



Foreword by  
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FIRST

It gives me great pleasure to introduce this Special Report on Sudan. We are especially grateful to the participating members of Sudan's private sector for all their help and guidance in the preparation of this report. We are also very grateful to the Ambassador H.E. Irfan Siddiq and his staff at the British Embassy in Khartoum for their support and assistance. Our Report Editor, Johanna Zuleta, should also be congratulated on bringing this publication to fruition.

Sudan is a country with a rich history, geography and culture. Located in North East Africa, it occupies a land area of 718,772 square miles, making it the third largest country in Africa by land mass. Sudan's history stretches back to the Pharaonic period.

Sudan occupies a geostrategic position at the intersection of the Middle East, Sub-Saharan, North and East Africa. The country lies between latitudes 8 and 23° north. The landscape is predominately flat plains with a number of significant mountain ranges – including Deriba Caldera in the Marrah Mountains. With an altitude of around 10,000ft, it is the highest point in Sudan.

The Blue and White Nile rivers flow within the country to meet in Khartoum becoming the River Nile which then traverses northwards to the Mediterranean Sea. The country is also blessed with important mineral resources, including chromite, cobalt, copper, gold, lead, mica, nickel, silver, tin, uranium, zinc and both oil and gas.

Sudan's economy has benefitted from the removal of sanctions and ongoing economic

reforms and offers interesting investment and trade opportunities for the discerning investor.

Agricultural production remains the principal source of income and employment in Sudan and constitutes one third of the economy. The main agricultural products include cotton, groundnuts, sorghum, millet, wheat, Gum Arabic, hibiscus, fruit, sesame seeds and animal feed.

Sudan is ranked as the third largest gold producer in Africa. Artisanal gold mining operations contribute around 85 per cent of production with the balance from large and small-scale mining and tailings processing operations.

There are also significant investment opportunities in livestock production – accounting for 26 per cent of the total export value. Sudan has the capacity to further develop beef production given its extensive water resources and fertile soils.

Sudan's private business sector is the key driver in economic development and we are grateful to the senior business leaders from Sudan who have shared their insights, experience and ideas in this special publication.

We at FIRST are delighted to have produced this special publication to promote Sudan's private sector and hope that it contributes to Sudan's continuing economic development and the promotion of important international relationships, especially in the area of trade and investment.

This report is the first in a series designed to provide new perspectives on this fascinating and distinctive country. **F**