



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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For immediate release

### **Statement of the IGAD Executive Secretary on the Situation in Wad al Nourah, Gezira state, Sudan**

June 8, 2024, (Djibouti, Djibouti): The Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), H.E. Dr Workneh Gebeyehu, expresses deep sorrow and outrage over the tragic events in Wad al Nourah, Gezira state, Sudan, on 5 June 2024, and condemns in the strongest terms possible the massacre in which at least one hundred and fifty civilians, including thirty-five children, lost their lives. Dr Workneh said the barbaric act is a stark reminder of the profound suffering endured by innocent civilians, particularly women and children, in this senseless conflict.

IGAD is deeply alarmed by the continued deterioration of the situation in Sudan, despite numerous international efforts to broker a ceasefire. The ongoing conflict is exacerbating acute hunger and pushing various regions towards famine, endangering the lives of millions of Sudanese civilians. IGAD calls upon the Sudanese Armed Forces and the RSF to immediately cease hostilities and return to ceasefire & cessation of hostilities negotiations.

The Executive Secretary reiterated the various pronouncements of the IGAD summit of heads of state and government that there is no military solution to the conflict in Sudan and the path to peace and stability lies in dialogue and negotiation, not in the continuation of hostilities.

"The belligerents in the Sudan conflict bear full responsibility and accountability for the recent incidents and the ongoing violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. These atrocities must be denounced and thoroughly investigated, with those responsible held to account", said Dr Workneh.

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Finally, the Executive Secretary believes that the recent devastation in Wad al Nourah highlights the urgent need for the international community to reinforce its commitment to mobilise global efforts towards a peaceful resolution, assuring of IGAD's steadfast support for initiatives aimed at achieving a sustainable ceasefire and lasting peace in Sudan.



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