

IGAD

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY
ON DEVELOPMENT



AUTORITÉ INTERGOUVERNEMENTALE
POUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENT

COMMUNIQUE OF THE 23rd EXTRA-ORDINARY SESSION OF THE IGAD ASSEMBLY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT ON THE SITUATION IN SOUTH SUDAN

STATE HOUSE, NAIROBI,

27th of December 2013

The IGAD Assembly of Heads of State and Government held its 23rd Extraordinary Summit in Nairobi, Kenya on 27th of December 2013, under the Chairmanship of **H.E. Hailemariam Desalegn**, the Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the Chairperson of the IGAD Summit to discuss the situation in the Republic of South Sudan.

The Assembly was attended by **H.E. Ismail Omar Guelleh**, President of the Republic of Djibouti; **H. E. Uhuru Kenyatta**, President of the Republic of Kenya **H.E. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud**, President of the Federal Republic of Somalia; **H. E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni**, President of the Republic of Uganda; **H.E. Bakri Hassan Saleh**, First Vice President of the Republic of the Sudan; and **H.E Dr. Barnaba Marial Benjamin**, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Sudan.

The Assembly was also attended by **Ambassador (Eng.) Mahboub Maalim**, the Executive Secretary of IGAD and **Ambassador Erastus Mwencha**, the Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission.

The Summit received a briefing from the President of the Republic of Uganda on his country's efforts in securing critical infrastructure and installations in the Republic of South Sudan as well as in evacuating its citizens.

The Summit further received a briefing from the Chairperson of the IGAD Council of Ministers and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, **H.E. Tedros Adhanom** on the emergency three-day visit to Juba, Republic of South Sudan by the IGAD Council of Ministers on 19th December 2013.

After consideration of the reports and its deliberations on the overall political and security situation in South Sudan,

The summit:

On South Sudan

1. **Recalling** the hope for freedom, justice and prosperity that the people of the Republic of South Sudan expressed with joy on 9th July 2011 on occasion of the independence of the Republic of South Sudan
2. **Cognizant** of the peace, security and development that has been achieved in the Republic of South Sudan since independence in the midst of various challenges
3. **Noting** with satisfaction the positive development between the brotherly countries of the Republic of South Sudan and the Republic of Sudan and in that regard, commend H.E. President Omar Al-Bashir and H.E. President Salva Kiir Mayardit for their tireless efforts in bringing peace, security and prosperity to their two peoples.

4. **Concerned** by the unfortunate events that took place on the 15th of December 2013 and the subsequent escalation of the conflict and deterioration of the humanitarian situation;
5. **Further Concerned** about the reported widespread atrocities, deaths and displacement of civilian population;
6. **Expressing** their solidarity with the people of South Sudan at this hour of distress and tribulation;
7. **Condemns** all unconstitutional actions to challenge the constitutional order, democracy and the rule of law and in **particularly condemns** changing the democratic government of the Republic of South Sudan through use of force
8. **Further Condemns** the violent escalation of conflict in South Sudan and calls on all parties to refrain from steps that will inflame the conflict further particularly along ethnic and sectarian lines and **particularly strongly condemns** the bankrupt and opportunistic ideology of ethnic and religious sectarianism
9. **Calls** on all humanitarian actors to act quickly and provide all necessary assistance to all civilians and **specifically calls on** the government of South Sudan and all armed groups to open humanitarian corridors and ensure protection of civilian population;
10. **Notes with satisfaction** the IGAD Council of Ministers emergency visit of 19 December 2013 and the discussions with President Salva Kiir Mayardit and other stakeholders;
11. **Commends** the expressed commitment of both sides to engage in dialogue and reiterates the imperative of an immediate pursuit of a political solution including an all inclusive dialogue among all stakeholders concerned;
12. **Commends** the UN Security Council Resolution 2132 of 2013 which it notes as a prudent and timely move to complement ongoing political efforts in alleviating the deteriorating security and humanitarian situation in the country.
13. **Commends** the effort of the Republic of Uganda in securing critical infrastructure and installations in South Sudan and pledges its support to these effort;
14. **Reaffirms** the strong commitment of IGAD countries to assist in the pursuit of a speedy political solution to the crisis;

15. Made the following decisions:

Stakeholders in the Republic of South Sudan:

- Welcomed the commitment by the Government of the Republic of South Sudan on immediately beginning unconditional dialogue with all stakeholders;
- Welcomed the commitment by the Government of the Republic of South Sudan to an immediate cessation of hostilities and called upon Dr. Riek Machar and other parties to make similar commitments;
- Determined that if hostilities do not cease within 4 days of this communiqué, the Summit will consider taking further measures;
- Requested all parties to accept a monitoring, verification and stabilisation mechanism;
- Undertake urgent measures in pursuit of an all inclusive dialogue including reviewing the status of the detainees in recognition of their role in accordance with the laws of the Republic of South Sudan, and in creating a conducive environment for all stakeholders to participate and determines that face-to-face talks by all stakeholders in the conflict should occur by the 31st of December 2013;
- Ensure the protection of civilians and humanitarian workers including those from neighbouring countries;
- Strongly Condemns criminal acts of murder, sexual violence, looting and other criminal acts against civilians and unarmed combatants by any actor and demand that all involved by be held responsible by their de-facto and or de jure leaders
- Liaise with IGAD envoys and the Council of Ministers to support the process of dialogue and related political and technical reforms;

16. The United Nations, the African Union and the International Community to:

- Support the IGAD process;
- Ensure that humanitarian assistance is immediately delivered to all affected;
- Support constitutional and other political reforms in South Sudan;

17. IGAD Member States:

- Direct the Council of Ministers to continue working with the Government of South Sudan and make contact with Dr. Riek Machar and other leaders critical to bringing about peace; and keep the Summit apprised;

- Commit to monitor the safety of IGAD Member State citizens and coordinate their evacuation as necessary.
- Appoints General Lazaro Sumbeiywo of Kenya and Amb. Seyoum Mesfin of Ethiopia as our Special Envoys for South Sudan
- Appoints Ambassador Mohamed Affey as IGAD Special Envoy to Somalia and Ambassador Tewelde Gebremeskal as Director of Peace and Security at the IGAD Secretariat;
- Direct the IGAD Secretariat to avail its good offices in support of the above process;

18. Directs the IGAD Secretariat to transmit these decisions to the African Union Commission and the United Nations Security Council;

19. Decides to remain seized of these matters.

Issued this 27th of December 2013 at State House, Nairobi, Kenya