff, the Office remains committed to delivering on the promise made through Resolution 1593 (2005): that the lives of Darfuris have equal value to those of all people, and that the international community will take action to defend their rights.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Pursuant to UNSC Resolution 1593 (2005), on 31 March 2005, the Security Council referred the situation in Darfur, Sudan to the Prosecutor of the ICC, as of 1 July 2002.
2. This Forty-first report provides an update of the progress made by the Office in relation to the situation in Darfur since end of January 2025. As in previous reports, it addresses progress made on key lines of inquiry as well as implementation of the key principles underlying the Office's strategy and actions in this situation.

II. PROGRESS ON THE ROADMAP

3. Over the last six months, the Office has continued to accelerate its investigation amidst several challenges. This section explains the progress made in the four key lines of inquiry which encompass the investigation commenced in July 2023 in Darfur, the trial of Mr Abd-Al-Rahman, and actions relating to the outstanding cases regarding crimes committed in 2003.

(i) Progress in key lines of inquiry

- a) The ongoing investigation into crimes allegedly committed in Darfur since April 2023

4. The humanitarian situation in Sudan resulting from the armed hostilities and their consequences has worsened. Twenty-five million people are reportedly facing acute food insecurity while no tangible prospect of ceasefire or peace appears within reach.
5. In this context since the last Report, the Office has further accelerated its investigation of ongoing allegations of international crimes in the situation in Darfur.
6. As noted in the Fortieth report of the Prosecutor to the UN Security Council, the Office continues to maintain the Darfur investigation as one of its key priorities and has continued its collection of evidence in relation to incidents that occurred in Al Geneina and its surrounding areas in West Darfur since April 2023. The range of communications and reports received by the Office and collected through open-source analysis has expanded during this reporting period. The Office's work has therefore continued unabated including by way of the collection of witness statements and the identification of multiple leads relating to the commission of a wide

range of crimes under the Rome Statute in Darfur, including gender-based crimes, and crimes against and affecting children, killings, pillaging, attacks against internally displaced persons camps, indiscriminate targeting of civilian populations.

7. Since the announcement of this line of investigation in July 2023 by the Prosecutor, and especially during the reporting period, the Office's investigators, lawyers, analysts and international cooperation advisors have continued to work to document the alleged crimes through the following actions:

- Conducting witness interviews during field deployments to Chad and other countries where there are large Sudanese refugee communities;
- Prioritising the investigation of gender-based crimes, including through the addition of a dedicated expert on gender-based crimes to the team. The team consults regularly with the Office's Gender and Children Unit which ensures that due consideration is given to the psychosocial welfare of the vulnerable victims of such crimes;
- Identifying, screening and prioritising a range of additional relevant individuals for interview purposes;
- Collecting extensive volumes of data from multiple sources, and analysing it to identify linkage between perpetrators, structures and crimes;
- Reinforcing existing partnerships and establishing new relationships with relevant actors such as the FFM-Sudan and CSOs: during this reporting period the Office secured an enhanced cooperation framework with the FFM-Sudan under the UN-ICC Relationship Agreement that will serve to accelerate cooperation in support of ongoing investigations. It has also continued to engage with affected Darfuri communities, members of the diaspora, and various private entities to identify leads as well as material and data that may assist its investigation.
- Re-establishing contact with the Darfur Arab Tribal leaders. The Office has managed to re-establish contact with Darfur Arab tribal leaders, after several failed attempts, for future engagements which should help reflect their perspectives and experiences of violence in the investigative work of the Office

