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PRESS RELEASE

The Inter-Governmental Authority on Development, Deeply Concerned by the Deterioration of Relations between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan

Djibouti, 19th April 2012: The Secretariat of IGAD expresses grave concern about the escalating conflict between Sudan and South Sudan and calls upon the two States to respect the territorial integrity of the other State and exercise maximum restraint in the interest of keeping peace in the region. Both States know too well from recent past that a return to war can only lead to loss of life and destruction. The Secretariat calls upon the forces of the two Parties to withdraw their forces from the areas of the conflict and relocate to the positions prior to the incidents of conflict. It further calls upon the two sisterly States to refrain from further provocations that would aggravate the situation.

The Secretariat of IGAD calls upon the two countries to abide by the non-aggression and cooperation Memorandum of Understanding signed on 10th February 2012 and resort to peaceful resolution of all outstanding issues.

The Secretariat of IGAD welcomes and expresses full support to the ongoing efforts by the African Union (AU), under the auspices of the AU High Level and Implementation Panel (AUHIP) and calls upon the Parties to immediately restart negotiations on the outstanding issues of the CPA and Post Independence arrangements.

The Secretariat of IGAD calls upon the international community to support the mediation efforts of the AU High level Implementation Panel and encourages the two Parties to cooperate with the mediation efforts of the Panel. IGAD assures both Parties that it stands ready to extend all possible assistance to maintain peace and stability in the Sudan and South Sudan.