

**Item 4 – Interim Report Darfur Group of Experts
EU Statement**

Mr. President,

The EU would like to express its gratitude for the dedication and excellent work of the highly qualified professionals that compose the Darfur Group of Experts. Their compilation, in a very short period of time, of the UN recommendations regarding the situation of gross violations of human rights in Darfur, complemented by the outlining of the concrete steps that have to be taken by the Government of Sudan to implement them, will remain as a great example of how effective and action-oriented the work of this Council's mechanisms can be.

We welcome the good cooperation of the Government of Sudan with the Group of Experts, as well as the efforts undertaken to implement the recommendations. We are concerned, however, that certain short-term recommendations have not been addressed. The EU would like to recall the need for the Government of Sudan to implement all the recommendations in order to improve the extremely challenging human rights situation in Darfur. In particular, we call upon the Government of Sudan to address impunity and bring perpetrators to justice. We also reiterate our appeal to all parties to the conflict to put an end to all human rights violations and acts of violence, particularly violence against women and girls.

The EU continues engaged in improving the human rights situation in Darfur by providing technical assistance and humanitarian aid and we call upon all stakeholders to continue contributing to the relief and support of victims.

The EU is concerned that the Darfur Group of Experts might not be receiving all the necessary information from the different actors on the ground and we call upon the UN agencies and missions in Sudan to provide timely information to the Group regarding the degree of implementation of the recommendations and its concrete impact on the human rights situation.

We understand that the Group of Experts still had not the time to undertake a profound evaluation of the degree of implementation of the recommendations by the Government of Sudan and, most importantly, to assess its concrete impact on the ground. We are looking forward to a more detailed report in December.

We must recall that this report in December will only address the short-term recommendations. The Group of Experts rightly indicated also some medium-term and other recommendations. This Council will, therefore, in December, have to take a decision regarding the information that will be provided on the implementation and impact of the short-term recommendations and also on how to continue to follow-up the implementation of the remaining recommendations. The implementation of all these recommendations is fundamental to address the tragic situation in Darfur. The EU urges the Government of Sudan to continue demonstrating its willingness to cooperate with the Council's mechanisms, which we recognise and welcome, and to intensify its efforts to improve the situation in Darfur.

Thank you, Mr. President.