- Continuing to seek the support and assistance of State entities. Although concrete outcomes in this context were limited during the reporting period, States cooperation has also been instrumental in potential witnesses whose upcoming statements may further strengthen the ongoing evidence collection. In this context, OTP's representatives travelled to Port Sudan to carry consultations with the authorities of Port Sudan and conduct investigative activities.
8. With the abovementioned steps, the Office has been able to collect over 7000 items of evidence related to crimes committed in West Darfur since the recent outbreak of the hostilities in April 2023, comprising witness statements, interview recordings, transcripts, notes and notebooks, videos and photos. In this reporting period, the Office was able to interview several additional witnesses.
 9. This progress has been achieved in the context of an increasingly challenging operational environment for the Office in a number of key areas of cooperation.
 10. Securing timely interviews has been particularly challenging during the reporting period since the profiles, backgrounds and locations of relevant witnesses have required complex logistical arrangements to ensure their safety, well-being and security, with subsequent unavoidable delays.
 11. The time required for consultation with some individual States and organisations for the provision of assistance or information has further slowed the ability of the Office to progress certain investigative activities.
 12. The turnover of investigators combined with the departure of seconded national experts to the Unified Team, having reached the end of their assignment with the Office, has also impacted the expected volume of collection of witness statements. To fully deliver its expected results in the Darfur situation, the reinforcement of the dedicated team through additional long-term staff is important to adequately and expeditiously meet the objectives in this situation. This is especially the case in light of the significant volume of information continually received by the OTP Darfur Unified Team.
 13. The various concerns of many potential witnesses who expressed fears of retaliation or reprisals against them by members of armed groups reportedly identifying individuals who may engage with the Office have also caused delays in the arrangements of interviews. These difficulties have been compounded

by the minimal assistance received from States especially regarding the facilitation of travels by representatives of the OTP.

14. While the focus of the Office's current activities is on alleged crimes committed in West Darfur, it continues to receive information regarding the escalating violence in El Fasher, North Darfur and surrounding areas. The Office is particularly troubled by the large-scale attacks carried out on Zamzam IDP camp in February and April 2025, which has been occupied by victims of atrocities committed in Darfur for over 20 years.

15. The Office is continuing to monitor and preserve any evidence of Rome Statute crimes in coordination with its CSO and State partners and encourages the submission of information or leads pertaining to crimes being allegedly committed in North Darfur.

b) Trial of Mr Ali Muhammad Ali Abd-Al-Rahman, also known as Ali Kushayb

16. As reported in the Fortieth report, the trial of Mr Abd-Al-Rahman was concluded between 11 and 13 December 2024 with the parties and participants' closing statements. This first trial resulting from a referral of the Security Council is a positive development in the accountability efforts undertaken by the Office with respect to the Darfur situation, after two decades.

17. During outreach activities carried out by the Office during the reporting period, members of the Darfuri diaspora, CSO representatives and survivors in the refugee camps have continued to ask about the case against Mr Abd-Al-Rahman and are eagerly expecting the upcoming judgment.

18. While the Office, survivors, victims and affected communities in Darfur expect in the coming months the judgment by the Trial Chamber, the execution of the other outstanding warrants of arrest remains a priority for the Office and a continuous demand by the hundreds and thousands of victims in the many refugee camps visited by the Office in Eastern Chad and by the many other Sudanese it has interacted with in various fora over the last 6 months.

