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The Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Special Procedures Branch and with reference to its letter AL ARE 1/2026, dated 27 April 2026, concerning a joint communication from the Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination, the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, the Special Rapporteur on the right to education, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, the Special Rapporteur on minority issues and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences, has the honour to forward herewith the response as received from the relevant authorities in the United Arab Emirates.

The Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Special Procedures Branch the assurances of its highest consideration.



The Response of the United Arab Emirates to the Joint Communication from Special Procedures dated 27 April 2026 (Ref: AL ARE 1/2026)

General Observations

1. The UAE has consistently condemned atrocities committed by the warring parties in Sudan, the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF), and has stressed the need to ensure accountability for violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law. Also, as a member of the Quad, the UAE has supported regional and international efforts to achieve an unconditional humanitarian truce and an immediate ceasefire, protect civilians, and bring an end to the conflict. The UAE is firmly of the view that an independent civilian-led transition, free from the control or influence of the warring parties and extremist groups, represents the only viable path to ending the conflict and securing Sudan's future. At the same time, the international community should apply consistent pressure on both warring parties as the responsibility for ending the war rests first and foremost with the parties to the conflict.
2. The UAE has repeatedly expressed its firm belief that there can be no military solution to the conflict, called for a full arms embargo across Sudan, and affirmed its steadfast position by calling for an immediate and permanent ceasefire and for the warring parties to arrive at a peaceful solution. The UAE has maintained a strong commitment to promoting a peaceful resolution to the crisis, actively engaged with the relevant stakeholders, including the African Union (AU) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), and has supported the talks held in Jeddah and Manama, to bring the parties to the negotiation table and create conditions conducive to constructive negotiations. The UAE has also welcomed the 'Joint Statement on Sudan: Political Track' issued by the United States and the countries and organizations of Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Norway, the United Kingdom, AU, the European Union (EU), IGAD, the League of Arab States (LAS), and the UN.

Allegations related to weapons supply and logistical support

3. The UAE vehemently rejects any allegations of involvement or wrongdoing and has repeatedly made it clear that it is not involved in the war in Sudan, nor, provided any related material or military support to any warring party since the outbreak of the conflict.

These allegations are based on unverified claims, as part of a disinformation campaign aimed at deflecting responsibility for the conflict.

4. Certain military equipment was supplied to the Government of Sudan, under a bilateral cooperation agreement signed in 2020 at the direct request of the Transitional Sovereignty Council.

5. Since the outbreak of the conflict, the UAE sought to help alleviate the dire humanitarian situation, including by establishing field hospitals in Amdjarass and Abéché, and relied on cargo flights to transport humanitarian assistance to Sudanese refugees and internally displaced persons, and local host communities in Chad. The final report of the Panel of Experts on Sudan in 2025, made it clear that there is no substantiated evidence that the UAE has provided arms to the RSF.
6. The UAE affirms that it operates a comprehensive and robust export-control regime in line with its international obligations, including with respect to arms-control and re-exports. The UAE faithfully adheres to its international obligations in relation to the transfer of military goods, and, as with any responsible state, such exports are subject to multiple layers of approval through a stringent process.

Allegations related to the treatment of injured RSF fighters

7. The field hospitals established by the UAE in Amdjarass and Abéché have been critical lifelines for millions affected by the ongoing conflict in Sudan, and they have treated over 200,000 patients. The UAE's medical support in Chad continues to serve those impacted by the conflict.
8. The UAE continues to provide sustained humanitarian support to the people of Sudan as part of its longstanding commitment to addressing the ongoing humanitarian crisis, reaching US\$800 million in humanitarian aid since the outbreak of the conflict, and recently the UAE has announced an emergency humanitarian response worth US\$30 million to support civilians affected by the deteriorating situation in El Obeid, North Kordofan, Sudan.

Allegations related to gold smuggling

9. The UAE further rejects allegations of any involvement in illicit gold flows from Sudan. The UAE's gold sector operates under a mandatory, risk-based due-diligence and supervisory framework that is aligned with the standards set out in the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Due Diligence Guidance for supply chains of Minerals from conflict-affected and high-risk areas. This framework is underpinned by compulsory anti-money-laundering and know-your-customer requirements, annual independent audits, enforcement at all points of entry and enhanced scrutiny for transactions involving Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas (CAHRAs). Suspected violations are subject to investigation and enforcement action, including administrative sanctions such as fines and license suspensions, and where warranted, reporting to competent authorities in accordance with applicable law. Against this regulatory and enforcement backdrop, and noting that gold originating from Sudan represents a marginal share of the UAE's total precious metals trade - assertions of ulterior motives or systemic involvement in illicit gold trade lack factual basis.

Allegations related to the Global Security Services Group (GSSG)

10. The UAE takes allegations about mercenaries very seriously, has conducted thorough investigations regarding entities and individuals allegedly involved, and found no link

between GSSG and the mentioned mercenaries. The UAE investigations confirmed that GSSG is registered and licensed in the UAE to provide security-related services for persons and sites, and it is not involved in any mercenary activity, does not have any links to individuals reported to be mercenaries in Sudan, and is in full compliance with UAE laws and regulations.

Regulatory framework applicable to offshore activities of GSSG and its personnel

11. The UAE addresses humanitarian and human rights violations by natural and legal persons through its criminal law. In particular, within its own jurisdiction, the UAE addresses serious violations of international humanitarian law and other international crimes through a dedicated legal framework established through Federal Decree Law No. 12 of 2017 on International Crimes, which provides UAE courts with jurisdiction over crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide. For these crimes, perpetrators face life imprisonment. This legislation applies wherever the crime is committed and irrespective of the nationality of the perpetrator.
12. Moreover, GSSG and its personnel, as with all other persons in the UAE, are subject to the relevant provisions of the Federal Law by Decree No. 31 of 2021 Promulgating the Crimes and Penalties Law, which has a broad scope of application. It indeed applies to crimes committed in the UAE, but also to:
 - any person who performs, outside the State, an act which causes him to be considered a perpetrator or an accomplice of a crime which is wholly or partially committed in the State.
 - any person who is present in the State upon committing abroad, as a perpetrator or an accomplice, crimes of trading, women, children or slaves or the crimes of terrorism or money laundering.
 - legal entities, which shall be criminally liable for crimes committed by their representatives, directors or agents acting in favour of or on behalf of them.