

**Joint statement following the High-level side event on the margins of the
78th United Nations General Assembly on
“The return to constitutional order in Chad: Challenges and Perspectives”.
United Nations Headquarters, New York, September 18, 2023**

1. The transitional government of the Republic of Chad, represented by the Minister of State, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Chadians Abroad and International Cooperation, Ambassador Mahamat Saleh Annadif, the Department of Political Affairs and Peacebuilding (DPPA) of the United Nations, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), co-chaired a ministerial-level side event on political transition in Chad on the margins of the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York on September 18, 2023. Participants included representatives from regional and international multilateral partners and regional and international bilateral partners.

2. The participants congratulate the Government of the Republic of Chad and the United Nations for this initiative aimed at facilitating reflection and dialogue among partners around the political transition in Chad, which is entering its final phase. The participants take note of the evolution of the transition in Chad. They reiterate their support for a transition leading to the restoration of constitutional order within the prescribed time frame through an inclusive, peaceful approach anchored in human rights principles, in which the Chadian nation, including women, youth, as well as marginalized groups, are at the center of reflections and priorities. The participants agreed that only such a transition can lead to long-term sustainable peace.

3. The participants measured the extent of progress made during the ongoing transition and remaining challenges. In this respect, they welcome the dialogue efforts undertaken by the Government in this important final phase of the transition (constitutional referendum and elections). Participants encouraged the transitional authorities to pursue their efforts to make the political transition even more inclusive through continued outreach to those who still have not joined the transition.

4. The participants emphasized the need to invest more in the strict respect and promotion of human rights, including freedom of opinion, expression, and peaceful assembly, as well as the fight against impunity. To this end, they call on all Chadians to take advantage of this historic opportunity to contribute to the emergence of a new social contract. The latter should take into account the aspirations of all national stakeholders, including signatories of the Doha Agreement and a plurality of political actors, while being based on the resolutions of the Inclusive and Sovereign National Dialogue of 2022. Additionally, the participants have highlighted the importance of conducting with efficiency, transparency, and professionalism the Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) process, which is a fundamental element for sustainable peace in the country.

5. The participants used this occasion to express their deep appreciation to the Chadian authorities and people who have welcomed hundreds of thousands of Sudanese refugees fleeing serious human rights violations in their country . They congratulate the transitional authorities for their efforts in welcoming, securing, and protecting refugees, especially with the recent adoption of the Asylum Law. However, the massive influx of refugees in recent months has further stretched the limited resources of host communities that are already facing development challenges exacerbated by the impact of climate change. In this context, participants expressed their concern about the insufficient resources that affect the humanitarian response and progress towards achieving sustainable development goals, and weaken national capacities to stay the course in a complex security, economic, climate, and regional context.

6. The participants noted the support of partners, in all its forms, to Chad. They acknowledge the contributions made to the transition, human capital, humanitarian services, infrastructure, local economic development, as well as peacebuilding. They commend the efforts of active partners in Chad, including the European Union, the United Nations, the World Bank, the African Development Bank, as well as regional and international bilateral partners and NGOs. They also salute the immense efforts of host communities who have shown generosity and humanity despite the challenges they face.

7. The participants launch a strong appeal to the international community to increase support for the efforts already undertaken by the Chadian authorities. As Chad enters the most important phase of its political transition, partners are encouraged to provide additional support to address the remaining challenges. In this regard, partners are invited to strengthen their support for the elections, DDR, demining, prevention of hate speech, strengthening of the judicial system, empowerment of women and youth, sustainable development, actions aimed at supporting community resilience and peacebuilding.

8. Finally, the participants expressed their appreciation for the work of the United Nations country team, under the leadership of Resident Coordinator Ms. Violet Kakyomya, in support of Chad. They also commended the efforts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA), Abdou A Barry, who works closely with the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the African Union, and other partners to promote an inclusive and peaceful return to constitutional order and the establishment of conditions for lasting peace in Chad.