c) Cases of Omar Al Bashir, Abdel Raheem Hussein, and Ahmad Harun

19. While the current hostilities in Darfur and across all Sudan have led to many within the Sudanese communities and beyond to call for an expansion of the Court's jurisdiction beyond Darfur, the imperative for justice and accountability for the historical wrongs committed against the Darfuri people during the previous ruling of Omar Al Bashir cannot be overstated.
20. It is critical today more than ever to hold perpetrators of those atrocities committed since 2003 accountable to ensure that there is a comprehensive adjudication of past crimes and to catalyse a process of reconciliation and peace restoration in Sudan.
21. The Office remains resolute in its commitment to secure accountability for past and continues to pursue this through the work of its dedicated sub-team focused specifically on these efforts. Engagements with victims, CSOs, and stakeholders concerned with Sudan's situation underscore a profound and enduring expectation that past crimes will not be overlooked and that suspects still at large will, thanks to States' cooperation and assistance, be apprehended and brought before the Court.
22. The Office expresses appreciation for the Government of Sudan's cooperation in facilitating its investigative efforts including the visit of its representatives in April 2025 to Port Sudan. Nevertheless, urgent progress is required in advancing discussions concerning the arrest and surrender of suspects, namely Messrs Al Bashir, Hussein, and Harun, to ensure they are held accountable for their alleged crimes. Public reports have drawn attention to Mr Harun's visibility in recent media, heightening his profile and providing the Government of Sudan opportunities for cooperation regarding his current status and location. The Office calls upon the Government of Sudan to intensify efforts to locate, arrest, and surrender Mr Harun, whose circumstances align closely with those of Mr Abd-Al-Rahman.
23. The Office strongly encourages individuals or organisations possessing information relevant to the criminal responsibility of these three suspects as well as information regarding their exact whereabouts to come forward. It particularly seeks the cooperation of current or former officials from the Government of Sudan, the Sudanese Armed Forces, the Central Reserve Forces, or the former National Intelligence and Security Service. The Office recalls that, pursuant to UNSC Resolution

1593, the Government of Sudan is obligated to provide full cooperation in the cases involving Messrs Al Bashir, Hussein, and Harun.

d) The case of Abdallah Banda Abakaer Nourain

24. Former Commander of the Justice and Equality Movement, Mr Abdallah Banda Abakaer Nourain ("Mr Banda"), is charged with three counts of war crimes, allegedly committed during an attack carried out against the African Union Peacekeeping Mission at the Haskanita Military Group Site in Darfur on 29 September 2007. Mr Banda remains a fugitive from justice.

25. As previous reports have made clear, upon assuming office, the Prosecutor immediately and voluntarily recused himself from the case of Mr Banda, pursuant to article 42(6) of the Rome Statute. Accordingly, Deputy Prosecutor Nazhat Shameem Khan oversees investigative activities in this case, which have continued during the reporting period.

(ii) **Progress across the key principles for renewed action in the Darfur situation**

a) Empowering victims, witnesses and affected communities

26. Engagements with survivors, victims and affected communities have continued intensively during the reporting period, including through outreach activities carried out in refugee camps in Eastern Chad and a range of engagements with diaspora and members of the Sudanese CSO community.

27. The visits by representatives of the Office to 5 different refugee camps in April and May this year provided the opportunity to deepen its dialogue with Darfuri communities who fled their homes to find shelter in Chad. These engagements gave the Office an opportunity to provide the updates on the progress made in the current investigation regarding crimes allegedly committed since 2023 and the status of the earlier cases against Messrs Al-Bashir, Hussein, and Harun, a topic that remains an important concern for the Darfuris. The OTP was able during these visits to identify a number of potential leads in support of its investigative efforts and to discuss the concerns relating to the potential provision of statements by victims of gender-based crimes. During these visits the Office also expanded its interactions with CSO

and grassroot organisations responsible for the delivery of various services and assistance to the refugees in the camps.

28. The Office also heard numerous concerns from Darfuris displaced by the present conflict including in relation to the whereabouts of relatives who have not been seen since the hostilities commenced in West Darfur, the concerns over the lack of concrete action by the international community to put an end to the ongoing hostilities and their humanitarian consequences. Discussions also addressed the confidentiality of their potential interactions with the Office, especially in instances where they agree to provide evidence or testimonies, and the time necessary to complete the Office's investigation and prosecute perpetrators.
29. The abovementioned visits to Eastern Chad refugee camps were made possible thanks to the continuous assistance of the Chadian refugee board (CNARR- *Commission nationale d'accueil et de réinsertion des réfugiés et des rapatriés*) and UN agencies.
30. The Office engagements with Darfuri diaspora, CSOs from Sudan including victims-community leaders and others have also been accelerated during the reporting period, including through formal meetings with multiple organisations held in February, March, May and June 2025. This reflects an ongoing commitment to keep them abreast of the progress in the investigations and related challenges.
31. These engagements have provided the opportunity for several CSO representatives to directly share information or leads relevant to ongoing investigations, while the OTP has also taken the opportunity to further explain its mandate and activities and to address any misunderstandings or misrepresentations thereof. Specifically, the Office was able to explain the reasons underlying its continued investigative focus on West Darfur and the evidence preservation steps it has been taking in relation to North Darfur. In these interactions the Office continuously receives a strong message from victims as to their eagerness to engage with its investigators where security conditions permit.
32. The Office's interactions with CSO representatives also incorporated the traditional ICC-NGO Roundtable, from 16 to 20 June in The Hague, providing a further tangible opportunity to engage with the Darfuri affected communities' representatives and other international NGOs to discuss the prevailing situation in Sudan. The meeting also allowed for discussion of common and independent initiatives

