

P R E S S R E L E A S E

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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
on the opening of peace negotiations for Sudan in Nairobi**

The European Union has noted with satisfaction that peace negotiations for the conflict in Sudan opened on 29 October in Nairobi under the auspices of IGAD (Intergovernmental Agency for Development).

The European Union expresses its support for the negotiations and urges all parties to the conflict to arrive swiftly at an outcome that will halt the loss of human life in Sudan, allow international aid to get safely through to the civilian population and reinstate a full and lasting peace in Sudan, which will also be conducive to the stability of the entire region.

The European Union also expresses the hope that these negotiations, which initially concern only southern Sudan, will subsequently be extended to all those who play a role in the conflict in Sudan.

It repeats its readiness to support the peace process and to assist the Sudanese people in rebuilding their country, but insists on the fact that such assistance is linked to a lasting peace agreement which settles all the outstanding issues.