



PEACE, PROSPERITY AND
REGIONAL INTEGRATION

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE 58TH EXTRA-ORDINARY SESSION OF IGAD COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ON THE SITUATION IN SOUTH SUDAN

23RD - 24TH JULY 2017, JUBA - SOUTH SUDAN

The IGAD Council of Ministers held its 58th Extra-Ordinary Session on 23rd and 24th July 2017 under the chairmanship of **H.E. Workneh Gebeyehu**, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and Chairperson of the IGAD Council.

The session was attended by **H.E. Mahamoud Ali Youssouf**, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Djibouti; **H.E. Amina Mohamed**, Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kenya; **H.E. Yusuf Garaad Omar**, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Somalia; **H.E. Deng Alor Kuol**, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Sudan; **H.E. Martin Elia Lomuro**, Minister for Cabinet Affairs of the Republic of South Sudan; **H.E. Henry Oryem Okello**, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uganda; and **H.E. Hamza El-Amin Ahmed**, Ambassador of the Republic of the Sudan to Djibouti.

H.E. Festus Mogae, Chairperson of the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (JMEC); **H.E. Mahboub Maalim**, IGAD Executive Secretary and **H.E. Ismail Wais**, IGAD Special Envoy for South Sudan were also in attendance.

The honourable members of the Council paid a courtesy call on **H.E. Salva Kiir Mayardit**, President of the Republic of South Sudan, and held discussion on the political, security and humanitarian situation in South Sudan.

The Council also held a meeting with various stakeholders on South Sudan including representatives of regional and international partners, faith-based organizations, eminent personalities, youth, women, the civil society and the business community.

H.E. Festus Mogae, JMEC Chairperson and H.E. Ismail Wais, IGAD Special Envoy for South Sudan briefed the Council on the current situation in South Sudan. The Ministers deliberated on the progress reports and the planned High Level Revitalization Forum.

Following the consultations held with the President of the Republic of South Sudan and based on the progress reports submitted by the JMEC Chairperson and IGAD Special Envoy and ensuing deliberations, the Council:

1. **Recalls** the mandate entrusted upon it by the 31st Extra-Ordinary Summit of the IGAD Assembly of Heads of State and Government held on 12th June 2017 in Addis Ababa;
2. **Recalls** also the decisions made by the 57th Extra-Ordinary Session of the IGAD Council of Ministers held on 2nd July 2017 in Addis Ababa on the margins of the African Union (AU) Summit;
3. **Notes** with appreciation the reports made by the Chairperson of JMEC and the IGAD Special Envoy for South Sudan and encourages their continued engagement with the Parties;
4. **Reiterates** the support of the IGAD Assembly of Heads of State and Government acknowledging the efforts made so far by the Transitional Government of National Unity (TGoNU) in the implementation of the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (ARCSS);
5. **Encourages** the Steering Committee of the South Sudan National Dialogue in reaching out to the opposition and calls upon them to expeditiously move forward in an inclusive, genuine and transparent manner; in this regard, **underlines** the importance of the National Dialogue as a complementary process to the implementation of the ARCSS and as a means to reconciliation of the South Sudanese at a grassroots level;
6. **Recognizes** the critical role of South Sudanese faith-based organizations, eminent personalities, youth, women, the civil society and the business community in their efforts towards achieving lasting peace and stability in the country;

7. **Welcomes** the efforts of the President of the Republic of Uganda to reunite different factions of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and **affirms** that the President's initiative complements the decision by the IGAD Assembly of Heads of State and Government to revitalize and achieve full implementation of the ARCSS;
8. **Regrets** the continuation of the conflict and ongoing violence, humanitarian crisis, political instability and economic deterioration affecting the state and the livelihoods of the people of South Sudan;
9. **Condemns** in the strongest terms the repeated violations of the Permanent Ceasefire by all Parties to the conflict and ensuing violence targeting defenseless civilians including humanitarian agents, causing huge loss of lives and destruction of property; and in this regards, **expresses** the resolve of the region to hold accountable, individuals and groups perpetrating these crimes;
10. **Underlines** the critical importance of the immediate recommitment by all Parties to respect the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement and in this regard, **calls upon** the TGoNU to facilitate the smooth operations of the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangement and Monitoring Mechanism (CTSAMM);
11. **Recalls** the unilateral ceasefire declared by the President of the Republic of South Sudan and calls upon the TGoNU to ensure the strict implementation of the ceasefire and **urges** all armed opposition groups to reciprocate and renounce violence;
12. **Takes note** of the ongoing efforts by the Chiefs of Defense Staff of the Troops Contributing Countries and United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) to expedite the deployment of the Regional Protection Force and **calls upon** the TGoNU to facilitate urgent deployment of the Force;
13. **Notes** the positive response of the TGoNU to the establishment of the High Level Revitalization Forum for the Implementation of the ARCSS; and in this regard, **welcomes** the commitment conveyed to the honorable members of the IGAD Council of Ministers by President Salva Kiir Mayardit to fully collaborate and implement the IGAD Summit decision of 12th June 2017;

14. **Urges** all South Sudanese stakeholders to embrace the objectives of the High Level Revitalization Forum for the Implementation of the ARCSS and collaborate with the IGAD Special Envoy to achieve positive outcome within the timeframe agreed upon by the 57th Extra-Ordinary Session of the IGAD Council of Ministers;
15. **Empowers** the IGAD Special Envoy for South Sudan in close collaboration with the Chairperson of JMEC to coordinate the revitalization process involving all stakeholders and institutions charged with the responsibility of the implementation of the ARCSS;
16. **Welcomes** the support of the AU, UN, EU, Troika (USA, UK and Norway) and all regional and international partners to the IGAD revitalization plan for the South Sudan peace process;
17. **Instructs** the IGAD Executive Secretary to transmit the contents of this communiqué to the Chairperson of the AU Commission and the UN Secretary-General;
18. **Expresses** its profound appreciation to the Government and the People of the Republic of South Sudan for the warm reception and hospitality extended to it during its working visit to South Sudan; and
19. **Decides** to remain seized of the matters.

**Done on the 24th day of July 2017
in Juba, South Sudan**