that could be explored or taken in the interest of the victims of crimes committed in Darfur and the advancement of the Office's investigation.

33. In February 2025, the OTP was invited to participate in a capacity-building workshop organised by an international NGO during which the Office exchanged expertise with participating Sudanese CSOs and other human rights activists in the context of their efforts on documentation of international crimes in Sudan.
34. In weeks following the submission of this report, the Court will conduct an outreach activity in response to growing requests by Darfuri CSOs to have an in-depth understanding of the Court and Office's work on gender-based crimes and a better familiarisation with the Office's policy in this area, in light of the numerous reported crimes of this nature occurring in Sudan since the commencement of the armed hostilities in 2023.
35. In its efforts to continue collecting both incriminating and exculpatory evidence and seize the opportunity to engage with all potential parties in the conflict opposing SAF and RSF and their allied armed groups, the Office has again established contact with Arab tribal leaders in Darfur and is in the process of organising another meeting with them in the coming period.

b) Cooperation with Sudanese national authorities and others

36. Cooperation from Sudanese national authorities, consistent with Security Council Resolution 1593 (2005), is essential to the implementation of the mandate provided by the Council. During the reporting period, the Office has continued to engage with the Government of Sudan in support of investigative activities and in particular with a view to identifying witnesses and leads in relation to its ongoing investigation.
37. This cooperation, which has taken shape over the last 3 years, has continued in the reporting period with consultations between the Office and the Sudanese authorities on a variety of topics including the facilitation of evidence collection. In this context, the Office had the opportunity to travel to Port Sudan in April 2025 to discuss cooperation matters with national authorities, supporting the identification of potential leads that may assist its ongoing enquiries. While an immediate follow-up visit to Port Sudan was cancelled and postponed because of the security situation that has prevailed in the city following reported drone attacks in early May, the Office

hopes to continue its efforts to obtain soon evidence from witnesses that could further strengthen its investigation.

38. Building on an initial contact with representatives of the RSF, the Office has also engaged with a designated RSF focal point with a view to identifying potential avenues to deepen its investigation. Whereas the above represents an important step, this nascent cooperation must be strengthened through concrete and sustainable provision of information that would bolster the Office's inquiries with respect to crimes allegedly committed in Darfur.
39. The upcoming period and in particular the substance of information or assistance received from the RSF will serve to demonstrate any genuine readiness and willingness to fully cooperate with the Office. In parallel the Office continues to assess ways in which such cooperation from the RSF could help progress its investigation.
- c) Increasing avenues for accountability: Cooperation with third States, international and regional organisations
40. As the Office continues its efforts to deliver on its mandate in relation to the Darfur situation by directly identifying witnesses and information, it also continues the establishment of new partnerships with third States and international and regional organisations that could contribute to the success of these efforts. The Office has conducted several field investigative deployments over the reporting period to various States, collecting witnesses' statements and taking initiatives to either build new partnerships with other entities.
41. However, as referenced above, while cooperation from some States parties has been positive in this reporting period, the Office has noted a slight downward trend in terms of effective assistance received in relation to the Situation in Darfur. This has included extended times needed for responses to requests for assistance transmitted by the Office. As a way of mitigating this, the Office has been developing strategies for the establishment of strategic contacts with non-States parties whose assistance is needed to facilitate the Office's investigative efforts.
42. In light of the urgent need to deliver on the mandate of the Office in the Situation in Darfur in the context of ongoing allegations of Rome Statute crimes, the Office calls

on all States to respond promptly and effectively to its requests for support and assistance.

