

IGAD

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COMMUNIQUE OF THE 24th EXTRA-ORDINARY SESSION OF THE IGAD ASSEMBLY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT ON THE SITUATION IN SOUTH SUDAN

ADDIS ABABA, 31st of January 2014

The IGAD Assembly of Heads of State and Government held its 24th Extra-ordinary Summit on the sidelines of the African Union Summit of Heads of State and Government on 31st January 2014 in Addis Ababa, under the Chairmanship of **H.E. Hailemariam Dessalegn**, the Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and current Chairperson of the IGAD Assembly to discuss the situation in Republic of South Sudan.

The Assembly was attended by **H.E Omar Hassan Al-Bashir**, President of the Republic of the Sudan; **H.E. Ismail Omar Guelleh**, President of the Republic of Djibouti; **H.E. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud**, President of the Federal Government of Somalia; **H. E. Uhuru Kenyatta**, President of the Republic of Kenya, **H.E. James Wani Igga**, Vice President of the Republic of South Sudan and **H.E. Sam Kutesa**, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uganda.

The Summit was also attended by **H.E. Smail Chergui**, Commissioner of Peace and Security at the African Union Commission; **H.E. Haile Menkerios**, representing the United Nations, **Amb. Eng. Mahboub Maalim**, Executive Secretary of IGAD, Representative of the People's Republic of China; Representative of the European

Union, Representative of the IGAD Partners Forum (IPF), as well as Representatives of the Troika (the Governments of Norway, UK and the US).

In light of the ongoing IGAD-led mediation process in Addis Ababa, the Summit received a progress report from the Chairperson of the IGAD Mediation team, Amb. Seyoum Mesfin.

After consideration of the report in a closed session and extensive deliberations on the overall political and security situation in South Sudan,

The Summit:

1. **Welcomes** the signing of Agreements on the Cessation of Hostilities (CoH) and The Status of Detainees by the Government of the Republic of South Sudan and SPLM/A (in opposition) on 23rd January 2014 in Addis Ababa which marked the first significant step in finding a lasting peaceful political solution to the crisis in the country; and in this connection **commends** their commitment to the pursuit of a peaceful political solution to the crisis;
2. **Applauds** the IGAD Special Envoys Amb. Seyoum Mesfin of Ethiopia, Gen. Lazaro Sumbeiywo of Kenya and Gen. Mohammed Ahmed Moustafa El Dabi of the Sudan for their tireless and sustained efforts to resolve the crisis; including through a number of direct engagements with the President of the Republic of South Sudan H.E Salva Kiir Mayardit, the former Vice-President of South Sudan Dr. Riek Machar and the detainees in South Sudan;
3. **Reaffirms** its resolve to combat impunity by holding to account those responsible for commissioning and committing atrocities and human rights abuses;
4. **Reiterates**, that IGAD does not condone any unconstitutional attempts to change the legitimately elected government of South Sudan by force;

5. **Notes with appreciation** the strong and wide-ranging support extended to the IGAD-led mediation process from Member States, development partners and the wider international community; **extends special appreciation to** the People's Republic of China, European Union and the Troika that comprises the Governments of Norway the United Kingdom (UK) and United States of America (USA);

Summit Decisions

The Summit:

6. **Urges** both Parties to respect and expeditiously implement the CoH Agreement signed on 23rd January 2014, as well as provide all necessary support to ensure the operationalization of the Monitoring and Verification Mechanism as soon as possible;
7. **Implores** the Parties to urgently address the critical humanitarian crisis, provide protection and assistance, and explore durable solutions to the predicament of refugees and internally displaced persons, in full collaboration and coordination with local and international humanitarian organizations;
8. **Commends** the Government of the Republic of South Sudan for **releasing** seven of the detainees on bail, and **calls on** the Government to expedite the legal process of the remaining detainees considering their role in an inclusive political dialogue and national reconciliation;
9. **Urges** the Parties, IGAD, and the African Union to work in complementarity to ensure that alleged human rights violations, abuses, and crimes, in the current conflict of South Sudan are investigated and those found culpable brought to justice;

10. **Directs** IGAD Special Envoys to establish an initial Monitoring and Verification Mechanism presence in South Sudan within 48 hours; which can facilitate the speedy and progressive operationalization of the full monitoring mechanism;
11. **Urges** the Parties to ensure the progressive withdrawal of armed groups and all allied forces invited by either side from the theatre of operations as per the CoH Agreement;
12. **Further urges** the Parties to maintain the momentum of the peace process, with strong commitment and resolve, by launching the Second Phase of the negotiations on the 7th February 2014 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia as agreed and declared by the Parties and the Mediators during signing of the CoH agreement;
13. **Instructs** IGAD Special Envoys to develop a framework for the next phase of negotiations in South Sudan, including specific modalities on structure, representation, and timeframe, so as to ensure dialogue is truly inclusive; and **further instructs** them to ensure that such a framework is developed with a view to involve a broad range of South Sudanese government, political, and civil society actors in a reinvigorated constitutional process;
14. **Appreciates** the 8-point roadmap outlined by President Salva Kiir on 20th January 2014, and the commitment of the SPLM/A (in Opposition) to wide consultations with all stakeholders and resolve the conflict in South Sudan in an all-inclusive manner. Accordingly, the Summit instructs IGAD Special Envoys to organize a series of public consultations with a wide range of South Sudanese actors with the aim of generating input for a framework of political dialogue and national reconciliation. These consultations might include political parties, traditional and religious leaders, and groups representing women, youth, intellectuals, refugees and IDPs, business communities and other stakeholders;

15. **Instructs** the IGAD Special Envoys to hold consultations with IGAD Member States and key partners of South Sudan to ensure and articulate a common approach to the next phase of the process, and to determine how each is best positioned to support the process;

16. Recalling the longstanding tradition and shared wisdom of IGAD leaders to speak with the same voice and demonstrate collective action when faced with similar challenges, We, the Heads of State and Government of IGAD **reaffirm** our commitment to work collectively in resolving the South Sudan crisis;

17. **Decides** to remain seized of the matter.

Issued on the 31st January 2014 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia