April 23, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Anthony Blinken
United States Secretary of State
The State Department
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Samantha Power
Administrator
U.S. Agency for International Development
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

President Biden, Secretary Blinken, and Administrator Power:

We write to you with urgency regarding the international conflict and humanitarian crisis in Sudan and efforts to deliver more humanitarian assistance to the Sudanese people. Since April 15, 2023, the conflict has killed tens of thousands of civilians, displaced millions of people, and created a humanitarian crisis for the region.

We support your administration’s decision to appoint a high-level Special Envoy for Sudan. Members of Congress have called for the appointment of a Special Envoy on a bipartisan basis for months, including in H.Res.585, S.Con.Res.24 and H.Res.982. Central to the Special Envoy Tom Periello’s task of coordinating U.S. policy on Sudan is to spearhead U.S. efforts to secure unhindered humanitarian access, as well as advance inclusive diplomatic efforts to bring about an end to hostilities and support Sudanese pro-democracy civilian leaders.

We support the U.S. State Department’s recent announcement of additional humanitarian assistance for the emergency response in Sudan and neighboring countries. However, of the millions of civilians in Sudan in need of assistance, only one in ten are in areas accessible to international aid agencies. Aid groups face serious impediments, including arbitrary restrictions on cross-border movement, harassment, and bans on the shipment of supplies.

U.S. leadership in improving humanitarian access is critical, and these efforts must be guided by a clear strategy for coordinating with our regional and international partners, engaging with parties in the conflict, and addressing the spoiler role of outside actors, such as the United Arab Emirates and Egypt, in Sudan. The U.S. should also consider how to scale up support for local, community-based organizations in Sudan—particularly women-led organizations and the network of Emergency Response Rooms (ERRs)—aiding civilians in conflict affected areas.

We strongly agree with Special Envoy Periello’s statement on March 21, 2024, that it is “our job, all of us who care about the people of Sudan…to be urgently seized with the project of ending
this war, preventing the worst of this famine, and giving the Sudanese people a chance to
determine their own future.”

We urge you to ensure the Special Envoy’s office is sufficiently staffed at a level commensurate
with the scale of this crisis, and the relevant offices at State Department and the U.S. Agency for
International Development (USAID), have both the authority and resources necessary to advance
this mission in Sudan and across the region. Therefore, we request that the State Department and
USAID provide to the undersigned Members a description of the staffing, resources, and
authorities required to prioritize U.S. efforts in Sudan.

In Congress, we stand ready to support a clear U.S. strategy to address the conflict in Sudan—to
deliver urgently-needed humanitarian assistance, end the hostilities, and support the Sudanese
people in their desire for peace, freedom, and justice.

Sincerely,

Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress

Young Kim
Member of Congress

Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress

Colin Z. Allred
Member of Congress

Cori Bush
Member of Congress

Greg Casar
Member of Congress
Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

Seth Moulton
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress

Mark Pocan
Member of Congress

Brad Sherman
Member of Congress

Dina Titus
Member of Congress

Jill Tokuda
Member of Congress