

**Opening remarks of the delegation of the SPLM/SPLA in the final round of IGAD-led
South Sudan Peace Process
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

23rd February 2015,

Mr. Chairman
Ladies and Gentlemen
All protocols observed

The SPLM/SPLA delegation has come back to Addis Ababa fully aware of the enormous suffering of our people since the events of December 15, 2013. The dire condition of our people and the impending humanitarian catastrophe impels us to seek peace. I believe my colleagues in the government of South Sudan would agree with me that our people want good peace, because bad peace amount to perpetuation of war.

The IGAD-led South Sudan Peace Process has made big stride that it would be immoral on both parties to be bogged down in matters of power sharing when the country, South Sudan, is sliding very fast into oblivion. I echo my Chairman Dr. Riek Machar Teny that our people and the country are bigger than the parties.

It is therefore imperative that we refresh our memories of the document signed by Dr. Riek Machar and President Salva Kiir committing the parties to a final settlement of the conflict in this round of the peace talks. The SPLM/SPLA delegation avails itself of this opportunity to reaffirm its position and will work tirelessly to meet the timeline. I urge my colleagues in the GRSS to reciprocate such that we may expedite the peace agreement sooner than later.

Mr. Chairman
Ladies and Gentlemen

You will recall that the negotiators have done what was in their power and have pushed the remaining sensitive issues to the Principals. We believe that the involvement of the two principals will help unblock some of the issues. It is imperative therefore that the Principals are summoned to join the negotiating teams to accelerate the process if we have to meet the March 5th 2015 timeline.

The Intra-SPLM Dialogue had reached a point where the two Principals signed on January 21st, a road map agreement for SPLM reunification, established a Tripartite Committee for operationalizing the road map agreement and on February 16th, the Tripartite Committee signed a matrix for its implementation. The complementarity of the Arusha process to the IGAD led South Sudan peace process cannot be over emphasized.

The Intra-SPLM Dialogue, the IGAD led South Sudan Peace Process and the Report of the African Union Commission of Inquiry on South Sudan constitutes a triangle for expediting peace, healing, reconciliation and accountability in South Sudan. We are raising high our voice to bring this report into the public domain. Our people are craving for publicizing the report as knowledge of it will help in enhancing the process of justice, reconciliation and healing. We call on the mediators to incorporate aspects of this important document into final peace agreement.

Mr. Chairman
Ladies and Gentlemen

On a personal level, I agree with the Mediation that this is the final session. I want to avail myself on behalf of my colleagues in the SPLM/SPLA and on behalf of my Chief negotiator and on my own behalf to pay tribute to you Mr. Chairman and your colleagues in the mediation and to thank you for your relentless efforts at steering the mediation in the right direction. I want to thank the members of the international community the Troika, the EU, the AU, the People's Republic of China and the UN who have been supporting this process.

Last but not least, I want to wish this final session total success.

Thank you very much
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Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.