

Remarks
Donald Booth, US Special Envoy to Sudan and South Sudan
IGAD Extraordinary Summit on South Sudan
Addis Ababa, 31 January 2013

Excellencies,
IGAD Heads of State and Government,
IGAD Partners, and
Friends of South Sudan;

On behalf of the United States and international partners (the IPF, Members of the Troika, the EU, China, and others): I would like to begin by extending our deep appreciation of, and unwavering support for, the leadership of IGAD—and its Special Envoys—in seeking a peaceful resolution to the crisis in South Sudan. I also want to thank the IGAD heads of state for the opportunity to participate here today, and to demonstrate our collective support for IGAD’s efforts to achieve a swift and durable resolution of this conflict, so that the world’s newest nation can become a peaceful and prosperous nation.

We welcome last week’s signing of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement, and will lend our technical and financial support to for the rapid deployment of the monitoring and verification mechanism mandated in the agreement. It is critical that this mechanism establish a presence in Juba as soon as possible and begin reporting to the IGAD mediators, to ensure strict compliance with the COH agreement, including those that pertain to foreign forces. All parties must cease military action, facilitate humanitarian access, respect the mandate of and cooperate with the UN Mission in South Sudan and begin addressing the underlying causes the conflict.

We must demonstrate our collective resolve that there is no military solution to the crisis—that is an expectation I know is held by the region, the international community, and by the hundreds of thousands of South Sudanese people who have been affected by this conflict. We believe the COH monitoring and verification mechanism must be made operational as soon as possible, and that it be lean and agile - and include the participation of women - so as to maximize its effectiveness.

With the cessation of hostilities, it is time to address the plight of the hundreds of thousands of South Sudanese made IDPs or refugees by the fighting. Emergency assistance should be immediately complimented with serious efforts to secure durable solutions for them. Providing security and some assistance for those ready to return to their homes would be an important first step.

Now that the agreements on cessation of hostilities and status of detainees have been concluded, it is important that IGAD and its friends assist the parties in moving toward a truly inclusive political dialogue. This conflict originated with a political crisis, and its solution must also be political. In this regard, we welcome this week’s decision by the government of South Sudan to release seven (7) of the eleven (11) senior SPLM detainees, but reiterate our firm

stance that the status of the remaining detainees be resolved expeditiously, so they can contribute to healing the wounds of the conflict.

But a lasting solution cannot come through discussion just by and among the political elites who created the crisis. We therefore encourage and stand ready to support the IGAD Special Envoys in consulting a broad range of stakeholders so they can help South Sudanese establish a framework and principles for creating a more democratic and stable South Sudan.

We should take heed of the many South Sudanese who are calling now for more than a return to business as usual; those who recognize the fundamental questions laid bare by this conflict, and who are calling for a meaningful review of institutions, governance, political organization, rights, and social structure in South Sudan. The principal vehicle for confronting these foundational questions might be the already-mandated process for drafting of a permanent national constitution. But it must be reinvigorated to make it a forum through which to debate and resolve fundamental questions.

We welcome the decision of the African Union to form a Commission of Inquiry to look into the numerous reports of serious violations of human rights with the aim of providing justice, accountability and reconciliation for the people of South Sudan via a credible and transparent process. Those who might seek to undermine the peace process should know that we are all watching and that there will be consequences for such would be spoilers.

Again, on behalf of South Sudan's many international partners and friends, I wish to extend deep appreciation for the tireless work of the IGAD Special Envoys. The people of South Sudan could not be blessed with a more capable and committed set of mediators.

Thank you.

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