



PEACE, PROSPERITY AND
REGIONAL INTEGRATION

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE 73rd EXTRA-ORDINARY SESSION OF THE IGAD COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

The IGAD Council of Ministers held its 73rd Extra-Ordinary Session on 9th August 2021 via video conference, under the chairpersonship of **H.E. Dr. Mariam Al-Sadig Al-Mahdi**, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Sudan and Chairperson of the IGAD Council of Ministers, to discuss the current political and security situation in the Republic of South Sudan and the implications on the implementation of the September 2018 Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of the conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS).

In attendance were **H.E. Ali Hassan Mohamed**, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Djibouti; **H.E. Amb. Raychelle Omamo**, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kenya; **H.E. Mohamed Abdirizak**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Somalia; **H.E. Amb. Beatrice Khamisa Wani**, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of South Sudan; and **H.E. Gen Al Hajj Odongo Jeje Abubakhar**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uganda.

Also in attendance were **H.E. Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu Negewo**, the Executive Secretary of IGAD; **H.E. Amb. Dr. Ismail Wais**, IGAD Special Envoy for South Sudan; **H.E. Maj. Gen. Charles Tai Gituai**, Interim Chairperson of the Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (R-JMEC); **H.E. Amb. Abdurahman Waheed**, the newly-appointed Special Envoy of Sudan to the Peace Process of the Republic of South Sudan and **Members of the IGAD Committee of Ambassadors**.

Representing international partners were **H.E. Mr. Nicholas Haysom**, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of Mission of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS); **H.E. Dr. Annette Weber**, European Union (EU) Special Representative to the Horn of Africa; and **H.E. Amb. Jonny Baxter**, UK Ambassador to South Sudan representing the Troika (USA, UK and Norway) were also in attendance delivered opening statements.

Following the welcoming remarks by H.E. Workneh Gebeyehu, Executive Secretary of IGAD and opening statements by: H.E Dr. Mariam Al-Sadig Al-Mahdi, Chairperson of the IGAD Council of Ministers and H.E. Amb. Beatrice Khamisa Wani, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of South Sudan; and brief reports by the IGAD Special Envoy for South Sudan, H.E. Amb. Ismail Wais; and the Interim Chairperson of RJMEC, H.E. Maj. Gen. Charles Tai Gituai;

The Council:

Congratulated Member States and the athletes representing the region at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics whose feats of athleticism and spirit of sportsmanship are emblematic of the concept of healthy competition and a credit to the region;

Re-affirmed the commitment of IGAD Member States as co-guarantors of the September 2018 Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS) and the December 2017 Cessation of Hostilities Agreement;

Commended the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity (RTGoNU) on the progress made so far in the implementation of the R-ARCSS in particular on the swearing-in of Members of the reconstituted Transitional National Legislative Assembly (TNLA) and the Council of States including the election of the first female speaker and in this regard, **Urged** the TNLA to prioritize and expedite the review and adoption of pending bills that are critical in moving the implementation of outstanding Pre-Transitional and Transitional Period tasks forward;

Further commended steps taken towards kick-starting the process of judicial reform, Permanent Constitution-Making as well as the establishment of the Commission on Truth, Reconciliation and Healing (CTRH) and in this regard, **appealed** to the Parties to the R-ARCSS and the RTGoNU to fast-track the implementation of other outstanding tasks in particular those under Chapters 3, 4, 5 and 6 of the R-ARCSS; and **further urged** the I-TGoNU and OPP to fast-track their nominations to the Judicial Reforms Committee;

Expressed Deep Concern with the recent in-fighting within the SPLM/A-IO that has led to armed confrontation that reportedly resulted in the loss of life, destruction of property and displacement of civilians in Upper Nile State in South Sudan and bordering areas in the Republic of Sudan; and requests CTSAMVM to investigate these developments and establish the true facts on the ground and report back to the Council within 7 days;

Noted with concern that the unfolding political crisis and splintering of the SPLM/A-IO is beyond an intra-party crisis and bears significant immediate and long-term implications on the broader security and humanitarian situation as well as the ongoing Peace Process in the Republic of South Sudan and the wider IGAD region;

Called upon all factions in the dispute within SPLM/A-IO to immediately and unconditionally cease armed confrontation and refrain from any offensive, provocative or retaliatory utterances, behaviours and other actions that will escalate tensions and hostilities and **urged** the parties to pursue peaceful avenues of resolution of internal differences and disagreements through dialogue, trust and confidence building and demonstrate greater political will and commitment;

Affirmed that any actions that violate the Permanent Ceasefire and undermine the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement 2017 will not be tolerated and in this regard, **Urged** the Parties to the R-ARCSS to convene an urgent meeting to consult on how they can contribute towards de-escalating and resolving the crisis within SPLM/A-IO;

Noted that further actions to support the peace process are needed in addition to resolving the crisis within SPLM/A-IO and in this regard, **Welcomed** the impending visit to Juba, Republic of South Sudan by H.E. Dr. Abdalla Hamdok, Prime Minister of the Republic of Sudan and Chair of the IGAD Assembly of Heads of State and Government to engage with the leadership of the Government of South Sudan including **H.E President Salva Kiir Mayardit** and SPLM/A-IO and with a view to find amicable and lasting solutions to the crisis within the SPLM/A-IO and further maintain the momentum of implementation of the 2018 peace agreement;

Tasked the Executive Secretary of IGAD, the IGAD Special Envoy for South Sudan and the Interim Chairperson of the Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (R-JMEC) to provide the required support to the Office of the IGAD Chair in the impending efforts at mediating the dispute within the SPLM/A-IO, including developing a roadmap with clear timelines on subsequent engagements with parties to resolve the current disagreements, and key areas of disagreement impeding progress in the Transitional Security Arrangements implementation;

Urged parties to the R-ARCSS to expedite the implementation of the Security Arrangements Agreement particularly the graduation and deployment of Necessary Unified Forces (NUF) and extend sufficient political, technical and financial support to the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) Commission;

Recalled the social, cultural and economic ties that bind IGAD Member States together and **acknowledged** that through the principle of interdependence “what affects one of us, affects all of us” and in this regard, **resolved** to do its utmost to respond to similar instances of instability within the region in a similarly timely and pro-active manner;

And

Decided to remain actively seized of these matters.

Done on 9th August 2021