



## **Oral Statement by the International Bar Association**

### **63rd Session of the Human Rights Council**

#### **Item 2: General Debate**

8 September 2026

#### **The Urgent Need for Justice and Accountability for International Crimes**

The IBA's Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI) is highly concerned about the persistent impunity for international crimes globally, including those committed in Sudan in the current conflict, which began in April 2023, or the genocide in Darfur two decades ago.

The atrocities perpetrated in Sudan amount to international crimes, whether war crimes, crimes against humanity or genocide. All perpetrators of such crimes must be investigated and prosecuted. As this is not being done on the domestic level in Sudan, it is key to explore how victims/survivors can seek justice elsewhere, including under the principle of universal jurisdiction.

The situation in Darfur is subject to the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court (ICC). However, the ICC has a very limited jurisdiction concerning the current conflict, as it involves atrocity crimes spread across the wider Sudan.

The IBAHRI calls on this Council to:

- Extend the mandate of the Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) and enhance its capacity with adequate resources for investigations and assisting prosecutions;
- Support a UN Security Council referral of the situation in all of Sudan to the ICC;
- Explore all other avenues to advance justice and accountability for victims/survivors of all crimes committed in Sudan, including through universal jurisdiction;
- Systematically apply the UN Framework of Analysis for Atrocity Crimes to ensure emerging risks are immediately brought to the Council's attention.

Thank you.

*Contact:*

***Dr Ewelina Ochab***

*Senior Programme Lawyer*

*International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute*

*[ewelina.ochab@int-bar.org](mailto:ewelina.ochab@int-bar.org)*

***Francesca Restifo***

*Senior Human Rights Lawyer and UN Representative*

*International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute*

*[francesca.restifo@int-bar.org](mailto:francesca.restifo@int-bar.org)*