43. In this reporting period, and as foreshadowed in the Fortieth Report, discussions on how the FFM-Sudan and the OTP could support each other's mandate have been prioritised. As a result, the Office agreed, within the framework of the Relationship Agreement between the UN and the ICC, on modalities for cooperation with the FFM-Sudan that sets a basis for strengthened collaboration and provision of information relevant to the Situation in Darfur.
44. In furtherance of this cooperation, the Office's representatives attended at the invitation of the FFM-Sudan, the "Consultation on accountability for Sudan" held from 28 to 30 May 2025 in Kenya, organised by the FFM-Sudan and the International Commission of Jurists of Kenya, and provided an update on the status of its investigations and the challenges and opportunities thereof. The event was positive for constructive engagements between the Office, international bodies such as the FFM-Sudan and the civil society community representatives present on the possibilities, actions and synergies for accountability in Sudan.

III. LOOKING FORWARD

45. While the Office has continued to seize concrete opportunities to advance its investigations in this reporting period, there are also many significant challenges that have continued to impact its ability to implement its mandate adequately and expeditiously. Limitations in cooperation from States, serious logistical obstacles hampering Office field operations, and overarching challenges in resource levels in particular have had an impact in this period.
46. Nevertheless, as the Office awaits the delivery of the judgment in the trial against Mr Abd-Al-Rahman, its commitment to advance its investigations and deliver concrete outcomes in relation to allegations of crimes committed in Darfur since 15 April 2023 remains undeterred. Mindful of the feedback and concerns received over the reporting period from Darfuri refugees in Eastern Chad and elsewhere, and during in-person or online interactions with CSOs and members of the Sudanese diaspora as well as its own obligations under the Rome Statute, the Office is also pursuing its investigations regarding earlier cases, namely those involving Messrs Al Bashir, Hussein and Harun. This approach also reflects

a consistent message from affected communities that the impunity of yesterday has sowed the seeds of today's deadly violence in Sudan.

47. Based on action undertaken in this period, the Office has completed the following assessment of benchmarks set in its last Report.

i. Assessment of situation benchmarks

- *Submit multiple applications for warrants of arrest regarding 2023 crimes:* This benchmark is being progressed.
- *Expand assistance to complementarity initiatives with States investigating potential perpetrators:* This benchmark has been progressed during the reporting period. Through its proactive engagement with States and other entities, the Office has received a number of requests for support and assistance by national authorities. These expressions of interest of collaboration are being assessed by the OTP.
- *Expand engagement with States and other partners in support of all OTP Darfur investigations:* This benchmark has not been met during the reporting period. The Office has noted a lack of response to requests for assistance and cooperation it has made to certain States. It is hoped that this trend can be reversed with respect to a number of very recent requests transmitted by the Office to relevant States.
- *Increase engagement with CSOs, affected communities and grass root organisations in Chad, Darfur, and elsewhere as appropriate:* This benchmark has been met. Continued interactions with refugees and members of the Darfuri diaspora as well as tailored outreach activities have been carried out by cooperation advisors and support staff to keep these various communities up to date in relation to the Office's activities. The contribution of the Court's Registry Outreach Unit to these activities has also been decisive. New partnerships with CSOs have materialised resulting in leads or expected leads for the Office's investigation. As outlined above, the Office has also undertaken targeted activities in order to share best practices with CSOs documenting atrocities in Sudan.

