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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
on the extension of the cease-fire in Sudan**

The European Union welcomes the decision made by the Sudanese Government as well as the Sudan People's Liberation Army to extend the cease-fire in Southern Sudan for a further three months. The European Union considers this as an important measure in enhancing and securing the supply of humanitarian aid in the war affected areas as well as a positive step towards a conducive atmosphere for achieving a lasting peace.

The European Union reiterates its appeal to both parties to proceed to a permanent and comprehensive humanitarian cease-fire and to a prompt resumption of the peace negotiations in Nairobi as decided in the last round of talks within the IGAD peace process.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus and Malta, and the EFTA countries, members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this declaration.
