



PEACE, PROSPERITY AND
REGIONAL INTEGRATION

COMMUNIQUE´ OF THE 62ND EXTRA-ORDINARY SESSION OF IGAD COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ON THE SITUATION IN SOUTH SUDAN

31 MAY 2018, ADDIS ABABA- ETHIOPIA

The IGAD Council of Ministers held its 62nd Extra-Ordinary Session on 31 May, 2018 in Addis Ababa 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 of Ministers. The Session was attended by H.E. Mohamoud Ali Youssouf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Djibouti; H.E. Dr. Martin Elia Lomuro, Minister of Cabinet Affairs of the Republic of South Sudan; H.E. Dr. Al-Dirdiri Mohamed Ahmed, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Sudan; H.E. Henry Okello Oryem, State Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uganda; H.E. Ms. Hirut Zemene Kassa, State Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia; H.E. Abdulqadir Ahmed Khair, State Minister of the Federal Republic of Somalia; H.E. George Orina, Charge d'Affairs of the Kenyan Embassy in Ethiopia representing the Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs and International Trade of the Republic of Kenya;

H.E. Ambassador Berhanu Kebede, Chief of staff of the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (JMEC) representing H.E. Festus Mogae, the Chairperson of JMEC; H.E. Mahboub Maalim,

IGAD Executive Secretary, Ambassador Smail Chergui, African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security, and H.E. Ismail Wais, IGAD Special Envoy for South Sudan and representatives of IGAD Plus were also in attendance.

Representatives of UN, EU and Troika (Norway, UK and US), as well as representatives of China, Co-Chairperson of the IGAD Partners Forum (IPF) were also present at the Opening Session.

After listening to the Progress Report of the IGAD Special Envoy on the Revitalization of the ARCSS, the Report of CTSAMM Chairperson, Gen. Ibrahim Abduljelil, and following exchange of views on the matter:

The Council;

Recalls the decision of the 31st IGAD Assembly of Heads of State and Government held on 12th June 2017 in Addis Ababa to urgently convene a HLRF of the Parties to the ARCSS and estranged groups, and the mandate entrusted in this regard to the IGAD Council of Ministers;

Takes note with appreciation the statement by the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission and the observations therein;

Acknowledges the commendable work of CTSAMM and JMEC in monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the CoHA; **Notes with regret** and condemns in the strongest terms the violations of the CoHA and the resulting human rights violations and humanitarian consequences;

Takes note of the progress report submitted by the IGAD Special Envoy for South Sudan following the convening of Phase II of the Forum and the shuttle diplomacy that the Council undertook, including the meetings held with President Salva Kiir Mayardit and Dr. Riek Machar to bring the positions of the South Sudanese parties on the outstanding issues of governance and security closer;

Acknowledges the inter-South Sudanese dialogue spearheaded by the South Sudan Council of Churches that took place during the continued second phase of the HLRF;

Regrets that despite all efforts made so far South Sudanese parties have not made sufficient compromises to overcome the outstanding issues on governance and security matters;

Decides to urgently take the following measures to fulfil the mandate entrusted to the Council by the decision of the 31st IGAD Assembly of Heads of State and Government held on 12th June 2017 in Addis Ababa;

1. **Endorses** the recommendations in the report of the IGAD Special Envoy for South Sudan;
2. **Endorses** the revised Bridging Proposal submitted on the governance and Security issues and authorizes one more round of Intensive Interlinked Consultation with the parties to identify possible compromises and build consensus on the bridging proposal and requests the IGAD Special Envoy for South Sudan to report the outcome to the Council;
3. **Recommends** to the Chairperson of the IGAD Assembly of Heads of State and Government to consult with members of the Assembly on the convening of an Extra-Ordinary Summit of the Assembly and a face-to-face meeting between H.E. Salva Kiir Mayardit and H.E. Dr. Riek Machar before the 31st Summit of the Assembly of the African Union to be held on 1 and 2 July 2018 in Nouakchott, Mauritania;
4. **Decides** to make a final decision on the effective participation of Dr. Riek Machar on the ongoing peace process;
5. **Directs** the IGAD facilitation team to develop a full revitalized text of the ARCSS which shall be endorsed by the IGAD Council of Ministers and submitted to the Summit for final approval; and
6. **Decides** to submit punitive measures against violators of the CoHA for the approval of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government. **Further decides**, to submit its request to the IGAD Assembly to delegate the Council to decide on actions to be taken against violators of the CoHA on the Assembly's behalf.

Urges all the South Sudanese Parties to the HLRF to seize this opportunity to negotiate in good faith and make real compromises based on the Bridging Proposal on outstanding issues;

Commends the IGAD Special Envoy for South Sudan, his Taskforce, and HLRF Facilitators for their tireless efforts, and encourages them to continue to assist the South Sudanese parties to urgently complete the revitalization process;

Requests CTSAMM and JMEC to continue monitoring with vigilance the implementation of the CoHA and the ARCSS;

Expresses its profound appreciation for the solidarity and firm commitment of the AU, UN, Troika (Norway, UK, US) IPF, EU, and China to the ARCSS revitalization process, and **calls upon** the partners to continue their engagement with IGAD and enhance their political support, financial and other assistance to the IGAD initiative;

Decides to work closely with the IGAD Plus to realize the objectives of the HLRF process, speak with one voice and ensure the full engagement of the C5 countries in the last Phase of the HLRF process;

Approves the request of the Republic of Poland to join the IGAD Partners Forum (IPF); and

Decides also to remain fully seized of the situation in South Sudan.

Done in Addis Ababa, on 31 May, 2018