- *Consolidate progress with respect to Messrs Al Bashir, Hussein and Harun cases and secure the arrest and surrender of these individuals through cooperation with Sudanese authorities:* This benchmark is ongoing. The Office has continued progress in investigative work aimed at further strengthening its position in relation to these cases and has identified new leads that it has been pursuing. It is also seeking to consolidate other avenues for additional information or access to potential witnesses through cooperation with third States. The assistance of the Government of Sudan is essential in moving to the stage of arrest.

ii. Updated objectives

48. The relative progress made during the reporting period because of the challenges faced by the Office's Darfur Unified Team as explained above implies that continuous efforts and engagement with the relevant and needed stakeholders are pursued in the upcoming period, mindful of the expectations of the Darfuri people and the international community. While the Office plans to reinforce the resources necessary to the Unified Team to deepen and further accelerate the ongoing investigations and the earlier cases, the following objectives will continue to be prioritised:

- *Expand assistance to complementarity initiatives with States investigating potential perpetrators:*
 - During the upcoming period the Office will finalise its assessment of requests received from States and other entities and take the relevant decision in response to these requests, while reinforcing its cooperation with the FFM-Sudan and other stakeholders it is able to work with in the context of its Policy on Complementarity and Cooperation.
- *Increase engagement with CSOs, affected communities and grass root organisations in Chad, Darfur, and elsewhere as appropriate:*
 - The Office will remain committed to prioritising its engagement with survivors and victims' communities and other organisations assisting or working with those communities. In this regard, participation in activities that promote the Office and the Court's mandates and that strengthen their capacities in documenting international crimes will continue.

- *Continue the preservation of evidence in relation to events in El Fasher and surrounding areas in North Darfur:*
 - With the extensive allegations of crimes committed or being committed in North Darfur, the Office's work in preserving evidence will continue in the coming period. New partnerships in this regard will also be developed with entities that are able to assist the Office's preservation activities.
- *Progress and secure pending cooperation requests from State and non-State entities:*
 - In light of the limited cooperation received by the Office over the last 6 months, the Office will aim to prioritise the follow-up of pending requests for assistance and initiate processes that will help secure the execution of any outstanding requests.
 - Cooperation avenues will also be pursued bilaterally including with the Government of Sudan and other non-State entities.
- *Consolidate progress with respect to Messrs Al Bashir, Hussein and Harun cases and secure the arrest and surrender of these individuals through cooperation with Sudanese authorities:*
 - The Office continues to require the support of States within and outside the UN Security Council in relation to the outstanding arrests warrants and will continue to seek the cooperation of the Government of Sudan thereof as well as identifying witnesses with the support of third States and entities.

IV. CONCLUSION

49. With the judgment of Mr Abd-Al-Rahman expected in the upcoming reporting period, justice for some victims in Darfur appears to be on the horizon. However, as one impunity gap closes, new ones emerge.
50. The Office is mindful that victims are frustrated by the slow pace of justice, and eager for accountability for crimes committed since the resumption of hostilities in April 2023. Despite the Office's continued determination to investigate and collect evidence relating to the ongoing conflict in West Darfur, efforts have been hampered *inter alia* by the ongoing humanitarian crisis and security challenges in accessing Sudan.

51. The Office reiterates its continued desire to engage in substantial cooperation with both parties to this conflict, in an effort to investigate alleged crimes against humanity and war crimes, perpetrated in Darfur. This requires serious cooperation at the highest level, including facilitating permission to interview senior SAF and RSF personnel, access to mission briefs, and any investigative reports into crimes committed in West Darfur.
52. The Office commends the courage of those witnesses willing to relay the extent of their suffering and assist the OTP during its investigations in this period. The Office will not be deterred in continuously striving to work with affected communities in order to deliver accountability for the crimes they have suffered and continue to suffer.
53. The Office calls on the Council to give increased attention to the situation in Darfur, to ensure justice and accountability is recognised as a central part of any effective response by the international community, and to make use in this context of all powers available to it so as to assist the Office and the ICC as a whole to deliver on the promises of Resolution 1593.