

Draft

Declaration of Principles (DOP)

Towards the Resolution of the National Crisis in South Sudan to Achieve Reconciliation and Sustainable Peace

Preamble;

We, the representative of the Government of South Sudan (hereinafter referred to as the “**Government**” abbreviated as “**GRSS**”); the Sudan Peoples’ Liberation Movement/Army (In Opposition) (hereinafter referred to as **SPLM/A** (In Opposition)); the **SPLM Leaders** (Former Detainees), and other stake holders;

Recognizing the grave national and regional implication of the crisis that engulfed South Sudan since 15th December 2013;

Noting the current crisis is political in nature and requires a political solution achieved through national dialogue and inclusive consultations,

Acknowledging that ever since the interim period provided for under the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in 2005, critical unresolved issues remain and have significantly contributed to the current crisis;

Concerned that the conflict has resulted in great human suffering, displacement, lost of life and property, further impoverishing and disadvantaging the people of South Sudan;

Recognizing the need to investigate all alleged human rights violations, abuses, and crimes with the view to combating impunity and bringing about a lasting and just solution to the crisis;

Further Recognizing the important role that Civil Society Organizations play in South Sudan in contributing to finding a sustainable solution to the crisis in the country;

Acknowledging the need for a new paradigm that will enable the wartime leadership and institutions to transform into a peacetime leadership and democratic framework of governance;

Stressing for the need of expeditious implementation of the Agreements reached on Cessation of Hostilities (COH) and the Status of the Detainees on the 23rd January, 2014 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia;

Responding to the unique opportunity afforded by the IGAD Peace Initiative to address the crisis;

The Parties hereby agree to the following Declaration of Principles (DOP) that shall constitute the basis for resolving the conflict in South Sudan and forging a sustainable peace:

1. Negotiate in good-faith for a win-win solution guided by national interest and adhere to the full implementation of Agreements reached to resolve the crisis;
2. The Parties acknowledge that political power emanates from the people and therefore permanently renounce violence and unconstitutional means of taking and retaining such power in a manner that undermines the sovereignty for the people of South Sudan. The Parties further strongly reject the bankrupt and opportunistic politics of tribal and religious sectarianism;
3. All Parties fully accept and commit themselves to the understanding that there is no military solution to the conflict; a peaceful, just and inclusive political solution must be a common objective of all South Sudanese;
4. Political Dialogue shall aim at finding immediate interim and long term solutions to the crisis through the following:
 - a. Adopting immediate solutions and measures to restore peace, confidence and harmony in order to return the country to normalcy,
 - b. Providing long term solutions to issues of governance, democracy, human rights, justice, national identity, security, development and wealth management through a revised, reinvigorated and widely consultative constitutional dialogue conference;
5. Recognition of the need to establish a Transitional/Interim Government of national reconciliation to implement the agreement reached by the Parties to this Talks/ negotiations.
6. Uphold the ethnic and cultural diversity of the people of South Sudan and reaffirm the country's unity in diversity and territorial integrity;
7. Ensure the political and social equality of all the people of South Sudan guaranteed by law;
8. Work to establish good governance, Democratic Principles, Justice, Accountability, Transparency and Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms; and engage in meaningful constitutional, legal and institutional reforms;
9. Adhere to internationally accepted humanitarian principles and unhindered humanitarian access to all areas affected by the conflict;
10. Safety and security is the right of all citizens of South Sudan, and the review and reorganization of national security institutions shall be undertaken with a view to reflect national character and instilling professionalism and reforms strengthened by broad and independent validation;
11. The national wealth belong to all citizens of South Sudan; its equitable distribution and prudent management shall thus be safeguarded in a transparent manner so as to meet the needs and development aspirations of the State and citizens;

12. Commitment to justice and accountability and hold responsible perpetrators of gross human rights violations and abuses.

Signed inon...February 2014:

..... Government of the Republic of South Sudan
..... The SPLM/A (in Opposition)
..... The SPLM Leaders (Former Detainees)
..... Rep. of Political Parties Leadership Forum (PPLF)
..... Rep. of Civil Society Organizations (CSO)

Witnessed by the IGAD Special Envoy:

.....H. E. Amb. Seyoum Mesfin---Chairperson
.....Gen. Lazaro K. Sumbeiywo
.....Gen. Mohamed Ahmed M. El Dabi

Endorsed by the Friends of IGAD:

.....The United Nations
.....The African Union
.....European Union
.....The Troika (Norway, the UK and USA)
.....The People's Republic of China
.....The IGAD Partners Forum