**Transcript of Remarks by the President of the Human Rights Council, Ambassador Federico Villegas of Argentina, on the postponement of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the Republic of the Sudan, delivered at UPR Working Group 40th Session**

**Palais des Nations, Geneva**

**1 February 2022**

I would like to refer to what was announced this morning, in the framework of the opening of the 12th meeting of this session, regarding the UPR of the Republic of the Sudan. As I informed you all this morning, shortly before the opening of the session, the UNOG Protocol Service informed me that, based on information received from United Nations Headquarters in New York, the new Foreign Minister of the Republic of the Sudan, who appears on the UN headquarters' updated list of heads of state, heads of government and foreign ministers, appointed Ambassador Osman Abufatima Adam Mohammed as chargé d'affaires ai. of the Permanent Mission of the Sudan in Geneva, replacing Ambassador Ali ibn Talib Abdelrahman Mahmoud.

In the course of the morning, Ambassador Ali ibn Talib Abdelrahman Mahmoud sent a letter to the President of the Council indicating that he is still the legitimate representative of the Sudan and requesting that the review of his country be postponed.

In light of the above, the Council Bureau held an emergency meeting to discuss the issue of the representation of the Sudan in the current UPR Working Group. The Bureau agreed that more clarity was needed on the issue of the representation of the Sudan and accordingly agreed that the UPR of the Sudan should not be held tomorrow morning as indicated above, in order to allow time for the secretariat to clarify the matter in consultation with the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs and the Protocol and Liaison Service.