Statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton on the upcoming elections in Sudan

Catherine Ashton, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the Commission has today made the following statement:

"Acknowledging the current challenging situation in the run-up to the elections in Sudan, I encourage all engaged Sudanese parties and stakeholders to contribute to satisfactory conditions for the people of Sudan to cast their vote.

It is important for the parties concerned to help removing the remaining technical, administrative and political obstacles addressing in particular the challenge of an inclusive electoral process. The upcoming elections are an important benchmark in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between North and South Sudan.

The independent EU Electoral Observation Mission will continue to observe the elections in Sudan. The decision to deploy one of EU’s largest missions was taken in recognition of the importance of the Sudanese elections which should serve to open the political space and pave the way for a democratic transformation.

I expect that all political parties, authorities and other stakeholders will conscientiously respect the Sudanese Electoral Law, the Code of Conduct and the Declaration on Common Commitments.

The independent EU Electoral Observation Mission is continuously re-assessing the situation in order to guarantee the most appropriate deployment of its observers. In Darfur, a number of parameters necessary for the full deployment of observers were reviewed, leading to necessary technical adjustments as regards their deployment in that region."

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